

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at  
2 p.m. on Thursday, 14th MAY, 1981.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.G.H. Fenton, D. Maxwell, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson and G. Smillie, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The Vice President, Mr. J.G.H. Fenton, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, J. Fordyce, B. Fulton, W. Gordon, J. Henderson, D.H. Lindsay, T. McClung, J. Logan Milne, R.G. Ramsay and R. David Hunter (Secretary).

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: The Chairman explained the letter of 5th May, 1981 from D.A.F.S. copied to all Council Members contained firm assurances on both S.P.T.A. representation and on non-trading, (the two essential pre-conditions of a Development Council required by S.P.T.A.) and asked for further observations on the proposals of 18th March, 1981. Mr. Blackmore added the sheer bulk of that letter and enclosures had precluded copying them to other than Office Bearers. He also tabled a reply from D.A.F.S. up-dating (by inclusion of 52 late Returns) the detailed results of D.A.F.S.' poll of 1980 producers issued to the Press on 15th April, 1981.

The meeting felt the results were disappointing and clearly inconclusive. It was pointed out that S.S.P.A.'s claim a year ago that 70% of producers supported the formation of a Development Council had not been substantiated. Discussions questioned the justification for extending the closing date and indeed whether the results justified the formation of a Development Council at all. In this light it was agreed further comment on the proposals was not appropriate at present. Mr. Blackmore was instructed to complete a detailed analysis of the results (for circularisation to all Council Members in due course) and to draft a reply to D.A.F.S. incorporating these results in support of the meeting's views, for approval by the Secretary and the Office Bearers before being finalised and despatched.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 13th March, 1981 (copies of which had been posted to each Member of Council) was taken as read but, for want of a Quorum, could not be formally approved and was left on the Table.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Membership and Subscriptions - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of two further resignations - from The Central Fruit Co. Ltd., Edinburgh and Messrs. J.W. Adams (Potatoes), of Newburgh, Fife - and his inability to contact Messrs. Eden Valley Potatoes, Cupar, Fife. The meeting confirmed this latter member had ceased trading. Mr. Blackmore stated current year reduction of members thus now totalled six (against eight provided for in the annual Estimates) with the Membership Roll now reduced from 126 to 120 Members.

115 of these had now paid their 1980/81 Subscriptions, totalling £7,860. Subscriptions from five Members (Buchan Potato Co. Ltd., Peter Darlington Ltd., Messrs. Thos. Rowe & Sons, John Warnock (Montrose) Ltd. and Messrs. Williamson (Broxburn)) remained outstanding at today's date. The meeting agreed these Members be allotted a further seven days to make payment of their subscriptions. It was agreed Mr. Blackmore should finalise his detailed analysis of subscriptions received and send copies of it to each Member of Council for information in due course.

(b) Plant Royalties - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of a letter from Dr. Ian Dodd detailing the proposed style and content of the presentation to the Open Meeting of Members in Perth on Friday, 22nd May, 1981 and proposing inclusion of Dr. Richard Macer in the platform party to explain the/

the role of the Plant Royalty Bureau.

The meeting accepted the latter proposal and instructed Mr. Blackmore to invite Dr. Dodd, Mr. Lynch and Dr. Macer to lunch with the Office Bearers and the Secretary before the meeting. It was also agreed to provide Dr. Dodd with a list of Association Members as requested and to explain the Association has no information on the acreage and varietal details also requested. In conclusion the meeting agreed the whole Association membership be re-circularised urging a maximum possible attendance at the Open Meeting of Members.

(c) Conditions of Sale - After a brief re-discussion it was agreed this enquiry from a Member be left on the table. The Meeting also stressed the urgent requirement to revise the Association's Conditions of Purchase which Mr. Blackmore explained would progress immediately Mr. Hunter returned from holiday shortly.

(d) Golf Outing 1981 - Mr. McArthur reported briefly on this morning's meeting of the Entertainments Committee when player's handicaps and Draw details had been finalised. Mr. Blackmore added that details of the Draw would be posted to each player tomorrow.

WARE  
IMPORTS  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

The meeting took note of Mr. Lindsay's pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Ware Imports Advisory Committee in London on 18th March, 1981.

SCOTTISH  
SEED POTATO  
ASSOCIATION:

The Meeting also noted the pre-circulated Report on the meeting with the Scottish Seed Potato Association in Perth on 23rd March, 1981 which had led to receipt of the essential assurances reported under "Proposed Development Council" above.

SCOTTISH  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

Mr. McArthur gave a brief oral Report on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee he had attended, with Mr. Lindsay (vice Mr. Cook), in Edinburgh on 26th March, 1981. Supplemented by Mr. Blackmore quoting from the Board's own Report on the meeting, he recounted the widespread questioning of the Board's estimates of the supply position and potential surplus and the very strong pressure to improve sales-back for stock-feed arrangements.

SEED  
TRADE  
COMMITTEE:

The Chairman introduced the pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Seed Trade Committee held in Perth on 30th March, 1981. A broad measure of close agreement had been reached in preparation for the meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel to be reported upon later today. During a short discussion attention was drawn to the need to have regard for the effect that the proposed compulsory burning down of 1982 F.S. Crops would have on pre-crop contract prices.

SEED  
POTATO  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

The Chairman spoke briefly to his Report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee which he had attended in London on 31st March, 1981. He highlighted the fact that, whereas the Scottish industry was considering a proposed requirement for crops to be burned down within 21 days of inspection, D.A.F.S.' paper considered by this Committee had suggested burning down should be required within say 14 days of final inspection. He felt this revealed that the latter (14 day) represented D.A.F.S' ultimate intention.

SEED  
POTATO  
CONSULTATIVE  
PANEL:

The meeting next considered the pre-circulated Report on a (second) meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel held in Edinburgh on 24th April, 1981. During discussion it was suggested S.P.T.A. should also apply to be provided with a copy of the proposed separate (unpublished) register of "Elite" grade crops showing those in which Veinal Necrosis had been recorded during inspection. On balance it was agreed adoption of this suggestion would serve no useful purpose.

Mr. Blackmore reported that in reply to the reported intense and unanimous industry demand for an immediate decision on definition or rescindment/

rescindment of the proposed required burning down of 1981 V.T.S.C. crops, D.A.F.S. promised (deferred written) reply now to hand clarified none of the vagueness revealed during the meeting.

Discussion continued with reference to tuber diseases and a full consideration of the present unsatisfactory situation in respect of D.A.F.S.' and M.A.F.F.'s different interpretations of Powdery Scab regulations. The meeting agreed the incidence of this disease is cyclical and that new varieties appear to be more susceptible to it.

During consideration of proposed changes in respect of Eelworm testing arrangements (including proposed permanent fencing requirements) considerable misgivings became apparent. The point was also made that the proposed requirement to plant varieties resistant to P.C.E. will flood the market with an unsaleable surplus of such varieties.

ENTERTAINMENTS Mr. Blackmore explained briefly that the meeting of the Entertain-  
COMMITTEE: ments Committee held in Perth on 1st May, 1981 had formally authorised and set in train the arrangements for the 1981 Golf Outing which had been reported upon earlier today.

OTHER  
COMPETENT  
BUSINESS: (a) Correspondance - Mr. Blackmore reported that following a letter from Grampian Regional Council dated 23rd March, 1981 inviting S.P.T.A. participation in formation of a proposed Agricultural Committee, a further letter (of 6th May) now advised of an initial exploratory meeting in Aberdeen on 29th May. With little enthusiasm today's meeting agreed to ask Mr. Deuchar to try to attend this first meeting and report back to Council in due course.

(b) Date of Next Meeting - After a short discussion it was proposed that Council's next meeting be provisionally arranged to take place in the Station Hotel, Perth at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd July, 1981 and Mr. Blackmore was instructed accordingly.

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

D.H. Ennis