

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE of  
the SEED POTATO DIVISION of the SCOTTISH  
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in the  
Station Hotel, Perth, at 12 noon on  
TUESDAY, 14th DECEMBER, 1971.

---

PRESENT; Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, W. Gordon, G. Gyle, T. McClung, I. Barr, P. Peebles, D. H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell and A. K. Powrie, along with R. David Hunter, the Secretary.

APOLOGIES. An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of the Association President, Mr. A. D. Williamson who was attending a meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium in London on the same day.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division of 25th November, 1971 was taken as read, approved and signed.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS -

CONVENER. On the motion of Mr. G. Luke, seconded by Mr. I. Barr, Mr. J. Fordyce was unanimously appointed Convener of the Committee for the forthcoming two years. On taking the Chair Mr. Fordyce expressed his thanks to the Committee for re-appointing him.

VICE-CONVENER. On the motion of Mr. J. Fordyce, seconded by Mr. I. Barr, Mr. G. Luke was unanimously appointed Vice-Convener for the forthcoming two years.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Mr. Fordyce welcomed new Committee members and made particular reference to Mr. William Gordon who had been co-opted on to the Committee with a view to providing representation from Ross-shire. The Secretary referred to the instruction issued by the Committee of the Seed Potato Division at the meeting on 28th October last that the new Committee should be listed in order of votes received for the purpose of determining the sequence of retiral in terms of the Constitution. Notwithstanding the previous decision, the Secretary was instructed to prepare suggestions for consideration at the next Committee Meeting whereby retirals could be linked to the introduction of regional representation on the Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. In addition to the Convener and Vice-Convener, Messrs. D. H. Lindsay and I. Barr were appointed representatives on the Administrative Council.

JOINT/

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. In addition to the Association President and Vice-President both ex officio Messrs. I. Barr, G. Gyle, G. Luke and T. McClung were appointed the Association's representatives on the Joint Liaison Committee.

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE. The following were appointed to the Seed Division Entertainments Committee:- The Convener, Vice-Convener and Messrs. P. S. Morris, J. Bryden and A. J. Haggart.

RETIRING OFFICE-BEARERS. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Ian. P. Fulton, the past President and Messrs. W. Gray, R. McLeish and A. J. Allan, former Committee members of the Seed Potato Division to compliment them on the manner in which they had served the Trade during their respective periods in office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. It was resolved to hold the Division Annual General Meeting in the Station Hotel, Perth, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 10th February, 1972 following the Seed Potato Auction in Stirling. It was further resolved to invite Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture to be the Guest Speaker at a General Meeting to follow the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Lyall would be asked to speak on the subject of the Common Market.

COMMON MARKET. The Committee again considered the proposals of the Department of Agriculture on the subject of Seed Potatoes in the Common Market. It was resolved to approve the Department's proposals subject to the following observations:-

1. Proposed G.B. Tuber Quality and Health Standards

(a) A tolerance of 1% to be included for frost damage.

(b) The over all tolerance for Groups II and III to be increased from 1% to 2% (at least for 1972).

2. The proposed Regulations to be altered to permit the sale (but not planting) of "Certified Seed" in the High Grade Seed Production Region.

3. Continental Varieties - Provision to be made for the importation under Licence of Stocks of Continental varieties into Scotland if these varieties are required for the English Market.

Subject to satisfactory answers regarding the above matters, it was agreed that/

that the new tolerances could be introduced for 1972 crop.

R.H.A.S. EXPORT GROUP. Mr. Luke reported on the inaugural meeting of the R.H.A.S. Scottish Agricultural Export Group held at Ingliston on 17th November, 1971. He stated that the registration fee for the first year has been fixed at £5. It was agreed to recommend to the Administrative Council that the Association should make application to join this Group.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE. Mr. Fordyce reported on the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee held in London on 6th December, 1971. In the course of Mr. Fordyce's Report it was stated:-

- (a) The N.A.S.P.M. had agreed to the Association sending a representative to the annual Spring meeting with British Railways in London.
- (b) British Railways were anxious regarding the considerable switch of seed potato traffic from rail to road transport. It was resolved to inform British Railways that their policy of station closures was partly responsible. The unwillingness of British Railways to accept seed potatoes in polypropylene containers other than at "Owner's" risk was also discouraging the use of rail transport. The Secretary was instructed to write to British Railways to point out to them the urgency of completing their tests on polypropylene to enable them to accept seed in these containers at "Board's" risk.
- (c) The N.A.S.P.M. accepted the Department's proposals regarding seed potatoes in the Common Market.
- (d) The N.A.S.P.M. were awaiting a copy of the European Conditions of Sale before agreeing to the revised Conditions of Sale drafted by S.P.T.A. It was stated that the N.A.S.P.M. were to let the Secretary have a copy of the European Conditions. It was further observed, however, that many members of the Association could not delay for a further period the reprinting of their stationery with new Conditions of Sale. For this reason it was resolved to recommend to the Administrative Council that the new Conditions of Sale be issued forthwith under explanation that the Conditions may require to be revised further as a result of the United Kingdom's proposed entry into the Common Market. At the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee the/

the S.P.T.A. representative had refused to agree to the extension of the time limit for lodging complaints in respect of latent disease from 10 to 14 days. It had been agreed to leave the English Farmers' Union to negotiate this matter with the Scottish Farmers' Union.

(e) It had been reported that the number of applications to the Potato Marketing Board's Inspection Service for Seed Potatoes was reduced in 1971 by 50% as compared with 1970.

Mr. Fordyce summed up his Report by stating that relations between the representatives of the N.A.S.P.M. and S.P.T.A. had been extremely harmonious.

DRESSING STANDARDS. The Committee considered the Paper prepared by the Potato Marketing Board which had been previously circulated to Committee members making suggestions regarding future grading standards and the compulsory labelling of Ware potatoes. The Committee resolved to approve the proposals subject to the following observations:-

- (a) It should not be permitted to sell minimum grade for human consumption in a year of surplus.
- (b) Consideration should be given to problems which the proposed dressing sizes could cause to the owners of rejected stocks grown for seed or canning.
- (c) The proposal with regard to the introduction of a compulsory labelling scheme for Ware potatoes should be resisted for the reason that it would produce no benefit.

J.C.C. Mr. A. D. Williamson's Report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 6th December, 1971 was read to the meeting by Mr. J. Fordyce. A copy of Mr. Williamson's Report is annexed hereto.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. Fordyce reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 8th December, 1971. In general the Scottish Advisory Committee was a repeat of the J.C.C. meeting. The dates of the meetings of the Scottish Advisory Committee for 1972 were agreed as follows:- 16th March, 21st June, 19th October and 6th December.

V.T./

V.T. RAISERS MEETING. It was reported that Mr. A. K. Powrie was to represent the Association at the meeting of V.T. Raisers to be held in Aviemore on Friday, 17th December, 1971. Mr. Powrie was instructed to suggest that arrangements should be made for spacing trials to be conducted in England with a view to overcoming the possible problem of too many small tubers being produced by S.C. King Edward seed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the next meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth, at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 11th February, 1972.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*James Fordyce*