

Society Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1975

Council Meetings

Six Council meetings were held during the year. Attendance was as follows: D. McGlynn, F. Mulloy, J. Prior, C. Tottenham and J. Dillon, 6 meetings; Miss L. Furlong, P. M. Joyce and M. O'Brien, 5 meetings; T. Clear, N. O'Carroll and M. O'Donovan, 4 meetings; W. Luddy, J. Mackin, P. Savill and T. Wilson, 3 meetings.

Society Meetings

Three successful mid-week field visits were held in West Fermanagh (Belmore Forest, Ballintempo Forest and Florencecourt Estate), in Knockdrin and Tullyally Estate, Co. Westmeath and in Edenderry Forest (including Trench 14 of Clonsast Bog). Indoor meetings included talks on "Need for Forest Recreation — and how it is being met" and "Oceanic Forestry". The Society is grateful to the field leaders and indoor speakers. Special thanks are due to the owners of the estates visited during the year.

Guided Forest Walks

Over 5,000 persons participated in the Walks which were held at 38 centres last September. President O'Dalaigh officially opened the Walks at Avondale. The Society wish to thank the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin and the Forest Service, Belfast for their assistance, and those members who acted as Walk leaders at the various centres.

Annual Study Tour

Co. Clare hosted the Annual Study Tour which was held in June with headquarters in Ennis. A summary of tour events is reported in Vol. 32, No. 2 of "Irish Forestry". Our thanks are due to Mr. M. O'Donovan and Mr. E. Larkin, tour leaders, and staff who assisted with the organisation in conjunction with the Meetings sub-committee.

Annual General Meeting

The 33rd A.G.M. was held on Saturday, 22nd March, 1975, at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, the minutes of which were printed in "Irish Forestry", Vol. 32, No. 2. Under public business Professor M. Van Miegroet of the University of Gent, delivered a paper on "Fundamental Options in Silvicultural Management" (also published).

Society Publications

Numbers 1 and 2, Vol. 32 "Irish Forestry" were published and a revised "Why Forests" was issued with other literature in conjunction with the Guided Forest Walks publicity drive.

The Index covering Vols. 26-30 of "Irish Forestry" has been printed.

The draft of the second (revised) edition of "The Forests of Ireland" is approaching completion.

An updated map showing the present forest estate, which was compiled with the co-operation of the Forest Services has been printed.

New Members

During the year 69 new members were elected to membership of the Society. This exceptional increase includes 45 technical, 12 associate and 12 student members.

Examinations

The Preliminary Certificate examination has been held but results are not available at time of printing. The Foresters Certificate examination to be arranged shortly.

Elections

Three positions of Technical Councillor for the period 1976-1978 were filled by election.

Membership Fee Increase

Due to increasing costs the Council has decided to raise membership fees, as and from 1st January, 1977, the new fees will be as follows:- Technical, £4.00; Associate, £3.50; Student, £2.00.

Council regrets having to take this action but points out that the last increase took place on 1st January, 1972.

Miscellaneous

Requests from the general public for literature on forests and forestry are ever increasing in number. Most of the requests come from school-children and students who are doing projects on the subject. The Council feels that this is a healthy indication of a greater awareness by the public towards forestry.

Signed: JAMES DILLON
(Hon. Secretary)

**MINUTES OF THE 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY
13th MARCH 1976, IN THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL, DUBLIN**

The President, Mr. D. McGlynn in the Chair, present were Misses L. Furlong and M. Robinson; Messrs P. M. Joyce, J. O'Driscoll, T. A. Barry, D. Mangan, O. V. Mooney, T. Clear, C. B. Tottenham, H. Kerr, T. J. McCarthy, P. S. Savill, J. J. Prior, F. Mulloy, M. O'Brien, J. A. Mannion, N. O'Carroll and J. Dillon. Apologies were received from Messrs W. H. Jack, T. McEvoy, D. A. Dickson and D. M. Craig.

Secretary's Business: The minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting having been published in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 32, No. 2 were taken as read and duly signed. Council Report for 1975 was read to the meeting and its approval was proposed by Mr. O. V. Mooney and seconded by Mr. M. O'Brien.

During the discussion that followed it was reported that the three midweek day tours were most successful with attendances between 70-100 persons on each occasion. There was general agreement that these mini study tours should be continued for the coming year. It was also reported that two indoor talks had been held. The Annual Study Tour held in Co. Clare attracted a very large attendance and proved to be a great success. After much discussion on the increased attendances at day meetings and study tours it was agreed that if any restrictions on numbers was necessary it would be left to the discretion of the Meetings Committee.

In reporting on the Guided Forest Walks held in September, 1975,

Mr. Mulloy pointed out many of the problems associated with the organisation of the event. It was difficult to obtain adequate publicity on this occasion, and where numbers in excess of 100 turned up at venues it created problems of communication. The President commented on the growing awareness of the population towards forestry and in particular he mentioned the Young Scientist Competition where a Co. Cork group won an award for a project on their local forest.

The Editor reported on the "Forest Booklet" and stated that he was still awaiting material from some contributors and was hopeful that the booklet might be ready towards the end of 1976. Dr. O'Carroll regretted the very poor response received to his questionnaire on the format and future of *Irish Forestry*. Only 21 replies had been received to date from a membership of almost 600.

Abstract of Accounts: The Treasurer elaborated on the increases in membership fees which would function from January 1st 1977. He stated that if the increases were to follow the Consumer Price Index system the fee for technical membership would be £4.78 on January 1st, 1976. Instead, technical membership fees would be held at £4.00, associate at £3.50, and student fees at £2.00 from January 1st, 1977.

The adoption of the Statement of Accounts was proposed by Professor T. Clear and seconded by Mr. O. V. Mooney.

Examinations Convenor, Mr. J. Prior, explained to the meeting our affiliation to the Central Forestry Examinations Board. He also reported that a special subcommittee was considering the updating of the present examinations syllabus.

Elections: The 1976 Council elections were confirmed as follows: President, P. M. Joyce; Vice-President & Treasurer, F. Mulloy; Secretary, J. Dillon; Editor, N. O'Carroll; Business Editor, M. O'Brien; Honorary Auditor, H. Jack; Councillors, Technical, E. Joyce, J. Prior, P. Savill; Councillors, Associate, L. Furlong.

Presidential Address: Before handing over the Chair Mr. McGlynn stated that the time was now ripe for a long term forest policy plan. We are now entering an era where home-grown timber is about to make its biggest impact on the utilisation market. He warned that the forest interest must be protected on all fronts and recalled the Society's recent and successful representation to the Minister for Lands, in having certain amendments made to the Wealth Tax Bill, in order to protect the private forestry sector.

He added that the Society was again seeking to have amendments made to the Capital Gains Tax Bill, on behalf of the private forestry interest, but he regretted the lack of response shown by the Minister. In conclusion, he felt that the EEC Draft Directive on forestry might be encouraging provided that no 'watering-down' of the proposals occurred. Finally, the President thanked the Society and Council for their assistance during the past year.

Programme for 1976: Annual Study Tour; arranged for late May-early June with headquarters at Tramore.

4 midweek day tours: (1) Omagh area, April; (2) Cloosh Valley Forest, July; (3) Tyrone/Fermanagh, September; (4) West Cork, September.

2 Sunday meetings: (1) Cavan/Monaghan, Private Estate; (2) Wicklow region.

3 indoor meetings: Two for Dublin area, and one talk for a country venue.

As a mark of respect to deceased members, Mr. T. Donovan, Mr. W. B. McGuinness and Mr. M. Boland, one minute's silence was observed.

The meeting concluded at 17.50 hrs.