

REPORT on a MEETING of the
JOINT (NASPM/SPTA) LIAISON
COMMITTEE held at 8 Manor
Place, Edinburgh at 10.30 a.m.
on Wednesday, 13th OCTOBER, 1982

PRESENT: NASPM - Messrs. H.N. Aves, C.J. Baker, R.W. Beeson and E.F. Sherriff.
SPTA - Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur
and T. McClung, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and
D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

Mr. J.E. Cook took the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were tendered on behalf of Messrs. J.G.
Burhouse (NASPM) and J.G.H. Fenton (SPTA). An apology for Mr. Barr's
late arrival was also intimated.

COPYRIGHT
CONDITIONS
OF SALE:

Mr. Hunter explained that SPTA's preparation of revised Conditions
of Purchase of Seed Potatoes, and preparation of Conditions of Sale of
Ware Potatoes and Conditions of Sale of Seed Potatoes for Export was
now well advanced. All these updated Conditions are being framed to
be compatible with the Conditions of Sale for Seed Potatoes jointly
prepared and adopted by NASPM and SPTA. Present Conditions of Purchase
had been jointly compiled and adopted by SPTA and the National Farmers
Union of Scotland many years ago and revision of them is following the
same procedure. While all this does not perhaps directly affect
NASPM, courtesy requires that NASPM be formally notified of the
position.

In reply, Mr. Sherriff enquired whether the Conditions of Sale of
Seed Potatoes for Export incorporated Arbitration Rules. Mr. Hunter
stated the usual Scottish Condition in this respect is inserted into
the current draft and in reply to the Chair also explained the SPTA
view on copyright. With the agreement of his fellow representatives
Mr. Sherriff explained he believed no misunderstanding remained on
this latter point. Mr. Baker stated that as NASPM do not have
recommended Conditions of Purchase of Seed Potatoes he felt NASPM might
wish sight of the current SPTA/NFUS draft version with a view to
adopting similar Conditions. It was agreed to seek SPTA Council's
agreement to this course.

NASPM
ARBITRATION
RULES:

Following Mr. Sherriff's introduction of this Item, Mr. Beeson
explained that after a further twelve months work which had included
obtaining legal advice, NASPM's final draft of its revision of its
Arbitration Rules was now almost ready for submission to its Council's
meeting on 3rd November. Subject to approval, a copy would then be
sent to SPTA. In reply to the Chair, Mr. Beeson stated the revised
Rules were not entirely in line with RUCIP and during a short
discussion added that there was NFU pressure for simplification. Mr.
Hunter added that SPTA could possibly wish to devise a compatible set
of rules in due course.

NOMEN-
CLATURE:

Mr. Baker explained that with NFU support NASPM favoured
adoption of "Elite" rather than "Super A" for the improved AAL Class.
With Mr. Fenton's approval he had obtained NFUS agreement to press this
view to its Potato Committee. On 25th August he had addressed that
Committee with Messrs. Fotheringham and Bethel (Chairman and Chief
Executive, respectively, of the Scottish Seed Potato Development
Council) also present. He had since received no official response.

The Chairman explained the SPTA views but believed that at a
meeting with the Department of Agriculture on 21st September
(regarding proposals for an "exports frost ban"), the Development
Council/

Council had reported unanimous industry support for adoption of "Elite". Mr. McArthur, however, now understood that in deference to the view that "Elite" would be unsuitable for a class inferior to FS, the NFUS would adopt "Elite" only if FS is simultaneously re-named "Super Elite".

Mr. Baker felt this course would restrict the sale impact of a single change of "Elite" for a new class. He explained in detail his longer term suggestion that re-naming of FS should be deferred until imports of seed are permitted into the High Grade Seed Area. It will then become vitally important to restrict such imports to the highest possible class level, to which end it is envisaged that FS3 will become the minimum class for entry into the Scottish Inspection Scheme (probably in about three years time). At that time also, VTSC would become seriologicaly (rather than virus) tested. On his arrival at this point (direct from a meeting of the Development Council's Executive Committee), Mr. Barr reported the Council is to support a multiplication chain of VTSC 1 and 2 - Super Elite 1, 2 and 3 - Elite - AA.

Mr. Sherriff expressed a strong plea for an end to the prolonged indecision in this matter. He suggested DAFS and MAFF should arrange a meeting with all interested parties to resolve the problem. After further discussion it was agreed to ask DAFS, during the afternoon meeting with them today, whether an official decision has been made and, if not, whether they will arrange for such a suggested meeting to take place.

SCOTTISH
SEED POTATO
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL:

Mr. Sherriff explained inclusion of this Item for discussion had stemmed directly from a "Farmers' Weekly" report that Mr. Bethel had stated the Development Council intended to become more ^{involved} directly with the trade into England and Wales. He enquired whether this intention included actual trading.

In reply, Mr. Barr explained that fears of actual trading by the Council were unfounded, such a function being expressly forbidden by the Statutory Order by which the Development Council was constituted. He felt sure this would have been made clear to NASPM representatives during their meeting with Messrs. Fotheringham and Bethel the previous evening.

Mr. Lindsay stated his fears at the earliest stages of proposals to set up a Development Council had been that it would encourage direct farmer to farmer trading. He enquired whether Mr. Bethel had been asked last evening to define the meaning of his announcement. Mr. Beeson confirmed he had. Mr. Bethel had envisaged meetings with the trade in England but, if such were not possible or successful, direct meetings involving farmers, growers, ADAS NFU, etc. would be sought. Mr. Beeson explained NASPM's extreme anxiety to the Committee. Mr. Barr felt this was probably unfounded and Mr. Cook felt the matter was intended to counteract the activities of NEVA.

Mr. Aves saw the matter as moving towards a national effort. Northern Ireland and the Development Council are to have regular future meetings. General discussion by the Committee did not disclose a consensus view.

PROBLEMS
IN SCOTS
SEED:

Mr. Baker referred to an instance of 8% admixture in a 40 tonne lot of Scottish seed planted in England. One single such instance engenders great harm, out of all proportion to the very high percentage of very good Scottish Seed, Mr. Sherriff adding that DAFS must take every care when issuing labels. The Chairman assured the meeting on this latter point (if asked for labels in excess of 10 tonnes per acre DAFS automatically inspect). Mr. Barr was also aware of the case in point - he understood DAFS investigations with the CID could lead to criminal proceedings and felt the Trade should support DAFS in this instance.

As Chairman of NASPM's Legal Committee Mr. Beeson was also extremely/

extremely concerned about potential for chemical treatment problems. Supported by Mr. Barr he felt this required an educative programme and the widest possible urgent discussion. Mr. Barr further suggested formation of a joint NASPM/SPTA/NFU etc. Chemicals Committee. It was agreed this matter be taken back to respective Councils and to notify DAFS of the Committee's serious concern.

A.O.C.B:

(a) Date of next meeting - After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to meet again at the Farmers Club in London at 11 a.m. on Monday, 6th December, 1982.

(b) Tuber count in bags - Mr. Sherriff explained ADAS/MAFF had asked for co-operation on survey work on tuber counts in bags and NASPM had agreed to take part.

(c) Solanex Ltd. - Mr. Sherriff explained Solanex had proposed the use of blue labels for new NSDO varieties supplied for non-reproduction overseas. Both NASPM and HANI had declined to support this proposal.

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