

MINUTES of a MEETING of the  
CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel,  
SCONE at 11 a.m. on Friday, 7th  
SEPTEMBER, 1990.

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PRESENT: Messrs. R. Doig, R.D. Hunter, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and J.O. Robertson, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. J.R. McArthur, took the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Blackmore intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook and J.G.H. Fenton.

NEW J.C.C.: Recalling Council's last meeting decision, in Mr. Robertson's absence, to write to the P.M.B. regarding Target Area and Quota for 1991 Season, the Chairman explained that in deference to Mr. Robertson's subsequent respected advice, the letter had not been sent. In reply to the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Robertson then gave a fully detailed account and explanation of the discussion that took place at the new Joint Consultative Committee meeting in London on 10th July, 1990. He stressed that all present had agreed on the importance of unanimity on their first-ever recommendation.

During its subsequent discussion, the Chairman's Committee fully supported the decision not to write to the P.M.B. and agreed the need to brief the Association's representatives before next year's Target Area meeting. While it was agreed the P.M.B. Ware Standard is now largely non-operative, it was felt it must be retained for intervention (and possibly "futures") purposes. In respect of some discussion of a 50mm. minimum riddle size (reported by Mr. Robertson), Mr. McKenzie felt this should be determined by freely negotiated trading demand.

NASPM PARTY  
VISIT:

Mr. Hunter reported receipt of a letter from Messrs. McKenzie Bros. expressing extreme displeasure and upset over arrangements made for the Dinner with N.A.S.P.M. visitors in Perth on 26th July, 1990. With Mr. McKenzie's agreement, Mr. Hunter read out both the letter itself and the Association's letter in reply.

Mr. McKenzie re-iterated his anger that all Council Members had not been afforded an opportunity to meet the visitors at the event. This anger had been re-inforced by lack of circularisation of any information until after the event had taken place. He deplored the use of Association funds to meet the cost of those who had been present for having hosted visits by the party. He felt most strongly that S.P.T.A. Members concerned should be required to reimburse the cost of their own participation.

In reply to the Chair, Mr. Doig (who had Chaired the Council meeting on 24th May, 1990 at which the expenditure had been proposed and authorised) confirmed his understanding that whole Council participation had not been instructed. He reminded the Committee that S.S.P.D.C. was in charge of arrangements for the visit and he sincerely regretted that postponement of Council's meeting on 12th July, 1990 had prevented re-discussion before/

before the event. In view of late shortcomings in S.S.P.D.C.'s arrangements, he felt the Secretariat was not at fault. While noting the various points made, Mr. McKenzie remained very upset about the matter and it was agreed to refer to it again during this afternoon's meeting of Council.

INTERIM  
ACCOUNT:

The Committee considered the pre-circulated interim Association Account to 31st August, 1990 and a Statement of estimated further expenditure before 31st October, 1990. Mr. Blackmore explained that the Exceptional Item (stated at £470.70) was comprised of the cost of the Dinner during the N.A.S.P.M. party's visit, amounting to £708.70, under deduction of £238.00 shown under this heading in last year's Audited Account which was recovered early in the current year. Mr. Hunter added that the Award against the Defendant in this recovery had excluded extra-judicial costs of £35.53. The Committee instructed that these costs be paid by the Association.

Mr. Hunter also explained that the Secretary's Salary shown in the interim Account at £3,750.00 was the first half of £7,500 formally authorised for the previous year. Although a suggested 3.3% increase of £250 had been incorporated into the Budget Estimates for the current year, formal authorisation of this particular Item in those Estimates had been deferred. Pending the Committee's decision, £4,000 had been included in the Statement of estimated further expenditure.

Noting that despite these qualifications the indicated end-year taxable surplus still amounted to £679.31, the Chairman pointed out that reimbursement of the Dinner costs from other (Press) funds would double that taxable surplus to £1,400. The ensuing discussion covered various aspects and possibilities, culminating in agreement to review the Dinner costs again before the next meeting of Council. The Secretary undertook to prepare an Account of the Press Fund, with his recommendations, in time for that review. The Committee also agreed to recommend that Council increase the Secretary's Salary by £500 (6.7%) to £8,000.00 for the year to 31st October, 1990.

DEPUTY  
VICE  
PRESIDENT:

The Chairman explained inclusion of this Item on the Agenda reflected his concern that Mr. Doig would shortly be entering his second year as Vice President without his Deputy having been appointed. Discussion showed support for this concern and it was agreed recruitment approaches be continued on a wider basis.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that Mr. Miller's resignation had created a vacancy for Convenor of the Entertainments Committee. Accepting that this vacancy should be filled now, albeit on a temporary basis, to deal with the annual Dinner and Dance arrangements, the Committee decided to recommend that Council appoint Mr. D.H. Lindsay to this position, he indicating reservations regarding his acceptance.

FUTURES  
MARKET  
CHANGES:

The Chairman explained the proposed changes in weights criteria for Futures Market inspections and he felt the Association should write to express its disappointment that these proposals are not to be adopted. In the Committee's discussion it was pointed out that timing of introduction of any changes is severely/

severely limited by closing and opening dates of the various Contracts months and Mr. McKenzie explained the proposed changes did not accord with current Weights and Measures legislation. It was agreed the Association take no further action meantime.

A.O.C.B.: Date of next Meeting - The Committee confirmed its agreement to meet again at 11 a.m. on the date of the next meeting of Council (expected to be on Thursday, 18th October, 1990) and the Secretariat was instructed to arrange accordingly.

The meeting was then concluded.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. McKenzie', is written in the lower right quadrant of the page.