

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in the Wheel Inn Motel, SCONE at 2 p.m.
on Tuesday, 26th NOVEMBER, 1985.

- PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay, P. Miller, T. McClung, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.
- Mr. J.E. Cook, retiring President, took the Chair. He welcomed those present, particularly Mr. Whitehead attending his first meeting since his election to Council.
- APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. W.T. Aitken, A.J. Allan, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, J. Henderson, D. Maxwell, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffat and J.R. McArthur.
- MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 24th October, 1985 (a copy of which had been sent to each Member of Council beforehand) was taken as read. It was formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.
- MATTERS ARISING:
- (a) Minute of Meeting of 5th September, 1985 - Mr. Blackmore explained that the enquiry attributed to Mr. Moffat although he had not been present at the meeting had been submitted by telephone to the Secretariat and had been put to Council on his behalf. Council agreed the Minute need not be amended.
- (b) Quota Sales - Mr. Robertson referred to his earlier letter to the Secretariat, particularly to Quota attached to rented land in Scotland. In Council's discussion it was agreed that sales of Quota now permitted for a privileged number of buyers is less than fair, but doubt was expressed that any change would require statutory amendment of the Scheme. It was agreed the Secretariat would check the Scheme before writing the PMB in the matter and that the letter should be copied to Messrs. Cook, McKenzie and Robertson.
- (c) Arbitration procedures - Mr. Hunter reported briefly and that he felt a further meeting with the Insurers should be arranged, after the Smithfield Show. Mr. Barr agreed to be present at such a meeting.
- (d) PAYE/NIC on casual harvest wages - Mr. Hunter reported on a meeting and telephone calls with Mr. McDougall of Messrs. Arthur Young. Council agreed Mr. McDougall be asked to arrange a meeting with DHSS principals and to indicate his fees to date. Council also authorised settlement of Mr. Fairbairn's fee of £300.00 (now to hand) for his Opinion and Mr. McDougall's fees up to a limit of £500.00 in due course.
- (e) Sutton Bridge - Mr. Brass reported that he and Mr. McKenzie had studied the Management Accounts provided by the PMB. They were now more confused than before and felt professional accounting assistance should be sought on the interpretation of the methods used. Council agreed Mr. McDougall of Messrs. Arthur Young be approached. It was felt unlikely that SSPDC would contribute towards this cost but to keep in mind that an application for assistance with N.I.C. fees might be feasible.
- (f) Red Diesel fuel - Mr. Hunter read a letter from the Customs & Excise setting out the thrust of the regulations and explaining that current investigations in response to representations from road haulage interests would continue.
- (g) Export Development Committee - Council considered the PMB's proposed transfer of the functions of the Export Development Committee to the Joint/

Joint Liaison Committee and noted a report that the change had been minuted to proceed on a twelve month's trial basis with a review thereafter.

(h) Joint Liaison Committee December meeting - Mr. Cook reported having telephoned Mr. Sherriff (NASPM) and agreed that the usual Smithfield Week meeting could not take place for practical reasons. Mr. Hunter reported a letter confirming this had also come to hand from NASPM,

Mr. Barr pointed out that the last meeting of the JLC with DAFS (p.m. 16th October, 1985) had reportedly found Scottish support for year numbering of E grade. Both he and Mr. Fenton had refuted this at the last SSPDC meeting. In reply, Council was unanimously opposed to such a change and it was agreed to write DAFS accordingly immediately.

(i) Date, Venue and Speaker for A.G.M. - Following discussion Council agreed to try to arrange the Association's A.G.M. for Friday, 17th January, 1986 at a venue to be decided by the President and the Secretary. It was also agreed to invite Mr. Ian Grant (President, NFUS), whom failing Mr. Gordon Lyall (DAFS) to address the A.G.M. on "The Future of the Potato Industry in Scotland".

(j) Phytosanitary Certificates/C.I.P.C. - Council agreed to defer this Item to the Agenda for its next meeting.

(k) Membership - (1) Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of letters from Messrs. P.L. Fordyce and David Lindsay (Potato Merchants) Ltd, nominating Burnmouth Potato Co. Ltd. (Newtyle) for membership of the Association. Following discussion and in the absence of any objections Council duly accepted these nominations.

(2) Mr. Blackmore also reported PMB notification that Peter Rattray (Auchterarder) has applied for a Ware Merchant's Licence. Council agreed to reconsider this, once this Licence has been granted.

ELECTION OF
OFFICE
BEARERS:

On demitting Office as President of the Association, Mr. Cook voiced his regrets that he had not succeeded in making any impact during his term of Office on the problem of direct PMB/Processor trading. This must now fall to his successor. He thanked the Secretariat for its support and proposed Mr. K.A. McKenzie for election as the next President of the Association. Mr. Barr expressed his pleasure in seconding this proposal and there being no alternative proposal Mr. McKenzie was elected unanimously and took the Chair.

He paid tribute and thanks to Mr. Cook for all his work during his term of Office. Council expressed its appreciation with applause. Mr. McKenzie also thanked Council for the confidence it had placed in him and expressed his aim to be to improve communication with the Membership and the media. He proposed Mr. Brass for election as Vice President of the Association, seconded by Mr. Cook, and there being no alternative Mr. Brass was unanimously so elected and he thanked Council for its confidence in him.

Mr. McKenzie also proposed Mr. P. Moffat be elected to serve as Deputy Vice President of the Association, explaining that although unable to attend today's meeting, Mr. Moffat had indicated his willingness to serve if elected. Mr. Brass duly seconded this proposal and there being no alternative proposal, Mr. Moffat was unanimously so elected.

APPOINT-
MENT OF
ASSOCIATION
REPRESENT-
ATIVES:

After due consideration Council appointed the following representatives to serve on the following Committees for the year to 31st October, 1986:-

EXTERNAL - POTATO MARKETING BOARD

Joint Consultative Committee

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass, with Messrs. P. Moffat/

Moffat and J.P. Deuchar as alternative.

Scottish Advisory Committee

Messrs. G.S. Brass and P. Moffat, with Mr. K.A. McKenzie as alternative.

Seed Potato Advisory Committee

Mr. G.S. Brass, with Mr. P. Moffat as alternative.

Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee

Mr. D.H. Lindsay, with Mr. J.O. Robertson as alternative.

OTHER EXTERNAL COMMITTEES ETC.

British Potato Trades Consortium

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass, with Messrs. P. Moffat and J.P. Deuchar as alternatives.

British Rail/Freightliners

In abeyance meantime - as and when required.

Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass (ex officio), with Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, D.H. Lindsay and T. McClung.

N.S.D.O. Consultative Committee

Mr. J.H. Barr, with Mr. J.R. McArthur as alternative.

(DAFS's) Seed Potato Consultative Panel

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass, with Mr. P. Moffat as alternative.

(Joint) Seed Trade Committee

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie, G.S. Brass and P. Moffat

Scottish Seed Potato Development Council

Representatives appointed by the Minister of State for Agriculture - Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, R. Doig, J.G.H. Fenton, J.R. McArthur and I.R. McKenzie
Mr. D.A. Lawson appointed as a Special Representative.

INTERNAL - S.P.T.A. COMMITTEES ETC.

(President) K.A. McKenzie and (Vice President) G.S. Brass ex officio in each case.

"Conditions" Committee

Messrs. J.O. Robertson (Convenor), J. Henderson, R.D. Hunter, P. Miller and J.M. Swinton.

Entertainments Committee

Messrs. P. Miller (Convenor), R. Doig, J.R. McArthur and A.S. Whitehead.

Finance Committee

Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay and J.O. Robertson.

Panel of Arbiters

All Members of Council, together with Mr. J. George (co-opted)

Press Officer

Mr. P. Moffat

Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors

Mr. D. Maxwell as S.P.T.A.'s Nominee

Secretary/

Secretary & Treasurer - Mr. R. David Hunter

Assistant Secretary - Mr. D. Blackmore

Association Auditor - Mr. Frank R. Greig, C.A.

S.S.P.D.C.

Mr. Barr reported briefly on the activities of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council. He commented on the "power struggle" in progress with several other bodies to try to produce a single, authoritative voice. In his own view there is no resolution in sight. Mr. Cook added remarks on the VTSCGA Conference 1985, at Aviemore, when Mr. Hitckcock (Chairman, PMB) had been made fully aware of the Scottish Seed situation.

FINANCE
COMMITTEE:

Council noted the pre-circularised Report on the meeting of the Association's Finance Committee in Perth on 31st October, 1985. After brief discussion, Council agreed the Committee's recommendations on rates of Annual Membership Subscriptions for the year to 31st October, 1986 be forwarded for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of Members.

ENTERTAIN-
MENTS
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Miller enlarged on the pre-circulated Report on the Meeting of the Entertainments Committee in Perth on 8th November, 1985. In respect of the Association's Annual Dinner/Dance, Council discussed invitations for official guests, a raffle, etc. and instructed circularisation of full details to Members of the Association. Mr. McClung reported that in the event that a suitable booking for the first leg of the Annual North v. South Curling Match had not been obtainable from the Murray-field Ice Rink, a booking for this event to be held on 21st January, 1986 in Perth Ice Rink had now been made.

In respect of the Annual Golf Outing, Mr. Miller explained the question of sponsorships had been raised. Following discussion, Council agreed there was no objection in principle and that the Committee should investigate further and report back. It was also agreed the booking offered for Thursday, 29th May, 1986 be accepted.

BRITISH
POTATO
TRADE
CONSORTIUM:

The pre-circulated Report on the Consortium Meeting in London on 11th November, 1985 was considered and discussed, principally regarding direct trading by the PMB. It was felt that regrettably, protestations had been ineffective and further correspondence at this time would be unlikely to succeed.

JOINT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE:

The pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee in London on 11th November, 1985 was considered and briefly discussed. Mr. Cook reported he had been surprised by Mr. Whittle (NASPM)'s views on the Board's commercial operations at Sutton Bridge.

WARE
POTATO
IMPORTS
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Hunter explained that Mr. Fulton (who is not now a Member of Council and therefore not present today) had attended the meeting of the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee in London on 21st November, 1985 but his Report on that meeting had not yet come to hand. Council instructed that a copy of his Report be sent to each Member of Council in due course.

A.O.C.B.

(a) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting at 11 a.m. on the date of the Annual General Meeting.

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

W. Hunter