

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the City Mills Hotel, PERTH at
2 p.m. on Thursday, 25th OCTOBER, 1984.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, B. Fulton, J. Henderson, D.H. Lindsay, P. Miller, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffat, T. McClung, K.A. McKenzie and J.O. Robertson with Messrs. I. Sturrock and A. Gunn (of Messrs. Stewart Wrightson, Insurance Brokers) R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The President, Mr. J.E. Cook, took the Chair and welcomed those present. He introduced Messrs. Sturrock and Gunn, who were in attendance in connection with discussion of the Product Liability Insurance proposals.

PRODUCT
LIABILITY
INSURANCE:

Mr. Sturrock explained and compared the two policy proposals available from the General Accident and from the Sun Alliance. At the outset of his enquiries on behalf of the Association, the Sun was not prepared to cover non-germination or untrue type risks or to cover anyone engaged in growing and dressing activities. Stewart Wrightson felt this was clearly inappropriate to the Association's needs. The G.A., on the other hand agreed to cover these risks at very attractive premium rates exclusive to Association Members. It was felt this could lead to an increase in Association membership.

He recognised the Sun proposals will suit English Merchants who do not grow and dress their seed. The Sun clearly envisages proceeding against growers to recover claims met. He accepted that growing activities is where the main risks arise. The G.A. policy covers those risks on a consequential liability basis only (including partial germination), together with all legal expenses. It does not cover the cost of the defective seed itself. Thus the premiums represent control of the cost of claims. He went through the Policy document and premium rates, the cover, exclusions, claim (indemnity) limitations and the options available in full detail.

In reply to questions, Mr. Sturrock stated the Sun premium rate of £1.75 for each 10 tonnes of seed handled was closely similar to G.A. rates based on turnover (at an average price of seed @ £100 per tonne), stressing that because of the fuller cover offered by the G.A. their premium rates were doubly attractive. He re-affirmed the G.A. policy does not include the cost of the defective seed itself but only the resultant liability therefrom (which Mr. Hunter pointed out was consistent with the Association's Conditions of Sale). Further discussions covered possible causes and effects and the impact on Arbitrations and, in reply, Mr. Sturrock undertook to obtain clarification whether "improper application" includes a dirty sprayer and spray drift. He also explained "untrue types", admixture and exports are all covered, and confirmed there would be no "averaging", adding that the cover would be available to Members ^{of the G.A.} Agents ^{of the G.A.} but at substantially higher premiums. He explained only one Policy would be written with a relative cover certificate issued to each insured Member annually.

The Chairman thanked Messrs. Sturrock and Gunn for their attendance and most helpful explanations. Having expressed their appreciation of the Association's hospitality, Messrs. Sturrock and Gunn left the meeting.

In Council's view the G.A. being a substantial and reputable insurer and Stewart Wrightson having done a good job of negotiating cover and terms to meet the Association's requirements, the proposals should be supported for earliest introduction. Subject to receipt of satisfactory clarification of the final point (above), the Secretary was instructed to circularise Council's recommendation to all Members and to explain it is Stewart Wrightson's intention to visit each Member individually for/

for detailed explanation (a copy of the Membership Roll being released to Stewart Wrightson for this purpose). Mr. Hunter apologised to the Chair for having to leave the meeting at this point.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore announced apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, R. Doig, D. Maxwell, W.E. Muirhead, J.R. McArthur and G. Smillie.

MINUTES: The Minutes of Meetings of Council held in Perth on 6th and 27th September, 1984 (a copy of each having been sent to each Member of Council beforehand) were taken as read. They were formally approved and duly signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Membership - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of PMB notification of cancellation of Angus Brown (Glasgow)'s Ware Merchants Licence (Mr. Robertson explained this was due to retiral from business) and a telephoned enquiry for Association Membership from Messrs. Duthie & Fleming (Blairgowrie).

(b) Foreign Study Tour 1985 - Following further discussion Council agreed that for want of adequate support the plans for a Study Tour in 1985 would be cancelled.

(c) Elections to Council - Mr. Blackmore reported 63 Ballot Papers (54.3%) recording 356 Votes (51.2%) had been received by the close of the Poll. Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.H. Barr, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig and D. Maxwell were re-elected. In respect of the sixth vacancy, Messrs. I. Melrose and J. Swinton had both polled an identical number of votes (and had done so day-by-day throughout the Ballot), almost three times the number polled by their nearest rival. Council decided to draw lots to resolve the matter, following which J. Swinton, Esq. was deemed elected to serve for three years and I. Melrose, Was. was co-opted to serve for one year.

Council agreed that the attendance record of each Councillor seeking re-election should be circularised in future Ballots.

(d) Venue for next Meeting - Having previously agreed to meet again on Thursday, 22nd November, 1984 Council instructed this meeting be held in the City Mills Hotel, Perth.

(e) Notes for Arbiters and "Conditions" anomaly - Mr. Blackmore explained both the matters were receiving the Secretary's attention as instructed and would be reported on as soon as possible.

APPOINTMENTS: (a) Deputy Vice President - The Chairman reminded Council of the vacancy in the Association's Office Bearers and sought Members views. It was agreed desirable the vacancy be filled. Mr. Cook proposed and Mr. McKenzie seconded the appointment of G.S. Brass, Esq. to the Office of Deputy Vice President of the Association. There being no alternative proposal Mr. Brass' appointment was unanimously confirmed. Mr. Brass thanked Council for its confidence in him.

(b) PMB Committees - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of a letter asking for nominations of Association representatives to the various PMB Committees. After brief discussion it was agreed existing representation be continued for a further year, with the exception that Mr. Brass be nominated to replace Mr. Cook as the alternative representative to the Seed Potato Advisory Committee.

S.S.P.D.C.: Mr. Barr gave a brief report on the most recent meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council. The Chairman explained the arrangements made for the recent visit of a party from Portugal. Messrs. Miller and Deuchar expressed serious criticism of those arrangements and, following discussion, it was agreed the facts of these matters be conveyed direct to the Association's representatives on the Development Council who, in turn, would take the matter up strongly at the next meeting of that Council.

B.P.T. Mr. Cook reported briefly on the meeting of the British Potato
CONSORTIUM: Trades Consortium held in London on 10th September, 1984 at which much anxiety had been expressed regarding operation of the PMB's new Direct Intervention arrangements, in readiness for the afternoon meeting of the JCC that same day.

JOINT In continuation, Mr. Cook explained discussion of those arrangements
CONSULTATIVE was deferred to a Special Meeting on 26th October at which one
COMMITTEE: representative from each Consortium constituent would meet the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board.

In the event, Mr. Pooley only was present at that Special Meeting. He explained the Chairman and Vice Chairman were not available. The Consortium representatives had decided unanimously not to discuss with Mr. Pooley (much to his anger) and a further meeting was arranged for 31st October, 1984 at which Messrs. Hitchcock and Sinclair would be present.

The matter had since been overtaken by the PMB's announcement of October Contracts purchases. The announcement stated that the Board had consulted the Tradz. While he had had talks with Mr. Scorer (Consortium Chairman), Mr. Scorer had believed he had been consulted as President of the National Federation. Council instructed the Secretariat to write to the PMB asking for SPTA to be consulted. Following further discussion Council also instructed the Secretariat to circularise the PMB report on this JCC meeting to each Member of Council as soon as it is received.

JOINT The Reports of the Meetings of the Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison
LIAISON Committee in Edinburgh on 17th October, 1984 (a copy of each of which had
COMMITTEE: already been sent to each Member of Council) were taken as read and duly noted.

SCOTTISH Messrs. McKenzie and Robertson reported on the meeting of the
ADVISORY Scottish Advisory Committee which they had attended in Edinburgh on 18th
COMMITTEE: October, 1984. It had been reported that unpaid PMB levies in Scotland totalled £103,000 (Mr. McKenzie stated John Clyde, Q.C. is representing the "rebels"). At the date of the meeting Mr. Pooley had reckoned there would be a surplus of between 100 and 300 thousand tonnes for the current Season. There had been discussion of "contracts swapping" and it had been expected that the revised PMB Scheme will be published during November/December. The NFUS had prepared alternative Direct Intervention proposals, copies of which had been promised to follow. "Great Brist" tonnage figures had been given (20 tonnes from Sutton Bridge had been disputed) and commercial sales from Sutton Bridge last year were believed to have amounted to £200,000. Council agreed the Association's representatives should take this up with the Board when the JCC meets at Sutton Bridge on 12th November, 1984. The Secretariat was instructed to circularise the PMB Report on the Scottish Advisory Committee meeting to all Members of Council as soon as it is received. Council also agreed to support NFUS in calling up for a withdrawal of the Peeler Grade and instructed the Secretariat to write to the Board to ask for this to be done on a permanent basis by formal Prescription.

SEED In the event that Mr. McArthur, who had represented the
POTATO Association at the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee in
ADVISORY London on 23rd October, 1984, was not present today no Report was
COMMITTEE: received.

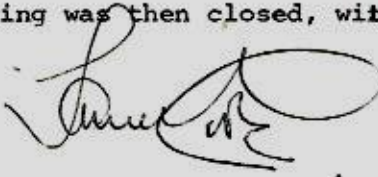
EXPORT Similarly, no Report was received on the meeting of the Export
DEVELOP- Development Committee held in London on 24th October, 1984.
MENT
COMMITTEE:

A.O.C.B.: (a) Annual Accounts - Mr. Blackmore reported that although the Association's Annual Accounts were still being finalised, the indications were that everything is straightforward and in line with the Finance Committee's/

Committee's instructions at its mid-year meeting. Council instructed the finalised Accounts to be submitted to the Auditor as soon as possible

(b) PAYE and NHIC - casual workers - Mr. McKenzie explained his Company had been visited by the Inland Revenue and he understood that similar visits are to be made to all Merchants, growers, contractors and farmers. In Council's discussion it was reported NFUS is considering taking this matter up at national level. Council agreed to approach NFUS offering this Association's support.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. McKenzie', written in a cursive style.