

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
in Fountain Plaza, SCONE at 12.30 p.m.  
on Friday, 27th JUNE, 1986

PRESENT: Messrs. W.T. Aitken, G.S. Brass, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig,  
D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and J.O. Robertson, 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 intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. A.J. Allan, J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, J. Henderson, D. Maxwell, P. Miller, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffat, T. McClung, J. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Scone on 15th May, 1986 (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) Quota Sales - Mr. Blackmore apologised for not having completed the further letter to the P.M.B. as instructed and undertook to remedy this urgently.

(b) P.A.Y.E./N.I.C. - Mr. Hunter reported that Mr. McDougall (Messrs. Arthur Young) who is on holiday until 30th June has still to arrange a meeting with D.H.S.S. Mr. McArthur stated no developments had occurred in his own Company's case and Mr. Lindsay reported his own recent experience. During discussion it was agreed sub-contracting for casual harvest workers appeared the least troublesome course to adopt. It was agreed the next News Letter should ask Members to report any approaches and offer sight of Counsel's Opinion if requested with such advice (including non-payment of demands, meantime) as it is safe to give.

(c) Merchants Licences - This Item was deferred until later in the meeting.

(d) Conditions of Purchase - Mr. Hunter reported the terms of his reply to N.I.P.M.A. Ltd. to which a response is awaited.

(e) Membership and Subscriptions - The Secretariat reported that since the date of the last meeting of Council Anderson McKay (Produce) Ltd. had rescinded their resignation and paid their subscription (but Brahan Farms Ltd. had not) and further resignations had been received from Gordon & Innes Ltd. and Messrs. David A. Lawson (Thrums). Formal nominations on behalf of Border Potatoes Ltd. were duly received (from Galbraith & Roy Ltd. and Messrs. Peter Moffat (Potatoes), which company was enrolled as instructed and had paid its (proportionate) Subscription. The total Membership Roll at today's date thus remains at 106 Members.

Also since the last meeting of Council (and following personal approaches as then arranged), subscriptions have been received from John Bryden (Potatoes) Ltd., Ian Glen (Montrose) Ltd., Messrs. MacLennans Potatoes and S. Thompson & Son Ltd., subscriptions from Buchan Potato Growers Ltd., Messrs. D. & J. Eadie, Duncan McCallum, Esq. and J.A. Scott (Moray Potatoes) Ltd. remaining unpaid at today's date. After discussion, Council instructed that these four last-named Members be formally notified of their suspension from Membership and their resultant ineligibility to use the Association's copyright Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase until payment of their 1986 Subscription is received. It was also agreed the next News Letter will include a request to Members to notify the Secretariat of all breaches of the Association's copyright of the Conditions that come to their notice.

Mr. Blackmore further reported receipt of letters from A.J. Allan Ltd./



Ltd. and Fraser of Forfar Ltd. recommending Bond & Waddell Ltd. for admission to Membership of the Association. Council agreed unanimously to accept this admission. Following these suspensions and enrolment, the revised total Membership Roll became 103 as at today's date.

In conclusion Council noted that applications for P.M.B. Merchants' Licences had been made by Messrs. T.P. Forster & Son, Wormit (ware) and Border Potatoes Ltd., Melrose (seed). The latter being already enrolled as a Member of the Association, it was agreed to await advice of the result of the former application.

S.S.P.D.C.:

Reporting on the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council in Edinburgh on 21st June, 1986 Mr. McArthur explained half of the meeting had been spent in a long, open-ended and inconclusive discussion of where the seed potato industry is going and the Development Council's part therein. He referred to the Development Council's participation in the Joint Seed Trade Committee's seed support discussions and Mr. Doig added brief comment on demand from Portugal.

ENTER-  
TAINMENTS  
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Hunter referred to the Report on the meeting of the Enter-tainments Committee in Perth on 5th June, 1986 (a copy of which had been sent to each Member of Council). Council referred arrangements for the 1987 Golf Outing back to the Committee. During brief discussion of the next Association Dinner and Dance Council preferred the suggested January, 1987 date (rather than December, 1986). Following confirmation of the booking for the second leg of the next Curling Match it was agreed the dates for both legs be announced in the next News Letter.

BRITISH  
POTATO  
TRADES  
CONSORTIUM:

Council considered the pre-circularised Report on the Consortium Meeting in London on 9th June, 1986. Further to the Consortium's Budget proposals (to provide for Consortium subscriptions to be paid in advance) Mr. Hunter reported actual figures had since come to hand. These showed this Association due to pay £91.66 (in addition to £161.10 already paid) during its current financial year to 31st October, 1986. This total of £252.76 compared with the Association's budgeted estimate of £250 for 1986 and the actual figure of £278.10 for the previous year. The Association's share of the Consortium's Budget for 1987 is stated to be £221.89. Council accepted these proposals and authorised payment of the further sum of £91.66 when called for.

JOINT  
CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Brass explained that although his pre-circularised Report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee in London on 9th June, 1986 was incomplete, the detailed figures for exports given to the J.C.C. meeting were now out of date, having been superseded by later figures. Council agreed pre-circulated P.M.B. proposals for three-tier ware grading be discussed later in today's meeting.

JOINT  
SEED TRADE  
COMMITTEE:

The Secretary explained that a confidential (and inadequate) Report on a meeting of the Joint Seed Trade Committee in Edinburgh on 19th June, 1986 intended for the President and Vice-President only had been sent in error to all Council Members. This had been recalled, only one copy being un-recovered by today. He deeply regretted the trouble this had caused.

The Chairman explained this meeting had been the third in a series to devise proposals for seed support in Scotland. While essentially exploratory to date, three or four areas have been identified as elements of a total package and illustrative figures are being prepared jointly by Mrs. Armstrong (NFUS) and John Bethel (SSPDC). The Chairman stressed that absolute confidentiality must be maintained. He outlined the areas identified so far and sought Council's views/<sup>on</sup> furthering this initiative.

Council's prolonged discussion dealt carefully and in full detail with each of the elements in turn and the many points arising therefrom. It was eventually agreed that the proposals should be supported by further/



further discussion in which all doors are kept open and all levers are retained.

LICENSING  
SUB-  
COMMITTEE:

Council considered the pre-circularised Report on the first meeting of the recently appointed Licensing sub-Committee, held in Scone on 20th June, 1986. Discussion agreed the indemnity scheme suggested therein would have to be a two-part scheme. It was felt it might encourage less risk assessment care and that it might lead to the underwriting insurers imposing conditions on the Board's issue of licences, or even to taking over the issue of all licences themselves. It was decided that the Association should retain authorship of this initiative, which the President will place before the Chairman of the Board (Mr. Hitchcock) in an informal approach in the first instance. Thereafter, if the P.M.B. response is encouraging, support for the initiative should be sought from the British Potato Trades Consortium.

In respect of the other reported discussions Council decided to merge <sup>the</sup> Licensing sub-Committee with the Finance Committee to form a Chairman's Committee comprised of the Association's three Office Bearers together with Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, R.D. Hunter, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, J.O. Robertson and J.M. Swinton, with power to co-opt other members as required. Council also instructed that within seven days of each Council Meeting a Report on the proceedings be sent to every Association Member.

SCOTTISH  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE:

Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Brass reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee which they had attended in North Berwick on 23rd June, 1986. The meeting had been informed on the current position in the two Court cases which the P.M.B. is pursuing. Market Reports stated the Earlies crop is one week late this year, with 28th May prices of £440-£480 per tonne falling through £300-£350 to £130-£135 by 16th June, but rising to £158 per tonne on 19th June. Total loadings to 20th June were 3,700 tonnes. It had also been reported that there were still 20,000 tonnes of old crop unsold in Yorkshire.

The main discussion was on the proposed three-tier grading system on which the P.M.B. was asking for views to be submitted in reply by September. Mr. McKenzie explained his personal view, which he had expressed at the Joint Consultative Committee Meeting, was that normal trade is perfectly capable of separating premium supplies from inferior quality and should be left to do so. Council unanimously supported this view and instructed inclusion of this topic in the next News Letter with a request for feed back of Members' views.

The Association representatives had urged the P.M.B. to retain its Stand at both the Royal Show in England and the Royal Highland Show in Scotland. The Board had asked that its alternative arrangements be given a trial but if they failed they would come back. (It had been disclosed that the Board's Stand at the Royal Highland Show costs £37,000 per annum).

A.O.C.B.:

(1) Travelling Expenses - Mr. Hunter pointed out that the Finance Committee's recommendation that the travelling expenses of the Association's substitute representative at NASPM's Annual Luncheon should be reimbursed out of Association funds had not been dealt with at the last meeting. After brief explanation, Council accepted this recommendation and instructed accordingly.

(2) Radioactive "fall-out" - The Chairman reported that in view of the current concern over the effects of the recent nuclear accident in Russia, DAFS had been asked to investigate any risk in the potato crop. Scientific monitoring, which is continuing, indicates no risk in non-emerged crops and very minimal effect on emerged crops. All enquiries were being directed to NFUS.

(3) Date of next Meetings - (a) Chairman's Committee - It was decided to arrange for the first meeting of the Chairman's Committee to take place/

place in the Secretary's Office at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 8th July, 1986.  
(b) Council - It was also decided the next meeting of Council will take place in the Fountain Plaza, Scone at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 4th September, 1986. The Secretariat was instructed to make the usual arrangements.

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

