

The Society for Co-operative Studies 1996-97

Report by the Secretary

Professor Tom Carbery, Professor Tony Eccles, Dr Robert Marshall, John Morley, Lord Young of Dartington and Dr Alex Wilson continued to serve as Presidents, while Graham Melmoth was elected as an additional President at last year's Annual General Meeting.

Sadly during the year three Presidents have died - Lord Jacques, Keith Brading and Ted Stephenson. We shall sadly miss these excellent Co-operators who have contributed so much to the development of our Society and the Co-operative ideal.

The Chair has been occupied this year by Len Burch, with Peter Davis and Kathryn Smith as Vice-Chairs. John Butler has been Secretary, Frank Dent, Treasurer & Membership Secretary and Johnston Birchall, Journal Editor.

Peter Clarke serves on the Committee as immediate past chair, additional committee members are Garth Pratt, James Bell, Rita Rhodes and Roland Dale.

During the year the committee was also pleased to welcome three co-opted members - Jim Craigen, Alan Wilkins and Roger Spear.

Committee Meetings

The Committee met in October, November, February and June and will have a further meeting immediately before the AGM.

Membership

Paid up members for the year ended 31 March 1996 with 1995 figures in brackets are set out opposite -

| Region | Individuals | Organisations | Academic | Totals |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Metro & South | 64 (77) | 13 (55) | 18 (19) | 95 (111) |
| Midland | 25 (28) | 6 (6) | 7 (7) | 38 (41) |
| North West | 32 (35) | 9 (9) | 6 (6) | 47 (50) |
| Yorkshire & Humberside | 7 (7) | 4 (4) | 9 (9) | 20 (20) |
| Northern | 3 (6) | 3 (3) | 2 (2) | 8 (11) |
| South West | 5 (5) | 1 (1) | 0 (0) | 6 (6) |
| Scotland | 15 (16) | 4 (3) | 6 (6) | 25 (25) |
| Overseas | 8 (6) | 4 (4) | 0 (0) | 12 (10) |
| TOTAL | 159 (180) | 44 (45) | 48 (49) | 251 (274) |

The total number of Journals distributed is 833 per issue.

The Committee have noted the small fall in membership and it is hoped that a membership drive conducted in early July will lead to a reversal of this position.

Society Logo

The Committee during the year gave consideration to redesigning the Society Logo. Following a process of consultation a short list was established and the Journal Editor was given the final and difficult task of selecting a logo that we hope will take the Society well into the next century. The new logo will now appear on all our publications and we hope that members are satisfied with the final outcome.

Journal Editor

Our former Secretary reported last year upon the impending retirement of the Auld Firm, Drs Marshall and Carbery. Their contribution had been enormous. The election of Johnston Birchall at the 1995 AGM was an extremely important event. Johnston has set about his responsibilities with great enthusiasm and the Committee are confident that the Journal will continue to make a significant contribution to the Co-operative Movement.

The Journal

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

No 85 (January 1996): 50 years at Stanford Hall: The Co-operative College 1946-96: Neither Public nor Private: The Co-operative Third Way: Report of the Society for Co-operative Studies Annual Conference 1995.

No. 86 (May 1996): The Future of Co-operative Education: Loughborough and Lady Byron: The California Mutual Housing Association: UK Consumer Co-operatives Trade 1995 - Reflections and Projections: Co-operative Principles and the UK Co-operative Law Reform: Employee Stock Ownership Firms, Producer Co-operatives and the Forgotten Model of Mondragon: Towards a Value-based Management Culture for Membership Based Organisations

No. 87 (September 1996): The Smart Card and Mutuality: Marketing the Co-operative Advantage: The Future of Mutuality: Regulating Private Utilities - The Customer Corporation: Co-operative Legislation.

Financial Position

The 1995/96 Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet prepared by Frank Dent are appended to this Report, together with Peter Roscoe's Auditor's Report.

The Society continues to enjoy financial health. Income has grown ahead of expenditure and the situation is further improved by the writing off of potential tax liabilities no longer required following our registration as a charity. However, this is offset to some extent by the legal costs.

In the longer term the Committee intends to enhance the quality of the Journal and undertake more marketing. This will be financed from both the current excess of income over expenditure and an increase in membership subscription, if approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Fringe Meeting

As reported last year the Society's Fringe Meeting has become a regular and popular feature of Co-operative Congress. At the 1996 Harrogate Congress over 170 co-operators attended this year's meeting at which Philip Ireland, General Manager (Legal & Secretarial) of the Yorkshire Building Society spoke on "The

Future of Mutuality". It was the consensus view that this had been a highly successful meeting that had displayed strong support for the concept of mutuality. The thanks of the Society have been forwarded to CRS who provided generous financial support for the meeting. A copy of Philip Ireland's address has been distributed widely by the Society and a report of the Fringe Meeting appeared in the first edition of the Society Newsletter that accompanied Issue 86.

Internet Developments

We are indebted to Peter Clarke for all his hard work in developing the Society's entry. Peter is working closely with the CWS and ICA on this important project and it is anticipated that this project will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

Membership Subscriptions

In anticipation of additional expenditure which will be required to fund improvements to the Journal format and marketing anticipated Internet costs, research and administrative costs the Committee agreed to recommend to members that the basic and sponsorship waged rates both be increased by £2 to £9 and £14 respectively and the unwaged and organisation rates remain unchanged.

Registration of New Constitution

The new constitution of the Society received the unanimous support of members at the 1995 Annual General Meeting. Subsequently the Society was registered as a Charity on 18 October 1995 and entered in the Central Register of Charities (Registered Charity Number 1049961). John Maddox of Crofton's Solicitors, Manchester has been of enormous assistance to the Committee in offering advice and assistance during the time consuming process of becoming a charity and the Committee are pleased to record our sincere thanks.

Mutuality

The Committee has during the year given detailed consideration

to aspects relating to the theme of mutuality. It was the strong view of the Committee that the Society should indicate its support for the concept of 'mutuality' and develop clearly the arguments in favour of this concept. The Committee has recognised the need to be prepared on occasions to articulate a collective viewpoint on key issues facing the Co-operative Movement. The Fringe Meeting at the 1996 Harrogate Congress highlighted the Committee's collective viewpoint at a very practical level and the Annual Conference will give members more opportunity to discuss an issue that is of enormous importance to all co-operators.

Developing Closer Links with the Co-operative College

An important task of the Committee during the current year has been to look closely at developing closer links with the Co-operative College. It is important that the society work closely with the College and to be actively involved in joint promotional and publicity initiatives. It was most encouraging when Alan Wilkins the Officer for Member Education at the College agreed to become a co-opted member of the Committee. A number of joint initiatives are already being actively considered and illustrate the need for a collaborate approach.

The Society's External Relations

The Committee have during the year recognised the need to look closely at the Society's external relations. Areas already identified where the Society should develop closer relationships include the Co-operative Research Unit of the Open University; the Research Forum of the International Co-operative Alliance; the United Kingdom Co-operative Council; Education Convention and Co-operative Congress; Societies for Co-operative Studies Abroad; ICA Committees. It is the strong view of the Committee that arrangements were required for the various bodies undertaking research to automatically liaise with the Society for Co-operative Studies.

A Year of Progress

1995/96 has been a year of steady progress for the Society. The

Committee have worked well as a team and the Society continues to pursue its objects which are "to advance the education of the general public concerning all aspects of the Co-operative Movement and Co-operative forms of structure, and in particular to assist commission and/or identify, and to publish research ... and to promote the exchange of information and experience on Co-operative studies and research".

The Society for Co-operative Studies 1995-96

Accounts

1. Income & Expenditure Account for year to 31 March 1996

| Income | Note | 1996 | 1995 |
|---|------|-------|-------|
| Subscriptions | 1 | 4544 | 4493 |
| Academic sponsorships | | 589 | 484 |
| Sale of journals | | 1168 | 316 |
| Annual conference | 2 | 399 | 399 |
| Interest received | 3 | 1035 | 885 |
| Grants and donations | | - | 50 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 7735 | 6627 |
| | | | |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Journal | 4 | 4663 | 4547 |
| Annual conference | 2 | - | - |
| Congress fringe meeting | | 413 | 244 |
| Regional activity | | - | 98 |
| National officers' travel | | 700 | 395 |
| Secretarial | | - | - |
| Advertising | | - | 164 |
| ICA Congress reception | | 119 | - |
| Other | | 10 | - |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 5905 | 5488 |
| | | | |
| Excess of income over expenditure | | 1830 | 1179 |
| Provision for possible tax | | - | 221 |
| | | | |
| Add provision for tax written back | | 2841 | |
| Deduct legal expenses for registering as a charity | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 940 | |
| | | | |
| Excess after tax to accumulated fund | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 3731 | 958 |
| | | | |
| Provision for tax not now required. | | | |

2. Balance Sheet at 31 March 1996

| | 1996 | | 1995 | |
|--|------|--------|-------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | |
| Co-op Bank deposit account | | 5 989 | | 5 953 |
| Other investments | | 15 000 | | 14 000 |
| | | 20 989 | | 19 953 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Co-op Bank current account | 1178 | | 1 281 | |
| Secretary's cash float | 30 | | 30 | |
| Debtor | - | | 6 | |
| | | 1208 | | 1 317 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | | 1208 | | 1 317 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Subscriptions received in advance | 706 | | 217 | |
| Academic sponsorships | - | | 484 | |
| Journal - printing | 900 | | 800 | |
| Journal - distribution | - | | 180 | |
| Journal - secretarial | 104 | | 0 | |
| Other | 8 | | 0 | |
| | | 1718 | | 1 681 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 1718 | | 1 681 |
| NET CURRENT LIABILITIES | | (510) | | (364) |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 20 479 | | 19 589 |
| Less provision for possible tax | | - | | 2 841 |
| | | 20 479 | | 16 748 |
| NET ASSETS | | 20 479 | | 16 748 |
| FINANCED BY: | | | | |
| Accumulated fund | | 16 748 | | 15 790 |
| Addition to accumulated fund from 1994/5 revenue account | | 3 731 | | 958 |
| | | 20 479 | | 16 748 |
| | | 20 479 | | 16 748 |

3. Auditor's Report

I have audited the Financial Statements set out above and these are in accord with the books of account. In my opinion the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 March 1996.

10 July 1996

Peter Roscoe

Notes to the Accounts

| | 1996 | | 1995 | |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Note 1 Members' subscriptions | | | | |
| individual | | 1913 | | 2314 |
| organisation | | 2631 | | 2179 |
| | | <u>4544</u> | | <u>4493</u> |
| Note 2 Annual Conference | | | | |
| income | | 2226 | | 3503 |
| less | | | | |
| expenditure | | | | |
| accommodation | 1701 | | 2905 | |
| refunds | 126 | | 199 | |
| | | <u>1827</u> | | <u>3104</u> |
| | | <u>399</u> | | <u>399</u> |
| Note 3 Interest received | | | | |
| Co-op Bank deposit a/c | | 9 | | 31 |
| other investments | | 1026 | | 1100 |
| | | <u>1035</u> | | <u>1131</u> |
| Note 4 Journal | | | | |
| printing | | 2881 | | 3134 |
| distribution | | 597 | | 751 |
| editorial & secretarial | | | | |
| expenses | | 1185 | | 662 |
| | | <u>4663</u> | | <u>4547</u> |