

Minutes of 24th Annual General Meeting

MARCH 19th 1966 IN SHELBOURNE HOTEL

THE President, Mr. Kilpatrick, took the chair at 3 p.m. and welcomed those present to the 24th A.G.M. The minutes of the 23rd A.G.M. were read, approved and signed. The President, opening the discussion on the Council's report, enlarged on some points which were only initiated towards the end of the calendar year. Three meetings had been held to encourage new membership at various centres throughout the country. To date response had been most encouraging, 48 having joined compared with only 13 for 1965. A copy of the book was not available as hoped due to flooding in the printing works during the winter. Proof of a fifth of the text was available for inspection as was a sample of the final form of the book. Mr. Gallagher was asked to explain the delay of the Autumn '65 issue of the journal. It was three fold, his personal work, a breakdown at the printing works and work in connection with the book. Delays in receipt of articles and reports have a large impact on the date of issue. Mr. McEvoy

proposing the acceptance of the Council's report expressed disappointment at the late issue of the Journal and at the increased cost of the Spring issue. This was up £190 on the Autumn '64 issue. Mr. A. Simpson seconded the adoption of the Council's report.

Abstract of Accounts :

It was to be noted that income this year was down £160 on last year, the brunt of the deficit being due to increased Journal costs. In fact the Journal account showed a deficit of £195. The overall picture would have been worse had the honoraria been paid. Journal income has been decreasing over the past 3 years, in 1963 it was £308, 1964 £297 and in 1965 £137. The Business Editor pointed out that the position was not as bad as it appears. When he took over income from Autumn '64 adverts had not been collected. Of £109 outstanding £56 had been collected. For Spring '65 advertising yielded £180 of which £120 had been collected. Three firms have outstanding accounts for two issues totalling £100. It can be said that the cost of both 1965 Journals will be borne by income from advertisements. To reduce costs it was essential to keep the size of the Journal uniform. The removal of Society excursion reports would reduce the size of the Journal and costs. Another remedy put forward was the seeking of competitive tenders. It was however hoped to look into this question in more detail. On the brighter side income from membership had increased, at this date 259 out of 400 were paid up. The Treasurer requested that more members should use Bankers Orders to pay subscriptions. Turning to the book finances the Treasurer stated that a circular would shortly be issued asking members to subscribe in advance. A second one will be sent to potential buyers. It is hoped that sales will cover the entire cost of the book, £670 for 1,000 copies. Acceptance of accounts was proposed by Mr. M. Swan and seconded by Mr. A. M. S. Hanan.

Presentation of Certificates :

The President called on successful candidates in the recent Foresters Certification examination to come forward, sign the roll of successful candidates and receive their certificates. The successful candidates were William B. Luddy, William O'Dwyer and John J. Hanly. Each was warmly applauded by the meeting as they received their certificates.

Presidential Address :

Mr. Kilpatrick read a paper reviewing forestry development to date with particular reference to Northern Ireland.

Election Results :

The results of the 1966 Council Election were President : C. S. Kilpatrick; Vice President : O. V. Mooney; Secretary : J. O'Driscoll; Treasurer : T. Moloney; Bus. Editor : J. D. Robinson; Councillor

Grade I: L. Condon, D. McGlynn; Grade II: W. Luddy; Associate: L. Furlong.

Mr. J. Durand proposed that the results be taken as valid, this being seconded by Mr. M. MacNamara.

Election to Honorary Membership of Mr. Timothy Donovan:

Mr. T. Moloney proposing that Mr. Donovan be elected an honorary member gave a brief description of his long and dedicated career in forestry. He was one of the older generation of foresters who had witnessed the foundation of forestry both in the north and south. When he took charge of the first area in the north he received the princely sum of 3/6d. a day. He subsequently moved to Baunreagh where he was instrumental in establishing one of the oldest and largest of our present-day forests. He subsequently rose to the rank of Divisional Inspector with special interest in land acquisition particularly in the West. The motion was seconded by Mr. D. McGlynn who expressed pleasure at being asked to do so. He recalled that Mr. Donovan was with Mr. Stewart the surviving link with the first days of forestry as we know it in Ireland. The motion was passed unopposed and the President had great pleasure in declaring Mr. Donovan elected an honorary member of the Society.

Motions:

The second of the two motions was dealt with first, it being "That the constitution of the Society be amended to provide Student Membership. Forestry students at University and Forestry Schools would be eligible for the duration of their studies. The annual subscription for Student Membership would be 10/- per annum". Mr. MacNamara proposing the motion said that it had its origins at the Cahir meeting. The aim was to attract students to join the Society. However, one stipulation would have to be included being that they would not be eligible to be elected to the Council of the Society. Mr. K. Parkin seconding the motion stated that most Society's had a student membership grade and that it could only be of benefit. The decision on whether they be allowed to vote should be left to the Council to decide. Many other loose ends would first have to be cleared up before the motion was constitutionally sound. As a statement of intent it was passed unanimously.

The second motion on the revision of the constitution arose from the meeting held at Strabane and was proposed by Mr. W. Dallas and seconded by Mr. Dalton. It was:—

- (a) "That the constitution of the Society of Irish Foresters be altered to allow regional representation on the Council where this is desired by any region.
- (b) The regions should be based on the historic four provinces but may consist of any groups of counties as determined from time to time by the Council.
- (c) Each region where desired should be represented by a

Council member, in addition to the Council as at present constituted.

- (d) Regional councillors may only be nominated and voted for by the members residing in the region concerned.
- (e) The regional councillor may form a committee from among the members resident in his region by co-option.
- (f) The regional councillor and committee (where formed) should organise meetings within their region in liaison with the Council meetings Convenor''.

Before discussing the motion, the President stated that the Council could not accept the motion in its entirety as it now stood. Section (a) should form the basis of discussion with the other details to be worked out by the Council were the motion passed. Mr. Dallas proposing the motion pointed out the benefits of the Society to the ordinary member. It gives them a professional bond, holds examinations and is a mouth piece for airing technical viewpoints. Despite this only 150 out of 450 foresters are members. It would appear that many were apathetic towards the Society. Present attendance of 35 at A.G.M. tends to emphasise this apathy as does the figure of 180 who voted in the annual elections. With the present organisation of the Society, if a country member living in a particular area missed the one meeting in his area, he had no further opportunity to take part in the Society's activities for that year. Regionalisation would help to solve some of these problems by holding more meetings in particular regions, by encouraging new membership and by increasing interest in the annual elections.

Mr. H. Kerr, seconding the motion on behalf of Mr. Dalton, stated that the Strabane meeting was in itself an indictment of the need for regionalisation. Forty people had been expected but in fact seventy had turned up. Foresters in the north-west feel isolated and away from the centre of things. Were a regional group to hold more meetings it would be of great benefit to the Society.

In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that a strong case had been made for regionalisation. This desire seemed to stem mainly from the north. It might be possible as an alternative to organise meetings regionally on a trial basis. Before any final decision could be taken it would be up to the Council to examine every aspect. The motion was put to the meeting, with the amendment that sections (b) to (d) be deleted and was passed unanimously.

Programme for 1966:

The Annual Study Tour would take place in week commencing June 13th. Day meetings would be held in the S.E., in north Donegal in May, in the south in July, and in the west in September. One indoor meeting would be held in April.

There being no further business the President brought the meeting to a close and thanked all present for attending.

J. O'DRISCOLL,
May, 1966.