

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held
in the Station Hotel, PERTH at 11 a.m.
on Thursday, 12th JANUARY, 1984.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, P. Miller, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffatt, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson and G. Smillie, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, (Mr. J.E. Cook) took the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Cook announced apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, G.S. Brass, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, J.G.H. Fenton, B. Fulton, J. Henderson, J.R. McArthur, T. McClung and R. David Hunter (Secretary).

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 17th November, 1983 (of which each Member of Council had received a copy beforehand) was taken as read. It was formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

(a) Membership - This item was deferred.

(b) Revised Conditions of Purchase - Mr. Blackmore reported that responses from NASPM and NIPMA were still awaited.

(c) Product Liability Insurance - He also reported that a draft policy document was still awaited from Bain Dawes. Council agreed this should be pursued. It was felt that non product liability cover should be restricted or excluded and possible NASPM involvement was noted.

(d) Press Material - Council considered a letter received in reply from Mr. Anderson (ESCA). It was agreed to pursue a closer future liaison with him.

(e) Ware Bag Marking - Mr. Blackmore reported he was continuing his search of the Association's historical records but, so far, without success.

(f) European Union - Mr. Blackmore further reported receipt of Reports of the 1983 Congress and of the Directors' Meeting in Brussels on 31st October, 1983. The latter indicated that although against a potato régime in principle, the Union would not oppose a regime for quality.

(g) Potato Marketing Scheme changes - Council noted the PMB reply (and the circumstances thereof) to the Association's complaint re non-consultation. This subject was deferred for further discussion later during today's meeting.

S.S.P.D.C: Mr. Blackmore reported receipt only earlier this morning of a requested précis of the Minute of a meeting of a Scottish Seed Potato Development Council meeting on 15th December, 1983. Council agreed the salient points therein should be circularised in early course. Mr. Cook further reported that SSPDC had inconclusively discussed provision of hospitality to NASPM's 1984 A.G.M. in Edinburgh. In reply to Mr. Lindsay he also confirmed the SSPDC will be providing a caravan stand at various future agricultural shows. The meeting accepted the invitation to SPTA to use these facilities and Mr. Barr agreed to convey this decision to Mr. Bethel.

ENTERTAINMENTS
COMMITTEE/

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Following upon the meeting of the Entertainments Committee on 30th November, 1983 Mr. McKenzie reported the updated position regarding the arrangements for the Association's Dinner and Dance Function to be held in the Salutation Hotel, Perth on Friday, 27th January, 1984. Mr. Miller also reported continuing efforts for early finalisation of a revised quotation for the proposed 1984 Study Tour to Portugal, to be circularised to ascertain support. Mr. Blackmore confirmed that arrangements for the second leg of the annual Curling Match (to be held in Perth Ice Rink on Friday 9th March, 1984) were in hand.

SCOTTISH
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Mr. McKenzie reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee which he had attended with Mr. Brass in London on 7th December, 1983. Including average prices and prices by areas and varieties, an improved "smalls" trade was recorded. Supplies (including "Great Brits") had been reported, during which it was stated the estimated wastage rate had been increased from 11% to 13%. The estimated end-October crop shortfall of 850,000 tonnes had been revised to between 400,000 and 450,000 tonnes by the date of the meeting. By that same date the rate of movement into human consumption was reported to have fallen by between 1% and 2%, while to avoid a deficit altogether would require a fall of between 3 Kg. and 4 Kg. per head per annum. There was widespread concern about imports of Dutch "mini-chips" of smalls and brock.

Crop yield reports indicated the overall reduction in Scotland was 26% (Perthshire and Fife being worst counties). Against a target area of 161,000 ha. indicated intended plantings of 165,000 ha. was reported. The PMB intended to discourage this latter figure energetically. Movements of seed from Scotland to the South by the date of that meeting was the lowest ever recorded. Mr. McKenzie had asked the Board not to publicise these figures. Mr. Hitchcock had voiced extreme disappointment that Italy had reneged on its undertaking re imports of Kennebec and Messrs. McKenzie and Brass had voiced SPTA concern re old-crop imports from Cyprus. Imports of early crop this season were indicated to be 450,000 tonnes, an increase of 100,000 tonnes over the previous year. It was also reported that in the week before that meeting only 184 tonnes of "Great Brits" had reached the market, making a total of only 711 tonnes for the Season up to that time.

JOINT
LIAISON
COMMITTEE:

Council noted the pre-circulated NASPM Report of the meeting of the Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee held in London on 8th December, 1983. Mr. Cook enlarged on the discussion of formation of a "Chemicals Forum" and of tecnazene. This had been rather inconclusive and he felt Council would be wiser after this afternoon's address following the Association's A.G.M. He was convinced the Association was right to press for open discussion of the subject of Chemicals problems, since they have tremendous legal and commercial implications.

Council's discussions turned to difficulties arising from delays in obtaining official labels. Mr. Smillie confirmed he had waited up to 17 days for labels to be issued by DAFS' Aberdeen office, but other areas gave a much better service. Mr. Cook agreed that DAFS now accepted telexed requests and Mr. Lindsay's proposal to make representations to Mr. McIntosh was not adopted.

N.F.U.S./
S.P.T.A.
MEETING:

Mr. Cook reported on an exploratory meeting, at the NFUS' invitation, in Edinburgh on 11th January, 1984 regarding possible changes to the Potato Marketing Scheme. He explained the background and history of the initiative which the NFUS had provided and their view of the importance of SPTA involvement and expression of its views.

To this end Council agreed to meet again specifically to discuss an SPTA response to NFUS' proposals, in readiness for a further meeting with NFUS on 8th February, 1984.

A.O.C.B:

1. DAFS/PMB Inspections - Mr. Miller explained his experience in respect/

respect of a consignment, dressed and passed by DAFS in Aberdeenshire, which had been rejected for mechanical damage by a DAFS inspection in Fife. After a further inspection there, the PMB had declared they would not have rejected the consignment, since the damage would not have prevented growth. Council discussed this problem briefly and Mr. Miller noted the views expressed.

2. ESCA Disease Warnings - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of formal notice that for cost reasons mailing of disease warnings direct to growers will be discontinued in 1984, being replaced by media announcements as formerly.

3. Seed Exports to Morocco - He also reported receipt of copies of DAFS letters to exporters re PCN Sampling. While Council felt the arrangements were intended to be helpful it was agreed they would have minimal application in the current Season.

4. SSPDC News Letter - Mr. Blackmore tabled a letter from an English Seed Merchant seeking SPTA views on certain aspects of SSPDC's November, 1983 News Letter. After brief discussion it was agreed the Secretariat should write a suitable reply.

5. Scab affected Seed - Mr. Logan Milne felt ADAS and MAFF interpretation of scab tolerances differed from that applied by DAFS. Council agreed this problem was more apparent this Season, but no conclusion was reached.

6. Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Council in the Ice Rink, Perth at 11 a.m. on Friday, 9th March, 1984 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

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

Handwritten signature