

MINUTES of MEETING of COUNCIL of THE  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION in  
the Lovat Hotel, PERTH at 7 p.m. on  
Thursday, 6th JULY, 1989.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, A.P. Bayne, D. Maxwell, I. Melrose, P. Miller, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson and A.S. Whitehead, with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The Vice-President, Mr. J.R. McArthur, took the Chair and welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES:

Mr. Hunter reported receipt of apologies for absence from Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay and J.M. Swinton.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council in Scone on 11th May, 1989 (previously copied to each Member of Council) were taken as read. Mr. Blackmore pointed out that in the report on the meeting of the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee, Mr. Lindsay was shown to have attended when, in fact, Mr. Robertson had attended. The subsequent comment was correctly attributed to Mr. Lindsay. Subject to amendment in these respects the Minutes were formally approved and duly signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS  
ARISING:

(a) Membership and Subscriptions - Mr. Hunter reported that since Council's last meeting, Gowanbank (Potatoes) Ltd., Forfar had retracted their resignation from Membership and Twygen Ltd., Dundee had now been enrolled, increasing the total Roll to 98 Members. All 98 Subscriptions (totalling £9,915) had now been received. The Chairman's Committee had considered the shortfall of this total against the budgetted Estimate (£11,050) and had decided remedial action is not required.

Mr. Hunter further reported receipt of letters from two Members proposing Messrs. J. & S. Grant (Roskill), Munloch by be enrolled into Association Membership. Council accepted these proposals with effect from today's date, thereby increasing the total Roll to 99 Members.

Council also considered a PMB Merchant Licence Application and noted the latest Merchant Licences Amendments list.

Mr. Hunter read out a letter from Mr. Fenton following change of his Company's name. Council accepted Mr. Hunter's professional view that neither the Company's Association Membership nor Mr. Fenton's position on Council are affected.

(b) Co-option to Council - In reply the Secretariat reported no response had been received from Mr. Doig following his co-option as a Member of Council. Council agreed a reminder letter be sent to Mr. Doig.

(c) Product Liability Insurance - Mr. Hunter reported on a meeting he had had with the Association's Insurance Brokers. Following a full discussion, Council agreed the Brokers be asked to approach the Insurers to try to secure a further extension to the Scheme from 31st October, 1989.

(d) Joint Liaison Committee - Stressing that Mr. Brass' view on it had still to be received Mr. Hunter read out a letter he had prepared to be sent to NASPM. Council agreed that subject to Mr. Brass' approval the letter be despatched in its present form.

Mr./

Mr. Hunter read out a letter from the President of NASPM to Mr. Brass (asking SPTA to re-consider an extension of the 10-day period for complaints in the Conditions of Sale, to 14 days) and a reply letter he had prepared on behalf of Mr. Brass for his approval. Council agreed this reply also should be sent in its present form.

(e) Road Haulage - Mr. Hunter reported receipt of a very full reply letter received from London Solicitors for the Road Haulage Association. Following discussion of the principal points Council instructed inclusion of cautionary notes to Members in the next SPTA News Letter.

S.S.P.D.C.:

The pre-circulated copies of the Minutes of a Meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council in Edinburgh on 15th June, 1989 were taken as read. Appreciation of prompt availability was again voiced. Council's subsequent discussion thereof included:-reported concern among NFUS grass roots membership regarding perceived lack of value for levy paid (and an expected levy increase next year); proposed change of SSPDC office location; formation of S.E. Growers Ltd. and lack of a governmental decision on the future of the PMB.

On this latter point a pessimistic outcome (possibly phased over 2 or 3 years) was voiced. There was also firm support for rebuttal of "lack of value for levy" views and praise among Council Members for several SSPDC initiatives and achievements. The Chairman also suggested SPTA should already be considering the industry's position and future direction if the PMB ceases to exist.

B.P.T.C.:

The pre-circulated copies of the Minutes of a meeting of the British Potato Trades Consortium in London on 12th June, 1989 were taken as read. During Council's discussion thereof it was agreed SPTA would support a Consortium withdrawal from membership of the European Union of Wholesale Potato Trades.

J.C.C.:

The Secretariat tabled copies of the PMB's Report on a meeting of its Joint Consultative Committee in London on 12th June, 1989 from which Council noted that the Board's Seed Potato Support Scheme was recommended for renewal for its second year without change in its present ground rules.

S.A.C.:

The Secretariat also tabled copies of the PMB's Report on a meeting of its Scottish Advisory Committee in Edinburgh on 14th June, 1989. Council noted that a net 85.7 hectares of Basic Area had been transferred out of Scotland during the year to 9.6.89 and that in addition to historical market and crop reports and a resume of the new crop, the Committee had discussed its own merger with the Board's Seed Potato Advisory Committee.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Correspondence - (1) Mr. Hunter read out a letter from a Member seeking Association support (i) for any chemical treatment of seed to be shown on official labels and (ii) uniformity in U.K. and Dutch eelworm testing. He also read out a reply letter from DAFS giving an official view on these points. After discussion, Council decided not to pursue either of these points further.

(2) Mr. Hunter also read out a further letter from DAFS regarding reduced crop inspection levels. Brief discussion revealed doubt that expected time and manpower savings will be achieved.

(b)/

(b) Chairman's Committee - In reply to Mr. Melrose, Mr. Hunter explained that at a meeting on 7th June, 1989 the Chairman's Committee had not formulated any recommendations to Council in respect of "small ware" or expulsion of Members found to be engaging in this trade. In respect of Arbitrations Procedures and Initial Deposits, the Committee had instructed the Secretary to prepare proposals arising from the discussions for further consideration.

Council's ensuing discussion revealed firm pressure for an early and unequivocal declaration of Association policy to oppose all forms of illegal trading in potatoes. This was also seen to raise problems of timing and choice of avenues of announcement, which were accordingly referred to the Chairman's Committee for urgent resolution.

In respect of Arbitrations, Council was very seriously disturbed to learn that in a Dispute between two Association members, the Arbiters' and their Clerk's Expenses, Awarded against one of those Members, remain unpaid several months after issue of the Award. The Secretary was unanimously instructed to arrange immediate settlement and recovery from the offending Member forthwith.

(c) Date of next meeting - Council agreed its next meeting will take place in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, Scone at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 7th September, 1989 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

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

*J S Brass.*