

EDITORIAL

Rally Round the Flag

This issue of *Irish Forestry* and the preceding one (Vol. 38, No. 1) are the slimmest to take their places on member's bookshelves for many a long year. While obviously a smaller journal offers less to its readers, the standards established in presentation and material have been maintained. The reason for cutting back is one of money. Subscription rates are too low. Since the last time they were increased, in 1977, costs have risen two and a half times (*Irish Forestry*, Vol. 38, No. 1, p. 49, minutes of 39th A.G.M.). The problems facing the Society are common to all similar societies. There is a reluctance to increase subscriptions to more than is patently required to meet expenses. Constitutional constraints impose a considerable delay on the implementation of a decision to increase them. Together these factors are enough in times of rapid inflation to tip the balance from black to red remarkably quickly.

Most members are by now aware of the increase in subscriptions for 1982. The increase is large but in terms of today's cost of living the price is small and value for money is given. What the Society needs now is loyalty, a commitment to its future. If the Society of Irish Foresters is worthy of support, if the continuance of its most expensive activity, the publication of the journal is worthwhile then give it your support. If, on the other hand, you feel that the journal does not meet member's requirements, then let us know. You have a forum either at the A.G.M. or through the letters page of the journal.

The Society needs you now. Give it your support. Contribute to improve it if you will. But don't, whether through lethargy or the initial shock of a subscription increase let your participation fall by the wayside of indifference.