

REPORT OF COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
for the year to 31st October, 1982  
to the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
MEMBERS held in the Station Hotel,  
PERTH at 2 p.m. on  
Thursday, 13th JANUARY, 1983

(A) ACCOUNTS

The Audited Association Accounts for the year to 31st October, 1982 duly circulated to each Member show SUBSCRIPTIONS totalled £9252 . This was £1197 higher than the previous year, almost exactly reflecting the 15% "across the board" increase determined by Members at the last Annual General Meeting.

INVESTMENT INCOME was unchanged from the previous year. BANK INTEREST, however, increased by almost £88. Falling interest rates were more than offset by the larger sums <sup>of a</sup> deposit from subscriptions.

On the Expenditure side of the Account, EXPENSES OF MEETINGS totalling £589.97 was slightly less than the budgeted figure. Of the four subheadings under Administration Expenses, the increases in both GENERAL and TRAVELLING EXPENSES are mainly due to adjustments for tax reasons. The more modest increases in DUPLICATING costs and POSTAGES AND TELEPHONES expected at the last A.G.M., were both marginally more than budgeted figures. The increase in SECRETARIAL SALARY is a "once only" adjustment, again for tax purposes, which will not recur in the current year.

Overall, then, adjusted total expenditure exceeded total income by £157.56. This sum is carried down to the left-hand side of the Balance Sheet where, after adding £139.20 of Tax recovered from the previous year, the accumulated Revenue Surplus is shown as £364.90. This total will be increased to £526.90 once the tax repayment due for the year to 31st October, 1982 is received.

On the other side of the Balance Sheet, the Association's Investments were unchanged. However, advantage has since been taken of the increased Market Value of these Investments. On Stockbrokers' advice one change has now been made which will be shown in the current year's Accounts. Cash over-invested, £113.44, was an increase of £18.36 over the previous year, exactly balancing the reduction in the accumulated Revenue Surplus during the year.

ANY QUESTIONS?

(B) MEMBERSHIP

The year started with a Membership Roll of 118, two of whom were merged into one, two resigned and two were suspended for non-payment of Subscriptions. Seven new Members were/

were enjoined during the year, bringing the total Roll to 120 Members at 31st October, 1982.

Three further new Members were subsequently enrolled with effect from 1st November, 1982 but regretfully, two more Members have since resigned. The total Membership Roll is thus 121 as at today's date.

This reversal of the long-term downward trend was not foreseen at this time last year but the level of Membership continues to be a source of some concern.

(C) MEETINGS

The heavy work-load of Council Members and particularly of the Office Bearers attending both internal and external meetings increased once again during the year. It must be recorded that these quite voluntary efforts on behalf of the whole Association Membership are very time consuming and are in addition to the individual business and personal commitments of those concerned.

(D) CIRCULARS

There was a slight reduction in the number of circulars posted to all Members. Very close attention continues to be given to containing circularisation costs, while mindful of the need to maintain this principal means of contact with all Members. The announcement of an increase of one penny in the cost of first class mail means a further £30 per annum on News Letters alone, quite apart from Market Prices Bulletins and circularisation of papers to Council Members. Viewed against the general deterioration in delivery times, this whole postal question is a cause of considerable anxiety.