

MINUTE of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SCOTCH SEED POTATO EXHIBITORS held at 8, Kinnoull Street, PERTH at 11.30 a.m on Wednesday, 1st OCTOBER, 1980.

PRESENT: Central Farmers Ltd. (Mr. D. Stephen), Messrs. McKenzie Bros. (Mr. K.A. McKenzie) and Robertson of Perth Ltd. (Mr. D. Stewart), with D. Blackmore in attendance.

Mr. K.A. McKenzie (Convenor of the Group's Organising Committee) took the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of David T. Fenton & Sons Ltd., Messrs. P.L. Fordyce, Gordon & Innes Ltd., David Lindsay (Potato Merchants) Ltd., D. Mackie & Sons Ltd., G. & D. Maxwell Ltd. Robert Morris & Sons Ltd., Alex. Simpson Ltd., Messrs. J. & E. Smillie, S. Thompson & Sons, Ltd. and R. David Hunter (Secretary).

1979 ACCOUNT: Opening consideration of the pre-circulated Account in respect of the Group's participation in the Royal Smithfield Show 1979, the Chairman pointed out that it did not give effect to the instructions of the Group's previous Annual General Meeting (on 31st August, 1979) in respect of additional Stand Attendant's expenses at the 1978 Show. The Organising Committee had resolved the mis-understanding of duplication underlying this omission and recommended the Account be adopted subject to re-affirmation of the instruction and its implementation in the 1980 Account.

Mr. Blackmore reported that eighteen questionnaires returned by Members had indicated approval of the 1979 Account. The Meeting thereupon adopted the 1979 Account subject to the Organising Committee's recommendation.

REVIEW OF  
1979 SHOW  
ARRANGE-  
MENTS:

Following a short general discussion the Meeting agreed the arrangements in respect of the Group's participation in the Royal Smithfield Show 1979 had proved satisfactory. Reflecting its confidence in the Group's Organising Committee the Meeting recorded a vote of thanks to the individual Committee Members for their efforts on behalf of all members of the Group.

1980 SHOW

The Chairman reported that the immediately preceding meeting of the Organising Committee had given very careful consideration indeed to the Group's participation in the Royal Smithfield Show 1980. Having regard to the fact that following application for and payment of the rental deposit the usual site had been allocated and the fact that twenty three members had expressed an intention to share the costs of the Group's participation in the Royal Smithfield Show, 1980, the Committee had felt bound to recommend that the Group should participate once again.

The Committee had also taken very serious account of the pronounced recessionary nature of the United Kingdom's present commercial environment in general and of the seed potato trade in particular. The Committee had decided it was essential to try to avoid further reduction in the Group's membership by minimising each member's share of costs. To this end it had pared estimated costs to essentials only, coupled with an encroachment upon the Group's Cash Reserves, to recommend the restriction of each Member's share of the costs of participating in the 1980 Show to £90 plus V.A.T. (new Members £105 each, plus V.A.T.).

RECRUITMENT: While the Meeting's consideration of these recommendations led to their formal adoption, pronounced concern in respect of their wider implications was quickly apparent. It was readily accepted that the Organising Committee's recommendation to undertake an intensive recruiting campaign must be accepted as a first priority. In this connection the Meeting recognised that while the Group's activities benefited its individual/

PUBLIC  
RELATIONS/

individual Members, they also provided an increasingly important public relations function for the whole Scottish Seed Potato industry. Indeed as was pointed out, the Group's Stand at the Smithfield Show provided the only specifically Scottish seed potato presence in an international setting in the United Kingdom every year. In the face of increasing competition on all sides the Meeting agreed it to be vital to retain this facility yet, with continuously escalating costs compounding diminishing Group membership, the public relations element had now become a larger financial consideration to be borne by the fewer participants.

SUPPORT/

With Group recruitment now restricted to S.P.T.A members the Meeting resolved to present these views firmly to Council of S.P.T.A (a) to enlist its support for an intensive campaign to recruit further Members to the Group (b) to seek its help to secure a wider awareness of the situation throughout the Trade and (c) to consider ways to obtain broader support for the public relations aspect of the Group's activities.

The Meeting then concluded with a Vote of thanks to the Chair.