

# Society News

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting

17th July 1992

G-08, Agriculture Building, UCD

### Attendance

P. Carroll, P. O'Sullivan, F. Corrigan, T. Farrell, L. Furlong, M. Cosgrave, M. Cosgrave, N. O Carroll, J. O'Dowd, E. Hendrick, R. Jack, J. Fennessy, B. Fitzsimons, A. J. van der Wel, T. A. Barry, D. Little, G. Murphy, F. Mulloy, M. MacSiurtain, S. Jones, R. McDonald, R. Gallagher, M. Mallin.

### Apologies

K. Hutchinson, C. Kilpatrick, D. Magner.

### 1. Minutes of 49th AGM

The minutes, which were published in Irish Forestry Vol. 48 (Nos. 1 & 2), were taken as read. There being no amendments, the minutes were signed by the President.

### 2. Council Report for 1991

The Council report was proposed by B. Fitzsimons and seconded by M. Cosgrave.

### 3. Abstract of Accounts

The audited statement of accounts for year ended 31st December 1991 was adopted by the meeting.

### 4. Results of 1991 Council Election

*President:* Ted Farrell

*Vice-President:* Eugene Hendrick

*Secretary:* Pat O'Sullivan

*Treasurer:* Kevin Hutchinson

*Editor:* Alistair Pfeifer

*P. R. Officer:* Jim O'Dowd

*Business Editor:* John Gilliland

*Auditor:* Bill Jack

*N.I. Group Rep.:* Trevor Wilson

*Technical Councillors:*

Pacelli Breathnach, Pat Carroll,

Richard Jack

*Associate Councillor:* Lily Furlong

The results, proposed by G. Murphy and seconded by M. Cosgrave, were ratified.

### 5. Council Motions I, II and III

**Motions I and II** – Proposed amendments to the Rules and Constitution of the Society.

The President outlined the background to the proposed amendments. While the Society had always sought to represent, in a broad sense, the profession of forestry – the purpose of these amendments is to enable the Society to represent the forester as a professional. He

emphasised that the proposed revisions were necessitated by the huge changes currently taking place in Irish forestry and were intended, not to regulate, but to promote the regulation of the forestry profession.

The effects of the amendments will be to tighten up membership criteria, especially for technical members, since they would give the Council the power to determine acceptable qualifications for technical membership. The Council would also acquire the power to expel technical members who are not upholding the profession of forestry. The Council will have the right to set criteria and regulations determining acceptable professional standards. It was agreed that Motions I and II would be discussed jointly but voted on separately.

Fergal Mulloy advocated acceptance of the proposals as they are timely, he felt the Society provided the most broadly based framework to judge the standards needed. Gerry Murphy expressed concern that different Councils would set different standards and queried the criteria the Council would use in deciding what are acceptable standards. The President undertook to devise a code but stressed that it was an ambitious undertaking and one which would evolve over time.

Mairtin MacSiurtain agreed that the motions should be supported but argued that the Council is guilty of a disservice to its members if the qualifications it awards are not recognised internationally. Gerry Murphy agreed, he suggested that, in order to maintain standards, all technical members would be reassessed for

membership at five year intervals. The President felt that while this might be a laudable objective it was unrealistic at present.

Niall O Carroll felt that reassessment was an unnecessary imposition on members since persons holding university degrees are not subjected to any form of reappraisal.

Mairtin MacSiurtain suggested changing the wording in Article 4 (e) to "holding examinations and awarding appropriate internationally recognised certificates."

Niall O Carroll argued that the present wording was adequate since "appropriate" here implied "appropriate to the objectives of the Society" and any change would be inconsistent with Article 2.1.

The President reminded the meeting that the proposed amendments must be accepted or rejected in totality.

Gerry Murphy, supported by Mairtin MacSiurtain, stated that the Constitution reeked of insularity, instead it should reflect the international orientation of the Irish forest industry. For this reason the Society should at least attempt to award internationally recognised qualifications. The meeting accepted Niall O Carroll's proposal that Mairtin MacSiurtain and Gerry Murphy be invited to make a submission to the Council on how the issue of acceptable certification might be addressed.

There being no further discussion, the President called for a vote on Motion I and II. Motion I was passed (21 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions). Motion II was passed (22 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).



Some of the 1992 Council.

Back Row (l to r):

Tim O'Regan, Jim O'Dowd, Ari van der Wel, Eugene Hendrick, Trevor Wilson, John Fennessy.

Front Row (l to r):

Dr Niall O Carroll, Kevin Hutchinson, Dr Ted Farrell *President*, Lily Furlong,  
Pat O'Sullivan and Richard Jack.

**Motion III** – That Mr Cecil Kilpatrick be made an honorary member of the Society.

This motion was introduced by the President who read the following citation:

"Cecil Kilpatrick served in the state Forest Service of Northern Ireland where he became Chief Forest Officer. After his retirement he wrote a detailed history of forestry in Northern Ireland. As first Northern Ireland President of the Society he concentrated on regional development and on increasing the Society membership. His presidency oversaw the publication of the first

edition of *The Forests of Ireland*. His approach to forestry development in the island of Ireland has always been based firmly on scientific principles."

The Motion was carried unanimously.

## 6. Policy Issues

The three policy statements which had been prepared by the Council were well received by the members present. The President stated that each policy statement represents, in a very concise form, the Council's view on the particular topic. Fergal Mulloy supported the initiative but

argued that the Council must now promulgate them in an effective manner and to do this the Society must adopt the role of lobbyists on each of the issues raised. Martin MacSiurtain welcomed the decision to prepare these policy statements and suggested that members should submit topics for future policy statements. Niall O Carroll stated that the Council must now decide how it can publicise these policy statements most effectively. The President agreed that this should be considered at the next Council meeting.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

The President stated that if the Society is to become a more active and

visible organisation it must acquire a permanent office and secretarial staff. This will be addressed at the next Council meeting. Declan Little, supported by Mairtin MacSiurtain, believed the Society needs young members if it is to have a future. Suzanne Jones advocated that the incoming Council would introduce some initiatives designed specifically to foster the interest of young members.

Meeting concluded.

Pat O'Sullivan,  
Secretary.  
4th August 1992

### **COUNCIL REPORT 1991**

#### **1. COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Eight Council meetings were held during the year. Attendance by Councillors was as follows:

E. Farrell, N. O Carroll	8 meetings
P. O'Sullivan	7 meetings
L. Furlong, P. Breathnach, J. Fennessy, E. Hendrick, T. O'Regan	6 meetings
K. Hutchinson, D. Magner	5 meetings
J. Gilliland, A. Pfeifer	4 meetings
P. Doolan, A. van der Wel	3 meetings
T. Wilson	2 meetings
J. Neilan	0 meetings

#### **2. SOCIETY MEETINGS**

The Society organised a Symposium; day meetings (3) at Lees Sawmills/Goles Forest, Powerscourt Estate and Lisgoold Forest/Nursery; an evening meeting on "Global Warming" and the Augustine Henry Memorial lecture. The Annual Study Tour visited eastern France.

#### **3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 49th Annual General Meeting was held in the Agriculture Building, UCD on 4th April 1991. The minutes of this meeting are published in Irish Forestry Vol 48 (Nos. 1 & 2)

**4. SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

Irish Forestry Vol. 47, No. 2 and Vol. 48 (Nos. 1 & 2) were published.

**5. ELECTIONS**

Three positions of Councillor (Technical) for the period 1992 – 1993 were filled by election.

**6. MEMBERSHIP**

The Society now has 578 members enrolled in the following categories – Technical (425), Associate (115) and Student (38).

Signed: Pat O'Sullivan  
Honorary Secretary  
March 1992

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