

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at
2 p.m. on Thursday 6th MAY, 1982

PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, R. Doig, J.G.H. Fenton, B. Fulton, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, J. Logan Milne, J.R. McArthur, T. McClung, K.A. McKenzie, R.G. Ramsay, J.O. Robertson and G. Smillie, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. J.G.H. Fenton, took the Chair and welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.P. Deuchar, J. Fordyce, W. Gordon, J. Henderson, W.E. Muirhead and R. David Hunter (Secretary).

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 5th March, 1982 (copies of which had been sent to each Member of Council) was taken as read. It was formally approved and duly signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Conditions of Purchase - Mr. Blackmore reported that the views of N.F.U.S. were not yet to hand.

(b) N.A.S.P.M. Arbitration Rules - Mr. Blackmore reported no word had been received.

(c) D.A.F.S. "February Letter" to Growers - The Chairman read D.A.F.S.' reply to Association's written representation regarding second inspections and burning down of AAl crops. It was agreed to circularise all Members highlighting clearly the changes made. In respect of PCN testing arrangements, Mr. McArthur reported having telephoned D.A.F.S. who had stated that, in fact, a sketch plan was only required for part-field test applications, no such plan being required for a whole-field test application. The Secretariat was instructed to obtain D.A.F.S. written confirmation of this position, thereafter circularising it to all Members and drawing attention to the changed closing date for test applications.

(d) "Frost Plan" - Discussion of a proposed export loading ban during frost was deferred until later in the Meeting.

(e) 1983 Ware Standard - During discussion of proposed change of the minimum riddle size (40mm) to 45mm for the 1983 Season, Mr. McKenzie reported the views expressed by Mr. Pooley (PMB) at Scottish Advisory Committee Meeting on 25th March. It was agreed to discuss the matter with Mr. Pooley again at the proposed "Great Brits" Meeting on 9th June.

(f) "Great Brits" Premium Grade - Following lack of Council response to the PMB's proposed earlier meeting, Mr. Blackmore reported the Board's continued anxiety to meet the Trade before the full scale "media launch" on 17th June. A fresh date (9th June) had now been proposed. Council agreed this invitation be circularised to all Association Members, with Dunblane as first choice of venue and (hopefully) some PMB arrangement for lunch.

(g) Membership and Subscriptions - Mr. Blackmore reported that of the eleven Subscriptions outstanding at Council's last meeting, nine had since been received. Of the remaining two, he had received a PMB advice indicating a change in name of Messrs. Robert Anderson & Co. (Mr. Robertson explained this involved separation of potato and haulage activities) and he would continue to try to maintain this Membership. Despite many reminders, Hugh R. Munro's subscription was still unpaid and Council agreed this Member be suspended. Mr. Blackmore further reported that a written resignation had now been received from D. McDowall Ltd. but not from R.E. Bailey & Son (Perth) Ltd. and Council confirmed/

confirmed suspension of this latter Member.

Informal application for Membership had been received from Gowanbank Potatoes Ltd. Council agreed this firm, along with McLennan's Potatoes, Portsoy and G.S. Brass (Perth) Ltd. be formally invited into Association Membership, proportionate subscriptions being invoiced from the date of receipt of formal application.

(h) Suspected Ring Rot - Mr. Fenton pointed out that no further information appeared to have been reported. The Secretariat was instructed to renew contact with MAFF and in particular to ascertain whether any suspect stocks imported from Holland had been planted in the U.K.

CONSULTATIVE Council noted Mr. Fenton's pre-circulated Report on a meeting of the
PANEL WORKING Seed Potato Consultative Panel's Working Party which he and Mr.
PARTY: McArthur had attended in Perth on 9th March, 1982. Discussion followed Mr. Fenton's explanation of several points, particularly the possible adverse effect of "banking" of PCN tests on the PCN count.

WARE IMPORTS Council noted the PMB's pre-circulated Report on a meeting of the
ADVISORY Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee which Mr. Lindsay had attended
COMMITTEE: in London on 17th March, 1982. He felt that the Report was very comprehensive and now largely historical. He explained there had been an unusually strong French presence (including an Interpreter), discussion of potential and actual imports from Holland and added that following devaluation of its currency Belgium had banned export of its potatoes.

SCOTTISH Council also noted the PMB's pre-circulated Report on a meeting of
ADVISORY the Scottish Advisory Committee which Messrs. Cook and McKenzie had
COMMITTEE: attended in Edinburgh on 25th March, 1982. Mr. Cook added that discussion had confirmed the potential imports of Dutch ware (referred to above) and also revealed an increase in the (raw equivalent) production of processed potatoes. There had been some discussion of 1982 crop prospects, with plantings of 162,000 acres "on target", and increase in basic acreage of approximately 1,400 acres of which about 1,000 acres were in Scotland. In conclusion he drew attention to Mr. Kerslake's retiral.

EXPORT Council noted the PMB's Report on the meeting of the Export
DEVELOPMENT Development Committee in London on 29th March, 1982 which Mr. Deuchar
COMMITTEE: had been unable to attend. In respect of the reported discussion on the introduction of a "frost ban" Mr. Blackmore explained he had since received a telephoned enquiry on progress from Mr. Sinclair.

From Council's full discussion Mr. Ramsay's proposal to enlist Mr. Sinclair's support to find out how the Northern Ireland arrangements work found favour. In view of its relevance to Conditions of Sale for Export the matter was remitted to the "Conditions" sub-Committee to draw up proposals before enlisting N.F.U.S. and S.S.P.D.C. support to require D.A.F.S. to act.

Mr. Blackmore also pointed out that no advice of or Reports or Minutes of S.S.P.D.C. meetings were being received by the Association. There was a brief discussion of two such meetings held to date, during which it was stated a Chief Executive was still to be appointed and a link with Solanex Ltd. was being considered.

SEED POTATO Mr. McArthur reported on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory
ADVISORY Committee which he had attended in London on 30th March, 1982. In
COMMITTEE: discussion of the importation of suspected diseased stocks of seed potatoes from Holland it appeared the growers concerned were looking for compensation; the Chairman is to undertake a trip to Valencia; movement of Scottish seed was reported and amendment of the Regulations in respect of powdery scab was also discussed. The Board's Report on the meeting omitted discussion regarding Solanex Ltd. and nomenclature. The next meeting of the Committee is to take place on 27th July, 1982.

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In respect of nomenclature Mr. Fenton read a letter dated 15th March, 1982 from NASPM urging reconsideration of Scottish preference for "Super A" rather "Elite". Council's discussion did not resolve the matter or provide an indicative response to the Chairman's enquiry whether the Association should now support "Elite".

"CONDITIONS"
sub-
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Blackmore reported that the Association's "Conditions" sub-Committee had met in Perth on 5th April, 1982 and had completed a full consideration of adapting the Conditions of Sale for export purposes. A first draft had now been sent to the sub-Committee in readiness for a further meeting as soon as Mr. Hunter returned from holiday. This further meeting would also give further consideration to Conditions of Sale for the Ware trade.

ANY OTHER
COMPETENT
BUSINESS:

(a) Food labelling - The Chairman explained the British Potato Trades Consortium is to meet the Ministry of Food to discuss the proposals for potatoes in connection with the Food Labelling Regulations. After a brief discussion Council agreed the Association should support the proposals.

(b) 1982 Foreign Visit - In reply, Mr. Blackmore reported that the proposed Association visit to Eastern U.S.A. had not received sufficient support among the membership and the arrangements had been cancelled.

(c) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to meet again in the Station Hotel, Perth at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 1st July, 1982 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the usual arrangements.

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

A. Hunter