

3. Group Membership

Steve Lee

It was agreed that members should officially represent their trade organisation. Steve agreed to write to the relevant organisations and seek approval for certain members and ask for suggestions as appropriate. If a member can not attend a meeting they should seek to find a substitute from their organisation. Steve to ask all members if anybody wishes to stand down. It was agreed that Edinburgh Napier University Forest Products Research Institute ought to be represented.

4. Wood Quality of alternative species - new PhD Napier/Elspeth

Paul updated the Group on plans for a new PhD (see presentation)

5. SS Breeding programme and co-op possibility Steve Lee

Steve explained to the group the 50% drop in funding for tree breeding over a 3-year period and the fact that the conifer breeding programme in particular was stagnating. Money needs to come in from outside the FC perhaps in the form of a co-operative involving private sector nurseries and forestry companies. Options are currently being investigated.

6. Timber properties update Elspeth Macdonald

Elspeth gave an overview of recent developments in the Wood and Timber Properties research programme (see presentation). She highlighted the significant staff changes in the programme team over the last year, including the recent departure of John Fonweban on a 2-year secondment to the FAO. Development of timber quality models for conifer species is ongoing, together with work investigating the impacts of alternative silviculture on timber quality and a joint project with tree breeding to look at including wood stiffness as a selection criterion in the Sitka spruce breeding programme, ([see presentation](#)).

7. New Chair

Richard Ogilvy stood down as Chair and was thanked by the Group for his work over the last 3-years.

Tim Liddon kindly accepted an invitation to take up the position of Chair.

8. AOCB

The link for the FR Decision Support System website is given [here](#). A password should be gained free of charge from emis.support@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; access is available to all on request. The DSS models includes ESC, Conifer Timber Quality, Forest Gales.

Next meeting? Secretaries Steve & Elspeth to propose date and place with good notice. Bristol?

15:45 Depart