

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
in the Station Hotel, PERTH at  
10.30 a.m. on Friday, 16th JANUARY, 1987

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, J.G.H. Fenton, P. Miller, 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.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence received from or on behalf of Messrs. W.T. Aitken, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, R. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, I. Melrose, J. Logan Milne, P. Moffat and T. McClung.

MINUTES:

The Minute of Meeting of Council in Edinburgh on 16th December, 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 - Mr. McArthur explained he and Mr. Robertson are looking for an alternative line to continue correspondence with P.M.B. During discussion it was recognised that cumulative Sales of Basic Area to the south will deplete Scottish seed area, but this might help curb long-standing over-production of seed in Scotland as well as reduce excess U.K. plantings. It was also pointed out that much of the Basic Area sales in Scotland were of better quality 12 tonnes per acre seed land going to England for production of 20 t.p.a. upwards of ware.

It was agreed the next letter should restate the original problem with specific examples, to express this Association's deep-felt concern over the loss of Scottish seed area to English ware production and to ask for the Board's assessment of the likely long-term effect of such changes on the U.K. potato industry as a whole.

(b) Membership - Mr. Blackmore reported the further information obtained from the P.M.B. on the Firm of Ivan Wood & Sons' application for a Merchants' Licence and Mr. Whitehead added the results of his own enquiries. No further action was instructed.

Mr. Hunter reported receipt of letters from A.J. Allan (Potato Merchants) Ltd. and J. Logan Milne (Brechin) Ltd. proposing McCain Potatoes (G.B.) Ltd., Montrose, be admitted to Membership of the Association. After due consideration Council agreed to accept these proposals.

He also reported a letter from Messrs. Wm. Fraser proposing Messrs. J. & W.F. Lind, Methlick be admitted to Membership of the Association. A similar letter expected from a second proposer had yet to come to hand. Council agreed to admit Messrs. Lind to Membership as soon as the second proposal letter is received.

P.M.B. notifications of applications for Ware Merchant Licences by Messrs. A. Benzie & Sons, Turriff and Messrs. A.G. Norrie & Sons, Turriff were also reported and considered. Council instructed that these notifications be acknowledged and no objections made.

(c) Dinner/Dance - In a brief up-dating of the pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Entertainments Committee on 6th January, 1987. Mr. Hunter reported an expected attendance of 110 people at the Association's Annual Dinner and Dance this evening. He also stated that confirmation of the booking and details of charges for the annual Golf Outing, expected "early in the New Year", had still to arrive.

(d) N.I.P.M.A. News Letters - Referring to previous discussions, the Chairman explained he had received copies of two News Letters issued by the/

the Northern Ireland Association. On reconsideration he felt selected items from our own News Letters could be passed to N.I.P.M.A. from time to time, for inclusion in their own issues. Council agreed to adopt this course.

(e) Health & Safety at Work - The Chairman reported his approach to N.F.U.S. and receipt of a copy of their model "Policy Statement". Following brief discussion, Council agreed to seek N.F.U.S. consent for circularisation of copies to all Association Members for guidance purposes

(f) Seed Trade Committee - The Chairman read out, in confidence, the content of a letter written to the P.M.B. and reported that in reply, the Board's Chairman (Mr. Arnold Hitchcock) has arranged to meet the Committee in Edinburgh on Thursday, 29th January, 1987. In Council's further discussion it was felt that principles should be established before becoming involved in fine details and to bear background considerations in mind. Council confirmed the initiatives should be continued.

S.S.P.D.C.:

The Chairman referred to the Minutes of Council's last meeting and asked for re-consideration of the Association's position in the light of the Minutes of the S.S.P.D.C. meeting on 18th December, 1986 pre-copied in confidence to Association Council Members. Mr. Swinton reported (and Council congratulated him on) receipt of official notification of his appointment as an Association representative on the Development Council until December, 1987. The Secretary read out a letter received from the Association's Past President, Mr. J.E. Cook, supporting continuation of the S.S.P.D.C. for its full five year term without a Poll of (levy-paying) growers at the end of the (current) third year of that term, as formerly demanded by the Association.

In subsequent very full discussion, it was clearly felt that the S.S.P.D.C. does provide the Scottish seed potato industry with a single central focal point, a strong voice and important support for that industry's survival. It was the unanimous view of those present that the Association's demand for a Poll of levy-paying growers should be withdrawn to permit continuation of the S.S.P.D.C. for the remainder of its five year term to December, 1989. In reply to the Chair it was the Secretary's opinion that being unanimously supported by a properly called meeting with the requisite quorum and in the absence of any opposing views on a timeously intimated Item on the Agenda having been communicated by absentees, today's reversal of Council's earlier decision was valid. He was therefore instructed to convey Council's decision in writing to Mr. Gordon Lyall (D.A.F.S.).

Council further decided that every effort will be made properly to instruct the Association's representatives on the Development Council and (without fettering their individuality) to orchestrate their efforts to further the Association's guidance and aims.

ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING:

The Secretary pointed out that two matters had still to receive Council's Minuted approval. While the 1986/87 Budget had incorporated an increase of 5% (£325) to £6,825 for the Secretary's Salary (as instructed by the Finance Committee for Budget purposes only), this had not received Council's formal authorisation for actual payment. Mr. Barr proposed and Mr. Whitehead seconded that authorisation, without dissent being voiced.

Similarly, the Finance Committee's recommendation that the 1985/86 tonnage brackets and rates of annual Membership Subscriptions should apply without change for 1986/87, had not been formally adopted for submission to the A.G.M. Mr. Miller proposed and Mr. Barr seconded that adoption for submission, no dissent being voiced.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Timetable of Meetings - From a timetable prepared to show all known external Meetings during 1987, the Secretary read the indicated dates for Council's own meetings. Council duly agreed to meet on Friday, 6th March (at 11 a.m.); Thursday, 14th May; Thursday, 2nd July; Thursday,

3rd/

3rd September; Thursday, 22nd October and Thursday, 19th November.

(b) E.S.C.A. - The Chairman reported his appreciation of the sustained and effective efforts of Mr. John Anderson, of the East of Scotland College, in response to the Association's approach seeking to avoid contentious Press reporting of College material. He proposed the Secretary write a letter of thanks to Mr. Anderson and Council adopted this proposal.

(c) New Year Honours - The Chairman also proposed the Association write to congratulate Mr. Andrew Arbuckle on his recent receipt of the award of the O.B.E. Council also adopted this proposal and instructed the Secretary accordingly.

(d) Agdex Information Services - Mr. Blackmore sought instructions in respect of a (Smithfield follow-up) letter received from the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, detailing the factsheets, summary bulletins, etc. with prices, available from Agdex. After brief discussion it was agreed the Association would not subscribe, but a suitable item be included in the next News Letter to all Members.

(e) N.S.D.O. - Mr. McArthur drew Council's attention to an item in the Farming News of 9th January, 1987 commenting on the latest profits of the National Seed Development Organisation Ltd. Council recognised that only part of this is derived from potato operations but noted the item with interest.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'D. McArthur', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.