

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in the City Mills Hotel, PERTH at 11a.m.
on Friday, 7th MARCH, 1986

PRESENT: Messrs. W.I. Aitken, J.H. Barr, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, K.A. McKenzie, P. Miller, J.O. Robertson, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The President, Mr. K.A. McKenzie, took the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary submitted apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, J. Henderson, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffat, J.R. McArthur and T. McClung and for late arrival on behalf of R. Doig.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Perth on 17th January, 1986 (a copy of which had been sent to each Member of Council) was taken as read. It was formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Quota Sales - The Chairman read out a letter, composed in liaison with and approved by Mr. Robertson, which had now been posted to the Potato Marketing Board. In a short discussion Council approved the terms of the letter.

(b) Arbitration Procedures - Mr. Hunter reported briefly that following a further meeting with the Association's Brokers and the Insurers, understanding had now been reached and the Association's (guidance notes) Procedures will be copied to all Members with the next News Letter.

(c) PAYE/NIC - Mr. Blackmore reported that Mr. McDougall (Messrs. Arthur Young, C.A.) had written the DHSS some time ago for further information and clarification and requesting a "top level" meeting. No reply has been received and Mr. McDougall is to send a reminder. He agreed with Council's dismay at the absence of progress. Mr. Lindsay sought advice on completion of Forms P38 for the current tax year-end next month. Council felt no advice could be circularised to Members now and instructed the Secretariat to press Mr. McDougall for early progress.

(d) Sutton Bridge - Council agreed to defer this Item until Mr. Brass' arrival.

(e) J.C.C. Representation - Council deferred this Item until later in today's Agenda (Item 6).

(f) Year-numbering of 'Elite' class - Council deferred this Item until Item 11 in today's Agenda.

(g) G.K.N. Chep Ltd. - Mr. Hunter reported having looked into the legal position of an Association Member in possession of a pallet, the ownership of which is claimed by GKN Chep Ltd. In such circumstances the law on Presumption of Ownership provides that the possessor is presumed to be the owner and requires an adversary to both establish his ownership and show not only that he lost possession but that he did so in some way consistent with retention of ownership.

In discussion it was agreed a Member's possession arose from exchange of pallets without money passing. The problem seemed to be mostly in the West Coast and Paisley area and Solicitors' letters are believed to be passing. It was pointed out this pallet scheme originated some fifteen years ago and only now has GKN woken to the fact that (as Council agreed) the scheme is totally out of control in Scotland. It was decided further advice to Members, beyond the recent News/

News Letter Item offering the Secretariat's assistance, was not required.

(h) Association Accounts - Mr. Blackmore reported he had still to provide the Auditor with duplicates of a number of vouchers before the Audit could be completed and the Account signed and returned. He apologised sincerely for this prolonged delay. Council instructed completion of the Audit by the end of the current month.

S.S.P.D.C.:

Mr. Barr reported that a précis of each meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council is no longer prepared and circularised. He confirmed that meetings have taken place and the principal topics are widely known. Ensuing discussion reported poor attendance and apathy at the recent A.G.M.-type meeting in Perth with misgivings among some NFUS members on what has been achieved and whether viable in the longer term. Council felt SSPDC was a good authority for publicity, student intake, etc. and that input instruction from NFUS and SPTA should be improved.

B.P.T.C.:

Mr. McKenzie spoke to the pre-circulated report on the meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium held in London in the morning of Monday, 3rd February, 1986. He highlighted stiffened National Joint Council opposition to the proposed reduction of representation on the Joint Consultative Committee, enlarged on the rhizomania scare in the south (imports to McCains not being government inspected), uncleaned machinery, processor effluent, etc.) and it had been agreed to maintain pressure in these matters. Council authorised payment of SPTA's share of Consortium outlays amounting in total to £161.10.

J.C.C.:

Mr. McKenzie continued by speaking to the pre-circulated report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held in London in the afternoon of Monday, 3rd February, 1986. Discussion had included ring rot and rhizomania and Mr. Hitchcock (Chairman PMB) is to pursue the latter with MAFF with a view to restricting the number of ports of entry, stepping up health inspections and the possibility of a ban if found again. It had also been reported that the proposed increases in the rate of Excess Area levies and maximum fine for undeclared plantings are planned to be introduced for the 1987 crop. In conclusion Mr. McKenzie reported the progress in restoring representation on this Committee.

S.A.C.:

Council took note of Mr. McKenzie's pre-circularised report on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee held in Edinburgh in the morning of Friday, 7th February, 1986. He explained the PMB had been upset by the recent adverse judgement against it under Scots Law (unable to deduct unpaid levy from payment for contracted supplies). There had been 100% support for the proposed increases in Excess Levies and maximum fines.

S.P.A.C.:

On behalf of Mr. Moffat, the Chairman reported that the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held in Edinburgh in the afternoon of Friday, 7th February, 1986 had mirrored the morning meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee (above). There had also been an exchange of views on the proposed changes to Regulations in respect of Veinal Necrosis and year-numbering of 'Elite' grade.

ENTERTAINMENTS
COMMITTEE:

Council noted the pre-circulated report on the meeting of the Entertainments Committee in Perth on Friday, 7th February, 1986. Following brief discussion it was agreed to leave the matters of prizes and sponsorship for the Golf Outing and the possibility of changing the venue for the Dinner and Dance in the hands of the Committee.

N.S.D.O.:

Mr. Barr spoke to his pre-circularised report on the meeting with the National Seed Development Organisation Ltd. which he had attended in London on Wednesday, 19th February, 1986. After somewhat heated discussion, full "formula" increases in Royalty rates were successfully modified by £1.00 per hectare and the position up to 1987 crop was thus safeguarded/

safeguarded. Council's discussion took up the proposed privatisation of N.S.D.O. It was agreed to ask Mr. Bethel (SSPDC) and/or Mr. McLaren (NFUS) to represent SPTA at the London meeting on Tuesday, 11th March, 1986 to discuss Industry Fundings of Research and Development. The Chairman also read out a draft of a letter to Mr. Lyall (DAFS) and it was agreed the Association's Office Bearers and Mr. Barr could represent the Association if a meeting with him could be arranged. Discussion revealed strong concern that monopolistic positions could be created by the proposed privatisation of NSDO.

S.P.C.P:

Council considered the pre-circulated report on the meeting of DAFS' Seed Potato Consultative Panel held in Edinburgh on Thursday, 20th February, 1986. The Chairman added he had been surprised to learn that Metasystox can actually encourage aphids and that organophosphorous is effective for the first six weeks only. He also reported that DAFS had issued warnings to five VTSC growers. In respect that a decision on soil tolerance for exports had been deferred, Council felt that the (restricted) supplementary meeting on Monday, 10th March, 1986 would be important. It was agreed to maintain a "no change at any price" position in this matter. Council also agreed the next Association News Letter should include a reminder on the provision of adequate tuber inspection tables.

A.O.C.B:

(a) Membership and Subscriptions - Mr. Blackmore reported receipt of 71 Annual Membership Subscriptions to date, totalling £6,275 (excluding V.A.T.). Resignations have been received from David T. Smith (Dundee) Ltd. (27/1/86), Clarence Murray Ltd. (31/1/86) and Messrs. Alex. Gordon & Co. (26/2/86). Council agreed that Mr. Maxwell contact Mr. Roy Murray and that the Secretariat write the other two (former) Members regarding the copyright of the Association's Conditions of Sale and Purchase. Council also instructed the insertion of a subscriptions reminder in the next News Letter and (now that the Insurers had approved them) the revised Notes for Arbiters be copied to all Members for their information.

(b) Forthcoming Meetings - This item had already been covered during the meeting.

(c) Content of News Letters - The Chairman proposed that the content of future News Letters should be made to provide more explicit information for Members. Council supported this proposal unanimously.

(d) Date of Next Meeting - Council agreed to meet again on Thursday, 15th May, 1986. After a short discussion it was decided to hold this meeting in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, Scone and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

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

