

Historical Documents

Insurance Ireland 1983

As late as 1983 the insurance industry in Ireland had no less than 12 representative bodies each looking solely after its own individual territory, all of them failing to look at the industry as a whole. To some extent these sectional bodies covered much the same interests, so it became evident that fresh thinking was needed. Up to the early-1980s the industry had traditionally backed away from the news media, maintaining a 'speak only when spoken to' view of the press, thus allowing publicity of an unfavourable nature to go unchecked.

An overdue development to rectify the situation began in September 1983 when young James A Hutton launched Vol 1 No 1 of INSURANCE IRELAND a 40-page monthly printed in Freshford Co Kilkenny. This first issue dealt mainly with Life Assurance problems, the October issue tackling the crises in General Insurance. These early volumes featured support from such personalities of the industry at the time as Gerry Shiels, Tony Gilhawley, Russ McDevitt, Thomas J Sheridan, Bob Gordon, J F Bourke, Des Campbell, Jack Forde, Joe Moore, Jim Doyle, Ossie Bailey, Harold Wann, Bertie O'Hanlon, Kevin O'Donnell, Adrian Daly, Bob Willis, Kevin O'Connor, Tony Neiland, David Kingston, Seamus Creedon, Tony Bunbury, Hugh Governey, Ted McRedmond, Cathal MacAllister and Leslie Andrews. Sadly, the first issue carried an obituary of the founding chairman of the 25-member Life Insurance Association in Dublin, South African born Colin Traub.

(John Dominic Dowling, Past President of The Insurance Institute of Dublin, 2009)

