

## The Society for Co-operative Studies 1996/97

### Report by the Secretary

Professor Tom Carbery, Professor Tony Eccles, Dr Robert Marshall, Lord Young of Dartington, Dr Alex Wilson and Graham Melmoth continued to serve as Presidents.

Sadly during the year one of our Presidents - John Morley OBE died. He was a man who gave outstanding service to agricultural co-operatives over many years and he will be sadly missed by his many friends throughout the Co-operative Movement.

The Chair has been occupied this year by Len Burch with Peter Davis and Rowland Dale as Vice-Chairs. John Butler has been Secretary, Frank Dent, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and Johnston Birchall, Journal Editor. Peter Clarke serves on the Committee as immediate past chair, additional committee members are James Bell, Rita Rhodes, Jim Craigen and Martin Stears. Alan Wilkins and Roger Spear have served as co-opted members.

### Committee Meetings

The Committee met in September, November, February and June and will have a further meeting before the Annual Meeting in September. At the four meetings, members' attendance has been as follows -

Len Burch	4
Peter Davis	3
Rowland Dale	2
John Butler	4
Johnston Birchall	3
Frank Dent	3
James Bell	3
Rita Rhodes	4
Jim Craigen	4
Martin Stears	4
Peter Clarke	1

Alan Wilkins	4
Roger Spear	3
Gillian Lonergan	3

(Gillian Lonergan attends meetings in her capacity as Deputy Editor of the Journal).

## Membership

Paid up members for the year ended March 31 1997 with 1996 figures in brackets are set out below.

Region	Individuals	Organisations	Academic	Totals
North	65 (57)	21 (20)	31 (23)	117 (100)
South	79 (69)	18 (14)	37 (18)	134 (101)
Midlands	26 (25)	6 (6)	14 (7)	46 (38)
Overseas	12 (8)	14 (4)	0 (0)	26 (12)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>182 (159)</b>	<b>59 (44)</b>	<b>82 (48)</b>	<b>323 (251)</b>

The total number of Journals distributed is 907 per issue. There has been a pleasing increase in the number of members in all areas.

## Society Logo

After much deliberation the Society has a new logo. The process of evolution saw the age-old logo changing from what looked like a coffin becoming more like an embryonic egg and then ending up like a globe and similar to the ICA format. The new logo has received a favourable response and the assistance furnished by Paul Schofield, the Co-operative Union's Graphic Designer has been greatly appreciated.

## Journal Editor

Johnston Birchall continues to set about his responsibilities with great enthusiasm and the excellent range of articles in each issue of the Journal has ensured that our key publication is eagerly awaited both within the UK and abroad. Our thanks to Johnston for his efforts on behalf of the Society are recorded and our appreciation is also extended to Gillian Lonergan the Deputy

Editor who has greatly assisted the Editor over the past 12 months and also her work as Newsletter Editor - a publication that is full of news of new publications, forthcoming events and short articles.

## **The Journal**

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

No 88 (January 1997): The Water Industry: Why it should adopt the mutual society model; Co-operation in Mongolia: a tale of one city and two visits; John Morley, OBE: an appreciation; Stakeholder Co-operation: Content and form in management development for Co-operatives: a review; Proceedings of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies Annual Conference 1996.

No 89 (May 1997): Review of the Co-operative Union; Inclusive Partnership: the key to business success in the 21st century; Women's Participation in Co-operatives: evidence from the British Canadian Co-operative Society; Co-operatives and Federations; International Organisations and Structures in the Service of Co-operatives; Book Reviews.

No 90 (September 1996): Towards a Stakeholder Economy; Co-operative Membership and the Stakeholder Economy: lessons from the failed Lanica bid; Housing the Nation the Co-operative Way; A Housing Co-op Rescue of Public Housing in Germany; Co-operative Values and Principles: a commentary; The Governance of Consumer Co-operatives: rules and realities; Book Review; Annual Report.

## **Financial Position**

The Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are appended to this report together with the Auditor's Report.

The financial position of the society remains strong. Although there is an excess of expenditure over income this was expected in view of the policy to upgrade the Journal which involved higher production and distribution costs. Next year this should be compensated for by the increase in subscription levels which was agreed at the last Annual Meeting. In the current year

subscription income has increased as a result of a membership drive and improved Journal and we are confident that this trend will continue.

### **Co-opted Members**

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held immediately at the conclusion of the 1996 AGM it was agreed to co-opt Alan Wilkins and Roger Spear to serve on the committee for the coming year. Both members have made an excellent contribution to our deliberations and their involvement has helped to further develop closer links with The Co-operative College and the Co-operative Research Unit of the Open University.

### **United Kingdom Co-operative Council**

The Society continues to strongly support the work of the United Kingdom Co-operative Council. The two organisations exchange minutes and liaise closely on matters of mutual interest.

### **Plunkett Foundation**

The Society has a reciprocal membership arrangement with the Plunkett Foundation. During the year under review our relationship with the Plunkett Foundation has developed further with Johnston Birchall now serving on the "World of Co-operative Enterprise" Editorial Advisory Board and James Bell attended their Annual General Meeting held in London in March.

### **Research Sub-Group**

In mid-June 1996 the Executive Committee acknowledged the need for the Society to initiate research and establish a sub-group to look at appropriate research topics. This viewpoint was formally agreed at the first meeting of the year and a Research Sub-Group established comprising Roger Spear, Alan Wilkins, Johnston Birchall and Peter Davis. A number of important subjects have already been considered and will be highlighted at the Annual General Meeting and include - A

Bursary for cataloguing the Co-operative College Archives; A paper on Mutuality; Sources of Funding for Research.

### **Internet Developments**

Peter Davis continues his crucial work in developing the Society's entry. He is liaising closely with the CWS and ICA on this project which is nearing completion.

### **Promotional Work**

During the year greater efforts have been made to promote the Society. A new membership leaflet, drafted by James Bell has now been produced and will be used to encourage higher levels of membership. In addition the Society participated in the Cardiff Co-operative Congress Exhibition with a very professional display panel. Work continues on developing a mobile display that can be used at conferences, exhibitions and gatherings where the society hopes to articulate its aims and objectives and bring into membership like minded people.

### **Fringe Meeting**

Another successful Fringe Meeting was held at the Cardiff Co-operative Congress. Nearly 100 co-operators attended this year's meeting at which Charlie Cattell, a Freelance Consultant currently engaged by the Industrial Common Ownership Movement and Industrial Common Ownership Finance and Peter Couchman, Member and Public Relations Manager, Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-operative Society spoke on, "Towards a Stakeholder Economy - Lessons to be learnt from the failed Lanica Bid". The thanks of the Society have been forwarded to CRS who provided generous financial support for the meeting.

### **A Year of Consolidation**

1996/97 has been a year of consolidation for the Society. The committee continue to work well as a team and our special thanks are extended to Len Burch our Chairman who completes his second year in this important position. Len has had a difficult

task dealing with Executive Committee Members who all have strong opinions on the way the Society should develop. However, he has directed our deliberations with good humour and fairness and the Society is well placed to pursue its objectives in the future.

# The Society for Co-operative Studies 1996-97

## Accounts

### 1. Income & Expenditure Account for year to 31 March 1997

Income	Note	1997	1996
Subscriptions	1	5321	4544
Academic sponsorships		656	589
Sale of journals		628	1168
Annual conference	2	0	399
Interest received	3	687	1035
Grants and donations		0	0
		7292	7735
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Journal	4	6474	4663
Annual conference	2	229	0
Congress fringe meeting		200	413
Regional activity		0	0
National officers' travel		984	700
Secretarial		30	0
Advertising & publicity		277	0
ICA Congress reception		0	119
Other		33	10
		8227	5905
Excess of income over expenditure		(935)	1830
Add provision for tax written back		0	2841
Deduct legal expenses for registering as a charity		0	940
Excess after tax to accumulated fund		(935)	3731

## 2. Balance Sheet at 31 March 1997

		1997		1996	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Co-op Bank deposit account			5520		5989
Other investments	5		10000		15000
			15520		20989
 <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Co-op Bank current account		4249		1178	
Secretary's cash float		0		30	
Debtors	6	1589		0	
			5838		1208
 <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
			5838		1208
 <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Subscriptions received in advance		214		706	
Journal - secretarial		0		104	
Journal - printing		1600		900	
Other		0		8	
			1814		1718
 <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			1814		1718
 <b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			4024		(510)
 Total assets less current liabilities					
			19544		20479
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>					
			19544		20479
 <b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
Accumulated fund			20479		16748
Addition to accumulated fund from 1996/7 revenue account			(935)		3731
			19544		20479

### 3. Auditor's Report

I have audited the Financial Statements set out above and in my opinion 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 1997.

31 July 1997

Peter Roscoe

#### Notes to the Accounts

	1997		1996	
	£	£	£	£
Note 1 Members' subscriptions				
individuals	2149		1913	
organisations	3172		2631	
		<u>5321</u>		<u>4544</u>
Note 2 Annual Conference				
income		3579		2226
less				
expenditure				
accommodation	3622		1701	
refunds	186		126	
		<u>3808</u>		<u>1827</u>
		<u>(229)</u>		<u>399</u>
Note 3 Interest received				
Co-op Bank deposit a/c		12		9
other investments		675		1026
		<u>687</u>		<u>1035</u>

Note 4 Journal		
printing	4812	2881
distribution	1084	597
editorial & secretarial expenses	578	1185
	<u>6474</u>	<u>4663</u>

Note 5 Investments comprise the following		
CRS Ltd	4000	4000
United Norwest Co-operatives Ltd	6000	6000
CWS Ltd	0	5000
	<u>10000</u>	<u>15000</u>

Note 6 Debtors are made up as follows		
Individual Subscriptions	5	0
Organisation Subscriptions	304	0
Academic Subscriptions	656	0
Journal Sales	624	0
	<u>1589</u>	<u>0</u>

No provision is required against these debts as they have all been agreed.