

Brenda Bastable

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notes by who

1970

History Committee

1979

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF " COMHGHAIL MUIRTEORI
AGUS MULTEORI LE RINCE GAELACH.

1. The name of the Organisation shall be
"Comhghail Muirteoiri agus Multeori Le Rinne
Gaelach" and it shall be referred to hereinafter
as "An Comhghail".

To Elect

President

Chairperson / vice Chairperson

Secretary / Assistant Secretary

Treasurer / Assistant Treasurer

Fees Registrar

promotional products
work

1st draft
→ voted on

2. The following words and expressions shall, for the purposes of this Constitution ^a ~~of~~ these rules, have the meaning in this section attributed to them:-

(i) Words importing the singular number shall include plural and words ~~including~~ ^{importing} the plural number shall include the singular.

(ii) Words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.

(iii); "Member" shall mean an individual who, having the required qualifications, has applied for, and has been duly admitted, in accordance with the constitution and rules of An Comhghail, to membership thereof.

(iv) "Member in good standing" shall mean a member for the time being complying with the Constitution and rules of An Comhghail.

(v) "Required Qualifications" shall mean a Teacher and/or Adjudicator of Irish Dancing and a holder of :-

(a) Teastais na Comhghala le Rince Gaelach (or an equivalent Teastais from An Coimisiun le Rince Gaelach) being a Body within Conradh na Gaeilge, (the qualification in both cases hereinafter to be referred to as T.C.R.G.

Or

(b) Ard Diploma Na Comhghala na ^{le} Rince Gaelach or Ard Diploma an Coimisiun le Rince Gaelach (in both cases abbreviated to A.D.C.R.G.

(vi) "The Executive Committee" shall mean the Body of that name hereinafter provided for and hereinafter referred to as "The Executive".

3. The objects of An Comhghail shall Be;-

(i) To promote, foster and stimulate, the growth and expansion of the Art and practice of irish dancing and to that end to set down and adopt rules, standards and norms for the preservation of the purity of the said art and practice and as guidelines for the development and evolution thereof in continuity and further to that end to devise and organise methods, programmes and events embodying competition, exhibition and example thereunto conducive. *Educational Development*

(ii) To foster and inculcate, particularly among the ~~use~~ ^{youth} of both sexes, pride in and appreciation of the grace and vibrant joy which characterise the art and practice of Irish dancing.

(iii) To protect and promote the interests of Teachers and Adjudicators of the art and practice of Irish dancing and to pursue the expansion and amelioration of their conditions of work.

4. The Organs of An Comhghail shall be:-

- (i) The annual Convention, hereinafter referred to as "The Convention".
- (ii) The Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as "The Executive".
- (iii) ~~Provincial Counsels, hereinafter referred to as~~
"Counsels".
- (iv) Branches.

The original system operating at present

The Working of Convention

5. The Annual Convention shall be the Supreme Governing Body of An Comhghail.

- (i) ~~That~~ ^{each preceding} Convention shall be held at a place and time to be designated by the ~~Executive~~ ^{immediate Convention} and all members shall have a right to attend.
- (ii) The Convention alone shall be competent to amend the Constitution and rules.
- (iii) The Convention shall, each year, adopt policies in accordance with this Constitution and rules and in accordance with Standing Orders.
- (iv) It shall be the first item on the Agenda of the Convention of (Insert year) to vote upon and adopt this Constitution and rules ~~immediately thereafter, standing Orders of the Convention shall be voted upon and adopted.~~
- (v) The Convention alone shall be competent to amend its own Standing Orders.

not finalized yet The existing scale

6. The Executive Committee shall consist of five Representatives from each Provincial Council, elected as hereinafter provided.

(i) ~~The~~ Mandate of the Executive shall run from the end of the Convention immediately following the election of its members to the end of the next succeeding Convention.

(ii) ³⁰ ~~Sixty~~ Per cent of the membership of the Executive shall constitute a Quorum for all purposes, ~~provided however that not fewer than 40% of the Representatives of each Province shall be in attendance.~~

(iii) At its first Meeting, the Executive shall, as its first business, elect, by simple majority vote, a Chair person who shall occupy that office throughout the Mandate of ^{the} Executive. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall be the person whose name is drawn from a hat ^{on} obtaining the names of the tying candidates.

The second business of the Executive shall be the election of a Vice-Chairperson who shall be designated in the same manner as the Chairperson and who shall also occupy that office throughout the Mandate of the Executive.

(iv) The Executive shall meet on not fewer than three occasions during its Mandate and its meetings shall be presided over by the Chairperson, or in his ^{her} absence, the Vice-Chairperson *in their absence, elect a Chairman to conduct the meeting*

(v) Meetings of the Executive shall be conducted in accordance with Standing Orders approved and adopted by Convention.

(vi) The Executive may, by a majority of 70% of the members present and voting, amend its Standing Orders, provided however that such amendment or amendments shall be on the Agenda of the

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8. The Executive shall be responsible for the organisation of Convention and in that behalf shall send to each member notice of the date and venue of Convention not later than one month prior to the said date. Such notice shall be accompanied by the Agenda for Convention, a copy of the Auditor's Account of An Comhghail and a copy of the Annual Report of the Executive to Convention.

Decisions of the Executive shall be taken by a simple majority vote and, in the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

10. The Branches.

(i) Each Branch shall consist of members of An Comhghail residing within a defined area and complying with this Constitution and rules.

(ii) Each Branch shall meet as often as the proper carrying out of its affairs shall demand but in any event not less frequently than four times in any one year.

(iii) It shall be the purpose and business of each Branch to foster, encourage and promote, at local level, the art and practice of Irish dancing and to protect, defend and improve the rights and conditions of its members.

(iv) It shall be the right and entitlement of each branch to forward to the Executive, within the time limits prescribed by the Executive, motions adopted at Branch level in accordance with Branch standing rules for debate by Convention.

(v) Each Branch shall submit an Annual Report to the ~~Provincial~~ ^{Executive} Counsel not ~~later~~ ^{less} than ~~the~~ ^{2 months} day of in each year and failure so to do within the time limited shall entail forfeiture by the Branch of its right and entitlement to table motions for Convention of that year.

(vi) Each Branch shall function in accordance with Standing Orders approved by Convention.

In addition to the foregoing Draft, the following sets of rules are required:-

1. Standing Orders for Convention.
2. Standing Orders for the Executive.
3. ~~Standing Orders for each of the Sub-Committees of the Executive.~~
4. ~~Standing Orders for Provincial Council.~~
5. Standing Orders for Branches.

In addition a set of rules for Competition, including the adjudication of competition requires to be drawn up in detail. Primary among the requirements of such rules is that the decision of the Adjudicator or Board of Adjudicators must always and in all circumstances be accepted absolutely and without question and there can be no provision for any Appeal. This must be a matter of the strictest discipline and as a corollary the expertise, integrity and fairness of Adjudicators must be above question.

Rules required to be laid down as to requirements on the part of Competitors in relation to Competitions, including such matters as residence.

Given that many members and indeed Adjudicators will earn their living or part of their living from teaching Irish dancing, it seems proper and healthy that excellence should have its rewards. With that in mind, it seems desirable that Teachers should rely on their expertise and results as the best advertisement for their "ware". Nevertheless, there should be some definition as to what constitutes excellence in the teaching of students, more particularly of

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students under the guidance of one Teacher and in this context a code of ethics should be worked out setting down standards and sanctions applicable to all members. It is submitted however that any sanction applicable to offending members should not affect the students under their guidance.

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- (1) Members of the Council may at all times resign by notifying Secretary of the Executive by Registered Post of his intention. The resignation to be effective from the date of receipt of notification.
 - (2) Any member of the Council found by the Executive deciding by simple majority vote to be in breach of the Constitution & rules shall receive a written warning by Registered Post.
 - (3) Continuing breach of the provisions of the Constitution & Rules by a member in warning as herein before provided shall at the discretion of the Executive be punishable by suspension of membership for a period of not more than one year or by expulsion.
 - 4 In no case shall suspension or expulsion take effect before end of the calendar year next following the decision of the Executive.
 - (5) Application for re-instatement may be made to the Executive in accordance with the standing orders of the Executive not earlier than 6 months

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 - (5) Application for re-instatement may be made to the Executive in accordance with the standing orders of the Executive not earlier than 6 months after the coming into effect of the suspension.

or expulsion decision and the executive may at its discretion re-instate such applicant forthwith.

- 6) In all cases members shall have the right of appeal to convention next following the decision of the executive & shall give notice of appeal in accordance with the standing orders of convention. The decision of the convention on the appeal shall be taken by simple majority vote of all members present & voting shall be final.