

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in Fountain Plaza, SCONE at 2 p.m. on
Thursday, 4th SEPTEMBER, 1986

PRESENT:

Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, P. Miller, J. Logan Milne, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, 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. In formally recording that the death of Mr. James Henderson, Snr. had occurred on Sunday, 24th August, 1986 the President spoke of this sad loss to Council, the Association and to the whole Scottish potato trade. He reported that the Secretary had written to convey condolences and sympathy to the late Mr. Henderson's family.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. W.T. Aitken, J.H. Barr and P. Moffat.

MINUTES:

The Minute of Meeting of Council in Scone on 27th June, 1986 (previously copied to each Member of Council) was taken as read. It was formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman. He added that since a Report on that meeting had also been copied to each Member of the Association as instructed and had been well received, this morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee had recommended that Council ask the Association's Representatives at external meetings to submit their Reports promptly to provide for them to be circularised (subject to Office Bearer's approval) to all Association Members. Council agreed to adopt this proposal.

MATTERS
ARISING:

(a) Quota Sales - Reporting a further reply letter received from the Secretary of the PMB, the Chairman explained specific examples of complaint are insisted upon. Since Members are reluctant to provide these, he felt that further progress seemed unlikely. In discussion, Council viewed examples as irrelevant to acceptance of the basic principle involved. One Member described how a purchase of Basic Acreage incorporated into the three-year average for this reduced Quota occasioned a very considerable financial loss. It was agreed that Messrs. McArthur and Robertson jointly compose a further letter (to include a request for discussions).

(b) P.A.Y.E./N.I.C. - The Chairman expressed the view that the information obtained by Messrs. Arthur Young and circulated to all Members was very encouraging and would help a great many Members. Council voiced no further comment.

(c) Merchant Licences - The Chairman reported having verbally and informally conveyed an outline of the Association's proposals to PMB Chairman, who had not been enthusiastic but had agreed they could be submitted to the Consortium for discussion at its next meeting in November.

(d) Conditions of Purchase - The Secretary reported that the expected further letter from Northern Ireland was still awaited. The Chairman explained that discussions on Conditions at this morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee would be reported later in the Agenda.

(e) Membership - The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Barr. After a brief discussion Council agreed to accept Mr. Barr's early retiral from Council and his offer to stand for Election as a Director of W. & A. Graham (Glasgow) Ltd. Other arrangements for this year's Elections were deferred until later in today's meeting.

Of the four suspensions of Membership instructed at Council's last meeting, Mr. Blackmore reported that one Subscription had been received/

received the next day (before Notices of Suspension had been sent) and another had been received on 21st July, thus restoring the total Membership Roll to 105. He also reported that G.S. Brass (Perth) Ltd. and G. & D. Maxwell Ltd. had written to propose Thorngreen Potatoes Ltd. (Blairgowrie) be admitted to Membership of the Association. After consideration Council accepted this proposal with immediate effect, increasing the total Roll to 106 Members.

(f) Entertainments Committee - The Secretariat reported having obtained further information regarding the Annual Dinner Dance. It was agreed a further meeting of the Entertainments Committee be arranged in early course. There was a brief discussion on the venue for the 1987 Golf Outing, which topic was also remitted for the Entertainments Committee to consider and to report back to Council's next meeting.

(g) Chairman's Committee - The Chairman explained that the first meeting of the Chairman's Committee on 8th July had been informally exploratory and a formal Report had not been prepared. The second meeting, held this morning, would be reported later this afternoon.

(h) Radioactive contamination - The Chairman reported that in a further letter DAFS had confirmed there are no indications of any potential hazard in this year's root crops, following the Chernobyl disaster and that monitoring of the position is continuing.

S.S.P.D.C.:

In a brief report Mr. Fenton spoke of an apparent difference of 60,000 tonnes between DAFS' label issue and PMB statistics. The latter is already spot checking to resolve this discrepancy and Council agreed this Association should not pursue the matter.

Mr. Lindsay drew attention to heavily increased Pensions Contributions shown in the SSPDC's published Accounts. Council agreed its representatives obtain an explanation of this point.

SEED TRADE
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Brass reported on the meetings of the Seed Trade Committee held in Edinburgh on 4th July and 28th August, 1986 which he and Mr. McKenzie had attended. Devoted exclusively to discussion of PMB support in Scotland, particularly with a view to the post-1990 period, the earlier meeting had been frustratingly unproductive. With the benefit of a fresh Paper, the later meeting had agreed a number of aims and options to achieve them, principally to improve the prospects for seed production. A four-page Paper of suggestions (which were read out and explained to Council) had been submitted to the PMB as the basis for exploratory discussions and Mr. McKenzie added that he had received word today that the PMB has now offered to meet the Seed Trade Committee in Edinburgh on Monday, 13th October, 1986. In view of the exploratory nature of these initial suggestions Mr. McKenzie urged continuing confidentiality, at least until the meeting on 13th October has taken place.

In a very lively discussion there was opposition to any quota acreage for seed and Mr. McKenzie stressed very strongly that the Paper is not a "fait accompli" but rather a collection of ideas from which it is hoped proposals can be formulated and returned to the constituent organisations for full discussion, prior to acceptance or refusal. It was agreed each Council Member would receive a copy of the Paper for study, to enable constructive comments to be submitted to Messrs. McKenzie & Brass (either direct or through the Secretariat) before 13th October, 1986.

B.P.T.C.:

Council took note of Mr. McKenzie's pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium which he and Mr. Deuchar had attended in London on 1st September, 1986. Mr. McKenzie enlarged briefly and in reply, stated no further mention had been made of revision of the Consortium's financing arrangements.

JOINT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE:

Council also noted Mr. McKenzie's pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee which he and Mr. Deuchar had attended in London on 1st September, 1986. In the following discussion/

discussion Mr. Deuchar explained that Export matters had been largely historical and Mr. McKenzie felt the PMB is playing down plantings and shortfall for political reasons. In reply they agreed there had been no talk of restoring the minimum riddle to 40mm and that the proposed three-tier grading system is probably now dead. In reply, Council agreed a copy of each of Mr. McKenzie's two Reports be sent to each Association Member with a copy Report on today's Council meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Hunter reported on this morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee. Dealing first with annual Elections to Council, Messrs. J.H. Barr, D.H. Lindsay, P. Moffat, J.R. McArthur and T. McClung are to retire by rotation this year, with the death of Mr. James Henderson creating the sixth vacancy to be filled. The Committee had recommended that the percentage attendance record of those six Council Members be shown in the announcement News Letter and that Candidates for Election should each be required to submit a nomination form signed by two Association Members whose names are to be shown on the Ballot Papers.

In Council's discussion it was agreed that the attendance record of ALL Council Members should be shown in the announcement News Letter, retiring Members being indicated thereon by an asterix. The revised nomination procedure was adopted and the Secretariat was instructed to proceed accordingly.

Continuing his Report, Mr. Hunter explained the Committee's discussion of Capital and Revenue payments. Council formally adopted the Committee's recommendations that the Fee for Counsel's Opinion and the Fee for Arthur Young C.A.'s professional services be paid out of Revenue Funds.
accumulated

The Committee had considered the possible effects of recent experiences on the operation of the Association's Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase and had recommended these matters be referred to the "Conditions" sub-Committee for fuller consideration and any recommendations in due course. Council adopted this recommendation and to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. James Henderson, Council formally appointed Mr. J.R. McArthur to serve on the "Conditions" sub-Committee.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Correspondence - The Secretary read a letter from a Member proposing that details of chemical treatment of seed potatoes should be shown on the official bag label. Council agreed this idea has merit and would be explored further with DAFS.

The Secretary also reported receipt of notice of a further meeting on Industry Funding of R. & D. in London on 19th September, 1986. Council confirmed its view (on a previous meeting) that costs did not justify the attendance of an Association representative.

The Chairman reported receipt of a Paper on PCN from Mr. Mabbot at East Craigs. Council agreed the Chairman notify him that in view of the extremely short notice, the Association could not provide detailed comment but would like the opportunity to do so once the proposed Conference results are available.

The Chairman also reported receipt of pre-publication material from Mr. John Anderson of ESCA for Association comment. Council agreed this degree of co-operation to be most encouraging and welcomed the much improved relationship with Mr. Anderson.

(b) SSPDC Representation - Having noted Mr. Barr's resignation as an Association Representative on the SSPDC, Council considered possible Nominations to fill this vacancy. It was decided to await receipt of a formal invitation to do so.

(c) Council Meetings - The Secretary explained the Chairman's Committee's instruction to discontinue pre-meeting telephone calls to each Member and to invoice each un-notifying absentee for the cost of any/

any un-used meals charged against the Association. Council unanimously endorsed this instruction.

(d) Date of next Meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting in the Fountain Plaza at Scone on Thursday, 30th October, 1986 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

(e) Tolerance for Veinal Necrosis - A Member explained that despite DAFS' intention to include a tolerance for VN within the severe diseases category, there is currently very active lobbying in the South for maintenance of the status quo. Following concerned discussion Council agreed the Office Bearers investigate this matter and take it up with DAFS if necessary.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. J. ...", with a long horizontal stroke underneath.