

MINUTES of MEETING of COUNCIL
of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION in the Wheel Inn
Motor Hotel, SCONE at 2 p.m.
on Thursday, 11th MAY, 1989.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, P. Miller, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. G.S. Brass, took the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. J.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, I. Melrose, J.L. Milne, T. McClung and R. David Hunter (Secretary).

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council in Scone on 13th March, 1989 (previously copied to each Member of Council) were taken as read. The Minutes were formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

(a) Membership - In respect of the earlier Nominations of Twygen Ltd. for Association Membership Mr. Blackmore reported he had not received a reply to his further letter. Following discussion, Council agreed this should be followed up by suggesting a first year pro rata Subscription of £130 to be reviewed in the light of experience for subsequent years.

Council also considered two formal Nominations of Hollywood Potatoes Ltd., Forfar for Association Membership and agreed these be accepted with effect from today's date, thus increasing the total Membership Roll to 107 Members.

Mr. Blackmore further reported that since Council's last meeting, resignations from Membership had been received from Messrs. Thomas Colquhoun & Sons Paisley; Gowanbank (Potatoes) Ltd., Forfar; Mackenzie West (Seeds) Ltd., Blairgowrie; Messrs. Thomas Montgomery & Sons, Kilmarnock and Tayside Potato Producers Ltd., Dundee. Council noted these reduced the total Membership Roll to 102 Members and instructed these former Members be reminded of the Association's copyright of its Conditions of Purchase and Conditions of Sale.

No notifications of applications for P.M.B. Merchants Licences had been received.

Arising from a question regarding possible expulsion of Members, Council's discussion included trading in "small ware", possible deposits for Association Arbitrations and other related matters. It was agreed these topics be remitted to an early meeting of the Chairman's Committee for in-depth consideration, with any resultant recommendations therefrom being submitted to the next meeting of Council.

(b) Subscriptions - Mr. Blackmore reported that against total estimated subscriptions (including new Members to date) receivable of £10,925, a total of £9,430 had been received by this morning from 93 Members. Among these, 6 upward and 12 downward bracket changes, together with the five resignations reported above, had reduced that estimated total receivable by £645 to £10,280, of which an estimated £850 due by 8 Members (two of which subscriptions are understood to be in course of post) is now more than three months in arrears.

In/

In further reply Mr. Blackmore stated that no response whatever had been received from Messrs. A.P.T. Potato Co., Perth; Buchan Potato Growers Ltd., Fraserburgh; H.B. Crockatt Ltd., Arbroath; The Forfar Potato Co. Ltd., Forfar; Fraser of Forfar Ltd., Forfar and Messrs. Forbes F. Mackenzie, Rothes. After brief discussion Council instructed these six Members be suspended from Membership of this Association with effect from today's date (thereby reducing the total Membership Roll to 96 Members) and be required to cease any further use of the Association's copyright Conditions of Purchase and Conditions of Sale. Council also remitted the indicated shortfall of about £1,200 in the estimated Subscriptions to the Chairman's Committee for consideration.

Mr. Lindsay outlined the changes in his Company's structure that have taken place recently and sought Council's views on his continued Membership of Council. In discussion Council agreed that the resulting position required no change in Mr. Lindsay's Membership of Council.

(c) Deputy Vice President - Mr. McArthur reported that Mr. Robert Doig had accepted an informal invitation to be co-opted to Membership of Council. Council instructed this invitation be formalised and the Secretariat was instructed accordingly.

(d) Inspectorate visit to England - Council took note of Mr. Cook's pre-circulated Report on the first day of the visit to the Norfolk area which he accompanied on 13th March, 1989. Mr. Brass reported very similar experience on the second day's visits which he accompanied. Both agreed with Council's view that the exercise had been carefully engineered to highlight problems and discussion of a suitable response was deferred until later in today's meeting.

(e) Association's Product Liability Insurance Scheme - Mr. Blackmore explained an approach to the Brokers and the Insurers is to be made in early course.

S.S.P.D.C.:

Council noted the pre-copied Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council held in Edinburgh on 23rd March, 1989 and the tabled copies of the next subsequent meeting held there on 4th May, 1989. Appreciation of the now prompt receipt of these Minutes was voiced as was the increasing commercial relevance of much of their content.

Mr. McArthur enlarged on the discussion which had taken place on the location of alternative office accommodation for the Development Council, comparative and related costs thereof and other dependant considerations.

There was detailed discussion of the S.S.P.D.C.'s Show Caravan arrangements and S.P.T.A. Members' shared use of its facilities. While some Council Members felt levy-payers could not be expected to pay extra as a share of the costs for use of the facilities, others (themselves levy-payers) were prepared to do so. It was agreed to await Karen Halley (of the Development Council)'s approach in the matter.

W.P.I.A.C.:

Council also noted the pre-copied P.M.B. Report on the meeting of its Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee held in London on 14th March, 1989 which Mr. ^{Robertson} ~~Lindsay~~ had attended. In a brief discussion ^{Mr. Lindsay} ~~he~~ explained his continuing conviction that this Committee could be most profitably disbanded.

Copies/

SCOTTISH
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Copies of the P.M.B. Report on the meeting of the Scottish Advisory Committee held in Edinburgh on 23rd March, 1989 were tabled and duly noted by Council. During brief discussion Mr. Brass (who had attended this meeting) also reported his conversation with Mr. Bethel (S.S.P.D.C.) and Mr. John Hoyles (English N.F.U.) during the earlier Sutton Bridge Open Day. Topics had included the Burning Down question and revealed that three or four members of the English N.F.U.'s Potatoes Committee are expected to visit Scotland for two days at the end of June, travelling between the North East and Edinburgh. Council hoped that appropriate venues for visits would be arranged.

SEED
POTATO
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Council also took note of tabled copies of the P.M.B.'s Report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held in Edinburgh on 23rd March, 1989 attaching copies of a letter from Mr. McClung (who had attended the meeting) adding significant enlargement to the Report's over-bland Item 8 on Burning Down.

Mr. Brass reported he had accepted an invitation to attend N.A.S.P.M.'s Annual Luncheon. Based on N.A.S.P.M.'s representatives' attitude as reported in Mr. McClung's letter, he felt relations with that Association had reached a very low ebb. In Council's discussion this view was firmly supported by the experience of the last Joint Liaison Committee meetings. Council agreed that continuation of that Committee with its present rigid minded and confrontational N.A.S.P.M. representation is unacceptable. It was further agreed to write N.A.S.P.M. along these lines and to copy the letter to D.A.F.S., Mr. Brass also undertaking to explain the background to Mr. McEwan by telephone beforehand.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Correspondence - Mr. Blackmore explained he had obtained a copy of a Questionnaire from the British Crop Protection Council regarding chemical treatments applied to seed potatoes. Council decided not to circularise this to Association Members.

- He also reported the content of a letter from a Member recommending future effort be directed to improving the quality rather than the health of (already too healthy) stocks being sold South. Council expressed sympathy with this aim but pointed out that the Members' views on the Belworm situation had been overtaken by initiatives since issued by D.A.F.S.

In respect of two further letters from Members Council felt that (a) provision of some form of security for small independent trading Members is not a practical possibility and (b) that payment of a Licence Fee to P.B.I. is a commercial decision to be made by each Member in which Council and the Association has no part.

(b) Road Haulage - Mr. Blackmore further reported having obtained a copy of the Road Haulage Association's Conditions of Carriage, in response to a problem experienced by a Member (on which Mr. Brass enlarged). Council instructed a cautionary note, pointing out this particular hazard, be included in the next News Letter.

(c) Golf Outing - Mr. Miller reported very disappointing support for this event at Rosemount next Thursday, 18th May, 1989 had been received, only 27 golfers and four non-golfers having booked by the closing date at Noon today.

(d) H.G.S.A. - Mr. Cook enquired regarding D.A.F.S. policing of planting only classified or own once-grown seed in the U.K. High Grade Seed Area in 1990 and beyond. Council's discussion recognised the serious difficulties that could arise and also considered/

considered the situation if the E.C. does not agree to the introduction of High Grade Regions. In that event it was felt likely that the planting restrictions would be unacceptable to growers.

(e) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, Scone at 7 p.m. on Monday, 10th July, 1989 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. H. Arthur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.