

# **Association of Garda Superintendents**

**By Patrick Jordan, Retired Superintendent, An Garda Siochana**

**First President of the Garda Superintendents Association**

In accordance with the S.I. no 200/1987 Garda Siochana regulations, Gerard Collins (Minister for Justice) in 1987 made the regulations which established the Association of Garda Superintendents.

While reliant on a memory, clouded by over thirty years of Retirement, I had not given much thought of my input into the foundation of the Association until contacted by Superintendent Seamus Nolan inviting me to the Annual Conference 2022.

It was an unexpected experience, to be confronted by the present generation of Superintendents (I'm sure the job description of my era would have changed considerably to that of theirs).

I was elected President of the Association because of my convenient situation in Dublin and Superintendent Ned Wolfe (South Dublin) was appointed Secretary. Any credit for the Organisation and development of same, goes to Ned Wolfe (deceased).

With the permission of the then Commissioner, Eamonn Doherty, our meetings were held in the Officers Club, Headquarters which was lacking in some facilities. A search was carried out for a Garda member with hospitality experience and Garda Collette Quinn was nominated and she agreed to a transfer to a position in the Depot where she carried out, a dual role and successfully rejuvenated the Officers Club.

I was delighted to hear that she had retired recently with a rank of Chief Superintendent.

The first annual conference was held in the Officers Club and it was little more than an initiation and familiarisation gathering.

The next conference took place in the Garda Recreation Club in Harrington Street, Dublin and included such guests as Gerry Collins (Minister for Justice 1987), Commissioner Eugene Crowley, DPP E. Barnes, Fr Brian Darcy, Sean Hurley (Complaints Board), RUC Superintendents Association as well as, other Garda Representative Associations.

Our deliberations in the interim centered around any grievances which we had at that time and we were looking for a suitable advisor. A retired Senior Civil Servant name Joe Chadwick prepared a case study which was presented to the Minister for Justice Ray Burke (1988), at the Department of Justice by myself and Ned Wolfe. To my best recollection, it fell on deaf ears – The Minister had his own problems at that time.

Our next AGM took place in the Officers Club and guest included, The Minister for Justice Ray Burke, Commissioner Paddy Culligan, DPP E. Barnes, Dr Donovan, Sean Hurley (Complaints Board) Dr Harbison, RUC and Scottish Superintendents as well as Garda Representative Association members. Press included Tom McGaughren. An invitation was extended to the UK representatives, but they declined to attend.

Reciprocal visits were made by Ned Wolfe and myself to the Scottish Superintendents Conferences at Peebles, Edinburgh.

For security reasons, I attended the RUC Superintendents conference at Bangor on my own. I also attended the funerals of the two murdered RUC Superintendents in Northern Ireland in 1989.