

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE of
the SEED POTATO DIVISION of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held
in the Station Hotel, Perth, on THURSDAY,
6th APRIL, 1972.

PRESENT: Messrs. J. Fordyce, G. Luke, A.D. Williamson, I. Barr, D.H. Lindsay,
D. Maxwell, A.K. Powrie and W. Gordon, along with Mr. R. David Hunter, the
Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. G. Gyle
and T. McClung.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division
of 11th February, 1972 was taken as read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING -

- (a) ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE. The Secretary reported that Mr. A. J.
Haggart had declined the invitation to be co-opted on to the Division
Entertainments Committee. The Secretary was instructed to invite
Mr. Peter Miller of Messrs. P.L. Fordyce, Auchterarder, to become
a member of the Entertainments Committee to assist with the arrangements
for the Golf Outing.
- (b) COMMITTEE. The Secretary explained that he had still not compiled
a suggested scheme for regional representation on the Committee.
It was accordingly agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting
of the Committee.
- (c) R.H.A.S. EXPORT GROUP. The Secretary reported that he had now
considered the draft Constitution proposed by the R.H.A.S. Export
Group and advised that it should be accepted. The meeting accordingly
authorised its representatives who will be attending a General
Meeting of the Group on 10th May, 1972 to approve of the adoption
of the draft Constitution.
- (d) FARM CAPITAL GRANTS. The Secretary reported that at the meeting
with Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture, it had
been made clear that there was no prospect of a postponement in
the date of reduction in level of Farm Capital Grants. At the
same meeting Mr. Lyall had expressed the opinion that there was
no/

no prospect at this time of an alteration in the legislation which would enable the agricultural exemption from Rates to be extended to include potato stores in the occupation of potato merchants.

- (e) ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION. The Secretary reported that Mr. Fordyce had now met Mr. Deuchar, the President of the Aberdeen Association, who had indicated that although he was interested in membership of the Ware Division of the Association for himself he did not think it likely that the other members of the Aberdeen Association would wish to obtain membership of this Association.
- (f) RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from British Railways stating that there had not been any change in policy on their part regarding the acceptance of their Acknowledgment Postcard as evidence of the quantity of potatoes loaded on rail. The Secretary gave to the meeting the most recent statistics issued by the Potato Marketing Board of seed potato traffic from Scotland to England and Wales.
- (g) SCAB. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from the Department of Agriculture stating the conditions on which they would authorise the sale of a consignment of seed potatoes containing more than the permitted tolerance of Scab.
- (h) POTATO BOXES. The Secretary reported that Mr. Gordon Lyall of the Department of Agriculture had been unable to find any indication that legislation was under consideration which would prohibit the stacking of potato boxes in excess of four boxes in height.
- (i) ANNUAL DINNER DANCE. The Secretary reported that the Entertainments Committee had not yet met to agree the date for the next Seed Division annual Dinner Dance.
- (j) V.T. RAISERS. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which had been sent out by the Department of Agriculture to the V.T. growers urging them to form an Association to undertake the organisation of the V.T. Raisers annual meeting. It was agreed to leave the V.T./

V.T. growers to form their own Association. The Secretary was, however, instructed to write to the Department of Agriculture thanking them for sending a copy of the letter to the Association for information and requesting to be kept informed of future developments and offering to co-operate with the V.T. Raisers Association should it be formed.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS. The Secretary reported that at the meeting of the Administrative Council of the Association held on 16th March, 1972 redrafted Accounts of the Association for the period to 30th November, 1971 had been approved. The redrafted Accounts which had been previously circulated to members of the Seed Division Committee disclosed the Capital of the Association as allocated between the two Divisions and also disclosed separate Revenue Accounts for each Division. The Secretary added that the Administrative Council had resolved that the redrafted Accounts should be submitted to the Committees of each of the Divisions for them to take such action as they considered appropriate in light of the financial position of each of the Divisions as disclosed in the redrafted Accounts. Having considered the Accounts in detail the Seed Division Committee resolved:-

- (a) to instruct the Secretary to ingather later in the year the additional Subscriptions approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Seed Potato Division (£2.50p for Full Membership and £1.25p for Associate Members) and
- (b) that the Administrative Council be requested to realise Seed Division Investments, when it considered it appropriate, to pay off the Seed Division's deficit.

The Committee also resolved to request the Administrative Council to give urgent consideration to a Scheme for the merging of the finances of the two Divisions of the Association. It was envisaged that membership of the Association as opposed to membership of a Division would be granted and members would pay one Subscription on a graduated scale with a minimum of say £10. The Seed Division Committee recommended that careful consideration/

consideration be given to the Scheme for graduated Subscriptions to ensure that the smaller ware Merchant businesses in the bigger cities would not be unfairly penalised. It was recognised by the Seed Division Committee that it may be necessary to retain a Capital Account for the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato Trade Association as it was under this condition that the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato Trade Association agreed to the formation of the present Association. It was understood, however, that this condition had been attached to the transfer of the funds for the reason that these funds, in the event of the dissolution of this Association, were earmarked to be paid over to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato Trade Benevolent Society. It was pointed out, however, that all the Association funds, in the event of a dissolution, were earmarked to be paid over to the Benevolent Society in terms of the Constitution.

POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. A.D. Williamson reported on a meeting between representatives of the Potato Trades Consortium and the Ministry of Agriculture in London on 9th March, 1972 at which details of the proposed subsidy to processors of potato granules had been given. At the same meeting the Ministry of Agriculture had invited the Potato Trade to state their opinion on the policy to be adopted by the Ministry in their negotiations with the Common Market countries. Mr. Williamson also reported on a meeting of the Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 29th March. At that meeting it was again agreed to defer the submitting of an Application for Membership of the European Union until the member Associations of the Consortium had had an opportunity of considering the most recent letter received from the Union. It was also agreed that the Consortium would formulate a Common Market policy to be recommended to the Ministry. With a view to obtaining suggestions for that policy it was agreed that the members of the Seed Division Committee should let the Secretary have their written proposals for such a policy within the/

the seven days following the Committee Meeting. The proposals of the Seed Division Committee members would be sent to the Association's representatives on the Consortium, Mr. Williamson and Mr. Fordyce, in order that they may compile a suggested policy to put forward on behalf of the Association.

J.C.C. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Council of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 29th March. At that meeting the Potato Marketing Board had given the up to date potato stock figures and details of their Buying Programme. At that meeting consideration had been given to the Board's proposals for Grading Standards for the 1972 crop. Mr. Williamson added that at a recent meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division it had been resolved to make the following recommendations to the Potato Marketing Board:-

- (a) The Grades should be known as "Minimum Grade" and "Table Grade".
- (b) For "Minimum Grade" it should not be permitted for there to be more Scab than 50% of the surface area of all Tubers in the consignment, and
- (c) "Table Grade" potatoes destined for sale by retail should require to be contained in new bags and other ware sales (e.g. to processors, pre-packers, etc.) should be permitted to be contained in second-hand bags.

Mr. Williamson also informed the meeting that the P.M.B. had decided in principle to proceed with the introduction of a system of labelling of ware potato containers. The Board had formed a Working Party to formulate a workable system. Mr. James Robertson, the Convener of the Ware Division Committee was the Association's representative on the Working Party. The Seed Division Committee confirmed its earlier opinion that labelling of ware potato containers was unnecessary and should continue to be resisted.

NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL. Mr. Williamson reported on the meeting between representatives/

representatives of the Association and representatives of the National Joint Council of British Potato and Vegetable Merchants' Associations held on 7th March. He stated that the meeting had proved to be most successful and it had been clear that the National Joint Council and S.P.T.A. had similar view points on many very important matters. As a result of the success of the meeting, it had been agreed to hold regular half yearly meetings with the National Joint Council.

H. TODD PRESENTATION DINNER. It was agreed to make arrangements for the Presentation Dinner for Mr. H. Todd to mark his retiral as Divisional Supervisor of the Potato Marketing Board to be held in the Gleneagles area on the evening of 25th May, 1972 following the Association Golf Outing. It was arranged that Mr. Williamson would ascertain if Mr. Todd would be available that evening. It was further resolved that the Secretary would contact the Ruthven Tower Hotel, Auchterarder, to make the necessary arrangements based on the assumption that a maximum of 80 members would be attending. It was further agreed that members should be invited to contribute £1 per firm towards the presentation. It was further agreed that Mr. Craig Davie, Mr. Todd's successor as Divisional Supervisor would be invited as a Guest to the Dinner.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Administrative Council of the Association held in Edinburgh on 16th March, 1972.

B.A.E.C. Mr. George Luke reported on a meeting convened by the British Agricultural Export Council which he had attended along with Mr. Gordon Gyle at Ingliston, Edinburgh, on 22nd March, 1972. It was agreed that the Secretary should send out to members a circular requesting them to indicate if they wish to be sent details of any export enquiries received by the Association. Thereafter export enquiries received would only be sent to those members who had indicated a wish to be notified.

EUROPEAN TRIP. It was agreed to consider making arrangements for an Association/

Association trip to European countries at the end of January, 1973.

The Secretary was instructed to make preliminary enquiries from members to ascertain if there was sufficient interest in such a trip to justify the making of the necessary arrangements.

RAIL TRANSPORT. It was reported that one Association member had complained that British Railways were requiring two men to be supplied to assist with the loading of railway vans in excess of 10 tons. It was agreed to raise this matter with British Railways at the annual meeting to be held in the summer.

FREIGHT LINERS. The Secretary was instructed to invite a representative of Freight Liners to meet the members of the Committee of the Seed Potato Division. It was suggested that their representative could join the next Committee Meeting at 3.30 p.m.

OLIVETTI. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had been approached by Olivetti who were anxious to attend a Committee Meeting to explain their Accounting system suitable for Potato Merchants. Olivetti had offered the use of a meeting room for the Committee in Dundee free of charge. The Secretary was instructed to decline Olivetti's invitation.

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 12 noon on Wednesday, 31st May, 1972.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James Fordyce