

The Society for Co-operative Studies

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 26th September 1982

at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs. Norah Willis, Mr. Lloyd Harrison, Mr. Peter Clarke, Lord Jacques and Professor Tom Carbery.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Mrs. Rita Rhodes warmly welcomed the 39 members present. The Co-operative movement was going through a crucial transitional stage, and it was good to see that the Society was beginning to relate to the changing needs of the movement in a positive way. This was instanced in the work of the syndicate on 'Co-operation between Co-operatives' and in a response to the Co-operative Party Employment Commission. There was clear evidence of growing strength of the Society both in terms of its finances and its broadened base of membership.

3. REPORT OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 1981-82

The Secretary introduced the national officers' report for the past year. This had been published recently in Bulletin No. 45, so it was only necessary to point to a few changes in the membership and financial figures. Dr. Wilson reported that on 21st September 1982, membership stood at 200 (including 28 members who were due to pay their

subscriptions by March 1983). This compared with 204 (with 31 in arrears) at the corresponding time last year. There had been 22 new members, including 7 organisations. Amongst these were the Plunkett Foundation, the KF Library and the Co-operative Bank. The accounts for 1981-82 had now been audited, and these showed an excess of income over expenditure of £405.48 for the financial year ended on 31st March 1982. The auditor considered it prudent to write down the value of the stock of old issues of the Bulletin, so that the accumulated fund amounted to £434.30 rather than £509.

4. The following audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet were distributed at the meeting:-

THE SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 1982

<u>Income</u>	£	£
Subscriptions	1263.00	
A.G.M. and Conference	328.47	
Surplus on Seminar	14.86	
Sale of Publications	<u>34.30</u>	<u>1640.63</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
National Officers	166.50	
Secretarial	108.20	
Bulletin	956.31	
Bank Commission	<u>4.14</u>	1235.15
Excess of Income over Expenditure		<u>405.48</u>
		<u>1640.63</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1982

	£	£
Use of Funds		
Bank and Cash		
Investment Account	300.00	
Bank Balance	121.44	
Cash Balance	<u>1.76</u>	423.20
Stock		25.00
Debtors		<u>7.60</u>
		455.80
Less:		
Creditors	1.50	
Subscriptions paid in Advance	<u>20.00</u>	<u>21.50</u>
		434.30
		<u><u>434.30</u></u>
Financed by:		
Fund Brought Forwards	28.82	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>405.48</u>	<u>434.30</u>

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Mr. Lloyd Harrison, Dr. Wilson reported that the financial position of the Society had greatly improved during the current financial year, largely thanks to the help given by the CWS in printing the Bulletin. There was now £1,250 in the deposit account with the Co-op. Bank, and the excess of income over expenditure was at present a very healthy figure, which could enable the Society to give increased financial support to study syndicates and to regional activities.

The audited accounts and a written report from the retiring Treasurer were accepted by the members, who passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Lloyd Harrison, congratulating him for his part in bringing about such a great improvement in the financial situation. Miss Gladys Winch was warmly thanked for her help in introducing an improved format for the accounts, and Mr. Clive Turner was also thanked for his thoughtful and painstaking audits over a period of several years.

6. JOINT EDITORS' REPORT

Reporting for the joint editors, Dr. Marshall observed that the job had always been enjoyable - but not always easy. Looking back to Bulletins No. 43 to 45, he thought they continued the role of offering analysis in fair detail and independence of the many issues calling for attention in Co-operative movements at home and abroad. He was very pleased with the productive relationship which he now shared with Mr. Nicholas Doe and Miss Moura Flanagan of the CWS. Thanks were due to Mrs. Rita Rhodes for initiating and establishing the Newsletter as a permanent feature of the Bulletin. Now that Rita had to move to Geneva with the ICA, he hoped that this work could be continued by Ms. Jenny Thornley and Mr. Peter Clarke. Another very useful feature in recent years had been the Review Section for which Mr. Stephen Drodge had been responsible, and to him we owed another debt of gratitude.

Looking to the future, the editors recommended that it was time to give special attention to the retail sector of the Movement, and that No. 46 would be devoted mainly to a constructive analysis of consumer Co-operation and of the distinctive problems facing the distributive

movement in the UK. It had been agreed by the National Officers that the most topical and suitable theme for Bulletin No. 47, due in April 1983, would be that of 'Women in the Co-operative Movement'. This could consider the diverse roles played by women in both the professional and lay services of Co-operative societies. It would coincide with the celebration of the centenary of the Women's Guild in May 1983. The following Bulletin might usefully be devoted to developments in the work of international Co-operation. The meeting approved these proposals and a warm vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Marshall and Professor Carbery.

7. APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 1982-83

The meeting then elected the following members as officers for the next twelve months:-

- a) Presidents:
Dr. Margaret Digby, Mr. George Gay, Mr. L. A. Harrison, Lord Jacques, Dr. R.L. Marshall, Mr. W.P. Watkins and Lord Young were re-elected. Mr. Keith Brading, formerly the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and Mr. T.E. Stephenson were added to the list of Presidents.
- b) Chairman: Professor Tony Eccles
- c) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Jack Prichard and Mr. Michael Gibson
- d) Secretary: Mr. Brian Rose
- e) Treasurer: Dr. Alex Wilson
(& Membership Secretary)
- f) Joint Editors: Dr. R.L. Marshall and Professor Tom Carbery

The appointment of the Auditor was left to the Society for Co-operative Studies Bulletin 46, December 1982 ©

decision of the National Officers, as Mr. Clive Turner had suggested that it might be sensible to have an auditor living in the same area as the new Treasurer.

8. ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 1983

Mrs. Rhodes reported that the National Officers had considered the feasibility of changing the date for the next annual conference. This had been suggested by Professor Tom Carbery as it might help more Scottish members to attend. It was, however, agreed that the corresponding date, September 23rd-24th, would still be most convenient for most likely participants, and that the venue should once again be Stanford Hall.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The annual meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Dr. Houlton and the staff of Stanford Hall, followed by tributes from Mrs. Rita Rhodes to Dr. Wilson for his work as Secretary, and to Mrs. Rhodes from Professor Eccles for her splendid services to the Society over a period of years.