

MINUTE of MEETING of the JOINT
LIAISON COMMITTEE held at 8 Manor
Place, EDINBURGH, at 10.30 a.m. on
WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 1974.

PRESENT:- N.A.S.P.M. Messrs. E. Sherriff, R. Beeson, R. Fell and D. Smith.
S.P.T.A. Messrs. J. Fordyce, T. McClung, J. Robertson,
D.H. Lindsay and I. Barr.

Mr. R. David Hunter, the Secretary of the S.P.T.A. was
in attendance.

Mr. James Fordyce was in the Chair.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. M.
Strickland (N.A.S.P.M.) and A.K. Powrie (S.P.T.A.).

VEINAL NECROSIS. Mr. Hunter read to the meeting a letter which he had
received from the Department of Agriculture stating their proposals with
regard to the introduction of a tolerance in 1975 for V.N.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF SEED POTATOES. Mr. Sherriff referred to the very
serious cases of poor germination in English crops derived from Scottish
seed potatoes. He expressed the opinion that one result of these crops
could be a resistance in English buyers to accepting seed potatoes which
had been treated with Fusarex. N.A.S.P.M. had received statistics from
the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales of cases of poor
germination and crop failures in 1974. Mr. Barr stated that the S.P.T.A.
had issued a circular to its members drawing to their attention the
necessity of ensuring that any chemical treatment applied was strictly
in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. He expressed the
opinion that in England there had been a lack of information being made
available to growers of the true cause of the cases of crop failure. All
of the cases could be attributed to the one source in Scotland where
seed had been contaminated with C.I.P.C. He suggested that English
growers should be advised that Fusarex properly applied would not hinder
proper germination. Mr. Sherriff, however, was of the opinion that
it may not be prudent for the N.A.S.P.M. to issue any information regarding
chemical treatment as such publicity might do more harm than good. Mr.
Smith/

Smith stated that it was up to the Trade to ensure, wherever possible, that growers are kept informed of the necessity of proper chemical treatment. Mr. Fordyce stated that merchants must endeavour to find out if seed which they are handling had been treated with chemicals. Mr. Hunter expressed the opinion that a breach of the Seed Potato Regulations (e.g. failure to give notification of chemical treatment) would not in itself render a commercial contract void.

CONDITIONS OF SALE. There was discussion with regard to the necessity of amending the Conditions of Sale adopted by N.A.S.P.M. and S.P.T.A. as a result of the introduction of metrication and also to take account of R.U.C.I.P. Rules. Mr. Smith stated that the translation of the R.U.C.I.P. Rules was at present being printed. The possibility of keeping the alterations to the Conditions of Sale to the absolute minimum was considered. This could be achieved by continuing to have similar conditions to those at present in operation for inter United Kingdom trade and restricting the R.U.C.I.P. Rules for use in inter Common Market trade. The main alteration which would require to be carried out to the existing Conditions of Sale would be to specify the tolerance for dressing errors by a percentage as opposed to quoting an imperial weight.

Mr. Smith stated that the change over to metrication so far as affecting potatoes must be carried out in Scotland and England on the same date. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium. It was considered, however, that if new Conditions of Sale were to be recommended they must be finalised not later than September, 1975. It was agreed to have further discussion upon the possible amendment of the Conditions at the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee.

METRICATION. Mr. Hunter stated that at a meeting of the Seed Committee of S.P.T.A., the following conversions of riddle sizes to metric measurements/

measurements had been suggested:-

Seed	35 centimeters	- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
	55 do.	- 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ do.
	50 do.	- 2 do.
Ware	40 centimeters	- 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ do.

It was reported that the N.A.S.P.M. was investigating the supply to its members of pocket metric gauges. It was agreed that samples of these gauges would be sent to Mr. Hunter in order that the likely market for their purchase in Scotland might be ascertained.

GROUND KEEPERS. Mr. Fell stated that his Association had received one or two complaints from members regarding rogues in foundation stock, particularly foundation Crown and King Edward from the Angus area. Mr. Barr stated that there was no obvious explanation for the incidence of rogues in F.S. It was agreed to raise this matter with the Department at the afternoon meeting. Mr. Barr suggested the following possible reasons for the increase in Ground Keepers:-

- (a) Mild winters;
- (b) More grain crops;
- (c) New potato varieties, and
- (d) Increased use of potato harvesters.

WART DISEASE. In reply to Mr. Sherriff, Mr. Fordyce expressed the opinion that the acreage of non immune garden varieties (e.g. Sharp's Express, Epicure and Duke of York) in 1975 would show an increase as compared with 1974 as a result in the relaxation of the Wart Disease Regulations.

CERTIFICATION SCHEME. It was agreed to ascertain from the Department the likely date for the introduction of the ban on the planting of uncertified seed potatoes.

Mr. Sherriff referred to an example of uncertified seed potatoes (P.C.E. affected) being offered for sale from Scotland. The N.A.S.P.M. members pointed out that as a result of the recent regulations, it was now obligatory for seed, whether certified or uncertified, to be produced from a crop planted/

planted in a field which had been subjected to a pre-crop soil test. The S.P.T.A. representative expressed some doubt as to the accuracy of the N.A.S.P.M.'s interpretation of the regulations. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the afternoon meeting with the Department. It was further agreed to request from the Department at the afternoon meeting, clarification with regard to the dispensation permitting the sale of Scab affected samples of seed potatoes.

DESPATCHES OF SCOTCH SEED - 1974/75 SEASON. Mr. Fell referred to the problems which had been experienced in the 1973/74 season resulting from a shortage of freightliners. Freightliners were indicating that there would be adequate vans available for the 1974/75 season with the possible exception of November, 1974.

SCOTTISH INSPECTORS' VISIT TO DEVON AND WEST WALES. Mr. Fell expressed the opinion that the annual visit of Scottish Department officials to England and Wales was a good exercise and should be continued in future years. It was noted that no report had been received from the Department in respect of their 1974 trip.

FOREIGN TRIP. Mr. Hunter read to the meeting details of the itinerary of a trip to West Germany in January or February 1975 being considered by S.P.T.A. Mr. Smith expressed the opinion that January or February was not a particularly convenient time for N.A.S.P.M. members. He added that the National Joint Council were proposing to arrange a trip to Holland and Belgium during March 1975. Mr. Fell stated that Germany would be of interest to N.A.S.P.M. members and that his Association would be happy to co-operate with S.P.T.A. provided a more suitable date could be arranged. It was agreed, however, that S.P.T.A. would ascertain from its members the likely support which there would be to a visit to Germany in January/February 1975. If it appeared that there was sufficient interest to warrant arrangements for the trip being made, N.A.S.P.M. would be happy to circulate details of the arrangements to its members.

DATE/

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee in London on Monday, 2nd December, 1974. The meeting would take the form of a Lunch followed by a discussion. The N.A.S.P.M. are to make the necessary arrangements.

LEAFROLL. The N.A.S.P.M. members stated that English merchants would like to see Scottish growers spraying their potato crops with an insecticide treatment to prevent the spread of aphids. The N.A.S.P.M. expressed the opinion that English growers will not be prepared to accept the continued increase in Leafroll being experienced in crops derived from Scottish seed potatoes. It was agreed to raise this matter with the Department of Agriculture at the afternoon meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.