

Board Chairman and Vice Chairman (A.O. Hitchcock and D.B. Sinclair) both present.

1. Adoption of Minutes.
2. Business arising (mention of introduction of tier grading - more later).
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Retailers Committee Report - R. Harris.  
Pointed out the increasing demand by retailers for first class samples.  
Committee felt that improved grading and presentation was too slow and unpredictable. Pointed out that many samples still failed to meet P.M.B. minimum standard.
5. Market Report Great Britain - P.N. Ives.  
Current Prices - Scotland £55/80 PMT  
                  England and Wales £40/105 PMT  
Top Pre-pack samples up to £130 PMT  
Consumption at approx. 112 Kg. per head per annum.  
Planting in 1986 was behind 1984 and 1985, but ahead of 1983.  
New crop - very slow - at 6.6.86 only 1600/1700 tons lifted, compared to 8,000 tons at same time in 1985.  
Current Prices - Cornwall £310/335 PMT  
                  Kent       £300/330 PMT  
                  Cheshire £380/400 PMT  
Yields ranged from 11-16 tons/Ha.  
S.W. Scotland - unlikely to start until end of June.  
Early imports at present 30/40,000 tons higher than the same time in 1985.  
  
Higher maincrop imports from Holland resulted from U.K. growers being unwilling to load to processors in late April/early May at sensible prices, therefore more potatoes bought from Holland.  
  
Mr. Whittle pointed out that the average price to growers when related to the P.M.B.'s cost of production figures suggested that losses by growers must run to several £m. Mr. D. Sinclair stated that according to his estimates the loss could be as high as £90m. nationwide.  
  
Mr. Hitchcock intimated the P.M.B.'s Model Farm costs calculations were to be reviewed.

G.S. Brass.