

MINUTES of a MEETING of the
CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in 25 South Methven Street, PERTH
at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 7th June,
1989.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, R.D. Hunter, J.R. McArthur and J.M. Swinton, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. G.S. Brass, Chaired the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay, K.A. McKenzie and J.O. Robertson.

Before proceeding to the Agenda, Mr. Brass reported having telephoned Mr. McEwan (DAFS) regarding Council's decision to suspend further meetings of the Joint (SPTA/NASPM) Liaison Committee. Mr. McEwan had felt that since NASPM included some Scottish Members, DAFS could not decline to meet NASPM representatives on their own, if so requested. After brief discussion the Committee agreed DAFS should be asked to meet SPTA representatives following any such separate DAFS/NASPM meeting.

EXPULSION
OF MEMBERS:

The Chairman explained that in preparing clarification of this proposal for the Committee's consideration, the Council Member concerned had realised difficulty in justification of it. The proposal had therefore been withdrawn. Nevertheless, the Committee's ensuing discussion embraced other possible circumstances concerning other Association Members' activities and behaviour. While agreeing these to be reprehensible in varying degrees and that provisions for expulsion from Membership already exist, precise pre-definition of grounds should not be undertaken. In this light, Association action (policy statement, warnings, etc.) are not currently appropriate but constant review of underlying problems should be maintained. It was also proposed that should the necessity arise, pressure for a Member's resignation would be preferable to his expulsion.

"SMALL
WARE":

The Committee's discussion of the illegal trading of unclassified seed rehearsed the interlocking reasons for its inception and growth. One estimate placed its present extent at up to 30,000 tonnes per annum. The burden of proof against individuals was the major obstacle to eradication of the problem. While the Committee voiced unanimous opposition to this trade it was agreed a public statement to this effect should not be made at this time.

DEPOSITS
FOR
ARBITRAT-
IONS:

In consideration of a proposal to introduce Deposits before Arbitrations proceed, Mr. Hunter pointed out that the proposal appeared to be motivated towards deterring frivolous and/or minor claims and to ensure that expenses of Arbitrations are promptly paid. Over the past many years of his experience he had not met with frivolous claims and only one (very recent) refusal to settle expenses.

The Committee also recognised that whereas deposits in Arbitrations between Members raised fewer problems, requiring a deposit from a non-Member would not be practicable. In wide-ranging discussions the incorporation of such a requirement into the "Conditions", or into Rules referred to in the "Conditions", was not resolved. Mr. Hunter was not in favour of formulating separate Arbitration Rules. From a record of expenses in past Arbitrations, the Committee favoured a deposit of not less than £200 from each Party in an Arbitration. It was also felt that Arbiters should be advised to regard a Fee of/

of £100 each for their services as a minimum.

It was agreed Mr. Hunter would draft appropriate recommendations along these lines, together with proposals for their proper implementation (whether by Association Bye Law or otherwise), for further discussion.

INTERIM
ACCOUNTS:

In addition to the usual mid-year financial review, Mr. Hunter explained Council had recently asked the Committee to consider the impact of the shortfall in budgetted Subscriptions on the Association's Annual Account. The pre-circulated 1989 Budget Estimates, Membership Changes Statement and draft Accounts and Balance Sheet at 2nd June were taken as read.

The Statement detailed the shortfall of actual against estimated subscriptions totalling £1,295. In an item-by-item explanation of the draft Account, Mr. Blackmore pointed out counter-balancing over-estimates on the Expenditure side (both actual to date and still to come) and the reason for each, totalling approximately £1,000. Current higher than budgetted Bank Interest rates indicated an additional (say) £75 from this source. Overall, therefore, (and with an expected further dividend of £105) the indicated total deficit will be only £115, reducing the budgetted surplus at the close of the accounting year from £340 to £225. Mr. Blackmore added that with all Income received but only half the expenditure paid out, the Surplus shown at the moment (£4,938.78) is not really meaningful. He had not calculated the tax liability thereon for this reason.

The Committee expressed satisfaction that the financial position is under control and no remedial action is necessary.

A.O.C.B.:

Membership - Mr. Hunter reported receipt of a reply letter from Twygen Ltd. this morning accepting the offered Subscription of £130 pro rata for the rest of this (Association's) accounting year and suggesting future year's Subscriptions be charged on an "average per Member" basis. It was agreed Twygen be invoiced for £50.00 (plus V.A.T.) for the remainder of the current year and that each year in turn thereafter shall be determined by Council.

The meeting was then concluded.