

Minutes of 52nd Annual General Meeting

21st April 1994

Venue: G-08, Agriculture Building, UCD

1. Minutes of 51st A.G.M.

The minutes were taken as read. There being no amendments, the minutes were signed by the President.

2. Matters Arising

An assessment of the quality and content of the numerous forestry courses currently on offer in Ireland should be undertaken by the Society.

3. Council Report for 1993/1994

The Council report was approved. It was proposed by Fergal Mulloy and seconded by Gerhardt Gallagher.

4. Abstract of Accounts

The audited Statement of Accounts for year ended 31st December 1993 was adopted by the meeting. It was proposed by Brendan Fitzsimons and seconded by Trevor Wilson. The President thanked the Hon. Auditor Mr. William Jack, who is retiring this year, for his services to the Society of Irish Foresters over the years.

4. Results of 1993 Council Elections

President: Eugene Hendrick
Vice President: Gerhardt Gallagher
Secretary: Pat O'Sullivan
Treasurer: Richard Jack
Editor: Donal Magner
Public Relations Officer:
John McLoughlin
Business Editor: Jim O'Dowd

Hon. Auditor: William Jack

N.I. Group Representative:

Trevor Wilson

Belfield Group Representative:

Joe O'Carroll

Technical Councillors (3):

Pacelli Breathnach

John Fennessy

Gerard Murphy

Associate Councillor: Lily Furlong

The results, proposed by E. P. Farrell and seconded by Pat Doolan, were ratified.

6. Linkage with the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)

The President, Eugene Hendrick, outlined progress on the development of linkages with the Institute of Chartered Foresters of the UK as follows:

The Institute of Chartered Foresters, founded in 1925 as the Society of Foresters of Great Britain, was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1982. It is the representative body of the forestry profession in the UK and safeguards the public interest in forestry matters, maintains the standards regulating entry to the profession and advises the UK Government on matters of policy.

The outcome of our discussions to date with the ICF is the Councils of both organisations have formally agreed that some form of linkage is

desirable. The proposed linkage will be effected by the Society incorporating a branch of the ICF in Ireland.

Members of the branch would be Technical members of the Society who have also opted to join the ICF Membership of the branch would be open to Technical members of the Society only, however there would be no obligation on Technical members to join.

Existing Technical members of the Society (from the date of the Annual General Meeting) would be eligible to apply to become Chartered Foresters. This would most likely entail the submission of a CV and a committee of Council would be responsible for recommending applicants for membership of the ICF in Ireland.

All new members of the Society and existing Associate and Student members who wish to become Chartered Foresters would have to sit the ICF examinations in the normal manner. It is envisaged that these examinations would have separate Irish papers relating to forestry practice, regulations and other relevant areas. If the proposed link is effected it will entail an increase in subscription rates for members who opt for joint SIF/ICF membership.

The President recommended linkage with ICF for the following reasons:

1. It offers an opportunity for the forestry profession in Ireland to strengthen its membership through linkage with a widely recognised qualification.
2. It offers the opportunity for a united forestry profession in Ireland and Britain that can speak with one voice on issues of common concern such as environmental matters, silvicultural

ture, and recognition for the profession.

3. It would allow the Society access to the I.C.F. examination system and would allow through this means and through the accreditation of various forestry courses that are organised here, the orderly development of the profession in Ireland.
4. It could permit the organisation of joint field days, study tours, conferences and other events.
5. If successful it could and should lead to the development of similar linkages with the forestry profession in other EU countries.

The President pointed out that there are risks associated with the development. For example, there could, in time, be increased competition here in Ireland from UK consultants who are ICF members – however the much larger UK market would also be open to Irish consultants. There is also a danger that the Society of Irish Foresters would lose its identity and be subsumed into the ICF.

However, he was confident that the profession in Ireland is sufficiently well developed to ensure its separate identity and role. Finally, it was emphasised that these developments would not lead to any lessening of the role or status of our Associate members.

The President strongly recommended to members that they support the proposed linkage with the ICF and give a mandate to the incoming Council to continue the discussions and

bring them to a successful conclusion.

During the ensuing discussion it was confirmed that membership fees would increase only for those Technical members who become joint members of SIF and ICF. In addition, the ICF requires that all members on its list of approved forestry consultants should have professional indemnity insurance cover. It is envisaged that the proposed linkage with ICF would necessitate a number of amendments to our constitution. The meeting agreed that the proposed linkage should be pursued.

7. Any Other Business

“Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector to the Year 2015”

The Society’s submission, which focused on the issue of professionalism in forestry in Ireland, will be published in the next issue of Irish Forestry.

Meeting with Minister of State for Forestry and Rural Development, Mr. Liam Hyland, TD

The President and Vice-President

met with Minister Hyland in April, the following topics were discussed:-

- the need for the employment of professional foresters on all grant assisted projects of 10 ha or greater;
- list of forestry consultants (MSIF) to be included by the Forest Service in promotional literature in relation to grants;
- dangers associated with a differential shift in grant aid towards broadleaves without adequate knowledge of their silviculture;
- that a professional forester should be appointed to the Board of Coillte.

Professional Indemnity Insurance:

The incoming Council will consider the proposal that SIF would organise a Group Scheme of Professional Indemnity Insurance.

Pat O’Sullivan
August 1994

Attendance:

Richard D. Jack
Joseph O’Carroll
Pat O’Sullivan
M. O’Mallon
Lily Furlong
T. Wilson
Donal Magner
M. Mac Siurtain
Jim O’Dowd
B. Fitzsimons
Tim O’Regan
Brendan Lacey
Brigid Flynn

Gerhardt Gallagher
Conor O’Reilly
Ted Farrell
Pat Doolan
Tom McDonald
Maureen Cosgrave
Daithi de Forge
Myles Cosgrave
Suzanne Jones
Declan Lawless
Bill Dallas
Gerard Cahalane
Aine Powell
Eugene Hendrick
D. Mangan

Paul Gordan
Adam Brennan
Donal O’Hare
Gavin O’Mahoney
Gerard Dunne
Fergal Mulloy

Apologies:

P. Breathnach
N. O’Carroll
G. Murphy
K. Byrne
Bill Wright
J. Fennessy