

MINUTES of a MEETING of COUNCIL
of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION in the Wheel Inn
Motor Hotel, SCONE at 3 p.m. on
Thursday, 19th JANUARY, 1989.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose, J. Logan Milne and J.O. Robertson, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The President, Mr. G.S. Brass, took the Chair.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. D. Maxwell, T. McClung, P. Miller, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council in Scone on 24th November, 1988 (previously copied to each Member of Council) were taken as read and were formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS

ARISING:

(a) Membership - The Secretary reported receipt of letters from two Members formally proposing Brahan Farms Ltd., Conon Bridge for Association Membership. After due consideration Council admitted this Company to the Membership Roll with effect from 1st November, 1988 thereby increasing the total Roll to 105 Members. After brief discussion it was agreed Fraser of Forfar Ltd. be retained on the Roll meantime.

The Secretary further reported receipt of notifications of applications for P.M.B. Merchant Licences by Panbride Potatoes Ltd., Carnoustie, (seed and ware); James Mair, t/a. Walter Wilson (Ground Maintenance Ltd.), Darvel (ware) and R.E.W. Ritchie, King Edward, Banffshire (seed). Mr. Blackmore related his telephone conversation with P.M.B. Licensing Section regarding the first application and his subsequent letter. Council noted this position and felt the Board should continue to exercise caution in respect of the second application. The Secretariat was instructed to seek Mr. Deuchar's views on the third application.

In respect of a reply letter received from a non-Member in breach of the copyright of the Association's Conditions of Sale, Council confirmed that the Company concerned must either become a Member of the Association or cease using the Association's Conditions of Sale immediately.

(b) Deputy Vice President - The Chairman regretted that his continuing efforts had unfortunately still not resolved this problem and disappointingly, the Annual General Meeting discussions earlier this afternoon had not indicated any new approach. Council's further discussion did provide a fresh alternative however, which, with Council's approval, the Chairman was authorised to pursue.

(c) Reviews of Testing and of R. & D. - In the absence of any progress to report meantime, these matters were deferred until Council's next meeting.

(d) Sponsorship -

(e) Market Prices Bulletin -

(f) P.M.B. post-1990 - Council agreed this matter had been reported satisfactorily at the Annual General Meeting earlier this afternoon.

(g)/

(g) Dinner and Dance - Mr. Hunter reported briefly on the Association's Annual Dinner and Dance held in the Station Hotel, Perth on Friday, 16th December, 1988. Council's general view was that the Function had been a success and congratulations were conveyed to the Entertainments Committee.

Mr. Hunter further reported that the Station Hotel is unable to accept a booking for the corresponding date (Friday, 15th December) in 1989 but had offered either Friday 8th, or Saturday 16th December, 1989 instead. Council agreed the first of these dates (at the end of Smithfield Show week) would not be suitable but favoured a trial change to a Saturday Function. The Secretariat was instructed to make a provisional booking for the latter date meantime and to arrange a further meeting of the Entertainments Committee in early course.

S.S.P.D.C.:

It was pointed out that in the Minutes of Council's last meeting it had been recorded that in the PMB post-1990 debate, the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council "favoured a Free Market unless radical changes could be achieved under Option 3". Council agreed this inadvertently emphasised the wrong preference and should better have stated "favoured radical changes under Option 3, which failing, a Free Market (Option 1) would ensue" (since Option 2 was felt to be the same thing as Option 1).

The Secretary reported safe receipt of a copy of the Minutes of the Development Council's meeting on 21st December, 1988. Council was pleased to note this former problem is now resolved and instructed such future Minutes be copied to each Member of Council in the next routine mailing after receipt.

SCOTTISH
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Council noted the P.M.B.'s Report on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee in London on 7th December, 1988 which the Secretariat had received yesterday and copied for tabling for each Council Member today.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Insurance Scheme - The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the Association's Insurance Brokers. It reported that due to low take-up rate under the Association's voluntary Trade Liability Policy, the Insurers proposed to increase all existing premiums by 20% and in the absence of a reasonable amount of new business within the current year, to discontinue the Scheme altogether on 31st October, 1989.

Council's discussion included possible removal of the exclusivity of the Association's Scheme or a change to another existing "trade only" scheme, under which the growers cover themselves under the "NFU Mutual" scheme. It was agreed to investigate these alternative options with the Brokers.

(b) Inspectorate's Visit to England - The Chairman reported that following proposals during the last Joint Liaison Committee meeting (in October, 1988) that the Association be represented during the Scottish seed Inspectorates next visit to England (Feb./March, 1989), the Department has now invited the Association's confirmation and nominations(s).

Following Council's discussion it was arranged that Messrs. J.E. Cook and J.R. McArthur (both of whom intend visiting the Sutton Bridge Open Days) would try to co-ordinate this with participation in turn on alternate days, during the Inspectorate's visit. Council agreed any additional overnight accommodation/

accommodation costs incurred by either gentleman and not borne by NASPM will be reimbursed by the Association.

(c) Dates of Council Meetings in 1989 - Taking up the proposal to consider evening meetings (which had been made during the earlier Annual General Meeting) Council agreed on a trial basis to hold alternate meetings on Thursday afternoons and Monday evenings.

Thus the next meeting of Council will be arranged to take place at

7 p.m. on Monday, 13th March, 1989 and subsequent meetings thereafter as follows:-

2 p.m. on Thursday, 11th May, 1989

7 p.m. on Monday 10th July, 1989

2 p.m. on Thursday, 7th September, 1989

7 p.m. on Monday, 16th October, 1989

It was also agreed lunch will continue to be arranged before afternoon meetings and High Tea will be arranged before evening meetings for those Council Members who require it, the Secretariat being instructed to make the necessary arrangements on each occasion.

(d) Association Investments - Mr. Hunter reported receipt of a letter from the Association's Stockbrokers submitting a suggestion for a sale of the Scottish & Newcastle Stock and re-investment in longer dated Government Stock. This was very similar to earlier suggestions which Council had not accepted. Once again Council decided to decline the proposal.

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

J S Brass,