

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at
2 p.m. on Friday, 10th JULY, 1981.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, R. Doig, J. Fordyce, J. Henderson, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and R.G. Ramsay, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The President, Mr. D. Hendry Lindsay, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, B. Fulton, W. Gordon, D. Maxwell, T. McClung, J. Logan Milne, J.O. Robertson and G. Smillie.

MINUTES: The Minutes of Meetings of Council in Perth on 13th March, 1981 (left on the Table on 14th May, 1981) and on 14th May, 1981 (copies of both of which had been pre-circulated to each Member of Council), were taken as read. They were duly approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Scottish Seed Potato Development Council - This item was deferred until later in today's Agenda.

(b) Membership and Subscriptions - Mr. Blackmore reported that subsequent to preparation of the Subscriptions Analysis pre-circulated to all Members of Council, Buchan Potato Growers had now made payment of their 1981 Annual Subscription and had been restored to Membership. Only two Members (Peter Darlington Partners Ltd. and John Warnock (Montrose) Ltd.) had thus been suspended, reducing the total Membership Roll to 118.

He also reported detailed amendments to the P.M.B. List of Licensed Potato Merchants. Council instructed the Secretariat to write to invite The Firm of James Barrie (Kirkliston), Clark & Sinclair Ltd. (Dundee) and R.A. Hall & Co. Ltd. (Chirnside) to become Association members.

In respect of P.M.B.-notified Licence applications by MacKenzie West (Seeds) Ltd., (Blairgowrie), A.H. Thomson (N. Berwick) and a telephoned Membership-recommendation on behalf of A. Lawson, Esq., (Cupar), it was agreed to reconsider these for Association Membership when notified that they have been granted their Merchants Licences.

(c) Conditions of Sale and Purchase - The Secretary reported that the "Conditions" sub-Committee had met this morning and had made considerable progress in revision of the Conditions of Purchase, along the lines of last year's revised Conditions of Sale. He regretted the delay that had occurred in this respect but expected one further early meeting would suffice to complete a revised draft for Council's approval. In reply, he agreed present differences between revised Conditions of Sale and old Conditions of Purchase must be ended quickly but reminded Council that as the old Conditions of Purchase had been jointly adopted by S.P.T.A. and N.F.U.S., the latter should also approve the revision. It was felt this would now preclude the introduction of revised Conditions of Purchase for Season 1981. Council felt a mid-Season change over would be impractical and in respect that forward buying takes place it was agreed the situation should be explained to all Association Members in good time.

(d) Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)- (Eelworm) - The Secretary read a letter to hand in reply to an Association complaint on behalf of a Member. During discussion it was felt this amended facility information should be circularised ("low key") to all Association Members. On the other hand it was felt the amended requirements would increase/

the time of
increase the spread of (further advanced by/second inspection) PCN
infection and (especially) blackleg infection also.

It was felt these impracticalities indicated D.A.F.S.'
unawareness of the incidence of PCN likely to be uncovered. It was
considered whether D.A.F.S. letter should be simply acknowledged or
whether the Association should press its support for the Member's
own suggested alternative procedures, but no clear decision was
reached. Council also felt that since this year's changes stemmed from
export considerations and that post-harvest tests for PCN are reported
much more effective than in-field inspections, the former should be
applied to all exported stocks and the latter should be discontinued.

(e) Scottish Seed Potato Development Council - In respect that D.A.F.S.
had arranged to hold a meeting in Edinburgh on 15th July, 1981 to
discuss proposed (and pre-circulated) draft legislation to set up the
new Council, it was agreed that the Association would be represented
by Messrs. J.H. Barr, J. Fordyce, J.R. McArthur and R. David Hunter.

Council gave careful consideration to the draft document. It
was felt a specific marketing (buying and selling) prohibition should
be incorporated if possible and that a co-option capability might
replace the two (possible) appointments envisaged under head (4) of
the "composition" proposals. With two other Members of S.P.T.A. Council
also to be present in their other capacities, Council felt confident
that Association and Trade interests would be adequately safeguarded
at the forthcoming Meeting.

OPEN
ROYALTIES
MEETING:

The Chairman reported briefly on the Meeting of Members arranged in
Perth on 22nd May, 1981. It had been agreed that the disappointingly
very low attendance of Members reflected badly upon the Association
and created a stone cold atmosphere for an unsuccessful event.

BRITISH
RAIL AND
FREIGHT-
LINERS:

In the event that the S.P.T.A. Representative had been unable
to attend the annual meetings with British Rail and Freightliners in
London on 2nd June, 1981 Council noted a pre-circulated Report kindly
provided by N.A.S.P.M. The Secretariat was instructed to include the
salient details in the next News Letter to Members.

BRITISH
POTATO
TRADES
CONSORTIUM:

Council noted Mr. Fenton's pre-circulated Report on the meeting
of the British Potato Trades Consortium which he had attended with Mr.
Lindsay in London on 8th June, 1981. A brief discussion enlarged upon
some of the points in the Report.

JOINT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE:

Council also similarly noted Mr. Lindsay's pre-circulated Report
on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee which he had
attended with Mr. Fenton in London on 8th June, 1981.

SCOTTISH
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Mr. McArthur reported verbally on the meeting of the Scottish
Advisory Committee which he had attended with Mr. Cook in Peebles on
29th June, 1981. Much of the meeting had been taken up with historic
matters and repetition of information already reported. N.F.U.S.
representatives had criticised the P.M.B. miscalculation of the 1980/81
crop surplus, in defence of which the Board's representatives had
stressed the smallness of the error.

Mr. Cook added that Scottish Early Growers want the buying
programme brought back to an earlier date, to allow ground to be cleared
for planting following crops. It was pointed out that forward-contract
growing for processing precluded such crops being offered to the Board.
Mr. Kerslake (of the Board) had suggested the Board might take any such
contracted crops that failed off the market, but the Board's Vice-Chair-
man had quashed this idea. Other discussions had covered substitutions
and next year's arrangements.

ANY OTHER
COMPETENT
BUSINESS:

(a) Publication of Official Statistics - The Secretary reported that
further (now fully detailed) statistics of areas entered for growing
crop/

crop inspections in 1981 recently issued by D.A.F.S. had reached the hands of English Merchants before the Scottish Trade knew they had become available. Being commercially disadvantaged had led many Association Members to angry protest. Mr. Lindsay explained in detail the pressure he had been called upon to exert on D.A.F.S. to overcome the effect of industrial strike action by its computer-section staff. Mr. Blackmore pointed out that the figures had been issued almost three weeks earlier than in past years and under extreme (and very sensitive) difficulties, too. The fundamental mistake had occurred because changes in D.A.F.S. staff had not provided S.P.T.A. with a copy of the statistics the day before publication, as in earlier years.

Council was agreed that the damage done could not now be repaired and prolonged discussion showed unanimous determination to prevent a recurrence of this situation at any time in the future. Formulation of specific proposals to this end was hindered by lack of detailed information about qualifications for inclusion, and of the extent of, D.A.F.S.' mailing list. It was decided that it remains essential for S.P.T.A. (with N.F.US. and V.T.S.C.G.A.), exclusive of all other bodies companies or individuals, to receive a copy of such information not less than 48 hours prior to its general release. It was also agreed to ask D.A.F.S. to provide the criteria it applies for inclusion in its mailing list for this information. The Secretariat was instructed to write to D.A.F.S. along these lines.

(b) Request for S.P.T.A. co-operation - Mr. Blackmore reported a telephoned enquiry from a University researcher seeking members' co-operation in the field of electronic communications especially in respect of the needs of Scottish agriculture. Council agreed a suitable item be included in the next News Letter to Members.

(c) Date of Next Meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting in the Station Hotel, Perth at 11 a.m. on Friday, 28th August, 1981 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

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

D. Lindsay