

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at  
2 p.m. on Thursday, 26th AUGUST, 1982.

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PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, J. Fordyce,  
D. Maxwell, W.E. Muirhead, R.G. Ramsay and J.O. Robertson, with  
R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The President, Mr. J.G.H. Fenton, took the Chair.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs.  
A.J. Allan, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, B. Fulton, W. Gordon, J. Henderson,  
D.H. Lindsay, J. Logan Milne, J.R. McArthur, T. McClung, K.A. McKenzie  
and G. Smillie.

MINUTES: Council duly ratified approval of the Minute of its Meeting in  
Perth on 6th May, 1982. The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on  
1st July, 1982 (copies of which had been sent to each Member of  
Council) was taken as read, duly approved and signed to this effect by  
the Chairman.

MATTERS  
ARISING: (a) Conditions of Purchase. - The Secretary reported that N.F.U.S. had  
written to express misgiving on enjoining producers in any extension  
of complaints periods. Although he had explained the envisaged  
extreme rarity of any extension he felt a meeting would be required  
to try to resolve this difference.

(b) NASPM Arbitration Rules - This matter was deferred until later in  
today's meeting.

(c) Membership - Mr. Blackmore reported that Hugh R. Munro (suspended  
on 6th May, 1982) had now paid his subscription and been resorted to  
Membership. James Anderson, Esq., however, had not replied to two  
further letters and Council instructed this membership be suspended.

In respect of invitations sent to G.S. Brass (Perth) Ltd.,  
Messrs. John Craig & Co., Gilden Ltd., Gowanbank (Potatoes) Ltd. and  
Messrs. MacLennans Potatoes as instructed, applications for membership  
had been received from all except Gilden Ltd. and proportionate  
subscriptions had been paid by the first and fourth of them, payments  
from the second and fifth named being awaited. Total membership was  
thus now 117, compared with 118 at 1st November, 1981.

The P.M.B. had also notified applications for Merchants Licences  
by Messrs. Stanley Buchan (Potatoes), Montrose; John Smith & Co.  
(Fruit Importers) Ltd., Dundee; Philip Hudson Ltd., Kirriemuir;  
Kydd Produce Ltd., Dundee and S. & M. Galbraith (Potatoes) Ltd.,  
Ladybank. Of these the first and third named had also telephoned to  
apply for Association membership. Council instructed invitations be  
sent to each of these five Companies.

Mr. Hunter also reported a verbal enquiry for membership from  
Messrs. A.S. McLaren & Son, Methven but a promised written supportive  
application had not yet come to hand. Council decided to await the  
written application.

(d) Ring Rot - Mr. Blackmore explained his copy of the Farmer's  
Weekly had been destroyed before he could circularise its report on  
the outcome of the Ring Rot problem. Council decided most members  
had probably read the Report and instructed no further action be taken.

(e) Scottish Seed Potato Development Council - Mr. Hunter gave a full  
report on the informal meeting which had taken place in Perth between  
Mr. Fenton and himself and the Chairman and Chief Executive (Messrs.  
John Fotheringham and John Bethel) of the Development Council on 25th  
August/



August, 1982.

Wide ranging discussions included building grants, storage facilities, rating anomaly, recommended prices (Mr. Bethel was firmly advised to avoid such press releases and interviews), increasing exports (primarily a quality problem but included lack of suitable varieties and long time scale for new ones, along with lack of standard international contract). It had been agreed Minutes of Development Council meetings will be copied to SPTA and the Development Council wished to participate in the Seed Trade Committee. It had been indicated that the Development Council's first year administrative costs would be about £100,000. Both Mr. Fenton and Mr. Hunter had been impressed with Mr. Fotheringham's grasp and understanding of the Merchant to Farmer relationship.

Mr. Hunter read a letter from Mr. Bethel proposing merchant contributions to Development Council funds and asking for a list of SPTA members whom he could approach in this respect. After discussion Council decided not to compile and submit such a list but, instead, instructed the Secretariat to include a suitable item in the next News Letter inviting interested members to contact the Development Council direct.

(f) "Conditions" sub-Committee - This matter was deferred until later in today's meeting.

(g) British Rail/Freightliners - Council noted the content of the pre-circulated Report received from NASPM on the meetings held in London on 9th June, 1982. Mr. Blackmore pointed out that 1982/83 Freight Schedules since received from British Rail and circulated to all Members defined "severe frost" as "below  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ", whereas the proposed frost ban for exports based on  $-3^{\circ}$  to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Council agreed no action was required.

(h) Revision of Nomenclature - This item was deferred until later in today's meeting.

(i) Below-Grader P.C.N. Sampling - Mr. Hunter reported receipt of a letter from the Member who had requested information on the results of the tests stating the view that this information should be made available. After further discussion of the matter Council ruled that confidentiality must not be breached and confirmed its instruction to the Secretariat not to release this information to the Member.

"CONDITIONS"  
sub-  
COMMITTEE:

(a) Conditions of Sale for Ware Potatoes - copies of these proposed Conditions had been pre-circulated to each Member of Council. In the absence of any comment Council agreed to adopt these Conditions and recommend their use by Members, but to defer their issue pending the outcome of the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee on 13th October, 1982. It was also agreed that preparation of Conditions of Purchase for Ware Potatoes was not required at present.

(b) "Frost Ban" for Exports - Mr. Hunter read the proposals compiled by the sub-Committee for an official ban on the movement during periods of severe frost of seed destined for shipment overseas. Council gave these proposals very careful consideration and after prolonged discussion confirmed, with NFUS agreement, that the proposals had been forwarded to the Development Council for energetic submission to DAFS for urgent action.

(c) Conditions of Sale of Seed Potatoes for Export - Council considered and discussed the (fourth) draft of Conditions prepared by the sub-Committee and copied to each Member of Council. Mr. Barr felt Condition 7 (Tolerances) and Condition 8(3) (Delivery) might conflict. Mr. Hunter explained in reply to this point as also to comment on Condition 11 (Patent Defects - Clearing of Goods) and Condition 16 (Force Majeure). In this latter respect Mr. Hunter and Mr. Ramsay agreed to re-consider its effect, these Conditions being thus remitted back/



back to the sub-Committee.

In reply to Mr. Hunter Council agreed that the Development Council should be involved in future drafting of these Conditions. Discussion of whether the seller should be notified of the phytosanitary requirements of the destination country at the time of sale rather than at the time of grading was inconclusive.

SEED  
POTATO  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

In the event that a Report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee in London on 27th July, 1982 was not available, this item was deferred until Council's next meeting.

ELECTIONS  
TO COUNCIL:

The Secretary reported that only four members of Council (Messrs. J.P. Deuchar, B. Fulton, J.O. Robertson and G. Smillie) become due to retire by rotation on 31st October, 1982 whereas the Association's Rules require six such retirements to take place. Following discussion, the Secretariat was instructed to draw lots to select two further names from among those not due to retire until 31st October, 1983. Council further instructed the Secretariat to conduct the usual procedures and timetable for the election of six members of Council to serve from 1st November, 1982.

A.O.C.B:

(a) Dates of Meetings - After discussion Council agreed to meet again on Thursday, 28th October, 1982 and on Thursday 26th November, 1982, both meetings to be held in the Station Hotel, Perth commencing at 2 p.m.

It was also agreed (subject to not clashing with Seed Sales) that Council would also meet in the Station Hotel, Perth at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 13th January, 1983 prior to the Annual General Meeting of Members there at 2 p.m. on that same date. The Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements and to write inviting Mr. John Bethel (Chief Executive, Scottish Seed Potato Development Council) to address the Annual General Meeting of Members in the presence of his Chairman, Mr. John Fotheringham.

(b) Growing Crop Inspections - Mr. Fordyce invited Council's comments on second inspections this year. There was general agreement that, as always, an earlier start is required. Mr. Barr also pointed out that although a grower had the option to defer an inspection, no such option existed to advance it. The Secretariat was instructed to write DAFS to request provision of an earlier inspection capability, with full time staff, for "Earlies" Crops when required.

(c) Trading presence overseas - The Secretary read a letter from the P.M.B. suggesting some trade-representative manning of the P.M.B. Stand at overseas Shows. Council agreed to this proposal in principle, the Secretariat being instructed to convey this to the Board.

(d) Export Enquiry - The Secretary also tabled a general export enquiry from The Hipodel Co. He was instructed to circularise this to those Members of the Association's Exports Mailing list and to update that list with a suitable item in the next Association News Letter.

(e) Forthcoming JLC Meeting - Mr. Blackmore reported that in telephone conversation Mr. Trahair had explained delay had occurred in revision of NASPM Arbitration Rules. It was hoped this would be completed in time for the next J.L.C. meeting. Council proposed this take place in Edinburgh on Wednesday, 13th October, 1982 and should include notification of SPTA drafting of revised Conditions (of Purchase of Seed, Sale of Seed for export and Sale of Ware) as may be related to copyright of Conditions of Sale for Seed on which they were all based. Mr. Cook added that revised grade nomenclature (on which NASPM's Mr. Baker had addressed a recent meeting of the NFUS Potato Committee in a reportedly cool atmosphere) would probably also be re-discussed.

(f)/

(f) Annual Dinner-Dance - The Secretary drew attention to the approaching date of the Association's Dinner-Dance. It was agreed to arrange an early meeting of the Entertainments Committee to consider the matter.

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

