

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at  
11 a.m. on Friday, 28th AUGUST, 1981

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PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.G.H. Fenton, B. Fulton, J. Henderson, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and J. Logan Milne, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

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

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, W. Gordon, T. McClung, R.G. Ramsay, J.O. Robertson and G. Smillie, and for late attendance on behalf of Messrs. J. Fordyce, B. Fulton and J. Logan Milne.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 10th July, 1981 (copies of which had been pre-circulated to each Member of Council) was taken as read. It was duly approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Membership - Mr. Blackmore reported a telephoned advice from MacKenzie West (Seeds) Ltd. that their application for a P.M.B. Merchants Licence had been granted on 31st July, 1981 and that they had moved to Southesk Granaries, Ferry Road, Montrose on 1st August, 1981. Council agreed, subject to P.M.B. confirmation of granting of this Licence, to invite this Company into Association Membership.

He also reported notifications of applications for P.M.B. Licences by Messrs. Ian M.S. and K.A. Hourston, Montrose; George Bissett (Potatoes), Montrose; W.L. Gill (Jnr.), Invergordon and Messrs. Ramage of Forres. It was decided to await notification of granting of these Licences before inviting the applicants to become Association Members.

(b) Revision of Conditions of Purchase and

(c) Scottish Seed Potato Development Council - both Items were deferred until later in today's meeting.

(d) Publication of Official Statistics - In circumvention of recent industrial action Mr. Hunter reported that he had delivered a letter to Mr. Todd of the Department by hand and discussed the Association's views and proposals with him. In a written reply the Department has proposed a three-day circulation timetable. On the first day D.A.F.S. will telephone N.F.U.S., S.P.T.A., and V.T.S.C.G.A. advising completion of the statistics. These may be collected by hand, failing which a copy will be posted to each organisation that first day. On the second day, further copies will be posted to other, Scottish-only, addresses and on the third day copies will be posted in general circularisation to all other (including English) addresses. To facilitate revision of their mailing list by excluding duplication, D.A.F.S. has also asked for a copy of S.P.T.A. Membership Roll.

In discussion Council found this timetable acceptable. It was agreed to make every effort to collect the statistics and circularise them to all Members by first class mail the same (first) day on each occasion. It was also agreed to provide D.A.F.S. with a copy of the Association's Membership Roll. In respect of "area classified" statistics (which are likely to be suspended this year as a result of computer-section strike action) it was felt that the usual very detailed format could be replaced for trade purposes by a summary (in similar form to Page 1 of the annual Register).

SEED  
POTATO  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

Council considered Mr. Fenton's pre-circularised Report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held in Perth on 14th July, 1981 immediately prior to that Committee's tour of V.T.S.C. growers establishments in the north of Scotland. Mr. McArthur questioned the Committee's P.M.B.-reported agreement to oppose the introduction of "Super Elite" and "Elite" nomenclature. Mr. Fenton explained he had resisted this agreement but the P.M.B. Report had omitted this. After discussion Council agreed Mr. Fenton should take this point up with the Committee's Chairman, Mr. J. McFarlane, immediately (rather than waiting until the Committee's next meeting in October.) In addition, in respect that the Seed Trade Committee and the Seed Potato Consultative Panel had agreed (on 30th March, 1981 and 24th April, 1981 respectively) to adopt "Super Elite" and "Elite" classes, whereas opposition had not been voiced until the joint M.A.F.F./N.F.U./N.A.S.P.M. meeting in July, 1981 it was agreed the Secretariat should write to D.A.F.S. to point out that subsequent Southern over-ruling of a Scottish agreement on an essentially Scottish matter is not acceptable.

D.A.F.S.:

Mr. Hunter reported on the meeting with D.A.F.S. in Edinburgh on 15th July, 1981 to discuss draft legislation to set up the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council. It had been established that the appointments of two members "with special knowledge of the industry" is not obligatory; levies would (initially) be on a hectare basis, reviewable after three years; to avoid levying stocks lost (e.g. by flooding, fire, etc.) D.A.F.S. could withdraw or amend certificates (Council agreed this same remedy might be relevant to plant Royalties in similar circumstances); a system of retirement by rotation was being considered; any funds in hand on a dissolution would possibly be disposed of by "pro rata" refunds.

The meeting had not agreed on the type of person desired for Chairman of the Council. Mr. Hunter related the discussions and explained the views of today's meeting of Council are sought. Following prolonged consideration Council agreed that business acumen and commercial experience will be more important than agricultural knowledge and that such qualities are more likely to be found in an industrialist than, say, a civil servant, (retired or otherwise). In Council's view the Chairman should excel as a Chairman, the "powerhouse" and agricultural knowledge being qualities more appropriate to the Chief Executive to be appointed by the Development Council.

Council instructed the Secretary to communicate these views in reply to D.A.F.S., as also to accept that S.P.T.A. and N.F.U.S. should each submit ten nominations for their six respective appointments, as proposed in D.A.F.S.' letter of 25th August, 1981.

CONDITIONS  
OF PURCHASE:

Mr. Hunter reported briefly on the further meeting of the "Conditions sub-Committee held in Perth on 24th July, 1981 at which a draft revision of Conditions had been completed. A clean draft had only recently been copied to the sub-Committee Members for them to decide whether a further meeting is necessary before submitting a final format to Council for approval and submission to N.F.U.S. It was hoped N.F.U.S. agreement will be received before the end of this year, to permit circularisation to Members in good time for the revised Conditions of Purchase to be introduced for Season 1982. An explanatory note had been prepared for inclusion in the next News Letter to Members as instructed.

ANY OTHER  
COMPETENT  
BUSINESS:

(a) Annual Elections to Council - Mr. Hunter reported that Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.H. Barr, R. Doig, D. Maxwell, T. McClung and K.A. McKenzie are the six members of Council due to retire by rotation on 31st October, 1981 and a further vacancy, in respect of Mr. J.M. Waddell's ineligibility to retain his membership of Council, meant that seven vacancies require to be filled by elections. Council noted the position and instructed the Secretariat to carry out the usual postal nomination and ballot of Membership procedures.

(b) Joint Liaison Committee - In considering the Agenda for the meeting in Edinburgh on Wednesday, 14th October, 1981 Council adopted Mr./

Mr. Barr's proposal to include discussion of the increase in the use of C.I.P.C-derived proprietary herbicides in England.

(c) Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors - Mr. McKenzie read a letter, passed to him as Chairman of the Exhibitors Committee, from the Scottish Seed Potato Association offering to meet the stand costs at the 1981 Royal Smithfield Show. After brief discussion Council agreed the Exhibitors Committee and Members should deal with this matter.

(d) Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Council in the Station Hotel, Perth at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd October, 1981 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements as usual.

The Meeting then closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

*J. Alfred, Secretary*