

Society Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1977

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1976

Council Meetings:

In the year under review six meetings were held: Attendance of Councillors was as follows: P. M. Joyce, L. Furlong, E. Joyce, J. Dillon, 6 meetings; N. O'Carroll, 5 meetings; F. Mulloy, 4 meetings; J. J. Prior, 3 meetings; C. Tottenham, W. Luddy, M. O'Brien, 2 meetings; P. Savill, T. Clear, J. Mackin, T. Wilson, 1 meeting.

Society Meetings:

Three successful day-study tours were held in Tollymore Forest Park, Co. Down, Cloosh Valley Forest, Co. Galway and Ballyvourney Forest, Co. Cork. Sunday meetings were held at Hilton Park, Clones, Co. Monaghan and Avondale, Co. Wicklow. One indoor meeting was held in the Limerick region. The Society is grateful to all who acted as field leaders and speakers.

Guided Forest Walks:

Large attendances again participated in the Walks last September which were held at 30 centres throughout the country. The Society wishes to thank Mr. J. Connelly who undertook the organisation of this event and those members who acted as Walk leaders at the various centres. The assistance and co-operation of the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin, and the Forest Service, Belfast, is also acknowledged.

Annual Study Tour:

The south-eastern counties of Waterford, Tipperary and Kilkenny hosted the Annual Study Tour held in early June with headquarters at Tramore. A summary of Tour events is reported in Vol. 34, No. 1, *Irish Forestry*. Our thanks are due to Mr. L. Condon and Mr. K. Cremin, tour leaders, and staff who assisted with the organisation in conjunction with the Meeting sub-committee.

Annual General Meeting:

The 34th A.G.M. was held on Saturday, 13th March, 1976, at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, the minutes of which are available in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 33, No. 2. Under public business, Prof. T. Clear, University College, Dublin, delivered a very interesting paper entitled "New Zealand Journey" (published in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 33, No. 2, 1976).

Society Publications:

Vol. 33, Nos. 1 and 2, *Irish Forestry* were published and a revised "Why Forests" was again issued with other literature in conjunction with the Guided Forest Walks publicity drive. The second and revised edition of "Forests of Ireland" is expected to be published during the coming year.

Examinations:

The results of the 1975 examinations were not available for inclusion in Council's report for last year. We are pleased to announce that the three candidates who presented themselves for the Preliminary Certificate were each successful. One candidate sat for the Foresters Certificate but was unsuccessful. The current examinations are being held shortly.

The examinations Syllabus and Regulations has been revised — the principal changes being:

- (a) Up-dating of the subject matter and prescribed texts.

- (b) Modification of the eligibility requirements for the Foresters Certificate to enable qualified and experienced candidates, who do not hold the Preliminary Certificate, to seek exemption by application to Council.
- (c) Modification of marking standards in the Foresters Certificate examination to bring levels more into line with examinations elsewhere.
- (d) Increase in Examination fees.

With the exception of increased fees which were applied in the present year, the other changes will not come into effect until April, 1977.

Elections:

Three positions of Councillor Technical and one position of Councillor Associate for the period 1977-'79 were filled by election.

Accommodation Facilities:

Council are pleased to announce that new and satisfactory accommodation facilities have been arranged with the the Royal Dublin Society.

Editors Questionnaire:

Opinion of members on the contents and format of *Irish Forestry* were sought in February, 1976. Results are reported in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 33, No. 1.

New Members:

The large increase in recent years for membership application was again evident during 1976. A total of 58 new members were enrolled in the following categories: Technical 24; Associate 17; Student 17.

Signed: JAMES DILLON,
(Hon. Secretary)

MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY, 26th MARCH, 1977 AT THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL, DUBLIN

ATTENDANCE:

The President, Dr. P. M. Joyce in the Chair, present were Miss Furlong, Messrs. J. O'Driscoll, M. Flannery, J. J. Gardiner, Lord Digby, Messrs. M. L. Carey, J. Prior, T. J. McCarthy, C. Little, N. O'Carroll, C. Tottenham, E. P. Farrell, D. McAree, M. O'Brien, D. Mangan, L. O'Flanagan, J. Brosnan, T. McEvoy, D. McGlynn, O. V. Mooney, M. Swan, F. Mulloy, and J. Dillon.

Secretary's Business:

The minutes of the 34th A.G.M. having been published in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 33, No. 2, were taken as read and duly signed. Council's Report for 1976 was read to the meeting. Mr. McEvoy in proposing the adoption of the report thanked the Council for its work in the past year, particularly in relation to the day study tours, which he considered of great benefit to members. Seconding the motion, Mr. McGlynn asked for an explanation of Section C, Examinations, dealing with the modification of marking standards. In reply, Mr. Prior, Examinations Convenor, stated that there was need to have the pass level more easily attainable and that the higher achievement levels were now more in line with other examination systems. Mr. McGlynn also raised the matter of attendance at Council meetings. Without causing offence to anyone, he regretted that members accept nomination for positions on Council and then will not attend the meetings. In reply, the President

pointed out that in the past year half of the Council members attended no more than two of the six meetings.

The President in thanking Miss Furlong for her work as Meeting Convenor stated that a new system for the sharing out of the work load, associated with the Meetings Committee, was called for. Much discussion ensued on procedures for enlisting extra members to Council. Mr. McEvoy suggested that the existing powers of co-option should be exercised so that persons willing to work could be brought into the Council. Dr. O'Carroll pointed out that study tours needed the total services of one or more persons so that standards could be maintained and that such people should enjoy Council status.

Abstract of Accounts:

Mr. Mulloy apologised for the exclusion of the financial statement from the A.G.M. notice, but said it would be published in *Irish Forestry* in due course. He stated that the Society's affairs were in a particularly healthy state at the moment, but that expenditure on the coming *Forests of Ireland* booklet will erode much of the current balance. On the proposal of Mr. J. O'Driscoll and seconded by Mr. D. McAree the statement of accounts was formally adopted.

Elections:

The 1977 Council Elections were confirmed as follows: President, P. M. Joyce; Vice-President, F. Mulloy; Secretary, J. Gillespie; Treasurer, M. L. Carey; Editor, E. P. Farrell; Business Editor, M. O'Brien; Honorary Auditor, W. H. Jack; Councillors, Technical, J. Mackin, L. P. O'Flanagan, P. J. Morrissey; Councillor, Associate, C. B. Tottenham; Northern Regional Group Representative, W. J. Wright.

Other Business:

Mr. Little raised the possibility of regional groups being formed to look after meeting arrangements in their own area, and to lighten the burden on the already hard pressed Meetings Committee. In reply, the President pointed out that the Northern Regional Group functioned in this manner, but that a similar group in the Cork region failed to survive due to lack of support.

Mr. Carey asked if the poor attendance at the A.G.M. was of concern to Council. The President felt that this was the case with most A.G.M.s, not alone that of this Society. Mr. McEvoy felt that small attendances at such meetings could be taken as a vote of confidence.

The President thanked Mr. J. O'Driscoll who arranged for the binding of Vols. 1-30, *Irish Forestry*.

Programme for 1978:

Study Tour arranged for the Killarney region. Sunday meeting (a) Summerhill property, Donadea Forest; (b) Derryvullagh Island, Kilberry Bog, Co. Kildare. Day meetings: (a) Sitka spruce symposium in Belfield, held on March 11th, 1978; (b) General Moore's Estate, Mountfield, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, about June/July 1978; (c) a third day meeting to be arranged if a suitable topic is found.

Winter Programme—Indoor Meetings:

Plans to be finalised. In reply to Mr. Brosnan's query on voting patterns in the recent ballot on the Annual Study Tour venue, Miss Furlong explained that of the 56 replies received, 29 voted for an at-home venue, 18 for a British tour, and only 9 persons asked for a Continental venue. The President, in closing the meeting thanked all in attendance and also the Council members who helped him through the past year.

Forest Walks

This year, the annual guided forest walks were held on Sunday, September 11th. Walks were organised in the following forests (leaders names are given in parenthesis).

Ardnageeha, Cong, Co. Mayo — Scenic walk by Lough Corrib through mixed woodland. (P. Campbell, B. Lambe, M. J. Maye).

Ards Forest Park, Co. Donegal — Forest Park. Conservation of native woodlands. Wildlife Sanctuary. (D. Connolly).

Ballinaboola, Ballylea, Charleville, Co. Cork — Forest Nursery practice. Diverse conifer woodland. (M. J. McCarthy).

Ballybrittas, Co. Laois — Wide variety of tree species and their management. Panoramic lakeside walk. (G. T. Hipwell, J. Prior).

Ballynastragh, Gorey, Co. Wexford — Nursery production of exotic broadleaf and conifer trees. (P. J. Cotter, G. Murphy, J. J. O'Reilly).

Brosna Forest, Co. Kerry — Large scale forest development on deep climatic peat. Duck pond, Grouse moor preparation. (J. A. Regan, D. Walsh).

Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny — Mixed broadleaf and conifer woodlands. Wildlife interest. (G. McCarthy, K. Ryan).

Castle Lake, Bailieboro' — Amenity walk through broadleaf and conifer plantations. (E. Johnston, A. McGinley, M. Ryan).

Coole Park, Co. Galway — Mixed conifer and broadleaf woodlands. Historical and amenity interests. (J. Farrelly, C. Hanley).

Cratloe, Co. Clare — Mature conifer forest and natural oak woodlands. (E. Larkin, M. O'Donovan).

Drumboe Wood, Co. Donegal — River walk in mature conifer woodland. (N. Foley, T. Mannion).

Dromore, Ennis Forest, Co. Clare — Conifer and broadleaf woodland. Lakeside amenity. Wildlife interest. (M. Barry, L. Cawley, P. J. O'Sullivan).

Ely Lodge Forest, Co. Fermanagh — Scenic walk through mature broadleaf and conifer woodland on the shore of Lough Erne. (M. Devine, W. J. Wright).

Glenariff Forest Park, Co. Antrim — Forest Park and surrounding countryside, reception centre, wildlife interest. (W. J. Crawford).

Glencree, Co. Wicklow — Commercial and scenic aspects of mature conifer woodland. (J. Dillon, A. P. Higgins).

Glendine, Ossory, Co. Laois — Conifer forest at various stages of development. (B. J. Collins, T. McHugh).

Glengarra Wood, Co. Tipperary — Broadleaf and conifer woodland in picturesque river valley. (M. MacGiolla Coda, J. V. Roycroft).

Glen Island, Co. Mayo — Forest operations from nursery to harvesting. (T. De Gruineil, M. Hoban, R. O'Cinnéide).

Gosford Forest Park, Co. Armagh — Interesting variety of young hardwood and conifer plantations, arboretum and walled garden. (H. Conn).

Hollywood Demesne, Co. Wicklow — Mixed conifer woodlands interspersed with broadleaf trees. Reforestation of windblown area. (S. Casey, M. Regan, D. Sweetman).

Killakee, Co. Dublin — Wide variety of broadleaf and conifer trees overlooking Dublin City. (F. Mulloy, M. O'Brien).

Kilworth, Co. Cork — Forest management of mature conifer woodlands. (J. C. Crowley, P. Verling).

Lough Key Forest Park, Co. Roscommon — Scenic broadleaf and conifer plantations. Historical and amenity interests. (J. P. Duane).

Milltown Wood, Co. Leitrim — Scenic walk through mixed conifer woodlands. (P. McEneaney, P. O'Malley).

Moher Wood, Co. Limerick — Wide variety of young conifers and their

management. (D. Dineen).

Mullaghmeen Wood, Castlepollard, Co. Longford — Diverse broadleaf and conifer forest. (P. J. Morrissey, J. Quinlivan).

Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick — Pleasant walks through mixed broadleaf conifer woodland. Viewing point of counties. (J. Costello, D. Gleeson).

Pomeroy Forest, Co. Tyrone — Grace Drennan Woodland Trail. Mature mixed broadleaf and conifer woodlands. Forest nursery, wildlife interest. (G. B. Jones).

Rossmore Park, Co. Monaghan — Conifer plantation interspersed with broadleaf trees. Amenity, wildlife and historical associations. (M. Dooley, J. Finley).

Rosturra Wood, Woodford, Co. Galway — Diverse broadleaf and conifer forest. (E. McGuinness, S. O'Halloran).

Slish Wood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo — Scenic walk by Lough Gill through broadleaf and conifer woodland. (C. C. Crowley, P. Finnerty, T. Gallen).

Trooperstown, Co. Wicklow — Wide variety of tree species in scenic setting. Interesting historical associations. (H. M. FitzPatrick).