

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
in the City Mills Hotel, PERTH at 11 a.m.  
on Friday, 8th MARCH, 1985.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, J. Henderson, Snr., D.H. Lindsay, I. Melrose, P. Miller, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson, G. Smillie, and J.M. Swinton, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance and Mr. J.H. Henderson, Jnr. visiting.

The Vice-President, Mr. K.A. McKenzie, took the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting, it being agreed Mr. J.H. Henderson, Jnr. remain present as a visitor.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.E. Cook, R. Doig, B. Fulton, D. Maxwell, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffat and T. McClung.

MINUTES:

The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 18th January, (previously copied 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 and Subscriptions - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of a letter of resignation of Membership from Messrs. Angus Brown & Co., Glasgow (the business having been sold following retiral) reducing the total Roll to 114 Members.

He also reported advices that Messrs. Glenfarg Potatoes had been granted PMB Merchants Licenses and Messrs. D.I.P. Fenton, (Dunning), Leslie Milne Ltd. (Glasgow) and Messrs. Taylor & Fraser (Elgin) had applied for Merchants Licences. Council agreed the first named be invited to seek two proposers for Membership and the others be deferred until their applications have been granted.

In respect of Subscriptions, Mr. Blackmore stated 88 had been paid, totalling £7,270, being 77.2% and 81.7% of the total Membership and of the projected total Subscriptions respectively, leaving 26 Subscriptions totalling £1,630 still outstanding. Council instructed reminder letters be issued to these Members, with any non-timeous response being reported to the Finance Committee in due course.

(b) Notes for Arbiters - During Council's consideration of the pre-circulated revised Notes it was agreed the penultimate sentence of Para. 8(e) should be withdrawn and that amended Notes be remitted to the "Conditions" sub-Committee and Mr. Barr for further consideration.

(c) 1985 Minimum Ware Riddle - An explanatory PMB Paper having been previously copied to each Member of Council, the Chairman opened discussion of the PMB activation of consultative procedure to consider increasing the minimum ware riddle to 45 mm. for Season 1985. He stated his belief that the increase will be introduced.

It was felt the problem of surplus production would be better controlled from the acreage side, stop sale of basic acreage and/or allowing unused acreage to "sleep". The timetable for determination of the supply position before a riddle change can be made was also considered. Council agreed to stand by the S.P.T.A.'s "no change" view, accepting that this lone voice is likely to be over-ruled.

(d) P.A.Y.E./NHIC - Council noted the pre-circularised Report on a meeting with Messrs. Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co. The Secretary explained promised notes were believed to be imminent.

(e) Advertising Leaflets - Mr. Blackmore reported that Carlton Marketing/

Marketing Enterprises had made a contribution of £10 towards the postage costs of the last News Letter.

(f) A. & S. Potatoes - In reply to the Chair, the Secretary stated he had received no further information on this Company's application for a PMB Merchants Licence. Mr. Smillie stated this application had now been granted.

S.S.P.D.C:

Mr. Hunter reported Mr. Cook's request for clarification of Council's view on the inclusion of non-U.K. varieties in S.S.P.D.C.'s display at the last Royal Smithfield Show. Discussion centred on whether the question of "multiplied in Scotland" or restrictive availability, or destination of royalties, ought to be the determining factor. Council agreed it was essential the Development Council is seen to be absolutely impartial and the Association's representatives should try to implement this view.

B.P.T.C:

The Association representatives' pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium in London on 4th February, 1985 was taken as read. Arising therefrom, Council agreed to contribute £50 to sponsor the European Union Congress to be held in Brighton from 30th May to 1st June, 1985 and to meet the Conference (excluding travel) expenses of one Association delegate.

In respect of the Consortium's 1984 Accounts it was noted that the travelling expenses of the Consortium's representative to the Union accounted for £900 of the total expenditure of £1,100. It was also stated that the Consortium Secretary could not continue at his very modest current fee. Council considered delegates attendance by rotation and authorised payment of the Association's shares of Consortium expenses and Euro Union subscription (together totalling £278.10) in due course. In brief discussion of possible cessation of Consortium membership of the Union leading to dissolution of the Consortium, it was noted that the Consortium provides for direct trade/government consultation.

JOINT  
CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE:

Pre-circulated Reports on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee in London on 4th February, 1985 were taken as read. Discussion thereof centred on the "Great Brits" Scheme. The Chairman reported that following the disappointing launch of the Scheme in the Granada area, its future was being seriously questioned. It was clear the PMB wants a minimal continuation of the Scheme as opposed to scrapping it entirely. A view was expressed that since each tonne of "Great Brits" had cost the Board £80 the Scheme was economically suicidal. Council agreed the Association should not seek to kill the Scheme off but to support its continuation in a much more modest form. It was also agreed to obtain more analysed facts and figures, the extent of Food from Britain Support and the possibility of support from the new Quality Label Scheme, before Council's next meeting.

SEED  
POTATO  
CONSULTATIVE  
PANEL:

During consideration of the pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel in Edinburgh on 8th February, 1985 Council noted explanations of delayed PCN test results, inspection applications arrangements re accompanying Invoices, remission of proposed higher voluntary standards to the Seed Trade Committee and Mr. Hay's retiral from the NFUS' Potatoes Committee (and thus from the Panel).

N.S.D.O:

Enlarging on his pre-circulated Report on the meeting with the National Seed Development Organisation Ltd. in London on 20th February, 1985 Mr. Barr explained the agreed indexation procedures had reduced the meeting to less than an hour and now did not warrant the time and cost of travelling. Council agreed the views of NFUS on this point should be sought at the next meeting of the Seed Trade Committee. The Secretary also agreed to provide copies of NSDO acreages/varieties tabulation presented at that meeting to Council Members on request. In brief discussion, Council felt that a request for/

for instalment payment of Royalties was unlikely to be successful.

A.O.C.B:

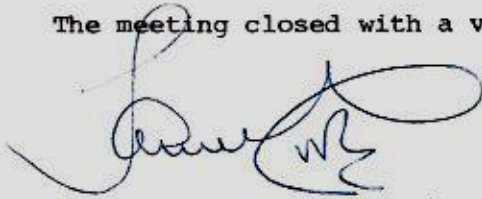
(a) Golf Outing - The Secretary reported that the Association's annual Golf Outing is to take place over the Rosemount courses on Tuesday, 14th May, 1985. Following a meeting of the Entertainments Committee shortly, full details will be circularised to all Association Members.

(b) Pre-circulated Reports - In reply to the Chair Council agreed pre-circulation of Reports on meetings had proved distinctly advantageous today and should be continued in future.

(c) Ware Imports - In reply to Mr. Lindsay, in readiness for the forthcoming meeting of the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee in London on 12th March, 1985 Council felt the question of imports against a U.K. minimum riddle of 45 mm. could be usefully discussed.

(d) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to meet again in the City Mills Hotel, Perth at 12.30 p.m. for 2 p.m. on Thursday, 9th May, 1985 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'James W. G.', written in a cursive style.