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Report on Meeting - J.C.C. - 5.11.86 - London.

G.S.Brass, K.A.McKenzie in attendance.

1. Rhizomania - N.F.U. objecting to soil being returned to farms from processors in case of contamination. They would like practice to cease.
2. Three tiered grading system - P.M.B. will not pursue any further.
3. Retailers committee - sales good at the moment. They want quota increased for 1987 to ensure adequate supplies of potatoes. It was pointed out in no uncertain terms that this was the first/<sup>year</sup> for three years that the industry was getting a reasonable return and unless the acreage was kept to a reasonable level it would spell disaster for many more growers. They questioned also the legality of using coloured poly bags for pre-packing - question to be pursued, but the Board felt that it enhanced the appearance rather than being detrimental.
4. At time of meeting approximately 8,000 hectares left in ground - estimated 91,000 hectares in store and 51,000 hectares sold. Overall yield less than 36.900 tonnes per hectare, wastage higher than first thought due to late growth causing cracking, greening etc. 6.1 million tonnes of potatoes overall, 5000,000 tonnes less than last year. June/August consumption but doubtful if at the end of the day it will be as high as last year. Holland export Bintje 35 x 70mm £108.00 bags included/delivered Portugal last week.
5. Proposed new charges for plant health import and export work. Each organisation to write if they had not done so to object in the strongest way possible to any charges because the industry cannot stand any more levies.
6. Exports - J.McKeddie objected strongly to imports of ware from Greek - Cyprus as there is no reciprocation of seed potatoes - P.M.B. took note but politics come into it.
7. Amendments to P.M.B. scheme - awaiting report from Judge Peck - on schedule for introducing 1987 season.
8. Constitution of J.C.C. - agreed to give it another trial for one year however S.P.T.A. had reservations that it was the best medium to to handle something as important as export.
9. Sugar and dry water monitoring - P.M.B. given go ahead to price and make available simple low cost kit for growers so that they could test their own potatoes destined for certain markets giving confidence to each buyer and seller also avoiding costly rejection charges from processors etc.

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10. P.M.B. are having a producers meeting on 28th January, 1987 in Perth.
11. J.C.C. meetings for next year - 2nd February, 8th June, 1st September and 9th November.

K.A.McKenzie