

## The Society for Co-operative Studies

REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 21st April 1979

at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall.

Mr. R. Byrom in the Chair.

1 Attendance

Mr J Bailiss	Mr K Bradshaw
Mr R Byrom	Mr R J Cartwright
Dr T F Carbery	Monsieur M L Cousin
Mr B T Crossley	Mr W Dakin
Mr P Donaldson	Mr R Donnelly
Prof A J Eccles	Mrs J Ferguson
Mr L A Harrison	Dr R Houlton
Mr D Hutton	Cllr W Hynes
Mr K G Khanna	Mr & Mrs M Kirkman
Dr R L Marshall	Mr E McDonnell
Mr F McMahan	Mr D Munson
Mr O O'Brien	Mr K M Pike
Mr D K Platt	Cllr & Mrs W J
Mr A Rhodes	Prichard
Mr & Mrs D Smith-	Mrs R M Rhodes
Blain	Mr E E Stephens
Mr W Todd	Mr D A Walsh
Dr A Wilson	Miss G M Winch
Miss J Wright	

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R E Ashdown, Prof J A Banks, Mr J J Blaize, Mr L E Burch, Mr J H Butler, Mr G N Cooke, Lord Jacques, Mr W May, Mr T O'Brien, Prof S Pollard, Mr G V J Pratt, Mr B J Rose, Mr P Rosenfeld, Mr T E Stephenson, Mr D J Wise, Mr J M Wood and Mr A Wright.

3 Annual Report of National Officers(a) Membership of Society

Dr Carbery and Mrs Rita Rhodes suggested ways of attracting new members.

Mr Munson raised the problem of people attending the Society Conference if it commenced Friday afternoon.

The Conference was assured that these matters would be explored further. The Chairman acknowledged the efforts made in Scotland by Dr Carbery and Mrs Rhodes and congratulated the latter on her new post at the Co-operative Development Agency.

(b) Bulletin

Suggestions were made for future issues on:

- new co-operatives
- closure of street corner and rural stores.

Dr Marshall indicated that certain aspects of new forms of Co-operation had been covered in a previous Bulletin. Nevertheless, these topics would be considered. He suggested that there was some room for diversification within editions of the Bulletin and he was currently examining this possibility. He thought also that more time should be directed to discussion of editorial matters. Finally, more money was required if the Bulletin was to be continued in its present form.

#### 4 Auditor's Report and Recommendations

Introducing this item, Dr Houlton stressed the support which the Society received from the Co-operative Union.

The meeting accepted the accounts for the year and agreed the donation to Miss Carson for her services to the Society.

The recommendations made by the Auditor were accepted. It was moved and accepted that Mr Lloyd Harrison become the Treasurer of the Society. It was also agreed that Mr Clive Turner be re-appointed as Auditor for 1979-80.

#### 5 Appointment of National Officers for 1979-80

The appointment of the existing Presidents was agreed by the meeting, which also confirmed the circulatory principle.

- (a) Presidents: Mr L A Harrison  
 Lord Jacques of  
 Portsea Island  
 Dr R L Marshall  
 Professor S Pollard  
 Mr W P Watkins  
 Mr J M Wood
- (b) Chairman: Mr A Rhodes
- (c) Vice-Chairmen: Mr D Hutton  
 Mrs R M Rhodes
- (d) Secretary: Dr R Houlton
- (e) Treasurer: Mr L A Harrison
- (f) Editors: Dr T F Carbery and  
 Dr R L Marshall.

## 6 Motion

Dr Marshall moved that the annual subscription should be increased to £4 for an individual member and £15 for an organisation. He explained that subscriptions had remained at their present rate since 1967. The Society had now reached the stage where it could no longer keep pace with increased costs. He had considered increasing the subscription for organisations to £20 but did not want to see any decline in affiliations from organisations. The suggested increases were, he thought, quite reasonable.

Cllr Hynes moved an amendment that the subscription for organisations be raised to £20. He accepted the need for the Society to increase its revenue to allow not only for increased costs but also the development of additional activities. He thought that a subscription rate of £20 for organisations would provide a better basis for the Society's future development. The amendment was seconded by Mr David Hutton, who did not think that Societies would see £20 as an unreasonable cost.

The amendment was lost. The meeting unanimously accepted the motion.

#### 7 Further Activities

Suggestions were made that the Society develop study groups to encourage greater participation in the Society.

#### 8 Amendment to the Constitution\*

Dr Houlton moved this amendment in order to reflect the realities of the terms and conditions of appointment of Sectional Secretaries in the Co-operative Union. The amendment was accepted.

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\* Para 4(d). This, in particular, provides in place of the reference to an officer of the Education Department acting as regional Secretary, an invitation to an "officer of the Co-operative Union".

9 Date of Annual General Meeting

The National Officers had discussed the timing of the AGM and thought there were advantages in holding it at the College in September each year to coincide with the reunion of ex-students. This suggestion was accepted.

10 Vote of Thanks

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and moved a special vote of thanks to our two Conference contributors and to Dr Houlton and Dr Marshall for all they had done to keep the Society ticking over for a further year.