

Managing along

AT THE Shelbourne the members of the Insurance Institute of Dublin's Discussion Circle were tuxedoed and evening dressed in great elegance. Shirt fronts foamed amid the lapels like frenzied detergents but there was much seriousness also.

Michael Ryan, the Chairman of the group, was about to deliver his paper on Irish Management to a panel of speakers which included the Min. of Lab., Michael O'Leary; David Kennedy, Chief Executive of Aer Lingus; Sheila Conroy, Chairwoman of RTE and a dacent bod and Ivor Kenny of the Irish Management Institute.

Their Press Officer, Helen

Hurley, hurried here and hence with happy hauteur and harmonious humanity.

Michael's speech amongst other things referred to the fact that women in Ireland are rarely found at management level although the record of someone like Sheila Conroy — efficient, dedicated and enthusiastic — shows what they can offer.

David Kennedy made a sensible appeal to schools to involve themselves in “. . . the real, messy world where managers operate”.

Sound enough, but organisations like the Irish Management Institute should set an example and define with precise exactitude the nature of the discipline they attempt to teach. At the moment they instruct while admitting they don't know what management is.

Still, last night's little meeting should promote discussion and the President of the Institute, Ossie Bailey (as in bridge and Bill) seemed to think so. There were few women at last night's meeting but we did observe the charm of Monica Doherty and Paula Doolan.