

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the Station Hotel, PERTH at
2 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th OCTOBER, 1983

PRESENT: Messrs. J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, B. Fulton, J. Henderson, D. Maxwell, J.R. McArthur, T. McClung, K.A. McKenzie 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 and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies for absence received from and on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.H. Barr, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, P. Miller, J. Logan Milne, W.E. Muirhead and G. Smillie.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 8th September, 1983 (a copy of which had been sent to each Member of Council) was taken as read. It was formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

(a) Membership - Mr. Blackmore confirmed a letter had been sent in the terms instructed to the Member in breach of "tonnage bracket" arrangements and he stated no response had occurred. Council's brief further discussion noted that the Member concerned was one of the six Association nominees appointed to S.S.P.D.C. Council agreed to await the outcome of other possible private overtures.

Mr. Blackmore next reported receipt of two formal Association-Member nominations for Association Membership on behalf of R.G.R. Seeds & Services Ltd. (Montrose). Mr. Robertson's Motion to accept was adopted without dissent.

Council noted receipt of a P.M.B. Notice that Brahan Farms Ltd. (an Association Member already holding a P.M.B. Direct Sales Authority) has applied for full P.M.B. Merchants Licences. In respect of a telephoned application for Association Membership from Howard England Ltd., (Abernethy), the Secretariat was instructed to write inviting this company to obtain the requisite written nominations from any two existing Association Members.

(b) Revised Conditions of Purchase - Mr. Hunter explained the reason for Council's reply to Mr. Aves (as instructed at its last meeting) having been delayed. After further discussion Council agreed that joint usage of Conditions of Purchase (consistent with existing joint usage of Conditions of Sale) would be preferable. It was decided to discuss the matter with the other interests at the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee (tomorrow). The question of contributions towards S.P.T.A.'s expenses of revision, taking account of the number of joint S.P.T.A./N.A.S.P.M. memberships, was not clearly resolved between £500 in total, or separately between N.A.S.P.M. (say £400) and Northern Ireland (say £200-£250).

The Secretary reported that in more than one current dispute arising from alleged faulty (non-germinating) seed, customers are attempting to avoid the Conditions of Sale (particularly in respect of limitation of sellers' liability to the cost of the seed supplied) by claiming the Conditions had not been notified until after an Oral contract had been concluded by telephone between the parties. In the Secretary's view this was a worrying feature. Council agreed this matter should continue to be watched most carefully.

(c) D.A.F.S. Inspection Results Statistics - Mr. Blackmore explained that/

that, to date, ten members had ordered copies of D.A.F.S.' Interim Crop Register Print-out. These were being dealt with as quickly as possible. Further orders seemed likely.

(d) Foreign Study Tour 1984 - Mr. Blackmore explained that a further reply from the Tour Operator was awaited.

ELECTIONS
TO COUNCIL:

Mr. Hunter reported that by the closing date eight Candidates had been nominated for election to the six vacancies on Council and a postal ballot was therefore necessary. The Candidates nominated were Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.G. Burhouse, G. Henderson (Cupar), J. Henderson (Dumfries), D.H. Lindsay, P. Moffat, J.R. McArthur and T. McClung.

Council noted that no nomination of a Candidate to represent the Ross & Cromarty area had been received. It was decided not to refer to this point when issuing Ballot Papers. It was agreed the Ballot will close at Noon on Monday, 31st October, 1983. The Secretariat was instructed to proceed accordingly.

Mr. Hunter also pointed out that two P.M.B. Meetings (JCC and Ware Imports, on 7th and 9th November respectively) would take place before the Association's new Council could revise the Association's representations. It was decided that existing representations be maintained for these two meetings.

PRODUCT
LIABILITY
INSURANCE:

Mr. Hunter reported that draft policy documents requested from both Brokers have not been received. This delay was regretted and Council agreed the matter could not be meaningfully progressed until these documents are available. The Secretariat undertook to press for them for circularisation to all Council Members in readiness for Council's next meeting.

S.S.P.D.C.

Mr. Hunter stated no further Reports/Minutes of Development Council Meetings have been received. During the following general discussion, reference was made to the Development Council's video film, closer export liaisons, Montrose feasibility study, and improvements in V.T.S.C. matters. The Secretariat was instructed to confirm that the Frost Warnings for Export arrangements will continue to operate during the current 1983/84 export loading season.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Ware supplied from Cyprus - Mr. Fulton voiced ware trade complaints in respect of 3-months-old, poor quality stocks of ware potatoes from Cyprus. These are available at £2.20-£2.50 per bag wholesale, and are being offered for retail sale at 9p.-10p. per lb., very effectively depressing the trade in home-produced ware. Council agreed the Secretariat should write to the P.M.B. to enquire what action was being taken and that the matter should be raised at the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee in Edinburgh on 20th October, 1983. Council also agreed this matter be included in a Press Release following today's meeting.

(b) Contract growing for processors - Referring to P.M.B. interference in the trade with processors during the 1982/83 Season, Mr. Cook explained current proposals to relieve growers contracted to processors of excess acreage levy thus incurred. Council's discussion did not reach a clear conclusion and it was decided not to include this matter in the above letter to the P.M.B.

(c) Press Material - Mr. McKenzie explained that the "Farming News" had recently published an article by Mr. Anderson of E.S.C.A. indicating that the projected shortfall in this season's seed supplies from Scotland had been over-estimated. This had adversely affected current prices in both physical and futures markets. After Council Members had voiced their own yield and seed-content experience in harvesting to date, it was agreed the Association should include a disclaimer of Mr. Anderson's view/

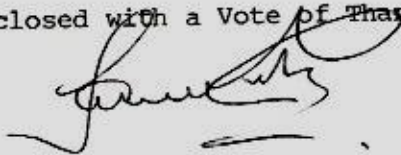
view in its next Press Release and the Secretariat should write to Mr. Anderson to try to establish prior consultation procedures for possible future occasions.

(d) Scab Incidence - Referring to the high incidence of scab in this year's harvest, Mr. Fenton felt this could usefully be discussed at the next JLC meeting (tomorrow), with a view to pressing D.A.F.S. for some compromise solution. Council felt it was unlikely that D.A.F.S. would be enthusiastic but, while the idea should not be abandoned, it should not be pressed at this time. A preferred suggestion, that D.A.F.S. be asked to provide its inspectorate with maximum discretion at tuber inspection time, was supported.

(e) Association's 1982/83 Accounts - Mr. Blackmore reported briefly on the first rough draft accounts he had prepared. After brief discussion Council decided the various points be remitted to the Finance Committee, with full authority to make any necessary decisions. It was agreed the Finance Committee would meet for this purpose in the Secretary's Office at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 20th October, 1983.

(f) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting in the Station Hotel, Perth at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 17th November, 1983 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'James', is written over the text 'Vote of Thanks'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.