

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of
the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held at the Hydro Hotel, DUNBLANE at
1.15p.m. on THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER, 1977

PRESENT:

Messrs. J. O. Robertson, I. H. Barr, D. H. Lindsay, J.G.H. Fenton,
B. Fulton, J. George, J. Henderson, J. R. McArthur, D. Maxwell,
J. Waddell, A. D. Williamson, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and
D. Blackmore in attendance.
Mr. J. O. Robertson, President, occupied the Chair

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies on behalf of Messrs. J. Aitken,
A. J. Allan, J. P. Deuchar, R. Doig, W. Gordon, T. McClung, P.
McDougall and J. Wardlaw.

MINUTES:

The Minute of Meeting of Council held on 3rd August, 1977 (copies of
which had been previously circulated to each member of Council) was
taken as read and was formally approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

- (a) Curling. The Secretary reported the dates for the fixtures for
both legs of the annual North v. South match which had also been
circulated to all Association Members.
- (b) European Union Congress 1976. The Secretary reported that the
final accounting had been considered and approved at the British
Potato Trades Consortium meeting on 12th September, 1977 when it
was unanimously agreed to donate the small surplus balance thereof
(£92.67) to Mr. Hunter's firm.
- (c) Membership and Subscriptions. The Secretary reported that in
respect of subscriptions outstanding from C.W.S. and Ross Seed
Potatoes, further contacts indicated these would be received shortly.
Council agreed further time for payment be extended.

The Secretary next reported that in response to formal invitations
Pickerton Potatoes (Angus) Ltd., Williamson (Perth) Ltd. and R. E.
Bailey and Sons (Perth) Ltd. had all now returned duly completed
forms of application for Association membership. After discussion
it was agreed their applications be accepted with effect from 1st
November, 1977 but that their names be added to the Association
mailing list immediately.

Mr. Blackmore reported notification of granting of P.M.B. Licences
to these new members and to North West Fruiterers Ltd. (Kyle of
Lochalsh). Council agreed this firm be formally invited to apply
for membership. He also reported notification that three further
firms have applied for P.M.B. Licences - D. Corrigall Ltd. (Dunning)
J. and E. Smillie (Montrose) Ltd. and Heather Prepacks Ltd.
(Carnoustie). Council agreed that when these licences had been
granted, these firms also be formally invited to apply for Association
Membership. Mr. Blackmore also reported receipt of an unsolicited
application from J. A. Robertson and Co. (Fruiterers) Ltd. (Inverness)
which firm Council Agreed be formally invited to become an Association
Member.

- (d) United Biscuits Ltd. The Secretary next explained in detail
further developments in this member's dispute regarding Department
certified seed. After discussion it was agreed the Association
continue to hold a watching brief in the matter.

NATIONAL
FARMERS
UNION OF
SCOTLAND

Mr. Barr next reported fully on the meeting with the N.F.U.S. in
Edinburgh on 8th August, 1977. After a full discussion of the
Certification/

Certification Scheme, preliminary results, crop health and prospects following prohibition of the sale of uncertified seed, the discussions had turned to introduction of a further certified grade (N.F.U.S. were against lowering standards but would not speak against a "catch" grade in the Seed Potato Working Party), improvement of higher grades and a possible burning down programme. Council fully discussed these points, prior to the next Working Party meeting on 5th October.

PLANT
ROYALTY
BUREAU:

Mr. Barr also reported briefly on the informal (social) meeting with the Bureau in Peebles on 15th August, 1977. All sections of the agricultural industry were represented and obviously shared our concern at the Bureau's non-consultative behaviour which point the Bureau hopefully seemed to have noted.

BRITISH
POTATO
TRADES
CONSORTIUM:

Mr. Robertson followed by reporting on the Consortium meeting held in London on the morning of 12th September, 1977. Opening with RUCIP matters and agreement to support (higher priced) French Scales of Inspectors fees and expenses, a metrication report could now be updated by explaining that a draft Order was now in the pipeline to be placed before Parliament in November to become effective on 1st January, 1979 requiring dual weight marking of 25Kg. bags. Council approved Mr. Barr's proposal to circularise Association members strongly recommending earliest adoption of dual marking of all paper sacks "Metric Pack - 25Kg. (55.1 lbs) - when packed". In reply to Mr. Henderson, Mr. Robertson fully explained the present position of metric changeover including no change to date in small prepacks.

He continued his report covering Royalty licencing, draft E.E.C. Regulations (no further forward), variety marking on bags, student courses, OECD international standards, European Union Congress 1977, NASPM/Ministry Plant health meeting (new English Seed Regulations to implement E.E.C. Directive), Crop reports, Consortium Membership application by Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Services (Council endorsed non-acceptance) and financial reports.

JOINT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Robertson also reported on the meeting of this committee held in the afternoon of 12th September, 1977 at which reports on the potato supply position and prospects, the standard of dressing inspections and visits, processing and marketing, certified seed inspection Scheme, ware publicity programme and weight marking were presented. Council further discussed several of these points.

PROMOTION
ASSOCIATION:

The Secretary next read a letter from the N.F.U.S. (which provides Secretarial Services for the Scotch Seed Potato Promotion Association Working Party) covering a consultative Paper received yesterday, copies of which were provided for attending members. The Association's delegate (Mr. Fenton) enlarged upon various points which Council discussed but it was agreed the requested answer could not be provided without deeper study. It was therefore resolved to hold a further special (additional) meeting of Council at the Station Hotel, Perth at 2p.m. on Tuesday 18th October, the Agenda for which would be restricted to discussion of the Promotion Paper, a report on the Seed Potato Working Party meeting of 5th October, 1977, consideration of the new draft (Scottish) Seed Potato Regulations and a report on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee meeting on 13th October, 1977 and the Secretary was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

N.S.D.O.
WORKING
PARTY:

Mr. Barr reported on the meeting of the Working Party on Exports in London on 20th September, 1977. He explained the Association's basic/

basic aim to limit licencing to exporters (and exclude home grower free from the system) has been achieved by amending the ordinary Potato Licence to synchronise. The meeting was very workmanlike and useful, point by point consideration providing amendments to be incorporated into a revised draft Licence to be prepared which will include actual fees, rates and bases of charge. The Trade had been unitedly adamant that further contracts on the Matutano / Croft, Bard and Drayton basis shall not be negotiated and Mr. Bullock had indicated that non-N.S.D.O. varieties would also want to adopt the same finalised (Export) Licence in due course.

Council's subsequent discussions reverted to the new draft growers licence which the Secretary confirmed accepted the Association's technical corrections but not their amendments on policy points and it was agreed to seek wording alterations to differentiate "grower" away from "merchant".

CERTIFICATION
SCHEME:

Mr. Robertson next summarised the Department's Paper on Seed Potato Production already circulated to Council members and invited comment to brief the Association's delegates to the Seed Potato Working Party meeting on 5th October, 1977. After prolonged and lively discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Association should insist on the introduction of a progressive "area-by-area", or "County-by-County", ban on the planting of uncertified seed (including home saved seed) in Scotland, a ban on the sale of FS1 and FS2 grade to English growers, the introduction of an extra "certified" A.A. ("catch") grade and that Departmental clone production be "under glass only".

ANY OTHER
COMPETENT
BUSINESS:

(a) Agenda for JLC Meeting. The Secretary read NASPM proposals for inclusion in the Agenda for the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee on 19th October, 1977. Apart from inclusion of ADAS testing of Scotch Seed and revision of Conditions of Sale which would no doubt arise anyway, it was agreed no addition to the proposals was necessary.

(b) Annual Elections. Mr. Flackmore explained that, to the closing date today, seven nominations for the six vacancies had been received. Only one (renomination of Mr. W. Gordon) was in respect of the Inverness/Ross and Cromarty District and Council ruled he was thus returned unopposed. Thus six candidates remained for five vacancies and the Secretary was instructed to issue ballot papers accordingly.

(c) Association Dinner/Dance. The Secretary explained that a provisional booking for this function existed and Council agreed he should call a meeting of the Entertainments Committee to proceed with the usual arrangements.

(d) Association Trip 1978. The Secretary next pointed out that time required early consideration of a venue for a foreign visit next year. After a short discussion it was agreed that Stita Farm Tours be asked to provide a draft proposed itinerary and relative estimated costs to visit Portugal for consideration and the Secretary was instructed accordingly.

(e) Date of next meeting. It was agreed that in view of the invitation already extended to and accepted by the Department of Agriculture/

Agriculture, the meeting of Council previously agreed to be held in Dunblane on Wednesday 26th October, 1977 would still be held, despite the additional special meeting in Perth on 18th October, 1977 instructed as above.

The meeting thereupon concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

James O. Park