

REPORT on a MEETING of the ENTERTAINMENTS
COMMITTEE of THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION at 25 South Methven Street,
PERTH at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 30th
NOVEMBER, 1983

PRESENT: Messrs. R. Doig and K.A. McKenzie, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were recorded on behalf of Messrs. J.E. Cook (ex officio), P. Miller (Convenor), J.R. McArthur and G. Smillie.

DINNER/
DANCE: Mr. Hunter explained that today's meeting had been called solely to further arrangements for the Association's next Dinner and Dance. As announced in the Association's News Letter dated 23rd March, 1983 the traditional date of, and venue for, this Function had been changed. He confirmed that a firm booking had been made with the Salutation Hotel, Perth for the event to be held there on Friday, 27th January, 1984 and Mr. Blackmore also tabled a letter received from the M.D.Q. Band confirming its acceptance of a booking for that same date.

Mr. Blackmore also tabled a detailed prices brochure obtained from the Hotel. He explained that previous discussions had not decided between a Buffet-type or table-served meal. The cost estimates (also tabled), therefore, had been based on the Brochure-quoted per-head cost of a Decorated Buffet Meal (£8.00). He explained his analysis of individually-quoted prices in the brochure indicated that considerable "elbow-room" existed to negotiate inclusion of served soup, and consommé on departure, within that £8.00 per head charge. Alternatively, in deference to the view that a cold buffet-type meal at the end of January was not altogether appropriate, the quoted individual dish prices showed that a served, choice of (a selected) menu dinner could be negotiated within the same £8.00 per head charge (compared with the £7.00 per head charge for a buffet-type meal in the Station Hotel at the last Function in December, 1981).

Accepting this basis, the Committee considered the tabled detailed costs estimates. Mr. Blackmore explained his view that some degree of subsidisation from reserves, to maintain the cost of tickets at the 1981 level of £10.00 each, could effectively encourage increased attendance (thereby also reducing the cost of subsidisation). The meeting declined to support this view and decided that the cost of tickets for the forthcoming Function be fixed at £11.00 each. An announcement to this effect was instructed to be included in the Association's News Letter being posted later this day. It was also instructed this reminder announcement should include reference to the favourable overnight accommodation rates negotiated with the Salutation Hotel. It was further instructed to send each Member a simple numbers reservation form for early completion and return.

Discussion turned to printing costs. Mr. Hunter pointed out that previous arrangements served three separate functions. First, it provided an invitation by Council to each Association Member to attend. Second, it was utilised (somewhat misleadingly) by Members to invite their own Guests to attend. Thirdly, remaining copies were used as Menus/Programmes on each table. In addition, individually-numbered tickets printed (without price) were issued to provide attendees with details of time and place but otherwise, since they were not required to be surrendered to gain admission, served only a limited useful purpose.

The meeting recommended the first and second functions (including Menu and programme) should be filled by a smaller, suitably designed, photocopied circular to Members. The third function should be filled by a more modestly priced printing in conjunction with the Hotel. Individually numbered tickets, including the price, should be printed as/

as usual, to be issued in exchange for payment thereof.

In discussion of the timetable, it was confirmed that foregathering at 7.30 p.m. for Dinner at 8 p.m., with Dancing commencing at 9 p.m. and concluding at 1 a.m. as on previous occasions, constituted the preferred format. Mr. Hunter pointed out that the Band would require a "break". It was felt the Hotel should be asked to provide a "Disco facility" during this interval.

There was a brief discussion on the question of official guests. While it was felt extension of an invitation to the NASPM President and his Lady (as usual) would be non-controversial, it was agreed any decision on additional guests should be deferred to a more fully representative meeting of the Committee.

It was also recommended that the usual Grand Prize Draw arrangements should be omitted from the forthcoming Function. Mr. McKenzie suggested a "spur of the moment" Raffle could be arranged during the Function itself, if circumstances warranted it at the time (any surplus receipts being declared to be donated to, say, Cancer Relief).

It was agreed the Committee should next meet (with the Manager) at the Salutation Hotel, Perth at 4 p.m. on Friday, 16th December, 1983 to ratify the foregoing recommendations and to determine the final catering arrangements.

CURLING:

Mr. Blackmore confirmed that he had written the necessary invitations on 24th November in connection with the first leg of the Association's Annual Curling Match. He reported Mr. Crockatt's inability to skip and Mr. Muirhead's non-availability on this occasion. The meeting recommended that Mr. McArthur be asked to make the necessary alternative arrangements.

The meeting was thereupon concluded.