

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COUNCIL of
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, SCONE at
2 p.m. on Friday, 7th SEPTEMBER, 1990.

PRESENT: Messrs. G.S. Brass, R. Doig, A.C. Galbraith, D.H. Lindsay, J.M. Marshall, I. Melrose, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson and D.Y Stewart, with R.D. Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

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

APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, J.B. Hollywood, D. Maxwell, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting of Council in Scone on 27th July, 1990 (previously copied to each Member of Council) were taken as read. They were formally approved and were signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: (a) Inspections re complaints from England - The Chairman explained this matter concerned the adoption and use of common interpretations of the inspections standards by DAFS and MAFF. Council agreed that any Association Member experiencing difficulties arising from MAFF inspections of Scottish consignments should be asked to contact the Secretariat.

(b) "Varieties" sub-Committee - The Secretary reported that pending replies from two rights-holders, a further meeting of this sub-Committee has still to be arranged.

Mr. Hunter read a letter from a Member seeking Association support to grow a variety, of which higher grade stocks are not available, beyond E3 Grade. Council agreed the classification scheme does not allow this and, accepting that lack of higher grade stocks probably reflects a rights-holder's view that maintenance costs of the variety are unworthwhile, recommended the Member to accept that variety's rights-holder's invitation to contact them direct.

(c) H.V.S. Scheme - The Secretary reported that a response to the Association's submitted views is still awaited from DAFS. In reply during discussion, the Chairman did not feel there had been any loss of impetus - the possibility of an extra meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel before the end of the year was in his mind - nor did he expect DAFS would try to make any last-minute alterations to the proposals.

(d) Target Area and Quota - In view of his absence from the last meeting of Council, Mr. Robertson gave a very fully detailed report of the discussion of Target Area and Quota which had taken place at the meeting of the new Joint Consultative Committee at which he had deputised in London on 10th July, 1990. He emphasised that all present had agreed it was important that on this first occasion the Committee should achieve a unanimous recommendation. During Council's subsequent discussion, Mr. Robertson's difficulties were clearly recognised and there/

there was strong support for comprehensive briefing of the Association's representatives at equivalent meetings in future years, preferably including prior consultation with other interests, so that a stronger position could be adopted. The Chairman also reported that respecting Mr. Robertson's fully-informed advice, it had been decided not to convey the Association's dismay to the PMB as instructed at Council's last meeting. Today's meeting duly ratified that decision.

(e) Joint Liaison Committee - The Chairman reported on the background and on the commonsense pressures that have resulted in re-activation of the Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee. In response to SPTA's invitation, a meeting of NASPM's Council on 5th September, 1990 had suggested a meeting of this Committee be held on Wednesday, 31st October, 1990 with Down-grading of Higher Grade Stocks (especially "Record") included in the Agenda.

In Council's subsequent discussion it was proposed that the meeting be arranged for the morning of that date, with an approach being made to visit SSPDC in the afternoon. It was also suggested that lunch could be arranged either in Edinburgh or (en route to, or in) Haddington. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss detailed arrangements informally with NASPM's President before finalisation. It was further agreed that Messrs. J.R. McArthur and R. Doig (both ex officio) with Messrs. J.E. Cook, J.M. Marshall, K.A. McKenzie and D.Y. Stewart, Jnr. will represent SPTA at this meeting, with Secretarial support, and that Implications of the H.V.S. Scheme be included in the Agenda.

(f) NASPM Party Visit and Dinner - The Chairman gave a detailed background explanation of the SSPDC-organised arrangements and events of the NASPM Party's visit and reported the discussions on Mr. McKenzie's letter of complaint during this morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee. With Mr. McKenzie's agreement, the Secretary read out Mr. McKenzie's letter and the Association's formal reply and Mr. McKenzie added his own further explanation. He remained very strongly opposed to Association funds having borne the costs of SPTA Members, other than Office Bearers, attendance at the Dinner and he formally moved that these costs be recovered from the Members concerned. Mr. Melrose seconded the Motion.

Following full discussion of various points and views, the Motion was put to a "show of hands" vote in which three Council Members supported it, five Council Members opposed it and two abstained. The Motion was accordingly defeated.

(g) Credit Insurance Association Ltd. - Mr. Blackmore reported that one Member had contacted the Company direct for further details. Mr. Galbraith reported having received a telephone call followed by a visit from the Company in both of which the Company had presented itself as SPTA's Credit Insurance Agents. Council agreed the Secretariat write to dissuade the Company from use of this presentation of itself.

(h)/

(h) Membership - Mr. Hunter read out a letter from Mr. Barr formally confirming voluntary liquidation of W. & A. Graham (Arbroath) Ltd. and submitting that Company's resignation from Membership of this Association. Council welcomed the proposal that Mr. Barr's name be retained in the Association's Panel of Arbiters.

Mr. Hunter also reported that Hunter Produce Ltd. has terminated its operation in Scotland and will not now be eligible for enrollment into the Association Membership approved at Council's last Meeting. He added that these two changes reduced the total Roll to 95 Members. Amendment to the PMB's list of Licensed Merchants were also noted, Mr. Galbraith adding that nominations for Girvan Early Growers Ltd. for Association Membership are to follow in due course.

S.S.P.D.C.:

Council noted the pre-copied Minutes of a Meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council in Edinburgh on 23rd August, 1990. The Chairman reported that Mr. Cook had written SSPDC to object to parts of its Budget proposals. The Chairman also reported very strong indications that the Development Council will be continued beyond 1990 without a Poll, the SPTA's pressure for such a Poll being over-ruled as un-supported. The Chairman stated his intention to resign his Appointment as an SPTA representative on the Development Council. Mr. McKenzie felt that SPTA representatives should consult together before each Development Council meeting.

Mr. Brass questioned why and by whom a request by the Association, which provided 50% of the industry's representatives on the Development Council, is repeatedly rejected. Following discussion, Council agreed the Association write to the Minister of State expressing anxiety that unofficial indications have preceded an official response to the Association's proposals. The letter should also ask for the Minister's assurance that in the event of SSPDC is to continue in being, the independence of its Chairman will be accorded paramount importance in the appointment process.

CHAIRMAN'S
COMMITTEE:

The Chairman explained that in addition to the NASPM Party's visit and Dinner (already discussed above), this morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee had considered an Interim Association Account to date, the continuing vacancy for a Deputy Vice President and Futures Market changes proposed but not adopted.

He reported that the Account indicated a healthy year-end surplus even after the NASPM Dinner costs. The Committee had forwarded two recommendations for Council's consideration - (a) that extra-judicial expenses of £35.53 (incurred in connection with successful Court Action for recovery of Arbiters' Fees and their Clerk's Fees and Outlays) not recovered from the Defendant be paid out of Association Funds and (b) that the Secretary's Salary for the year to 31st October, 1990 be fixed at £8,000.00. After due deliberation Council adopted both recommendations unopposed. The Chairman also reported that this morning's meeting had proposed Mr. Lindsay be appointed Convenor of the Entertainments Committee. Mr. Lindsay voiced his reservations regarding acceptance but Council adopted the proposal.

(a)/

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Annual Elections to Council - The Secretary explained that in terms of the Association's Constitution and Rules, six Members of Council shall retire annually. Messrs. A.W. Bayne, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, D. Maxwell and J.M. Swinton are due to retire, while a sixth vacancy had been created by Mr. Miller's resignation earlier in the year. Council instructed the normal procedure for nomination of Candidates for these six vacancies to be put in hand.

(b) Fuel Costs - Mr. Doig proposed that the recently adopted Special Additional Condition in respect of fuel costs should be made available to Members in official Association printed form on adhesive labels. The Secretariat agreed to obtain a printer's quotation and to solicit orders in the next News Letter.

(c) P.M.B.'s Ingliston Demonstration - The Secretariat was also instructed to write the PMB to ask if stand space at the Spring Demonstration can be made available to the Association free of charge. If this is not available, the necessary criteria to achieve it should be sought.

(d) Quota Leasing - Mr. Marshall pointed out that by bringing forward the closing date for applications, the PMB had increased the difficulties of leasing Members and Producers. Council agreed the Association should write to the PMB urging a re-think of the whole methodology of Quota Leasing and that meantime the closing date should be extended by at least 28 days.

*(e) Date of next meeting - It was agreed that Council will meet again in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, Scone at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 18th October, 1990 and the Secretariat was instructed to make the usual arrangements.

The meeting was thereupon concluded.



*To avoid clashing with P.M.B. Committees meetings in Edinburgh on 18th October, 1990 the date of Council's next meeting was advanced by one day to Wednesday, 17th October, 1990.