

IRISH AMATEUR FENCING FEDERATION

Appeal of Lawrence M. Gough.

Saturday 24th. August, 1968.

Members of the Appeal Committee;

First of all I wish to thank you for hearing my appeal against what was done to me at the meeting of the Council of the I.A.F.F. on the 6th. August. You receive me in accordance with the terms of the Constitution of the Irish Amateur Fencing Federation and I base my appeal upon the terms of that Constitution as well as on the larger and much more important terms of natural justice.

Various charges made against me in the past, all but one half of one allegation withdrawn long since, have no relation to what was done at that Council meeting. Section 2 of Article VIII of the Constitution says ' Notice must be served upon the member against whom the action is being taken, setting forth generally the conduct forming the basis for the action.' Nothing could be clearer than that! It is obvious that in a democratic organisation no action would be taken against a member without that member being told of it in advance and given a chance to defend himself. That is the basis of my appeal - the disregard of the spirit of the Constitution and the total denial of ordinary natural justice by the Council of the I.A.F.F..

At no time was I told that my expulsion was to be considered. At no time was I invited to come to defend myself against a move ~~ix~~ to expel me. I was charged, tried and sentenced without my knowledge and without my presence. If I were a member of the G.A.A., or of a gun club, or of a social club, or of any form of democratic, open and honest association and that my expulsion was being considered, I would have been informed of this in no uncertain terms; I would have been asked in writing to prepare an answer to whatever charges were made against me; and I would have been present at the 'court' at which my case was to be decided.

That is what is called natural justice. That is what I was denied on August 6th. of this year. It is mainly because of that denial of natural justice that I appeal to you not to endorse what was done undemocratically and unconstitutionally at that meeting.

The most heinous criminal caught red-handed in crime is given every possible chance to defend himself. Every aspect of his case is considered. He is faced with his accusers and ~~xxxx~~ allowed to be represented by solicitor and counsel. The court takes precaution that he gets a fair trial. How that contrasts with what happened in my case.

I seek justice - nothing more but certainly nothing less. If my expulsion is to be considered let it be done in accordance with the Constitution of the Federation and

according to the tenets of natural justice.

Lawrence M. Gough.
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