

A Cairde,

We were all very pleased at the June meeting to see Brother Pat Early walk in just as the meeting started. All present rose to their feet and gave him a standing ovation. I'm sure most of you know Pat has been battling a serious illness for 5 months. Not alone did he make the meeting but he also attended the Joseph Duellk Mass the next morning, and then joined his fellow Hibernians back at the Hall for an Irish breakfast. What an inspiration Pat is for all of us; with his Irish fighting spirit, and his commitment to the Division and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Let us all remember to keep him in our prayers that he may continue on the road to recovery.

We all had a great time at the Hibernian Idol Night on Saturday June 21. Our thanks to the 3 judges, Keith Reynolds, Ronan Lynch and his beautiful fiancée Melissa, for their unbiased assessment of the performances. After all of the adults had sang their hearts out, the children, who had been watching a movie in the Hall, came into the lounge and totally upstaged their parents. Congratulations to Elizabeth Curtin, Bridget Curtin and Grace Edmonds who won with their rendition of Pat Benatar's 'Hit Me With Your Best Shot'.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Gail Edmonds for organizing and coordinating the night.

Thank you to all the members for attending the Division Picnic on June 28. A special word of thanks to Burt Pratt's sister Gail, for supplying games and crafts for the children, and helping them throughout the day.

Dennis Browne did his usual fantastic job, not only the cooking, but with setting up everything so that there was ample food and libations to go around.

The Wild Rovers provided the music, and anyone who has seen them before, knows that they never disappoint. Leo O'Grady and Gail Cane treated everyone present to a few songs. One downer to the event was the attendance was a little light. The question begs to be asked, Is the end of June an inopportune time to have the picnic? Some of the feedback I have received is that there are a lot of graduations on at that time and members simply cannot make it. If you think a different date would better suit you, please let me know by emailing me at [knockawn@yahoo.com](mailto:knockawn@yahoo.com). This is a once a year Division Family Picnic and it would be nice if it better represented the number of members we have.

I would encourage all members to make a concerted effort to attend the three main division events in the year .... (1) Joseph Duellk Jr. Mass in June, (2) The Family Picnic, and (3). The Communion Breakfast in October.

Our next Quiz night is going to be on Friday August 1. This is always a fun and educational night, so please enter a team. Ronan Lynch will be trying to regain his 'Smartest Hibernian' title from Brian McMahon, but maybe there could be a new champ.

Go mbeannaí Dia thú

Brendan O'Dowd,

Uachtarán