

Society Activities

COUNCIL REPORT 1985

Symposium

"Stability of Forest Crops" was the theme of the symposium held at U.C.D. on 29th March. Six papers were presented on the subject. The symposium was attended by 200 members.

Annual Study Tour

The tour was held in Cork from 21st-23rd May and a full account of what took place is in Irish Forestry Vol. 42(2).

Meetings

Two meetings were held during the year. The first was held in the Sligo/Leitrim area in June and it considered the feasibility of thinning Sitka spruce on gley soils. The other meeting was held in September in Co. Tyrone. At Baronscourt, the thinning, spacing and provenance of Sitka spruce were discussed and at the Abercorn Estate the re-establishment of hardwoods was considered, including a look at the performance of oak and beech, and larch in tree shelters. Both days were very well attended. One evening meeting was held in Limerick in April—it was a repeat of the meeting 'The Silviculture of Ash for Hurley Production' which was held in Dublin in December in 1984.

Guided Forest Walks

Walks were held at 23 centres throughout the country on 8th September. Attendances were very satisfactory.

The Society wishes to thank those who presented papers at the symposium, all those who helped in organising the field days and evening meetings and the Convenor and leaders of the Forest Walks. Thanks are also due to the Forest and Wildlife Service and the Northern Ireland Forest Service and University College Dublin, for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at U.C.D. on the 28th March. The Minutes were published in Irish Forestry, Vol. 42(1).

Publications

Irish Forestry Vol. 42 was published.

Examinations

No candidate sat for examinations.

Education Award Fund

The winners of the 1984 prizes (each of £100 worth of forestry books) were Mr. J. Galligan, Bray (U.C.D. recipient) and Mr. P. Egan, Killaloe (Kinnitty Forestry School recipient). The winner of the current year's prize was Mr. E. O'Driscoll, Dublin (U.C.D. recipient). Please note that only one prize was awarded in 1985 because the Kinnitty Forestry School closed in 1984.

Following a forestry tour of Ireland in 1985, foresters of the Canton of Freiburg (Switzerland) presented the Society with 500 francs. Council decided that the money be placed in the above fund.

*Oireachtas Joint Committee on Forestry
and Forest based Industries.*

The Council submitted the same submission that was sent to the Review Group on Forestry, to the Joint Committee.

Visit from Abroad

The Society in conjunction with the Forest and Wildlife Service, organised and hosted a week's study tour for 38 members of the Society of American Foresters, in September.

Elections

Three posts of Technical Councillor (for 2 years), one post of Technical Councillor (for 1 year, due to a Councillor resigning), and one post of Associate Councillor were filled by election. As there was only one candidate for each of the other posts they were filled without election. The total valid poll in the 1985 election was 168.

Membership

Number of members on 31st December 1985:

<i>Technical</i>	<i>Associate</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Total</i>
468	114	53	635

New members elected in 1985:

17	13	15	44
----	----	----	----

We note with regret the deaths of the following members: Mr. E. Daly, Mr. J. Kelleher, Mr. B. Loughrey, Mr. S. Switzer.

Attendance at Council Meetings

Six meetings were held during the year. Attendance was as follows:

E. Griffin, L. Furlong, M. O'Brien, P. Raftery	6 meetings
J. Fennessy, J. Gardiner, E. Hendrick	5 meetings
M. Carey, J. Prior	4 meetings
E. Farrell, J. O'Driscoll, A. Pfeifer	3 meetings
B. Hussey, D. Ward	2 meetings
K. Hutchinson	1 meeting
E. Morrissey	0 meetings

Please Note: E. Morrissey tendered his resignation at the first Council meeting and E. Farrell was co-opted in his place. D. Ward resigned from Council at the 4th meeting, and K. Hutchinson was co-opted in his place. Therefore E. Farrell and K. Hutchinson could have only attended a maximum of 5 and 2 Council meetings respectively.

*Signed: E. Griffin,
Hon. Secretary.*

March 1986.

MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 20th MARCH, 1986
AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, U.C.D., DUBLIN

The President, Mr. M. O'Brien took the chair.

Attendance

E. Griffin, A. Pfeifer, P. McCusker, F. Mulloy, I. Booth, J. O'Driscoll, E. Hendrick, J. Gardiner, L. Furlong, J. Fennessy, D. Magner, J. Neilan, J. Griffin, B. Fitzsimons, J. Mackin, S. Milner, W. Wright, B. Lacey, R. Keogh, G. Murphy.

Apologies

P. Burton, P. Joyce, N. O'Carroll.

Secretary's Business

The minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting, having already been circulated to members, were agreed, and signed by the President.

Matters Arising from Minutes

None.

Council's Report for 1985

The Report, having already been circulated to members was taken as read. F. Mulloy asked how many people had attended the Forest Walks held last September. P. Raftery stated the attendance amounted to around 4,500. F. Mulloy remarked that this was the only event open to non-members. He felt that the public now seem to be tutored on forestry matters by non-members and that the Society is becoming introverted — what about the Press being allowed into symposia? J. Gardiner stated that this proposal had been discussed last year by Council but that it decided against it. Council felt that the media tended to misrepresent issues and that speakers would not be in as free a position to talk on issues lest they be misconstrued. P. McCusker stated that on forestry matters the Society should be replying to bad press. The President said there had been a sub-committee considering ways of promoting the objectives of the Society and that this work will be continued by the incoming Council. The Council Report was proposed for adoption by E. Hendrick and seconded by J. O'Driscoll.

Abstract of Accounts

P. Raftery presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1985. Subscriptions accounted for around £6,000 during the year. Interest on investments was up on last year's figure — however this interest will be subject to a new 35% tax this year because of changes brought about by the recent Budget. The cost of producing the Journal has risen by less than 5%. However, the cost of postage has increased by 33% due to the new weight and size of envelope regulations of An Post. The Treasurer expected that receipts will equal expenditure during 1986. However, the balance to credit is presently almost £8,000. A question was raised as to whether the subscription rates should be increased. The President replied that Council had considered the matter during the year and had decided not to propose an increase. P. Raftery also presented a statement on the Education Award Fund. The statements were proposed for adoption by A. Pfeifer and seconded by D. Magner.

Confirmation of Elections

The meeting confirmed the 1986 Council Elections as follows: President, M. O'Brien; Vice-President, J. Prior; Hon. Secretary, E. Griffin; Hon. Treasurer,

G. Murphy; Editor, P. McCusker; Business Editor, E. Hendrick; Hon. Auditor, W. Jack; Technical Councillors, D. Magner, J. Neilan, J. O'Driscoll, E. Farrell (for one year only); Associate Councillor, L. Furlong; Northern Ireland Regional Group Representative, J. Griffin.

Proposed by I. Booth.
Seconded by J. Fennessy.

Any Other Business

G. Murphy asked in what way had the Society contributed to last year's International Year of the Forest? E. Griffin said that Council had tried to organise the making of a video on forestry but various attempts had been unsuccessful. It was as a result of this that a sub-committee had been formed to seek ways of promoting the objective of the Society. B. Fitzsimons suggested that Council should seek sponsorship from the Forest and Wildlife Service to make a video. It was agreed that the incoming Council would consider seeking sponsorship for same.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m.

SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS — STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1985

1984	RECEIPTS	1985	1984	PAYMENTS	1985
7,223.56	To Balance from Last Account	6,813.71	82.06	By Stationery and Printing	134.95
	To Subscriptions Received		3,871.00	By Printing of Journals	4,059.00
	Technical 1985	4,235.76	1,081.13	By Postage	1,440.90
	Technical 1984	275.50	100.00	By Expenses re Meetings:	110.00
	Associate 1985	816.70	25.10	By Bank Charges	49.49
	Associate 1984	92.00	1,504.80	By Secretarial Expenses	1,820.35
	Student 1985	88.45	549.90	By Value Added Tax	509.51
	Student 1984	10.00	90.30	By Examination Expenses	151.60
	Other Arrears	215.20	50.47	By Miscellaneous Expenses	79.10
6,109.74	Advance Payments	202.87		By Honoraria:	
	To Interest on Investments			Secretary	50.00
	Savings Account	61.16		Treasurer	50.00
	Educational Building Society	9.14		Editor	50.00
921.70	Lombard & Ulster	871.56	200.00	Business Editor	50.00
	To Journal		430.00	By Study Tour Expenses	240.00
	Sales	1,400.39	501.84	By Forest Walks	3,008.76
1,969.90	Advertising	1,611.00		By Balance:	
	Examination Fee	25.00		Current Accounts	662.60
33.86	Gains on Sterling	42.98		Savings Account	516.17
	Forest Walks	3,000.00		Educational Building Society	139.44
	Donation	12.50		Lombard & Ulster	6,662.05
			6,813.71		7,980.26
16,258.76		£19,783.92	16,258.76		19,783.92

I have examined the above accounts, have compared them with vouchers, and certify same to be correct, the balance to credit being IR£7,980.26 which is held in current accounts at the Ulster Bank. (IR£1,240.87 less IR£578.27 uncashed cheques). Ulster Bank Savings Account, B2960, Educational Building Society Account 130441, and Lombard and Ulster Savings Deposit Account No. 675146F. There is also a holding of £100 Prize Bond No. R855061/080. IR£1,171.47 is held in Trustee Savings Bank Account 323 001 35909 for the Education Award Fund.

Dated: February 11th, 1986

Signed: W. H. Jack, Hon. Auditor

SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS — EDUCATIONAL AWARD FUND FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1985

90

1984	RECEIPTS	1985	1984	PAYMENTS	1985
916.61	To Balance from last account	877.50	877.50	By Balance	1,171.47
67.17	To Interest	100.18	106.28	By 1985 Award	—
—	To Donation (Swiss Foresters)	193.79			
£983.78		IR£1,171.47	£983.78		IR£1,171.47

I have examined the above account and certify same to be correct, the balance to credit being IR£1,171.47 which is held in the Trustee Savings Bank Account 323001 35909.

Dated: February 11th, 1986

Signed: W. H. Jack, Hon. Auditor.