



S.S.P.D.C.:

In reply, Mr. Hunter reported that a copy of the Minutes of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council's meeting in Edinburgh on 15th January, 1988 had not been received. Council agreed the Association's President should speak to the S.S.P.D.C. Chairman to report S.P.T.A. Council's concern in this matter and to await developments before deciding if any further action is necessary.

Council considered the problems connected with current Season's exports of Desiree Seed. Lengthy discussion included S.S.P.D.C.'s role and activities in the matter and the possibility of the problems' adverse publicity affecting the Association and its Members. It was agreed clarification should be sought. It was proposed that the P.M.B. should act in respect of the over-supply of Desiree in N.E. Scotland but, while the P.M.B. held that "trigger" mechanisms have not been activated, Council felt the Association could not press this proposal.

SEED  
SUPPORT  
SCHEME:

The Chairman reported on a meeting held in Edinburgh in mid-February between Colin Mylchreest (Vice Guy McLaughlan) (M.A.F.F.), Gordon Lyall (D.A.F.S.) and the Seed Support Working Party. The official side had stated that the proposals could not be referred back to the Treasury and would only be furthered if funded by the P.M.B. alone. The Chairman also explained the P.M.B.'s original parameters had included a requirement that no extra Treasury funding should be required, yet the Board's approach to M.A.F.F. now sought this. He also pointed out that the original Scheme accepted by the Board envisaged a maximum "worst possible Scenario" cost to Board Funds of about £750,000.

The Chairman also stressed his extreme disappointment that two misconceptions of the proposed Scheme persist in England, (first) that it is a purely Scottish Scheme (when, in fact, it would apply to all U.K. seed of Elite class or better, thus also covering the High Grade Areas in England) and (second) that stocks would be supported under either the existing ware scheme or the proposed seed scheme (when, in fact, support would be under both schemes). Mr. Hunter also read out observations received from N.A.S.P.M. Council on the proposed scheme. In course of further discussion, the Chairman explained the P.M.B. is to discuss the scheme again at the end of March and if it is not then agreed, it cannot be implemented for Season 1988 and probably will not be implemented for Season 1989 either, in view of the Review of the Board's position due in 1990. He now felt unhopeful of a successful outcome from the Board's end-March meeting.

B.P.T.C. &  
J.C.C.:

In the P.M.B. Review context, Mr. Lindsay spoke to his pre-circulated Reports on the British Potato Trades Consortium and Joint Consultative Committee meetings he had attended in London on 1st February. Council felt that with renewal of S.S.P.D.C. due in December, 1989 and a General Election not later than 1992, it would be preferable to try to identify the Association's views on the Board's future after 1990 before the Board's own Paper is issued at Easter. Mr. Hunter reported an approach he had already received from a Member. It was decided a special meeting of Council devoted solely to this matter be arranged to take place on Thursday, 17th March, in readiness for which Mr. McArthur agreed to prepare a Paper for discussion. It was also decided to invite all Association Members to submit their own views in writing for consideration at that meeting.

Enlarging further on the Consortium meeting, Mr. Lindsay reported discussion of Ring Rot in West Germany had been inconclusive and it had been announced that the 1988 Congress of the European Union will take place in Holland. Mr. Hunter also reported receipt of a Consortium Invoice for S.P.T.A.'s 13% share of Expenses and Subscription to the European Union, together totalling £306.75. Council authorised payment of this Invoice.

Mr. Lindsay also explained he had been particularly perturbed during the J.C.C. meeting by John Hoyle (English N.F.U.)'s strongly negative attitude to the Seed Support Proposals and his severe criticism of the poor quality of Scottish seed. Despite his own "lone voice" response, Mr. Lindsay's impression was that the Proposals will not be introduced for Season 1988.

He also reported that following Unilever's purchase of N.S.D.O., a new company is to be launched on 1st April, 1988 but details were not given. Mr. McArthur added a warning that in the foreseeable future all new varieties will be privately controlled.

SEED  
POTATO  
CONSULTATIVE  
PANEL:

From his notes of the day-long meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel in Edinburgh the previous day (3rd March, 1988), Mr. Blackmore briefly reported on the salient points. The 1987 survey of potato virus V had indicated the problem had been contained and the survey will not continue into 1988; increased damage and blackleg infection after brushing had not been proved in a College survey (advisory notes will be issued); tests of a Japanese anti-blackleg systemic had shown promise; improved computer capacity indicated D.A.F.S.' Crop Register can be published in early October each year (S.S.P.D.C. is to discontinue its draft Register); a P.C.N. Working Group has now been set up, with a wide remit; the Inspectorate reported critical comment on roguing standards in all areas and increasing mild mosaic had been recorded.

A ban on the planting of unclassified seed in the Protected Region, discussed at great length, was explained to be essential to legalise and maintain the High Grade Seed Area. Complex negotiations are in progress (part of the single E.E.C. market by 1992 negotiations). D.A.F.S. will report further in due course. Revision of tolerances discussions were deferred in light of forthcoming sensitive Seed Support negotiations (a further Panel meeting is possible thereafter). A sealable net liner was proposed for 1-tonne boxes which, with N.F.S.U./S.P.T.A. acceptance, could be operative in 1988. Inspectorate visits to England are to resume at the end of the current month.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Exports to Saudi Arabia - Mr. Hunter read out an enquiry letter from M.A.F.F. which Council agreed did not require S.P.T.A. action.

(b) Entertainments Committee - Mr. Miller sought Council's comments on the annual Dinner and Dance. It was agreed the Committee will meet in the Secretary's Office at 12 Noon on Friday, 11th March, 1988 to discuss the Dinner Dance and to arrange the 1988 Golf Outing.

(c) Date of next meeting - The special meeting of Council referred to above was confirmed to be held in Scone.

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

*J.S. Brass.*