

Report by the Secretary

Keith Brading, Professor Tony Eccles, Lord Jacques, Dr Robert Marshall, Ted Stephenson, Will Watkins, Lord Young of Dartington, Dr Alex Wilson and John Morley continued to serve as Presidents.

The chair has been occupied this year by Geoff Wade, with Peter Davis and Lily Howe as vice-chairs. Johnston Birchall has been secretary, Alan Rhodes treasurer and John Brown membership secretary. Dr Marshall and Professor Tom Carbery have continued to act as joint editors of the Society's Journal. Fred Broughton, Nancy Scott and Ivor Moody have been committee members, and Brian Rose has served as ex-chairman.

Committee Meetings

The committee met in November, February and May, and will have a further meeting before the Annual General Meeting in September. At the three meetings, members' attendance has been as follows:

Johnston Birchall	3	Bob Marshall	2
Fred Broughton	1	Alan Rhodes	3
John Brown	1	Brian Rose	2
Tom Carbery	0	Nancy Scott	3
Peter Davis	3	Ivor Moody	3
Lily Howe	3	Geoff Wade	3

In addition, Keith Brading and Tony Eccles attended one meeting.

Membership

Paid-up members for the year ended March 1988 (with 1987 figures in brackets) are:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Organisations</i>	<i>Total</i>
Metropolitan and Southern	71 (60)	29 (27)	100 (87)
Midland	22 (23)	11 (9)	33 (32)
North West	24 (22)	10 (8)	34 (90)
Yorkshire and Humberside	4 (4)	3 (3)	7 (7)
Northern	4 (4)	2 (1)	6 (5)
South West	5 (4)	5 (3)	10 (7)
Scottish	12 (16)	5 (3)	17 (19)
Overseas	5 (5)	10 (8)	15 (13)
	147 (138)	75 (62)	222 (200)

Compared with last year, when we lost a net total of 12 individual and 3 organisational members, this year has been a good one; we have made a net gain of 9 individuals and 13 organisations. This hides an even greater achievement, because this gain takes place against a continued loss of members owing, we think, to amalgamations between societies and the retirement and death of individuals. We have in fact gained 50 new members in all: 32 individuals and 18 organisations. This is a tribute to the dogged persistence of John Brown, Nancy Scott and other committee members who have taken every opportunity to publicise the Society and sign up new members. It is also due to the quality of the Journal, which has attracted academic interest.

The Journal

The Journal has been published three times during the year. The special features have been as follows:

No. 61 (January 1988): Resources for Retail Development; Joint Buying by Members; State Monopolies - the Co-operative Alternative; The Small Shop - Problems and Prospects.

No. 62 (May 1988): Resources for Retail Development (continued); Breaking New Ground in Retailing; New Life for Co-operative Structures?; Reflections of a Parliamentary Secretary; Institute of Co-operative Directors; Government Policy and Social Housing.

No. 63 (forthcoming, August 1988): Management in a Co-operative Setting; Review of Co-operative Performance 1987; Party Policies - the Role of Co-operation; and Journal Index.

Peter Clarke has continued to contribute the Newsletter and Jonathan Hill the Review section. The standard of content and presentation of the Journal has been the subject of much interest and admiration, and we feel that it should be made more widely available. Accordingly, the committee have agreed to a library subscription price of £10 per year for the Journal, and Peter Davis and Johnston Birchall are to market it to academic libraries. Bob Marshall has undertaken the large and complex task of indexing the Journal, and Ivor Moody is to computerise it so that it can be printed as a special insert to Journal 63.

Financial Position

The 1987/88 Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet prepared by the Treasurer are appended to this Report, together with the Auditor's

Report. Alan Rhodes comments:

“The increase in membership fees and the improvement in the number of members have resulted in member subscriptions being over £700 greater than the previous year. A further grant of £274 was made to update the Small Shops Study and it will be noted that the loss on the Annual Conference has been reduced when compared to the previous year. Appreciation was expressed in the last report to the Co-operative Union, Co-operative Bank, C.I.S. and C.R.S. for their willingness to support the Journal, and their assistance has now ceased. Attempts are therefore being made to obtain support from the largest retail societies, and information on the success achieved will be given at the Annual Meeting.”

Activities

Since the last AGM, the Society's activities have concentrated in these areas:

a. *Co-operative Management Seminar*. This year Peter Davis has run a very successful seminar on Co-operative Management on our behalf, in conjunction with the Plunkett Foundation and the East Midlands Management Centre which contributed a £500 subsidy. Attendance was for SCS members and for others by invitation, and it attracted some top-level managers from the consumer and agricultural Co-operative sectors. It will be reported on in Journal 63, and will form a good background to our own Annual Conference which will be on the same subject.

b. *Research Projects*. Because the GLEB grant has come to an end, we are not at present engaged in commissioning new research projects. However, we hope to find ways of funding research in the future. On behalf of the Society, the Secretary submitted three discussion papers to the working party of the Co-operative Union concerned with the education aspect of the 1994 150th anniversary celebrations. These made preliminary proposals for joint projects on Co-operative studies in higher education, a new Co-operative history book, and a jointly authored book on 'Co-operative Business'. The 'Co-operative Studies in Higher Education' paper was also given at an Exeter University Conference on Co-operative Learning.

c. Regional Activity

Another successful series of lectures has been run by the Metropolitan and South region. Ken Penney, of Exeter University Centre for Co-operative Studies, which has run a highly successful conference on Co-operative Learning, has taken on the secretaryship of the Society's South West Region.

Ivor Moody is to open a Welsh branch, and we are actively trying to recruit other regional secretaries. The committee accepted a set of guidelines suggesting that we should aim at one or more regional events per year, whose aim would be to foster links between Co-operative practitioners from different sectors, and between them and local academic institutions. As we have so few resources, we hope to link the Society's name with that of a regional organisation which can sponsor such events, and to use the occasion for member recruitment.

d. *The Co-operative Forum*. Lily Howe and Johnston Birchall have continued to represent the Society at the Forum and the latter is also on the Education and Training Working Party. A report on progress was made in Journal 62. We are still monitoring progress in the hope that concrete proposals will come from the working parties which will build commitment to the Forum and indicate how it should develop. Progress has, we are sad to say, been rather patchy.

June 1988

Johnston Birchall

Accounts

1. Income and Expenditure for year to 31st March 1988

	Note	1988 £	1987 £
Income			
Subscriptions	1	2,248	1,515
Sale of Journals		54	223
Journal Contribution	2	1,500	1,000
Bank Interest	3	871	905
Donations and Grants		100	91
Excess of Expenditure over Income		-	2,850
		<u>4,773</u>	<u>6,584</u>
 Expenditure			
National Officers' Travel		219	249
Other Travel		108	112
Secretarial	4	206	274
Journal	5	2,745	2,286
Annual Conference	6	257	572
Grants	7	274	3,091
Excess of Income over Expenditure		964	-
		<u>4,773</u>	<u>6,584</u>

Notes on the Accounts

Note 1	Members' Subscriptions		
	Individual	739	564
	Organisations	1,480	940
		2,219	1,504
	Add opening creditor	54	65
	Less closing creditor	(25)	(54)
		2,248	1,515
Note 2	Journal Contribution		
	C.I.S.	375	375
	C.R.S.	375	375
	Co-op Bank	375	375
	Co-op Union	375	375
		1,500	1,500
	Add opening creditor	500	-
	Less closing creditor	(500)	(500)
		1,500	1,000
Note 3	Bank Interest		
	Co-op Bank Deposit		
	Account	122	87
	CRS Investments	749	818
		871	905
Note 4	Secretarial		
	Postage	184	116
	Printing/Stationery	22	114
	Hall Bookings	-	44
		206	274

Note 5	Journal		
	Typing	168	246
	Printing	1,763	1,415
	Distribution	553	358
	Postage	82	84
	Telephone	113	113
	Stationery	18	20
	Travel	48	50
		<u>2,745</u>	<u>2,286</u>

Note 6	Annual Conference		
	Income	1,422	1,069
	Expenditure		
	Leaflets	-	67
	Speakers	206	123
	Accommodation	<u>1,473</u>	<u>1,239</u>
		<u>1,679</u>	<u>1,429</u>
		(257)	(360)
	Other Conferences	-	(212)
		<u>(257)</u>	<u>(572)</u>

Note 7	Grants		
	Small Shop Survey	274	2,966
	Housing Co-ops Research		
	Seminar	-	100
	University of Ulster Best		
	Student Prize	-	25
		<u>274</u>	<u>3,091</u>

2. Balance Sheet at 31st March, 1988

	31.3.88	31.3.87
	£	£
Use of Funds		
Bank and Cash -		
Co-op Bank Current Account	230	(20)
Co-op Bank Deposit Account	2,009	1,324
Investments -		
CRS Investment Income Account	4,000	4,000
CRS High Yield Bond (Series 7)	3,000	3,000
	<u>9,239</u>	<u>8,304</u>
Less -		
Creditors	(525)	(554)
	<u>8,714</u>	<u>7,750</u>
Financed by -		
Fund brought forward	7,750	10,600
Excess of Income over Expenditure	964	(2,850)
	<u>8,714</u>	<u>7,750</u>

3. Auditor's Report

I have pleasure in returning the Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Society for Co-operative Studies for the year ended 31st March 1988. These have been audited and are in agreement with the records. I confirm that the Income and Expenditure Account is an accurate reflection of the conduct of the Society's Accounts during the year and that the Balance Sheet accurately states the balance of the funds as at 31st March 1988.

28 May 1988

Alex Wilson