

The Society for Co-operative Studies

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 1981-82

1. Officers

Dr. Margaret Digby, Mr. George Gay, Mr. Lloyd Harrison, Lord Jacques, Dr. R.L. Marshall, Mr. Will Watkins and Lord Young continued to serve as Presidents. Mrs. Rita Rhodes served as Chairman, with Professor A.J. Eccles as Senior Vice-Chairman and Mr. Brian Rose as Vice-Chairman. Dr. Alex Wilson remained Secretary, while Mr. Lloyd Harrison continued as Treasurer. Dr. R.L. Marshall and Professor Tom Carbery continued to serve as Joint Editors.

2. National Meetings

The National Officers met in September, November, February and June and will have a further meeting before the AGM.

3. Membership

Membership reached a record level at 204 in September 1981. At July 10th 1982, it stands at 198, but 70 members have not yet paid their subscription for the year ending March 1983. The current position, with the figures for the previous year in brackets, is as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Individuals</u>		<u>Organisations</u>			<u>Total</u>	<u>(Prev. Year)</u>
	<u>Co-op</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Co-op</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Other</u>		
Metropolitan & Southern	35 (36)	14 (15)	20 (16)	1 (2)		70	(69)
Midland	24 (23)	4 (5)	7 (8)	- (-)		35	(36)
North	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	- (-)		4	(4)
North West	13 (11)	5 (3)	8 (7)	2 (2)		28	(23)
Scottish	18 (22)	8 (9)	3 (2)	3 (3)		32	(36)
South-West	1 (3)	2 (2)	3 (3)	- (-)		6	(8)
Yorkshire & Humberside	8 (9)	1 (1)	4 (7)	1 (1)		14	(18)
Overseas	3 (3)	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (4)		9	(10)
	<u>104 (109)</u>	<u>36 (38)</u>	<u>48 (45)</u>	<u>10 (12)</u>		<u>198</u>	<u>(204)</u>

4. The Bulletin

The Bulletin remains the main service of the Society to its members. During the period since the last AGM, the special features for the three Bulletins are:

- No. 43 (December 1981): Buying & Selling Practices in Retail Societies
- No. 44 (April 1982): Agricultural Co-operation; Government and Co-operation in France.
- No. 45 (September 1982): Co-operation between Co-operatives; Government and Co-operation in France.

The arrangements which the CWS has kindly provided in printing and distributing the Bulletins have been working smoothly, and there has been considerable financial benefit to the Society. There has been a modest redesign of the cover but it is intended to continue to publish the Bulletin in its present size, format and frequency for at least the next two years.

5. The Financial Position

The 1981-82 accounts show a surplus for the financial year, which ended on March 31st 1982, of £382.88 and an accumulated fund of £509. The financial position has greatly improved over the last 18 months, and on the 10th July, the Society had £1,000 on deposit with the Co-op Bank, plus £550 in its current account, against which must be set £430 in advance bookings for the Conference and £31 in other commitments.

6. Study Groups and Research

The study group concerned with 'Co-operation between Co-operatives', convened by Mr. Archie Mackintosh, has continued to meet throughout the year, and will be presenting its initial findings at the Annual Conference in September. There have also been meetings of national officers of the society with senior managers of both the Co-operative Bank and the C.I.S. to consider future collaboration on research projects. The need for an effective forum for Co-operative interests and the regular interchange of ideas has also received considerable attention. It is encouraging that amongst new organisational members are the Co-operative Bank, the Plunkett Foundation and the KF Library. Friendly relationships have been established with the recently established Irish Society for Co-operative Studies.

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