

MINUTE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE SCOTCH SEED POTATO EXHIBITORS
held at 8, Kinnoull Street PERTH at
11.30 am on Friday, 31st, AUGUST, 1979

PRESENT: David Lindsay (Potato Merchants) Ltd., (D.H. Lindsay Esq.); David Mackie & Sons Ltd. (G. Mackie, Esq. Jnr.); Messrs. McKenzie Bros. (K.A. McKenzie, Esq.); Messrs. J&E Smillie (Gordon Smillie, Esq.) and W.G. Whitton Ltd. (J. Laing, Esq.), with R. David Hunter, (Secretary) and D. Blackmore in attendance.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies received from J. H. Barr, Esq., (ex officio); A. Denholm, Esq., Messrs. P.L. Fordyce (P. Miller, Esq.); G. Henderson & Co. (G. Henderson, Esq.); G.D. Maxwell Ltd. (D. Maxwell, Esq.); Robert Morris & Son Ltd. (R.S. Morris Esq.); and Stokes Bomford Ltd. (S. Whitehead, Esq.).

1978
ROYAL
SMITHFIELD
SHOW:

(a) Account:- The Meeting first considered the 1978 Show Account (copies of which had been pre-circulated to each Group Member). Opening with a Balance of £463.76 in hand and adding Contributions of £55 each from 26 Members (£1430) and after tax interest of £65.73, the Account Credits totalled £1959.49. Payments (including Site Rent £290.40 and Stand costs £1087) totalled £1664.06, leaving a Balance of £295.43 to be carried down. Mr. Blackmore pointed out that reduction of the cash balance (in the event by £168.33, representing almost £6.50 per Member) had been an intentional part of last year's Estimates.

Mr. McKenzie felt the expenses of the Stand attendant were insufficiently realistic by current standards and proposed this item be increased by £50. Mr. Blackmore protested the figure shown, together with the privileges he enjoyed, more than adequately compensated the modest duties he performed but the Meeting adopted Mr. McKenzie's proposal and instructed that the Balance carried forward be adjusted at the commencement of the next Account. Mr. Blackmore thanked the Meeting for its undeserved generosity. supported by 23 questionnaires returned by Members, the Meeting formally approved and adopted the 1978 Account.

(b) Arrangements:- In a short discussion the Meeting agreed a single telephone had caused delays for Group Members. It was decided that participation in future Shows would include two telephones, both with Watch Receivers.

ORGANISING
COMMITTEE: The Secretary explained the Group has no formal Constitution and Rules and thus the Appointment of an organising Committee should be decided by this Annual General Meeting. To regularise the matter in these circumstances it was unanimously agreed to re-appoint Messrs. K. McKenzie, Gordon Smillie, D. Stephen and D. Stewart to serve a further term, along with the President, Vice President (both ex officio) and one Nominee (presently D. Maxwell, Esq.) of the Scottish Potato Trade Association.

1979
ROYAL
SMITHFIELD
SHOW

(a) Arrangements:- With this year's A.G.M. so much delayed the Secretary explained he had taken the precaution of booking the usual Stand Site. The Committee had ratified this action at its Meeting on 10th August, instructed an Estimate to be obtained from the usual Standfitter and recommended that the A.G.M. should agree to participate in the 1979 show. Today's Meeting formally adopted this recommendation.

(b) Contributions:- After considering Estimates of the cost of such participation (copies of which were tabled for Members today) and taking account of possible Membership changes, the Committee had also recommended that initial Contributions from Members should be fixed at £75 each (£85 each for any new Members, to take account of accumulated cash reserves) plus V.A.T at 15%.

(c)

(c) Membership:— Mr. Blackmore reported that among the questionnaires since returned by Members, Charles Beattie Ltd., Messrs. Powrie Bros. and George Ramsay & Sons Ltd. had declined to participate in the 1979 Show. He also read out Mr. Powrie's covering explanatory and encouraging note to the Meeting. Allowing for these and other anticipated changes in Membership (including the enrollment of Stokes Bomford Ltd. now confirmed) and in the cost Estimates, required no revision of the Committees recommended rates of Contribution. To-day's Meeting formally adopted the Committee's recommendation and instructed the Secretary to remind all Members that should an Income shortfall or unforeseen expenditure occur a Supplementary Contribution may be required.

ANY OTHER
COMPETENT
BUSINESS

(a) Stand size and 1980 Show:— The Secretary explained the Committee had considered the possibility of reverting to the former larger-sized Stand for the 1980 Show and had instructed preparation of comparative cost Estimates for discussion by today's Meeting.

Basing upon estimated total expenditure of £1950 for the usual-sized Stand at the forthcoming 1979 Show, this could reasonably be projected to cost about £2150 in 1980 and (ignoring Cash Reserves and Bank Interest) would require Contributions of about £85 each from say 25 members.

Setting aside probable difficulty in securing a larger site for the 1980 Show and again ignoring Cash Reserves and Bank Interest, total expenditure for the former-sized Stand at the 1980 Show, on the same reasonable projection, could be expected to amount to about £3850. Assuming 25 Members shared this cost, each Contribution would be about £150. Should the Membership decline to 20, each Contribution would be about £190 while, if Membership could be increased to 30, each would require to contribute about £130. It was agreed Mr. Blackmore would conduct a full Survey of all Members views on these discussions during the 1979 Show.

(b) New Members:— In a short discussion it was decided to pursue normal recruiting procedure among SPTA Members but not to press Peter Darlington Partners Ltd. to join the Group and to decline any involvement with the proposed new Scottish Seed Potato Association in the unlikely event that an approach is received. The possibility of special manning of the Stand during the Sunday afternoon Overseas Visitors Preview, to encourage exporters to join the Group, was briefly considered but a decision was deferred.

The Meeting then concluded.