

THREE MEETING MONTH - APRIL (Cont.)

As should be pretty clear, the postal dispute has played havoc with the Committee's communication with you ISFA members. There is nothing we can do about that, of course, besides the best we can. We will be handing out these Newsletters out at the AGM if we can contact you by telephone to tell you of the AGM; otherwise, we will have to hand-deliver where possible. Bear with us.

The agenda for the AGM is to be as follows:

- i.) Presentation and verification of proxies, if any.
- ii.) Presentation and debate if any upon the reports of the 1978-1979 Committee.
- iii.) Special Resolution concerning the amending of the ISFA Constitution, followed by voting thereupon.
- iv.) Nomination of members for the 1979-1980 ISFA Committee.
- v.) Intermission to allow candidates for the office of Committee Member to talk informally with members present.
- vi.) Reconvening to vote upon the 1979-1980 Committee.
- vii.) Other business as may arise.
- viii.) Adjournment.

Persons who intend to run for the office of committee should try to have their nominations and secondments presented to the Secretary, Brian Redmond, as soon as possible; if desired, a sheet describing the policy aims which candidates propose to follow should be prepared for distribution at the AGM.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Library continues its growth and now more than 800 titles are available to ISFA members. The full selection is now available at each meeting, as the Library is stored in a room at the Parliament Inn. Mail order is of course also available if desired, but it is recommended that such orders not be placed until after the postal dispute has been resolved.

Over the past year, the non-return and loss of borrowed books has become a major problem which threatens the efficient running of the Library. Members are reminded that fines for overdue books will be rigidly enforced.

Library financial statement:

Library charges		Debits:	
May '78-March '79	£26.50	Second-hand and new books	
Fines	1.00	bought	£ 3.85
Carried forward from		Postage (reviews & over-	
1977-1978	15.35	due reminders)	2.00
Income and credit:	£42.85	Total Debits:	5.85

NET WORTH AS OF 31 MARCH 1979: £37.00

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ P. J. Goode
Librarian

REPORT OF THE WRITERS' WORKSHOP SUBCOMMITTEE AND SHORT STORY CONTEST SUBCOMMITTEE
To be presented by the relevant chairmen at the Annual General Meeting.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

During the year 1978-1979, the ISFA had two secretary-treasurers, namely Paddy O'Connell and Brian Redmond. The financial statements of each are included in this report, separately.

Financial report for period from 1 June 1978 through 3 September 1978

<u>Income and assets:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Balance brought forward	£ 42.31	Newsletters	£ 16.45
Memberships (41 @ £5, 2 @		October Journal	5.00
£2.50)	210.00		

Financial report from 1 June 1978 through 3 September 1978 (Cont.)

<u>Income and assets:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Receipts from book auction	18.65	Paper, stanler, etc.	19.00
		Stamps/stationery on hand	3.55
		<u>Writers' Workshop exp.</u>	<u>10.00</u>
<hr/>		Expenses to 3 Sept.	£54.00
Total assets:	£270.96		

Excess of Income and Assets over expenditure: £216.96

Financial report for the period from 3 September 1978 through 31 March 1979:

<u>Income and assets:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Balance brought forward	£216.96	Cash on hand	12.00
Membership fees:		Deposit to Clarence	50.00
12 @ £5	£60.00	Typewriter repairs	10.00
5 @ £3	15.00	Book prizes	12.50
Journal sales (39 @ £.30)	11.70	Film refund	1.00
Receipts for Award Dinner	39.00	Committee expenses*	20.00
(13 @ £3.00)		Library/Aardvark House	19.50
		<u>Miscellaneous **</u>	<u>22.80</u>
<hr/>		Expenditure to 31 Mar.	£147.80
Total assets:	£337.66		

Excess of Income and Assets over expenditure: £199.86

A final accounting will be given at the AGM.

* Including stamps, cakes at the Christmas party, envelopes, etc.

** Journal, Newsletters, and other printing expenses.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Brian Redmond
Secretary-treasurer

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we are all aware, 1978-1979 was a rather indifferent year except in a few outstanding areas. The first major project for the ISFA was the World SF Writers' Convention in Dun Laoghaire in June; during this period, we were able to get Joe and Gay Haldeman to visit the regular ISFA meeting in June, which was held on a Wednesday. Several ISFA members were privileged to act as steward at the convention. In addition, some copies of Stargate were distributed there; as a result, Danish SF magazine Brudte Graenser bought two works from Stargate issues. At the same time, the Dun Laoghaire Festival Youth Committee decided to have an SF theme --- and more ISFA members ran an information booth in the Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre, talking to over 1000 people during the festival.

Things slowed down a bit in July and August --- the meetings were rather disappointing both in attendance and enthusiasm. The Newsletter was yet once again swallowed without a trace by the P&T, which probably helps to account for the small turnouts. In September, things got back to normal with a fairly lively book auction; this was followed in rapid succession by appearances by each of our patrons and the staging of a play by Ray Bradbury. In February, our scheduled speaker, Kyril Bonfiglioli, couldn't attend, but we will try to get him at a later meeting; because of the mail strike, though, it is unlikely that very many people were disappointed by his nonappearance. The March meeting was the return of author Alun Llewellyn, with a continuation of his speech on time. This is reviewed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Then comes April. Ah, springtime...enough! The big item this year is the short story contest, which has been running for about five months up to 28 February. The success of this ambitious venture has yet to be examined as this Newsletter goes to press; but it should nevertheless be stressed that it is a reflection of the results of the Writers' Workshop Subcommittee as well as of the increased professionalism of our writers.

This gives a rough summary of the activities of the ISFA as a whole over the year. Also important have been the various changes in the ISFA Committee itself over the past year. Long-standing Committeemember Paddy O'Connell was forced by circumstances to leave the Committee, as was newcomer Fred Woods.

To try to replace these people (and it isn't easy!) the Committee coopted Moira Harrison, Eoin Bairread, and Jacob Struben. They have fit in fairly well into the ISFA power structure, I should point out, and have proved eager and capable of maintaining the standards set by those committeemembers who had to leave during the year.

How about next year? Well, to a large extent, this depends as much as always upon the enthusiasm of you, the general membership. It is a fact of life that if you want your Committee for next year to do the job you want done, you should let them know what you want and let them know it if you don't. But apathy is contagious.

On behalf of the Committee, I would also like to make known our recommendations for changes to the ISFA Constitution which will be proposed at the AGM. They are as follows:

Article 4.(c) to be added to as follows: "There is a junior membership rate. A person shall be deemed a junior if he or she is under 18 on the date of application or renewal."

Article 4.(d) to read as follows: "New memberships shall be from the date of application (subject to subsequent acceptance of the application); renewed memberships shall run one year from the date that renewal fell due."

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ John McCarthy
Chairman

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RECENT MEETINGS

The February meeting, as was mentioned above, did not have the scheduled speaker, but he will be asked to attend at a later date which might prove to be mutually convenient. In his stead, we held a fairly difficult 30 question quiz which was won by Pearse Mooney, with Paddy O'Connell winning second place.

The meeting on 25th March started with the usual plaintive cried for order by our esteemed chairman. When the more raucous members had been sufficiently quietened, Mr. Alun Llewellyn, our guest for the evening, began his talk entitled "The Time of Your Life". He started by apologising for the lack of a blackboard on which he could illustrate some of the more mathematical points he would be making; this lack was felt by those of us who are not 100% numerate as we found it somewhat difficult to follow some of Mr. Llewellyn's examples. It did, however, have one good result --- in his efforts to overcome the disadvantage he used movement and voice in a way that made the talk a model of delivery which could be usefully studied by all other speakers.

The lecture was, in fact, a continuation of one previously given by Mr. Llewellyn to the ISFA. To summarise the argument perhaps overmuch (considering it will be published in a somewhat different form in the near future): there still exists a considerable difference between our concept of the Universe and that described by scientists such as Einstein. In order to reconcile the two, a leap of imagination is required, and one of the ways we can help ourselves to make this leap is Science Fiction. This bare summary in no way adequately conveys the spirit of the lecture itself which was breathtaking in its scope, ranging from Aristotle to modern postrelativistic cosmology. He showed how almost every numerical concept we have --- from the fundamental mathematics of there being 360° in a circle through the artistic 'golden mean' to the mystical or religious 666 --- the number of the beast --- all are based on geometry and astronomy as practiced by those first scientists --- the Sumerians. Mr. Llewellyn showed how a concept which seems to be pure mathematics, like the Fibonacci series, can find expression in Nature. He then speculated on a connection between the essentially spiral nature of this series and a possible 'spiral' reality. Mr. Llewellyn concluded by throwing out some thoughts on a correlation between the movement of the Earth's magnetic pole and the 'leap of imagination' he mentioned earlier.

Review of the meeting by Eoin Bairread

CONSTITUTION OF THE IRISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the organisation shall be "The Irish Science Fiction Association", herein after referred to as the ISFA.
2. The ISFA shall be administered by a committee herein after referred to as the Committee.
3. The ISFA is a non-party-political, non-sectarian group having as its main aims and objectives:
 - (a) To facilitate the enjoyment of SF and its related genres, among its members.
 - (b) To increase the awareness and status of science fiction in the country.
 - (c) The provision of a Newsletter every two months.
 - (d) The provision of a twice yearly magazine to which members are encouraged to contribute.
 - (e) The provision of an SF lending library.
 - (f) The provision of regular members' meetings and where possible to invite guest speakers to address the members on topics relating to science fiction.
 - (g) Any other activity acceptable to the Committee conducive to the furtherance of the main aims and objects of the ISFA.

Members

4. (a) Any person wishing to become a member of the ISFA shall apply to the Secretary in writing and shall, as a condition of membership, accept the aims and objects of the organisation.
- (b) No person under the age of eighteen years shall be admitted to membership without the written agreement of a parent or guardian.
- (c) Every member shall pay an annual subscription of an amount which shall be fixed by the Committee.
- (d) Membership in the ISFA shall run from June 1st to May 31st each year. Therefore if a person joins in May/June or any month thereafter (up to March 31st), membership shall be due for renewal on the following June 1st. Where possible new members shall be issued with copies of all that year's publications back-issues. Those who join the ISFA between April 1st and May 31st shall have full membership up to the following June 12 months.

General Meetings

5. The ISFA shall in each year hold a General Meeting of members as its Annual General Meeting and not more than twelve (12) months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting and that of the next. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint.
6. All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.
7. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Committee or by written request to the Secretary of twenty (20) members of the ISFA.
8. An Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting and a meeting called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by at least 21 days notice in writing to those entitled to receive such notice, specifying the place, day and hour of meeting, and the general nature of the business.

Procedure at General Meetings

9. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of ten (10) members be present.

10. The Chairman of the ISFA shall preside at any General Meeting of the ISFA, or, if he is unwilling to act, or is not present, the Committee shall elect one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting. If a Committee member is unwilling to act the members present shall choose one of their number to be chairman.
11. The Chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place providing always that no business not already forming part of the Agenda of the meeting so adjourned be discussed at the re-convened meeting.
12. At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded:
 - (a) by the Chairman
 - (b) by at least one (1) member present in person or by proxy, and, in the case of a poll, the Chairman shall appoint Tellers, nominated by those present at the meeting from among their number.
13. Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority vote, and recorded in a book of minutes which shall be kept by the Secretary.
14. Where there is an equality of votes, the Chairman of a meeting shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
15. The Annual General Meeting shall consider Accounts, Reports from the Committee, Election of Committee Members and Appointment of Auditors. All other business shall be deemed special business.
16. Alteration to this constitution shall be affected only by a Special Resolution of a General Meeting.

Votes of Members

17. Every member of the ISFA shall have one vote. However, individuals must have been a member of the ISFA for at least two months preceding an Annual General Meeting, subject to the verification of the Committee.
18. No member of the ISFA shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all monies immediately payable by him to the ISFA have been paid.
19. No objection to the qualification of any voter shall be made except at the meeting at which the vote is being cast. The Chairman of the meeting shall decide finally and conclusively on the validity of the objection subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present.
20. The first order of business at a General Meeting shall be the presentation and verification of proxies. The total amount of proxies outstanding shall then be announced to the meeting at large. Votes may be given personally or by proxy; in the event of a vote by count of hand, if the sum of the number of minority votes cast plus the number of proxies presented exceeds or equals the number of majority votes cast, a poll shall automatically result. Therefore a count of hand votes must be announced.
21. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or as near thereto as circumstances permit and shall be sent with all notices of General Meetings to those entitled to receive such notices:

THE IRISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

I, of, being a member of the ISFA, hereby appoint (being a member of the ISFA) of or failing him, (being a member of the ISFA) as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the (Annual or Extraordinary, as the case may be) General Meeting to be held on the ...day of, 19... and at any adjournment thereof. Signed this ...day of, 19...

(Signature)..... This form is to be used * in favour of/against the resolution(s). Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy will vote as he thinks fit. (* Strike out whichever is not desired.)

22. The instrument appointing the proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll.

The Committee

23. Not more than six (6) members of the ISFA shall be elected either by personal vote or by proxy at the Annual General Meeting of the ISFA.
24. No member shall be eligible for membership on the Committee unless such member has been a member in good standing at least through the calendar year preceding the date of the AGM, except when there is a unanimous poll vote in favour of extending special qualification to a member who might not meet this criterion.
25. The Committee shall keep minutes of all meetings. A record shall be kept of (a) all appointments of officers made by the Committee (b) of the names of those present at each meeting and (c) of all resolutions and proceedings at each meeting.

Disqualification of Committee Members

26. The office of Committee Member shall be vacated if the member (a) Resigns his office in writing, (b) is convicted of an indictable offence, unless the Committee otherwise determine, (c) is adjudged Bankrupt, (d) over a period of time and for no specified reason fails to carry out the duties agreed to on membership of the Committee when so determined by a majority vote of the Committee, or (e) behaves in a manner detrimental to the aims and objects of the ISFA.
27. A Committee Member shall vacate his office under (b), (c), (d), and (e) above on a majority decision of the Committee requesting him, in writing, to do so, and conveyed to him by the Secretary, and he shall have the right of appeal to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the ISFA called under Section 7 of this Constitution.

Powers of Committee

28. The Committee may, at its discretion, and with the consent of those so co-opted, co-opt on a majority decision not more than four (4) persons to its membership --- to serve until the following AGM. Those co-opted shall have no voting power upon the Committee, unless they are so co-opted to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation or removal of a Committee Member.
29. The Committee may, at its discretion, appoint (subject to the person's or persons' agreement) subcommittees for specific purposes. Any such subcommittee shall continue in office until dissolved by the Committee, and shall conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Committee and may co-opt to its own membership subject to the approval of the Committee. Subcommittees so formed shall keep records of all business transacted and shall submit reports to the Committee for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.
30. The Chairman shall be, and a Committee Member may be, ex officio, a member of any subcommittee formed under section 29 above.
31. The Committee may meet together to conduct business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by majority vote of those present. Where there is an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
32. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be no less than three (3).
33. As soon as possible after each Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall meet and shall elect from its number a Chairman who will be the Chairman of the ISFA.
34. The Chairman, or his appointee, shall be chairman of all meetings of the Committee.

35. At the meeting at which the Committee shall elect the Chairman they shall also appoint from their number a Secretary, Financial Controller, Librarian and other such offices as they deem desirable. The Committee may likewise remove the persons so appointed from such office.
36. The Chairman, Secretary and Financial Controller shall serve for one year and the Librarian for two years and all four shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee on the expiry of their offices. All other Committee members, including those who may have been co-opted, shall retire after being in office for one year but shall be eligible for re-election.
37. The Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept relating to (a) all sums of money received and expended by the ISFA and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place; (b) all sales and purchases of goods by the ISFA; (c) the assets and liabilities of the ISFA.
38. (a) Access to all records of all Committee, subcommittee, SGMs and EGMs shall be available only to members of the Committee, who shall treat such records as wholly confidential. (For the purposes of this article "records" shall be taken to mean all correspondence, minutes of Committee meetings and any document in the possession of Committees or subcommittees of the ISFA whether written or recorded electronically or by any other means.)
(b) A financial statement shall be printed in every second issue of the Newsletter.
39. The Committee may, at its discretion, however, and within the bounds of confidentiality, determine the conditions and regulations under which the accounts, books and records of the ISFA shall be open to inspection of members not being Committee Members or to non-members.
40. The Committee shall cause to be laid before the Annual General Meeting of the ISFA all profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, group accounts and reports.
41. A copy of every balance sheet, report, etcetera as in section 40 above shall be sent not less than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting to every member entitled to receive such.
42. When an auditor has been demanded by a majority vote of an AGM or EGM, such person shall be a qualified accountant requested by the Committee, on behalf of the members of the Association, to certify the accounts of the Association.
43. Notice of every General Meeting shall be given (a) to every member entitled to receive such notice and (b) to the auditor. No other person shall be entitled to receive notices of General Meetings.
44. The Committee may not refuse the application of a new member without good reason which must be given to the applicant in writing. This refusal may be overruled by a majority vote at an AGM or EGM.
45. Honorary Life Membership of the ISFA shall be offered subject to the approval of the majority of the members present at an AGM.
46. The Library shall be administered by the Librarian subject to the discretion and within the approval of the Committee.

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The editor would like to apologise for the short length of this Newsletter both to the readers and to those who have contributed as yet unpublished book, film, and music reviews. This relates to the dual problem of an increasingly decrepit typewriter and the near deadline for the May Stargate. But be assured that the June/July Newsletter (or possibly a second spring Journal) will correct this failure.

This Newsletter is copyright (c) 1979 by the Irish Science Fiction Association and/or the individual contributors. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Brian Redmond, 14 Granville Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.