

The meeting convened in the Phoenix Arms Hotel at 2:15 PM.

**DELEGATES:** In addition to all the NACB officers, the following Divisional delegates were present:  
 Atlanta: Michael Dermody & Tom McSorley  
 Florida: Liam McKenna and Noel Walsh  
 Central: Tom Dolan and Celia Lynn  
 Midwest: Howard Elbert  
 North East: John McDevitt  
 Western: Mike Moriarty  
 Southern California: Paddy Gallagher and John Ryan  
 Philadelphia: Brendan Lotty and John McDaid  
 The Washington, DC Gaels, Playoffs Committee members present were:  
 Andrew Healy, Jim Carmody, Kevin O'Shea, Niall Dempsey, Kathy Dempsey

**SITE TOUR:** The meeting was preceded by a tour of two fields in Germantown, either of which could be used as the Playoff site, and also the group was shown the proposed hotels - the Doubletree and the Ramada. Delegates walked each site and asked questions, etc.. The stated preferred site would require tents for changing, etc., and there was a possibility of showers being provided in a tent. Food, drink, etc., concessions would be available. All fields would have bleachers and would be roped off.

While John McDevitt expressed concern about the field surface, the delegates accepted that the site arrangements as outlined were satisfactory.

**HOTELS:** Kevin O'Shea outlined team Hotel arrangements. The hotels were about 10 miles from the fields, would cost \$87 per night +Tax, were within a block of the Metro which served Reagan National Airport, the suggested airport. If teams arrived at either of the other Airports, Dulles or Baltimore, the teams would have to make their own transportation arrangements, but buses were available.

**BANQUET:** The Banquet for 500 people would be at the Doubletree at \$65 each with a 3 hour open bar. The August 15 deadline for team tickets was stressed.

**YOUTH BANQUET:** A banquet room is reserved for up to 150 young people at \$10 each, with a DJ, etc.

**IRISH FESTIVAL:** There was discussion of the Irish Festival the same weekend and that admission to the games would also include admission to the Festival.

**WEEKEND PASSES:** Weekend passes would cost \$25 per person with team reimbursements handled either by passes or some other way. Individual Daily Admissions would cost \$10, \$10-15 & \$20.

**PLAYOFFS DRAW:** San Francisco committed to providing a Senior Football team for the Senior competition to provide the fourth team for the competition. Philadelphia also wanted to provide that fourth team, as did Boston and Chicago. (11/7/98 - **CORRECTION - CHICAGO did not want to provide that fourth team**). A draw was made to determine which division would provide that fourth team, and the North East won the draw. All other disputes were handled likewise and the Playoffs draw took place - see attached.

## OTHER ISSUES:

**TROPHIES:** The Chairman stressed the responsibility of Divisions to ensure that trophies from previous years were returned in good condition. He spoke about the requirements for Referees, Linesmen and Umpires at the Playoffs, and that every effort would be made to avoid conflicts when the games schedule was being arranged.

**CONGRESS:** He gave a report on the GAA Congress in Dublin, the OG Rule 41 change, and brought up the issue of the Special Congress to delete Rule 21. During discussion and a vote, most delegates declared their opposition to Rule 21 being deleted. Some delegates did not express a preference as it had not been discussed at Divisional level, and one Divisional delegate wanted Rule 21 deleted.

**NEW YORK:** There was a discussion of the situation regarding NACB players playing in New York and the fact that New York would require Photo Registration cards effective June 1.

**DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES:** A copy of NACB Guidelines for handing the disciplining of players in a Division were distributed. It was explained that the purpose of the Guidelines was to ensure that all proper procedures were followed when conducting investigations or handling objections, etc.

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION:** It was decided that the NACB would send two teams to compete in the 1998 Competition, a men's and a women's team. The estimated NACB cost is about \$6,000 for each team. All four major divisions agreed to cover the cost of five flights per team, and the Chairman stated that the team managers would be the managers of the 1997 NACB Champions - Chicago Wolfe Tones and Philadelphia Emerald Eagles.

**FÉILE na nÓG:** A letter from the San Francisco Minor Board requesting \$10,000 towards the cost of sending an Under-14 team to compete in Féile na nÓg in Donegal in July was discussed. The team would be representing the NACB and were struggling to come up with the approximately \$30,000 cost. Following much discussion, it was proposed that the NACB give \$6,000. On a vote, the proposal passed, with Florida, Central, Southern California, Northwest and Midwest voting in favor, while Philadelphia, Atlanta and North East voting against.

**INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED:** Before the meeting ended, each Division received the following:

- A list of Divisional requirements arising from the Guinness Sponsorship contract;
- Information on player medical insurance;
- A list of all NACB clubs and contacts;
- Ladies Gaelic Football Rule Books; and
- Blank GAA Membership Cards.

**THANKS:** The DC Gaels were thanked for the great meeting arrangements. Meeting adjourned 5:30PM.

Minutes submitted, le fíor-mheas,  
 Seán Ó Catháin  
 Rúnaí