

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the SCOTTISH
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION in 10 Rutland Square,
EDINBURGH at 10.30 a.m. on TUESDAY, 16th
DECEMBER, 1986.

PRESENT: Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, I. Melrose, P. Miller, J.L. Milne, P. Moffat, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and A.S. Whitehead, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant).

The President, Mr. K.A. McKenzie, took the Chair and extended a warm welcome to Mr. Melrose on his return to Council following his recent election.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Hunter submitted apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. W.T. Aitken, R. Doig, J.O. Robertson and J.M. Swinton.

MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council in Scone on 30th October, 1986 previously copied to each Member of Council was taken as read. It was duly approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

- MATTERS ARISING:
- (a) Quota Sales - In reply to the Chair Mr. McArthur explained the difficulties of preparing a suitable reply to the last P.M.B. letter. Further discussion recognised that special consideration or amendment of the Marketing Scheme itself are unlikely to be achieved and in any event could have adverse results. It was agreed the matter should not be left as it is and Mr. McArthur agreed to liaise with Mr. Robertson to compose a final letter to the P.M.B. (Mr. Sprigge).
 - (b) Membership - In reply to the Secretary's explanations, Council instructed that McCain Potatoes (G.B.) Ltd., Montrose and Messrs. J. & W.F. Lind, Methlick be asked to arrange necessary Nominations for Association Membership to be submitted for Council's consideration. Council also agreed that Charles Beattie Ltd. be omitted from the 1987 Membership Roll.

The Secretary reported P.M.B. notifications of applications for Merchants Licences by Corse of Kinnoir Ltd., Huntly; Messrs. Howe Garden, Auchterless; The Firm of Ivan Wood & Sons, Ballingry and G.C. Taylor, Esq., Errol. Before discussion of these the Chairman reported several complaints from Members that the Association had not objected to the licence application by Messrs. S. Thompson & Sons, Alyth reported to Council's last meeting. Discussion accepted that debts due by S. Thompson & Sons Ltd., Alyth would not have been valid grounds for objecting to this application and no pressure could have changed the regrettable similarity of these two names. Council decided this applicant be required to observe the copyright of the Association's Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase and, if wishing to become a Member of the Association, to arrange for the necessary Nominations to be submitted for Council's consideration.

Council having no knowledge of The Firm of Ivan Wood & Sons, it was agreed to inform the P.M.B. accordingly and to request more information in this case. It was further agreed that each future notification of licence application received from the P.M.B. shall be copied immediately to each Office Bearer and replied to within the time provided.

(c) /

(c) Entertainments - (1) Dinner-Dance - Mr. Blackmore reported having received applications for 30 tickets to date. Council agreed to maintain pressure for support and Mr. Miller instructed the Secretariat to call a meeting of the Entertainments Committee on Tuesday, 6th January, 1987.

(2) Golf Outing - Mr. Blackmore also reported receipt of a letter from the Secretary of Blairgowrie Golf Club offering a provisional booking for Thursday, 21st May, 1987 (as requested), to be confirmed (with details of charges) early in the New Year.

(3) Curling - He also reported Mr. Hollywood's difficulties in taking over Mr. Crockatt's Rink for the First Leg match later to-day.

(d) Appointment of Association Representatives - Mr. Hunter reported receiving a letter from the P.M.B. explaining that the Joint Consultative Committee is to be re-constituted in its trial period form for a further year to 31st October, 1987 and that our nomination of Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass, with Messrs. P. Moffat as alternative and J.P. Deuchar as Export Substitute, will be submitted for the Board's acceptance at its meeting to-day. The following nominations to its other Committees for the same year have already been accepted by the Board:-

Scottish Advisory Committee.

Messrs. G.S. Brass for P. Moffat, with K.A. McKenzie as alternative.

Seed Potato Advisory Committee.

Mr. G.S. Brass, with P. Moffat as alternative.

Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee.

Mr. D.H. Lindsay, with J.O. Robertson as alternative.

In respect of representatives to other external Committees Council decided to make no changes for the year to 31st October, 1987 to the following existing appointments:-

British Potato Trades Consortium.

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass, with Messrs. P. Moffat and J.P. Deuchar as alternatives.

British Rail/Freightliners.

(In abeyance meantime) - as and when required.

Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee.

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass (ex officio) with Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.E. Cook, D.H. Lindsay and T. McClung.

N.S.D.O. Consultative Committee.

Mr. J.H. Barr (until 31/10/87 only), with J.R. McArthur as alternative.

(D.A.F.S.'s) Seed Potato Consultative Panel.

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and G.S. Brass, with P. Moffat as alternative.

(Joint) Seed Trade Committee.

Messrs. K.A. McKenzie, G.S. Brass and P. Moffat.

Scottish Seed Potato Development Council/

Scottish Seed Potato Development Council.

Representatives appointed by the Minister of State for Agriculture:-

Messrs. J.E. Cook, R. Doig, J.G.H.Fenton, J.R. McArthur and I.R. McKenzie.

(The Secretary reported that an appointment of a sixth representative, in place of Mr. J.H. Barr, has still to be announced).

Following further consideration, Council also made the following appointments to the Association's own Internal Committees for the year to 31st October, 1987. (The President, Mr. K.A. McKenzie and Vice President, Mr. G.S. Brass are ex officio representatives in each case).

Chairman's Committee.

Messrs. P. Moffat, 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.

Entertainments Committee.

Messrs. P. Miller (Convenor), D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur and A.S. Whitehead.

Panel of Arbiters.

All Members of Council, together with Mr. J. George (co-opted)

Press Officer.

Mr. P. Moffat.

Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors.

Mr. D. Maxwell as S.P.T.A.'s Nominee (until 31/10/87 only).

- (e) N.I.P.M.A.- The Chairman commented on a copy of the new style News Letter now to hand from the Northern Ireland Potato Marketing Association Ltd. After brief discussion Council agreed any appropriate S.P.T.A. News Letter items could be passed to N.I.P.M.A. for circulation to its Members if necessary.

SEED TRADE
COMMITTEE:

The Secretariat tabled copies of N.F.U.S.' report received yesterday on a further meeting of the "Scottish Seed Potatoes Working Group" in Edinburgh on 26th November, 1986 at which Messrs. McKenzie and Brass had represented S.P.T.A. Speaking to the report, which he stressed must be treated as strictly confidential, Mr. McKenzie explained his intention is to keep Council fully informed.

Council's discussion included the mechanism for average price calculation, a preference for its restriction to the 3 (not 5) lowest priced varieties, "take-off" effect on other varieties (including "protected" and "contract grown"), "fall back" and riddle-size bases, disposal of "take-off", etc. Messrs. McKenzie and Brass explained it was hoped to clarify details of the "D.I.S.- specifics" part of the whole proposals by end-February next, with a view to their acceptance for Season 1987. On the assurance that further refinements will not be finalised without Council's approval, it was agreed the Group's discussions should continue at its further meeting this afternoon.

S.S.P.D.C.:

No meetings of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council having taken place since Council's last meeting there was a brief re-discussion of S.P.T.A.'s views in 1984 (pre-circulated) Council confirmed that the President would convey its current views/

views on the future of S.S.P.D.C. to D.A.F.S. in due course.

B.P.T.C.: Council took note of the pre-circularised Minutes of the British Potato Trades Consortium in London on 10th November, 1986 which Messrs. McKenzie and Brass had attended. In reply, Mr. McKenzie explained that Merchant Licence criteria proposals are to be further considered within the other constituent organisations before the Consortium's next meeting (on 2nd February, 1987).

JOINT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE: Council also noted Mr. McKenzie's and the P.M.B.'s pre-circularised Reports on the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee in London on 10th November, 1986. During brief further comment Mr. McKenzie explained the Retailers had wanted increased acreage to be planted in 1987 but this had been firmly resisted. In reply to Mr. Cook he confirmed the Board is looking into supplying kits to test for dry matter content etc. and this led to a short discussion.

W.P.I.A.C.: Mr. Lindsay spoke to the P.M.B.'s report on the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee meeting which he had attended in London on 18th November, 1986 which had been pre-circularised to all Council Members. The Netherlands had not been represented. Mr. Capuano (E.E.C. Commission) had estimated total European production in 1986 to be 3 to 4 million tonnes less than in 1985 but without reliable 1985 figures it remained a mystery how he reached this estimate. November prices had been low in Europe, but high in the U.K. Mr. McKenzie referred to processors' imports ex Belgium and Holland (now believed to have been under forward contracts) causing concern in Yorkshire. Council agreed imports would increase if U.K. ware prices exceed £100 per tonne.

SCOTTISH
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE: Mr. Brass reported on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee which he had attended in London on 3rd December, 1986 Mr. J.W. Hay had been elected Chairman and Mr. D. McCrone Vice Chairman of the Committee. There appeared to have been little sale of substandard ware in the South - the Board had called in the Trading Standards inspectors in one case and Mr. Pooley had confirmed that all reported instances will be investigated.

Mr. Brass quoted details of Scottish and English prices given at the meeting - Piper and Estima were reported as having storage problems; unlifted area and average "all-varieties" yields had also been given, indicating a slight overall crop shortfall.

"CONDITIONS"
sub-COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter explained the salient points in the pre-circularised Report on a further meeting of the "Conditions" sub-Committee in Perth on 9th December, 1986 which he regarded as an interim statement of ongoing discussions. Conditions of Sale previously drafted for Exports are to be re-appraised. In reply to Mr. Cook (who believed N.A.S.P.M. were re-examining their Conditions of Sale in respect of complaints periods) Mr. Hunter confirmed it was foreseen that consultation with N.F.U.S and N.A.S.P.M. would be required in due course.

ANNUAL
ACCOUNT: Mr. Blackmore reported the duly audited Association Account had come to hand from the Auditor yesterday and copies were tabled. He explained the minor corrections he had made to the previous draft (in respect of Bank interest and V.A.T.) prior to the Audit. Council formally approved the Audited Account for circularisation to all Association Members in readiness for the Annual General Meeting.

1987 BUDGET/

1987 BUDGET ESTIMATES:

Council carefully considered the pre-circularised 1987 Budget Estimates. Following discussion of each item, in which postages and telephone were felt to be understated by £50 each, the figures were accepted as estimates only and on which it was unlikely that any increase in rates of Membership Subscriptions for 1987 would be required. Council accordingly agreed to forward this as a recommendation to the Annual General Meeting of Members.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) A.G.M. and Guest Speaker - The Chairman reported that Mr. John W. Hay had indicated acceptance of Council's invitation to address Members following the A.G.M. Council instructed the Secretariat to complete all necessary arrangements.

(b) Correspondence (1) Health & Safety at Work Act - The Secretary read out a very recent letter from Mr. Lindsay requesting guidance for Members on preparation of a Safety Policy Statement on the lines reportedly available from N.F.U.S. The Chairman undertook to speak to Mrs. Armstrong in the matter in the afternoon.

(2) Charges for Plant Health etc. work - In reply to Mr. Blackmore, it was agreed written objections to D.A.F.S. (as already sent to M.A.F.F. in support of the Consortium) were not now appropriate in a 'fait accompli' situation.

(3) N.S.D.O. Open Licences - Mr. Blackmore reported that photocopying costs totalling £17.25 including V.A.T. had been incurred. He was instructed to seek re-imburement of this sum from N.S.D.O.

(c) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting in the Station Hotel, Perth at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 16th January, 1987.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. Blackmore', is written across the bottom of the page. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.