

REPORT on a MEETING of the
ORGANISING COMMITTEE of the
SCOTCH SEED POTATO EXHIBITORS
in 25 South Methven Street,
PERTH at 11.30 a.m. on
Friday, 13th OCTOBER, 1989

PRESENT: Messrs. G. Smillie (Convenor), J.R. McArthur (ex officio and SPTA Nominee), J.M. Waddell and J. Bethel (SSPDC) (by invitation), with R. David Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

APOLOGY: Mr. Blackmore intimated an apology for absence on behalf of Mr. G.S. Brass (ex officio).

ROYAL SMITHFIELD SHOW 1988: (a) Arrangements - In discussion Mr. Smillie, supported by Messrs. McArthur and Bethel, felt that the Stand seemed increasingly to be serving a function as a cloakroom for all and sundry. He repeated his previous calls for a radical re-think of design of the Stand.

(b) Account - The Committee considered the pre-circulated Account for the 1988 Show which Mr. Blackmore reported had received the approval of 11 of the 20 participating Members to date. He gave brief comments on various items within the Account. In respect of SSPDC's contribution (£1,400 again in 1988) Mr. Bethel explained that downward pressure on this figure had been less severe than anticipated. The Committee agreed to recommend to the following Annual General Meeting of Members that the Account be adopted.

APPOINTMENT: In consideration of the appointment of an Organising Committee for the Stand arrangements at the 1989 Royal Smithfield Show, it was accepted that late-hour changes would be highly impractical. The present Committee therefore accepted re-appointment on the clear understanding that a new Convenor and Committee be appointed following the 1989 Show.

ROYAL SMITHFIELD SHOW 1989: In the light of its opening discussion (above), the Committee agreed the "through-passage" asset of the Stand's corner site should be better exploited. Reduction of the "office" space would enhance this by enlarging the open floor space while also lessening the "cloakroom" image. It was decided to move the (plan) left hand office wall 3'6" to the right and to incorporate the curtained opening into this wall. Floor covering would be unchanged.

It was further agreed not to use the Group's wall-mounted samples display cabinet this year (thereby releasing additional wall space for alternative display purposes) and to arrange a slope-topped, triangular-based columnar display at the outmost corner of the Stand thus emphasising the "through-passage" effect.

In further discussion of changes in wall displays it was decided not to display the usual loaned mounted photographs. Mr. Bethel proposed a "Theme" be agreed to govern preparation of replacement display material, which his staff could source from supply contacts in Edinburgh. He/

He suggested strong emphasis should be placed on the Stand's traditional Scottish identity, perhaps adopting a "Scotland Delivers" slogan and highlighting its nationwide, worldwide, new varieties, rhizomania-free, quality standards, long-term commitment, etc. aspects. The Committee approved this proposed course and accepted the other modifications it would entail (e.g. discontinuation of the four usual display panels and the rampant lion panel and replacement of woodchip with "female" blue-gray Velcro for wall covering). Mr. Bethel also undertook to try to arrange preparation of the Members' Names Board in Edinburgh. It was further agreed a very close liaison would be required with both SSPDC and the Group's standfitters and Mr. Blackmore undertook to ensure this. Once again Mr. Smillie undertook to provide the necessary tuber samples.

Turning to consideration of pre-copied Budget Estimates for the 1989 Show Mr. Blackmore first reported that three 1988 Members (Fraser of Forfar Ltd., Messrs. Wm. Fraser and W. & A. Graham (Arbroath) Ltd.) would not be participating in the 1989 Show. Whereas the Estimates had been prepared on a "shoestring" basis, to try to maintain reserves and to minimise Contributions, these resignations and today's changes in arrangements reduced the Estimates to the role of "indications" only. During the following discussion it was decided to admit Caithness Potatoes Ltd. to membership of the Group for the 1989 Show. The Committee also insisted that for the 1989 Show the Stand Attendant's expenses be determined at £200 and the Secretary's Salary and Outlays at £230. It was also agreed to order the usual style of chairs but not to order a pedestal-type ash-tray. On a "best-guess" basis the Committee decided to recommend that the immediately-following Annual General Meeting of Members should fix 1989 Contribution payable by each Member at £135.00 plus V.A.T.

The meeting was then concluded.