

MINUTE of MEETING of the
ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE
of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held at 8, Kinnoull Street, Perth at 2p.m.
on MONDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 1977.

PRESENT:

Messrs. A. K. Powrie, P. Miller and J. R. McArthur, with Messrs. R. D. Hunter (the Secretary) and D. Blackmore in attendance.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J. H. Barr and D. H. Lindsay.

The Secretary having tabled copies of the Statement of Account for the Association Dinner Dance 1976 commented briefly thereon. The cash balance in hand had increased from £45.29 to £55.95 as a result of the function, due principally to an increase in tickets sold (from 134 in 1975) to 166 and a reduction of guests (from six in 1975) to four. The Account was formally approved.

Consideration was next given to suggested Menus obtained from the Station Hotel, Perth and a statement of comparative estimates prepared by Mr. Blackmore, copies of both of which were also tabled. The very marked increase in menu costs was noted against a very minor increase in 1976 (where inflation rates were much higher). Mr. Blackmore was concerned that a minimum indicated ticket cost of £7.50, an increase of 25% (over 1976), in a time of much depressed trading prices would seriously reduce the number of tickets sold. After discussion the Committee decided to proceed on the basis of an adjusted menu to be negotiated as near £6.50 per head as possible, with a view to tickets priced at £8.00 each and 150 applicants.

The Menu was agreed as follows:- Consommé, Haddock Otero, Roast Turkey with (plenty of) roast and boiled potatoes, with peas followed by Scotch Trifle and then coffee, to include Coffee or Tea with sandwiches Buffet style from the end of Whist and closing at midnight. The Secretary undertook to negotiate this cost with the hotel and, unless unsuccessful in obtaining an acceptable price (in which case he would re-contact Committee Members for further instructions) he would proceed to circularise all Association member inviting applications for tickets to be returned by Monday 28th November, 1977. If necessary a further meeting of Committee could be called before Smithfield Week (5th - 9th December, 1977), failing which the next meeting of Committee would take place at the Station Hotel, Perth to finalise the Seating Plan at 3p.m. on Friday, 16th December, 1977.

It was also agreed that Willie Simpson be asked to provide the Band again this year (without trying to reduce it to four players) and to ensure that it played continuously from 11p.m. until 2a.m. : to limit expenditure on prizes to £20 and to discontinue payment of gratuities.

Discussion next turned to invitation of official guests, during which it was agreed to extend invitations to the Chairman (and his wife) of the British Potato Trades Consortium (D. H. Smith, Esq.), the President (and his wife) of the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants (Christopher Baker, Esq.) and the President (and his wife) of the National Joint Council, the Secretary being instructed accordingly.

There being no further business the meeting thereupon closed.