

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMITTEE
of the WARE POTATO DIVISION of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the NORTH BRITISH HOTEL,
GLASGOW, at 12 noon on THURSDAY,
14th NOVEMBER, 1974.

PRESENT: Messrs. J. Robertson. T. McClung, I.P. Fulton, A.D. Williamson,
A. Henderson, M.K. Mathie, P. MacDougall and J. Fordyce.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. D.A.
Lawson, J. Aitken and G. Dryden.

MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of the Ware Potato Division
held on 25th April, 1974 was approved and signed. The Minute of Meeting of
said Committee of 23rd July, 1974 (at which a quorum had not been present) was
taken as read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING -

- (a) Weights and Measures. In view of the attitude of the Paisley Inspector
of Weights and Measures, the Secretary was instructed to write a
reminder to the Department of Trade and Industry to seek an up to
date report on the present position of the Association's application
for exemption from the Regulation requiring pre-packs to be marked
with the country of origin of foreign potatoes.
- (b) P.M.B. Potato Prices. The Secretary informed the meeting that indications
were that the P.M.B. were gradually coming round to agreeing to quote
a "Bags inclusive" price for potatoes in their Press Report. The
Secretary was instructed to arrange to have this matter placed on
the Agenda of the next meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium
for their consideration.
- (c) Ware Price Circular. The Secretary reported the following statistics
obtained as a result of the circular sent out to members of the Ware
Division requesting their observations regarding the Association's
weekly shopping prices for potatoes:- 116 circulars issued and 54
replies/

replies received of whom 21 did not wish to receive the Bulletin.

The 21 included 10 who were at that time receiving the Bulletin.

Of the 33 who wish to receive the Bulletin, 26 wished it to continue by post and 7 wished the introduction of an "answer phone" service.

In view of the considerable majority in favour of continuing the circulars as at present, it was agreed not to introduce any change to the present system.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Administrative Council of the Association held in Dunblane on Tuesday, 23rd July, 1974.

RAIL TRANSPORT. The Secretary reported on the annual meeting with British Railways held in the Station Hotel, Perth, on 14th August, 1974. Arising out of that report the Secretary was instructed to ascertain if British Railways had agreed to cancel the Christmas and New Year embargo so far as affecting ware potatoes.

ASSOCIATION'S EXPORT COMMITTEE. The Secretary reported on the first meeting of the Association's Export Committee held in Perth on 13th September, 1974. At that meeting it had been resolved to nominate Messrs. David A. Lawson and R.A. McLean to be the Association's representatives on the P.M.B. Export Development Committee.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Mr. James Robertson reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Edinburgh on 17th October, 1974. At that meeting up to date statistics of the estimated supply position for potatoes had been given by the P.M.B.

BRITISH POTATO TRADES CONSORTIUM. Mr. Robertson reported on the meetings of the British Potato Trades Consortium held in London on 9th September and 4th November. At the meeting of 9th September there had been discussion regarding the likely availability in 1975 of Cyprus potatoes. At the meeting on 4th November it had been reported that the translated text of/
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of the R.U.C.I.P. Rules was now at the printers and would be available early in the new year. At that meeting it had been agreed to invite the Potato Processors and Canning Committee of the F.M.F. to become members of the Consortium. They had also considered the draft Paper prepared by Mr. Aves concerning proposals for potato Regulations within the Common Market. It had been agreed that a revised Memorandum should be drawn up in time for further discussion at the next meeting of the Consortium to be held on 6th January, 1975. The Consortium had also discussed metrication. It had been reported that the Metrication Board had arranged a meeting of Horticultural Associations to be held on 21st November. It was arranged that Mr. James Robertson would represent the Association at that meeting. Mr. Robertson produced to the Ware Division Committee a Paper prepared by Produce Packers suggesting prescribed weights for pre-packs. The Committee considered that the legislation should be much more flexible than the scheme proposed by Produce Packers. It was agreed that Mr. Robertson should propose that the minimum weight for pre-packs should be half a kilo and that pre-packs should be permitted by half kilo intervals up to a maximum weight of twelve and one-half kilos. It was further agreed that the Trade must have at least twelve months of a transitional period during which both metric and imperial weights may be used. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Metrication Board in advance of the forthcoming meeting to express the views of the Committee. It was further agreed to endeavour to obtain the views of Association members regarding the actual weights to be used for pre-packs of potatoes. Possible weights suggested at the Committee meeting were 1 kilo, 2 kilos, 4 kilos and 6 kilos.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. Mr. Robertson reported upon the meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in London on 9th September and 4th November.

WARE DIVISION OPEN MEETING. The Secretary reported on the Open Meeting of the/
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the Ware Division held in the Mount Vernon Hotel, Glasgow, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th November. 24 members of the Association had attended the meeting which, it was considered, had been a considerable success.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Ware Division in Glasgow during January, 1975. To encourage members to attend the Annual General Meeting, it was agreed to endeavour to arrange for the presence of one or two guest speakers. It was arranged that Mr. M.K. Mathie would approach Freight Transport Association to invite them to supply a guest speaker on the subject "Activities of F.T.A. and costing of lorries". It was agreed that metrication should also be discussed at the A.G.M.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. The Secretary reported on the present position regarding nominations for filling the annual vacancies on the Ware Committee as from 1st December, 1974.

FOREIGN TRIP. The Secretary reported on the up to date position with regard to the arrangements for an Association trip to West Germany in February, 1975. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

James O. Mathie