

Society Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1981

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1980

Council Meetings:

Six Council meetings were held during the year. Attendance of Councillors was as follows: J. O'Driscoll, J. Brosnan, E. Furlong, J. Prior, E. Hendrick (6); J. Dillon, E. P. Farrell, E. Joyce (5); J. J. Gardiner, P. McArdle (4); J. C. L. Phillips, C. Tottenham (3); J. K. Ellis, M. O'Brien (2); J. Kilbride (1).

Society Meetings:

A highly successful symposium on "Growing Space In Coniferous Crops" was held at Belfield, U.C.D. in March. Most of the papers presented were published as a supplement to Irish Forestry Vol. 37 No. 2. In September, Florence Court forest was the venue for a well attended field-day. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Augustine Henry a joint meeting arranged by the Society, the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History and the Forestry Group of the Agricultural Science Association was held at Belfield in November. Among those who read papers were Society members Dr. Jack Durand, H. M. Fitzpatrick and the President, John O'Driscoll. At the R.D.S. in December Dr. Michael Carey read a paper entitled "The Wonder Wood" — a critical look at plantation forestry in New Zealand, following a year spent with the Forest Research Institute there.

The Society expresses its thanks to those who acted as speakers and field leaders.

Annual Study Tour:

Over 80 members attended the Annual Study Tour held in the Midlands in June. Thanks for the success of the tour are due to Mr. Liam O'Flanagan, Tour leader, and all those who assisted with the organisation in conjunction with the Meetings Committee.

Guided Forest Walks:

Walks were held at 36 centres throughout the country on Sunday 14th September. Despite the petrol shortage and inclement weather over 4,000 people took part. The society wishes to thank Mr. John Fennessy who organised the walks 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 General Meeting:

The 38th Annual General Meeting was held at the R.D.S. on 27th March, 1980. The minutes are available in Irish Forestry Vol. 37, No. 1.

Society Publications:

Irish Forestry Vol. 37, Nos. 1 and 2 were published. A supplement to Vol. 37 (2) "Growing Space in Coniferous Crops" was also published. "Guided Forest Walks" and "Why Forests" were issued in connection with the Forest Walks. Work on the second and revised edition of "The Forests of Ireland" continues and is nearing completion.

Examinations:

One candidate passed the 1980 Forester's Certificate Examination with distinction. There were no candidates for the Preliminary Certificate. For the 1981 examinations three candidates for the Forester's Certificate and Eighteen candidates for the Preliminary Certificate have been accepted.

Elections:

The position of Business Editor for the period 1981-82 and three positions of Technical Councillor for the period 1981-83 were filled by election. Each of the remaining positions had only one candidate and they were, therefore, filled without election.

Membership:

Membership at the end of 1980 was as follows: Technical 516; Associate 124; Student 28; Total 668.

New Members elected during 1980 were as follows: Technical 16; Associate 7; Student 17; Total 40.

Signed: E. HENDRICK,
Hon. Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 9th April 1981, Thomas Prior House, R.D.S., Dublin.

Attendance:

The President Mr. J. O'Driscoll in the Chair, present were J. K. Ellis; S. Milner; O. V. Mooney; T. Donohue; M. Doyle; J. Fennessy; J. Prior; E. Joyce; B. Moloney; P. M. Joyce; E. P. Farrell; J. J. Maher; F. Convery; J. J. Gardiner; J. Dillon; J. McEwan; L. Collen; E. Collen; C. S. Kilpatrick; J. C. L. Phillips; B. Wright; C. F. Tanner; J. Mackin; M. O'Brien; I. Booth; F. Mulloy; T. McEvoy; V. O'Connor; P. Carlin; J. Brosnan; L. Furlong and E. Hendrick.

Apologies were received from N. O'Carroll.

Presentation of Foresters Certificate:

The Foresters Certificate was presented to Mr. Michael Doyle by the President, Mr. O'Driscoll, who congratulated him on his success at the certificate examination.

Secretary's Business:

The minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting having been published in Irish Forestry 38 (1) were taken as read and signed. The Council Report for 1980 was read. In reply to Mr. Mooney, Dr. Farrell stated that some of the papers presented at the Henry anniversary meeting will be published in Irish Forestry. Mr. McEvoy suggested that the Council report could also deal with Council activities which do not appear in the report. The President thought this suggestion worthwhile and undertook to consider it during the drafting of the 1981 report. He went on to outline progress made in "The Forests of Ireland". Dr. O'Carroll had informed him that both Forest Services had given permission for publication of articles by their staff. Some minor editing remained and he hoped to have it with the publisher within a month. The adoption of the 1980 council Report was proposed by Mr. T. McEvoy and seconded by Mr. J. J. Maher.

Abstract of Accounts:

The treasurer discussed some points in the Abstract previously circulated. The large increase in V.A.T. for 1980 was because it was now being billed separately by the publisher. Postal charges had increased considerably in 1980 because the postal strike in 1979 had reduced postage. An account for members in the sterling area had been opened in Northern Ireland.

The question of alternative investments for Society monies was raised by Mr. O. V. Mooney. The President replied that the Council had investigated the matter thoroughly during the past year. On advice from the Treasurer they had decided to transfer most of the money in the E.B.S. account into the bank deposit account, which had a higher interest rate. The Treasurer had examined the possibility of opening an account with a commercial bank; because of the necessity of ready access to funds to pay outstanding bills this would have to be a notice account. Interest rates on this type of account would not be appreciably different from a deposit account. Adoption of the 1981 Abstract of Accounts was proposed by Mr. Mooney and seconded by Mr. F. Mulloy.

Confirmation of Elections:

The meeting confirmed the 1981 Council election as follows: President, J. O'Driscoll; Vice-President, J. C. L. Phillips; Hon. Secretary, E. Hendrick; Hon. Treasurer, J. Brosnan; Editor, E. P. Farrell; Business Editor, J. Fennessy; Hon. Auditor, W. H. Jack; Technical Councillors, J. P. Connelly, J. J. Gardiner and P. McArdle; Associate Councillors, P. Glennon; Northern Regional Group Representative, C. F. Farmer.

The President thanked the outgoing members of Council for their work on behalf of the Society.

Council Proposal for Membership Fee Increase:

The Treasurer circulated a submission in which he outlined a proposal for an increase in fees; from £4.00 to £10.00 for Technical members, from £3.50 to £9.00 for Associate members and from £2.00 to £5.00 for Student members. The submission outlined the reasons for seeking the increase as follows. The total publication costs for 1980 debited to the 1981 accounts were £3,984.20 including the cost of publishing the supplement to Vol. 37 (2). When the current amount of monies held by the Society was taken into account this left a balance of £853.00 to go towards an anticipated 1981 deficit. Payment of these bills removed the large surplus of money held by the Society. The cost of Society activities had risen almost two and a half times since the last subscription increase in 1977. Annual running costs were increasing relative to receipts and in 1979 and 1980 there was a combined deficit of more than £1,000.00 over receipts for the same period. The projected increase in costs for 1981 and 1982 would be met if the increase was agreed but there would be little to spare. The Treasurer emphasised that the increase was the minimum necessary to sustain the Society's activities at their present high standard. At this point the president opened the proposal to the floor. A full and lengthy discussion on the proposal took place. Most speakers agreed with the proposal and some asked for a greater increase considering the likely level of inflation in the years ahead. The Treasurer felt, however, that this increase would last for several years and was against a greater increase. Discussion on the cost of producing the journal took place. It was agreed that the Business Editor should examine the economics of printing advertisements in the journal, as there were suggestions that they were costing more to print than was received from the advertisers. The Editor, Dr. Farrell pointed out that the last issue of the Journal had 68 pages of text of which 20 pages were Society activities. He agreed that there should be a record of Society activities but thought they could be reduced in size. Mr. McEvoy agreed that the increase was

SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS — STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
1979		1980	1979		1980
5,977.69	<i>To Balance from Last Account</i>	5,786.75	45.40	<i>Stationery and Printing</i>	35.28
	<i>Subscriptions Received</i>		2,467.10	<i>Printing of Journals</i>	3,244.60
	Technical 1980	1,849.30	496.18	<i>Postage</i>	767.22
	Technical 1979	118.66	109.14	<i>Expenses re Meetings:</i>	101.52
	Associate 1980	384.25	3.28	<i>Refund</i>	—
	Associate 1979	19.00	4.50	<i>Bank Charges</i>	61.00
	Student 1980	58.50	484.45	<i>Secretarial Expenses</i>	822.96
	Student 1979	4.00	106.69	<i>Value Added Tax</i>	504.48
	Other Arrears	4.00	50.00	<i>Examination Expenses</i>	71.80
	Advance Payments	191.75		<i>Honoraria:</i>	
2,465.07		2,629.46		Secretary	30.00
	<i>Interest on Investments</i>			Treasurer	30.00
	Dublin Corporation Stock 9¼%	20.11		Editor	30.00
	Savings Account	231.04	120.00	Business Editor	30.00
	Educational Building Society	293.86			
546.77		545.01	2,444.70	<i>Forest Walks</i>	2,235.20
	<i>Journal</i>			<i>Balance:</i>	
	Sales	135.31		Current Accounts	83.86
636.96	Advertising	1,361.23	5,786.75	Savings	1,150.88
				Educational Building Society	3,602.98
2,439.70	<i>Forest Walks inc. donation</i>	2,235.00			
45.00	<i>Examination Fees</i>	100.00			
7.00	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	9.02			
12,118.19		12,801.78	12,118.19		12,801.78

I have examined the above accounts, have compared it with vouchers, and certify same to be correct, the balance to credit being £4,837.72 which is held in current and savings accounts at the Ulster Bank, and in the Educational Building Society. There is also a holding of £206.19, in the Dublin Corporation 9¼% 1981-83 Stock and £100.00 in Prize Bonds.

Dated: February 17th, 1981

Signed: W. H. Jack, Hon. Auditor

necessary and thought the subscription rates for Technical and Associate members should be made the same. He felt that both categories had virtually the same rights apart from the latter not being able to hold officer posts on the Council. Mr. Collen agreed and felt that Associate members would not object to the increase. Mr. McEvoy then moved a formal proposal, amending the Council proposal as follows: "From 1982 onwards the Technical and Associate membership fee be increased to £10.00 and the Student membership fee to £5.00". This proposal was agreed unanimously.

Other Business:

Mr. McEvoy mentioned that there had been some overlapping of subjects required for Society's examinations. He suggested that a revision of the examination syllabus and recommended reading was needed. Mr. Dillon reminded the meeting that the Annual Study Tour was going ahead in late May. It would be based in Sligo and would have the silviculture of wet mineral soils as its theme. In concluding the meeting the President thanked all those who had attended, especially those who had travelled long distances. The meeting finished at 10 p.m.

39th ANNUAL STUDY TOUR 1981

SLIGO/FERMANAGH/LEITRIM

Tuesday, May 26th — Lough Gill Forest

Pat Finnerty, Divisional Inspector; Pat O'Malley, District Inspector; Tommy Gallen, Forester.

Carns Property. It is intended to replant a YC 22 Sitka spruce stand at present being clearfelled with ash, because it is considered aesthetically more desirable than spruce in this amenity area and because it meets a requirement for hurley ash. While it was agreed that on economic grounds Sitka spruce must be the first choice, the other considerations were felt by most to be overriding on this site.

The party travelled by lake cruiser on Lough Gill to the second stop, Killerry Property. The question faced here was the treatment of a P/61, YC 10 Lodgepole pine stand of inland provenance. The stand had not been thinned and the management decision was not to thin because of silvicultural (post thinning invasion of ground vegetation) and economic factors. Many took the view, however, that as crop form was very good and quality Lodgepole sawlog an attractive product, a strong argument could be made for selecting the main crop now and following a policy of thinning and high pruning.

Dromahair Forest

Michael O'Brien, Forester.

Tullinawannia Property. Thinning had been unavoidably delayed and was several years overdue in a P/60, YC 27 Sitka stand at present being thinned for the first time. The decision to thin now was a gamble particularly as the soil was a peaty gley. Extraction alternatives, cable and horse, were seen and discussed. While direct comparison of costs was not possible, horse extraction is attractive for small size material over 100-150mm. It causes more crop damage than skidding but less than cable. Cable extraction costs were discussed at length and the high cost of using obsolete equipment in this area of rapid technological advance stressed.

Lough Gill Forest

Diffreen Property. Thinning is at present in progress on a P/52, YC 26 Sitka spruce stand on a gleyed soil. This is considered a high-risk windblow area and the wisdom of thinning seven years before clearfelling was questioned both on silvicultural and economic grounds. The vulnerability of this fine textured gley to traffic damage was pointed out and the suggestion made that cable systems might have to be used on such sites in the future.

Wednesday, May 27th — Ballintempo Forest

Cecil Kilpatrick, Chief Forest Officer; John Phillips, Regional Officer West; Bill Wright, District Forest Officer; Pat Carlin, Head Forester; Dave Dickson, Chemical Research Division, Department of Agriculture; Stan Milner, Forest Research Officer.

Nutritional Requirements of Sitka Spruce. In addition to phosphate, Sitka spruce on high-level blanket peat, such as at Ballintempo has shown a requirement for nitrogen. In the experiment we visited, Yield Class of the P/63 crop was 12 without added nitrogen whereas with nitrogen it was 16. Two sources of P were compared, coarse rock phosphate which up to 10 years after planting was the more effective form and basic slag which in recent years has given superior growth even without nitrogen.

Respacing trial on Sitka spruce. Where a decision has been taken not to thin because of high windthrow risk, respacing is seen as an attractive alternative. The advantages of reducing stem density to 1500 to 2000 stems per ha are to give a larger mean tree attracting a higher price, to reduce felling and extraction costs and to offset the problem of dealing with dead trees, the result of self thinning at clearfelling. Pruning was not envisaged in respaced stands. The opinion was expressed that the respacing was not sufficiently drastic to increase mean tree size significantly. The possibility of following the respacing with a thinning to waste was suggested.

Lodgepole pine provenance trial. Nine provenances are being tested in this trial established in 1964. Performance measured in terms of mean height and basal sweep showed that the south coastal provenances had both the best growth and by far the highest incidence of basal sweep. The discussion was wide ranging covering the question of whether Lodgepole or Sitka was the best choice of species on such sites, the likelihood that the basal sweep problem could be lessened by better nursery and planting techniques and the possibility that a satisfactory main crop could be selected from the trees not affected by basal sweep.

Drainage/ploughing experiment: Drain depth, and spacing treatments were superimposed on SMB and DMB ploughing in this experiment. Deep SMB ploughing was almost as good as the most intensive drainage treatment. It was suggested in discussion that the effect of drainage was shortlived and that nitrogen application would probably be more cost effective.

Cultivation and liming experiment: This experiment while it was only established in 1977 generated a useful discussion. It represents an innovative approach to site preparation in an effort to find the best means of minimising two major problems on deep, oligotrophic peats, nitrogen deficiency and stability. DMB, SMB and tunnel ploughing are being tested in combination with liming and rotoation. Discussion covered the importance of lime incorporation, the merits of disc harrowing in place of rotoation and the long term value of liming for site improvement and nitrogen mineralisation.

Thursday, May 28th — Ballyfarnon Forest

D. M. O'sullivan, District Inspector; Tony Mannion, Assistant District Inspector;

Michael Donnelly, Forester in Charge; Eugene Hendrick, Research Inspector; Joe Freeman, Research Forester.

Cultivation of gley soils: This experiment was established in 1975 on an abandoned drumlin farm. The soil is a surfacewater gley with a stony subsoil which makes moling ineffective. Growth differences under a range of cultivation treatments are small, as yet. If it gives satisfactory growth, ripping would be the preferred treatment. It gives an unbroken ground surface which should increase stability and ease of extraction. However, grass cleaning, which is minimal under doublemouldboard ploughing assumes greater importance with the ripping treatment.

A brief lunchtime stop was made at Lough Key Forest Park where the group heard an account of the development of the park.

Drumhierny. Estate of Mr. A. O'Rahilly.

Professor Clear; Ted Lynch, Research Inspector.

The influence of wide spacing on volume production and timber quality in a highly productive Sitka spruce stand was examined. The YC 26-30 stand was established in 1950 at an effective spacing of 2.6 x 2.6m. Standing volume is now 614m³ of which 86% is sawlog material as compared with 439m³ and 62% sawlog in the nearest equivalent stand (YC 24) in the Forestry Commission tables. Published Forestry Commission management tables are not appropriate for application to the spacing and thinning regimes practised in such stands nor is the range of yield classes quoted adequate. Grading rules and even the concept of stress grading were criticised also. The stability of this stand established on a gley soil without any mechanical site preparation was commented on and the suggestion made that it might be attributed to the initial wide spacing and the fact that thinnings when carried out were light.

Arigna Valley

Jerome Dufficy, John Duffy, Acquisition Officers.

A brief discussion was held on the problems of acquisition in the district.

The Society's Annual Dinner was held in the Sligo Park Hotel.

Ted Farrell.

STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANTS

*Lyal Collen, *Effie Collen, Donal Crowley, Jim Dillon, Jim Dooley, Joe Doyle, Michael Doyle, Declan Egan, Jim Fanning, Dr. Ted Farrell, John Fennessy, Mel Friel, Lily Furlong, Dr. Jack Gardiner, P. J. Lehane, John Madden, Jim Maguire, *Frank Moran, *Brid Morrissey, Thomas Murphy, Michael O'Brien, John O'Driscoll, Brendan O'Neill, Con O'Shea, Denis O'Sullivan, Tom Quinn, Brendan Riney, *Henry Sisk, *Jane Tottenham *Robert Tottenham, Cornelius Warren, George Beirne, Michael Burke, Charlie Crowley, Jim Crowley, Noel Cullinan, Gerry Cunningham, Tony Daly, Michael Donnelly, Pat Doolan, Frank Drea, John Duane, Jim Feenay, Tony Finnerty, Pat Finnerty, Noel Foley, Joe Freeman, John Hanley, John Harte, John Haughey, Pat Helbert, John Hogan, *Brian Hussey, Tim Hynes, Kevin Hutchinson, Richard Jack, Christy Jeffers, Barry Lambe, Eamonn Larkin, P. J. Lyons, Tony Mannion, G. Mawn, Geoffrey Michael, John Murren, Paddy McEneaney, Joe McEvey, John McLoughlin, Thady McTernan, James O'Connor, Seamus O'Domhnaill, Jim O'Dowd, Rory O'Driscoll, Tim O'Regan, John Phillips, John Regan, Martin Ruane, Frank Rushe, Nicholas Ryan, John Higgins, Michael Ward, Pat White, Sean White. — *Associate Member.