

Society Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1982

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1981

Symposium:

The theme of the 1981 symposium was 'Lodgepole pine, what is its future?' held at Belfield in April, over 200 members attended. Although at the end of the day there were no clearcut answers, encouraging things were heard about the timber, if only it would grow straight. Organisation of the 1982 symposium, which will deal with harvesting, began during the year. Choosing a subject is always a difficult task and Council invites suggestions of topics for future symposia.

Indoor Meeting:

Mr. Niall O Muiregheasa and Dr. Gerhardt Gallagher gave a talk on 'Forestry in Japan' at the R.D.S. in November. Both attended the Seventeenth Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations held at Kyoto in September.

Field Days:

Two very well attended field days were held in Clare in September and in Wicklow in October. At the Clare meeting the morning was spent discussing the nutrition of Lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce at Ennis forest. The afternoon was spent at Mr. Robert Tottenham's Mount Callan plantations. This included a visit to the renowned stand of Sitka spruce growing at Yield Class 34. Here discussion turned to grading rules for such fast grown timber. The consensus of opinion was that grading rules need to be critically examined. Woodfab Containers were hosts for the morning of the Wicklow field day. Here a new pallet line has been installed which included two profile chippers. Aughrim State forest nursery was the venue for the afternoon and modern approaches to nursery work were fully discussed.

Annual Study Tour:

The counties of Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo were the venue for the Study Tour held in May. Over 80 members attended what was a very successful tour (see *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 38(1)).

Guided Forest Walks:

Walks were well attended at 38 centres on the 13th September. Organisation of the walks is becoming increasingly time consuming as they expand in number and interest. Council is examining the organisation of the walks to find ways of sharing the work-load involved.

The Society thanks the following for help with meetings during the year:

Mr. Robert Tottenham, Mount Callan, Co. Clare; Woodfab Containers of Aughrim; both Forest Services; Mr. Liam Quinn who organised the Forest Walks; and all those who acted as field leaders and speakers.

Annual General Meeting:

The 39th Annual General Meeting was held at the R.D.S. on the 9th April, 1981. The minutes are in Irish Forestry Vol. 38, No. 1.

Society Publications:

Irish Forestry Vol. 38 (1 & 2) was published. The final draft of the revised edition of 'The Forests of Ireland' has been sent to an interested publisher. Publication is planned for later this year.

Examinations:

All three candidates for the Foresters Certificate Examination were successful. One candidate achieved an Honours Mark and the other two passed with Distinction. The Preliminary Certificate Examination was taken successfully by twelve candidates.

A review of the Examinations Syllabus is in progress. It is hoped to have the review completed in time for 1983 Examinations.

Elections:

Three posts of Technical Councillor and one post of Associate Councillor for the period 1982-1984 were filled by election. Each of the remaining posts had one candidate only and subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting will be filled without election. Members are reminded that they are entitled to nominate candidates for election to Council and are urged to do so for the 1982 elections.

Membership:

Technical 517; Associate 107; Student 33; Total 657.

New members elected in 1981

Technical 23; Associate 9; Student 20; Total 52.

Eight members resigned during the year.

Attendance at Council Meetings:

Six Council Meetings were held during the year. Attendance at Council Meetings was as follows:

J. Connelly, J. Fennessy, E. Hendrick, J. O'Driscoll — 6 meetings. J. Brosnan, C. Farmer, E. P. Farrell, J. J. Gardiner, E. Joyce, J. Prior — 5 meetings. J. Dillon, L. Furlong, J. C. L. Phillips — 4 meetings. P. J. Glennon, P. McArdle — 3 meetings.

Signed: EUGENE HENDRICK,
Hon. Secretary.

5th March, 1982.

MINUTES OF THE 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 1st April, 1982,

Agricultural Building, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4.

Attendance:

The outgoing President Mr. O'Driscoll took the chair. Present were: N. O'Carroll, T. Farrell, L. Furlong, P. M. Joyce, M. Sheridan, L. Quinn, C. S. Kilpatrick, T. McEvoy, J. C. L. Phillips, J. M. Sanderson, L. P. O'Flanagan, B. Wright, C. J. Boyle, J. J. Maher, J. P. Connelly, J. Dillon, M. MacSúirtáin, M. Carey, J. Gardiner, G. Cunningham, P. Carlin, C. Farmer, J. Mackin, P. J. Glennon, K. J. Hutchinson, V. O'Connor, T. Booth and J. Fennessy.

Apologies: E. Hendrick and J. Prior.

Secretary's Business:

In the absence of the Hon. Secretary Mr. John Fennessy performed his duties. The minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting were read and signed. Dr. O'Carroll stated the full text of the "Forests of Ireland" was with the publisher. On the question of aiding the cost of publication of the book Mr. O'Driscoll informed the meeting that the Forest and Wildlife Service had agreed to donate a sum towards the cost. The Council Report for 1981 was then read. It was pointed out that Mount Callan Tree Farms were not acknowledged for hosting part of the Society's field day in Clare. It was agreed that this would be included in the Council Report when it was published in Irish Forestry. The adaption of the 1981 Council Report was proposed by Dr. P. Joyce and seconded by Mr. J. Dillon.

Treasurer's Business

The Treasurer clarified some points in the Abstract of Accounts. Following discussion at the last A.G.M. he had investigated the advantages of investing Society funds in a commercial bank account. As a result he had recommended to Council to invest in this type of account. This was agreed and acted upon. There had been many difficulties with the sterling area account and regrettably it was closed. Expenditure on stationery and printing was high because the cost of printing the supplement to Irish Forestry. There were 400 fully paid-up members from a total of about 650. Double payment of subscriptions was still a problem. The point was made from the floor that this should be taken up with the banks concerned. Postage costs had been reduced through the introduction of stick-on labels and by the reduction of post-outs. The finance committee was examining way of increasing revenues; through increasing membership and the possibility of sponsorship. Members who are not paid up by end of March lose the benefit of membership. The cost of printing the journal was about £2,000 per issue. The size had been reduced to keep costs down. Adoption of the 1981 Abstract of Accounts was proposed by J. Connelly and seconded by J. Gardiner.

Confirmation of Elections:

The meeting confirmed the 1981 Council election as follows: President J. C. L. Phillips, Vice-President J. O'Driscoll, Hon. Secretary E. Hendrick, Hon. Treasurer J. Brosnan, Editor E. P. Farrell, Business Editor J. Fennessy, Hon. Auditor W. H. Jack, Technical Councillors P. Crowe, E. Joyce, J. Prior, Associate Councillor L. Furlong.

The outgoing President Mr. O'Driscoll paid thanks to the members of the outgoing Council for their work during the year. The incoming President Mr. Phillips then took the chair. He paid tribute to Mr. O'Driscoll for his hard work on behalf of the Society.

Other Business:

It was suggested that a provincial venue should be sought for the 1983 symposium. It was agreed that this would be considered by the incoming meetings committee of Council. Mr. McEvoy on retirement from the Forest and Wildlife Service had kindly initiated a fund for young technical members. Discussion followed on the way the fund should be administered. Mr. McEvoy stated that he would leave this up to Council but hoped that it would aid young technical members in the future. It was agreed that a letter should be sent by the Society to the Institute of Foresters of Great Britain and Northern Ireland congratulating them on being presented with a Royal charter. The meeting finished at 10 p.m.

SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS — STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1981

1980	RECEIPTS	1981	1980	PAYMENTS	1981
786.75	To Balance from Last Account	4,837.72	35.28	By Stationery and Printing	—
	To Subscriptions Received		3,244.60	By Printing of Journals	5,419.00
	Technical 1981	1,823.37	767.22	By Postage	824.89
	Technical 1980	85.29	101.52	By Expenses re Meetings:	125.60
	Associate 1981	314.72	61.00	By Bank Charges	25.83
	Associate 1980	7.00	822.96	By Secretarial Expenses	1,054.08
	Student 1981	34.00	504.48	By Value Added Tax	791.85
	Student 1980	—	71.80	By Examination Expenses	105.86
	Other Arrears	33.00		By Honoraria:	
	Advance Payments	213.55		Secretary	30.00
2,629.46		2,510.93		Treasurer	30.00
	To Interest on Investments			Editor	30.00
	Dublin Corporation Stock 9¼%	20.09	120.00	Business Editor	30.00
	Savings Account	76.80			120.00
	Educational Building Society	100.08	2,235.20	By Forest Walks	2,725.00
	Lombard & Ulster	125.19		By Balance:	
545.01		322.16		Current Accounts	609.98
	To Journal			Savings	77.68
	Sales	325.58	4,837.72	Educational Building Society	101.08
1,496.54	Advertising	1,149.42			788.74
2,235.00	To Forest Walks	2,725.00			
100.00	To Examination Fees	80.00			
	To Donations	5.04			
9.02	To Gains on Sterling Transfers	25.00	12,801.78		11,980.85
12,801.78		11,980.85			

I have examined the above accounts, have compared it with vouchers, and certify same to be correct, the balance to credit being £788.74 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 24th, 1982

Signed: W. H. Jack, Hon. Auditor

40th ANNUAL STUDY TOUR, 1982 — KILKENNY AREA

Tuesday 25th May — Rossmore Forest.

Eamonn Flanagan, Divisional Inspector, George McCarthy, District Inspector, W. Aherne, Forester-in-Charge, F. Comiskey, Forester.

Harvesting Thinnings: Rossmore forest is situated on the Castlecomer plateau at an elevation ranging from 300-350M. The main soil types are gleys derived from coal measure shales and sandstones and peaty podsols derived from carbon shales. In 1978 a P58, Y.C. 20 crop of Norway spruce was line thinned removing every 6th line with chevrons. Now, it is being line thinned again, taking the centre line and doing some selection on the remainder. Extraction is by Mini-Bruunett. A similar Sitka spruce stand was line thinned at first thinning and now is being line thinned in the opposite direction. To use the Mini-Bruunett it is essential to line thin. This is a high risk windblow area and the wisdom of heavy line thinnings was questioned. The quality of the S.S. crop did not appear to be good. All of this material is sold to Woodfab. 10% of produce is sawlog size and 60% is palletwood. It would not be economical to sort the sawlog. The prices paid are £15/m³ for palletwood and £11.80 for pulpwood.

Soil Cultivation: Eugene Hendrick, Research Branch.

This experiment was established in 1977 to compare SMB ploughing, DMB ploughing and ripping for the establishment and growth of S.S. on a peaty gley soil. The necessity for herbicide application and the planting position relative to the ribbons and rip lines were included as sub-treatments. Growth differences are small as yet. Ripping would be the preferred treatment, if it gives satisfactory growth. The application of herbicide (glyphosate) seems to have had little effect upon growth.

Oakpark Research Centre: Mr. P. J. O'Hare, Dr. M. Neenan, Mr. F. O'Farrell, Dr. M. Ribiero, Mr. H. W. Kehoe.

Aspects of the research programme discussed at this centre included, Biomass experimentation, the Passive Solar Farmhouse, the breeding of perennial ryegrass, white clover and the breeding of potatoes. In the biomass species trial only the willows and some poplar clones are growing well. The traditional coppice species, Spanish Chestnut, has not performed well on this site. Regrowth of Alder following coppicing has been very poor.

The Passive Solar Farmhouse is designed to make maximum use of solar energy without the use of expensive solar panels. This is achieved by glazing the southside of the house, by underfloor, attic and wall insulation and by providing a double wall on the north side of the house. These modifications added 7% to the construction costs but have significantly increased winter temperatures within the house.

Wednesday May 26th— Mullinavat Forest.

M. O'Connell, Forester-in-Charge, E. Slattery, Forester.

This forest is some 1415 hectares in extent with 68 kilometers of roads. The principal soil type is peaty gley.

Sitka spruce Gene Bank: J. O'Driscoll, Research Branch.

This gene bank was planted with material remaining following the establishment of the IUFRO provenance trials. There are 72 provenances. The objective is to conserve gene resources and to use this gene pool as a source of breeding material. It is clear even at this early age, that there is an increase in height growth the further

south the seed source. All provenances flush at about the same time but the more southerly provenances have a longer growing season and thus tend to be damaged by early autumn frosts.

Land Acquisition — P. Kelleher (Acquisition).

Since June 1980, the amount which can be paid for land suitable for afforestation has increased substantially. The top price is £500 per ha for grass rush sites in enclave situations. The lowest price is about £50 per ha. At the present time there is a considerable amount of good quality land on offer to the Forest and Wildlife Service but there is no money available to buy land. Only land of strategic importance is being acquired and even this can only be recommended for acquisition on the basis of savings in other areas, such as, roading, fencing and fire protection. Some participants felt that there is nothing wrong with the policy and that perhaps it is time to concentrate on doing a good job with the forest estate already established.

Harvesting Windblown Sitka spruce.

A P60, yield class 26 crop was marked for a first thinning in 1976. At that time average pole size was 0.05m^3 . It was line thinned in 1980/81 when the average pole size was 0.12m^3 . In the following winter 70% of the crop was blown but with little or no breakage.

Harvesting is now being carried out by a sub-contractor at a cost of £9/ m^3 . Extraction is by a Mini-Bruunett at a cost of £1.45/ m^3 . The material has been purchased by Woodfab. The sub-contractor uses five men — one chain saw and four axes. He maintains that the use of chain saws which cost approx. £50/week is too expensive for this kind of work. Output from this gang is in the region of 100-200 tonnes/week. The main question now is that of replanting. Apart from a few hollows the areas does not require an intensive drainage system. These hollows will be tapped using a JCB and planting will be through the brash at a spacing of 2.4m X 2.4m. The question of subsequent treatment was debated and unresolved.

p66/67 Sitka spruce.

The soil was a peaty gley. This site carried a first rotation crop of Y.C. 14 Lodgepole pine which was windblown. It was subsequently notch planted with S.S. following windrowing of the brash with a blade. There was vigorous regrowth of heather and gorse. Plants were dipped, but spraying to control weevils was necessary. The efficiency of dipping and the timing of spraying for weevil control were mentioned as being critical. The crop is now growing very well but many leaders on the Sitka are distorted. This appears to be common on very vigorous crops of Sitka. Opinion was that these will straighten out.

P55 Lodgepole pine.

There are approximately 40 hectares of Lulu Island Lodgepole growing on a peaty gley site. It was planted in 1955 and the yield class is 6-8, 2625 stems/ha. It has been line thinned but is growing very poorly. It is quite difficult to decide how to treat these crops. The options appear to be: (a) apply fertiliser; since the crop has had no fertiliser in recent years it might respond to G.R.P. application. (b) fell and replant the area with coastal Lodgepole or Sitka.

Local management prefer the first option and hope to carry the crop to pallet wood-small sawlog size.

Thursday May 27th — Durrow Forest and Abbeyleix Estate.

M. J. Fahey, Senior Inspector, M. Alyward, Forester.

Many of the properties of Durrow Forest are remnants of old estates. The soils are of high fertility and many broadleaved species have been planted. Some areas were planted with a mixture of conifers-hardwoods. The first stand visited was planted in 1949 with an oak-beech mixture. Some natural regeneration contributed other species such as ash, hazel and elm. There are now 4000 stems per ha and there has been no treatment to date. It was agreed that the area needed some treatment but there was considerable diversity of opinion as to what to do. One suggestion was to introduce conifers after a clearing. This was generally rejected on the grounds that we have few areas on which we can grow hardwoods and that we should be planting hardwoods where we can. It was suggested it was now too late to do anything, that the present crop should be cleared and the area replanted with oak — 'to start correctly'. The market for oak in the country is very feeble because we do not have enough oak to create a stable market. At the same time veneer quality is being exported to France.

An adjacent area had been cleared to leave 1400 of the best stems per hectare. These were mainly oak and beech. Average pole size was 0.048m^3 . Individual trees appeared to be of poor quality and the stand was yield class 6. Some foresters remarked on the amount of scrub on the ground which would be valued at $\text{£}10/\text{m}^3$ standing in other parts of the country. Some doubts were expressed about the quality of the crop and if it was worth retaining. The question as to the genetic quality of beech mast collected in the country was raised and it was generally agreed that an effort should be made to secure good quality hardwood mast.

The next hardwood stand visited was a mixture of oak, beech and ash. It was P36 and had 1000 stems/ha. Average pole size was 0.21m^3 and the objective was to thin to 450 stems/ha with a rotation age of 150 years. The ash was hurley quality and will gradually be removed. This stand was originally of similar quality to the previous one. This stand will be lightly thinned every 3 years from now on and good quality stems will be high pruned. This is a very expensive management system.

Abbeyleix Sawmills — Joe O'Brien (Manager).

This sawmill is independent of the estate. The mainline has a bandrack headrig. Policy in the mill is to concentrate on a high quality dried and finished product rather than a very efficient conversion. This policy is adopted in the absence of very efficient machinery.

The timber drying kilns are fired by burning sawmill waste such as sawdust. Drying time for home grown timber ranges from 3-4 days for $\frac{1}{2}$ " material to 20 days for 3" material. Imported hardwood are also dried under contract to importers. The average cost of drying is about $\text{£}10\text{-}12/\text{m}^3$. All lumber is dried to 20% moisture content. Slabs in the yard have a moisture content of 55-60% (O.D.W.) and can at present be sold to the E.S.B.

Abbeyleix Estate.

The party led by Mr. Joe O'Brien and Mr. George McCarthy spent a pleasant afternoon on the grounds of the estate. This amble through the estate took in the collection of Japanese maples, Bluebell hill and the pleasant gardens.

List of Participants.

E. Collen, L. Collen, M. Conway, T. Cormican, J. Crowley, M. Cosgrave, Myles Cosgrave, J. Dillon, J. Fennessy, L. Furlong, D. Gallagher, J. Hanley, G. Hipwell, R. Keogh, E. Larkin, P. J. Lyons, D. Mangan, Tony Mannion, B. Morrissey, Ml. McElroy, M. O Neachtain, J. Phillips, K. Quinlan, J. Tottenham, R. Tottenham, H. van der Wel, G. Beirne, T. Boland, I. Booth, P. Breathnach, R. Browne, J. Carmody, J. Cleary, B. Comiskey, T. Considine, K. Cremin, P. Doody, J. Dooley, J. Doyle, P. Drea, P. J. Corbett, M. Duggan, C. Fahy, A. Finnerty, Ml. Fahy, J. Gardiner, G. Harney, G. Hayes, J. Healy, E. Johnston, P. Kelleher, J. Kilbride, J. Maguire, D. McCarthy, P. McAuliffe, Ml. O'Brien, P. J. O'Brien, Ml. O'Connell, V. O'Connor, C. O'Donovan, T. O'Regan, J. O'Riordan, C. O'Shea, J. O'Sullivan, Ml. Ryan, R. Sweetnam.