

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 Wednesday, 17th OCTOBER,
1990.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.W. Bayne, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, J.B. Hollywood, D.H. Lindsay, I. Melrose, J. Logan Milne, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, D.Y. Stewart, Jnr. and J.M. Swinton, 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 received from Messrs. J.G.H. Fenton, A.C. Galbraith, D. Maxwell and J.O. Robertson.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting of Council in Scone on 7th September, 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) "Varieties" sub-Committee - The Secretary reported that a reply had been received from one more breeders' rights holder. A further meeting of the sub-Committee is to be arranged to review the overall position and to report back to the next meeting of Council.

(b) Higher Voluntary Standards Scheme - The Secretary reported that the Association's written views and comments had been submitted to DAFS and a response was awaited. In reply to Mr. Brass, the Chairman explained that discussions with DAFS would take place through the forum of the Scottish Working Party and he assured Council that the matter was not dead.

(c) Credit Insurance Association Ltd. - The Secretary reported on the correspondence between the Association and the Company and explained the matter would be furthered when the Council Member concerned returned from abroad.

(d) Membership - The Secretary read a letter received from Messrs. Viewfield Produce, Kirriemuir, intimating that Firm's resignation from Membership of the Association. He added that the total Membership Roll was thus reduced to 94 Members.

He also reported receipt of two notifications from the PMB of applications for Merchants Licences. Council agreed these both arose from Partner/Director changes.

(e) Entertainments Committee - The Secretary read a formal letter from Mr. Lindsay regretting his inability to accept nomination as Convenor of the Entertainments Committee. Council accepted this position and recognising the approaching Dinner-Dance Function, agreed the Chairman should contact Mr. Miller to invite him to resume his former Convenorship of this Committee.

(f)/

(f) Elections to Council - Mr. Blackmore reported that by the close of the postal ballot of all Association Members at Noon today, 55 Ballot papers had been received (58.5% of possible), recording a total of 307 Votes (93% of possible) and there had been no spoiled Ballot Papers. In alphabetical order, the six successful Candidates were Messrs. A.W. Bayne, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, D. Maxwell, D. Smith and J.M. Swinton. Council expressed especial appreciation of the willingness of those who had offered themselves as Candidates but who had not been successful.

(g) Deputy Vice President - Voicing the increasing concern over the continuing vacancy in the Association's Office Bearers, the Chairman invited nominations. No proposals were acceptable by the Nominees and the matter was deferred for urgent reconsideration at the next meeting of Council.

(h) Fuel Costs - Mr. Blackmore reported having received only two orders, each for 100 gummed announcement labels. At this level the quoted £65 for a minimum print of 500 labels seemed too costly and he sought further instructions. Discussion showed preference for self-typed additions to Sales Notes as required, but Mr. Doig expressed disappointment that such additions did not show the Association's official support. Mr. Blackmore undertook to try to obtain a cheaper alternative quotation.

(i) P.M.B. event at Ingliston - The Chairman reported that at its earlier meeting today the Chairman's Committee had agreed to recommend that the Association should accept the offer of rent-free Stand space at this event. Mr. Blackmore gave details of indicated standfitting costs involved. Following discussion Council adopted this recommendation and authorised advance payment of standfitting costs of £275 to £300.

(j) Quota Leasing - The Secretary reported having written to the P.M.B. as instructed. An acknowledgement had been received stating a detailed reply is to follow.

100% TUBER
INSPECTIONS:

The Chairman explained he had been approached by Mr. John McLaren, of the NFUS, for his views on some interesting proposals on Tuber Inspections. Believing Council would wish to consider these he had invited Mr. McLaren to address Council. With Council's agreement, Mr. McLaren then joined the meeting.

Explaining that he was concerned at the possibility that DAFS' Inspectorate might not be able to cope during the peak Spring loading period, Mr. McLaren felt it would be advisable to consider supportive measures and to try to have them in place beforehand. Stressing that the proposals were in an early stage, he outlined the main features to date and invited Council's views.

In the ensuing discussion several points were clarified, while others were agreed to require more information and further discussion thereafter. With qualified general support it was envisaged that after its own consideration, NFUS would formally approach SPTA and SSPDC, in preparation for the Scottish Working Party to open discussions with DAFS.

The Chairman thanked Mr. McLaren for his visit and following his departure Council agreed that pending further discussion and developments, the proposals should not be publicised until time for their further refinement has elapsed.

Mr./

S.S.P.D.C.:

Mr. Hunter reported having written to Mr. Michael Forsyth, M.P. as instructed and that a letter in reply had been received from Mr. Ian McEwan of DAFS. While this gave an assurance that the Association's views would be taken into account in the Minister's awaited decision, Council agreed that insufficient time remained for a Poll of all SSPDC levy payers to be held.

Reporting on an SSPDC meeting on 11th October, 1990 the Chairman stated that without being included in the Agenda, the Chairman of the SSPDC had proposed that the Chief Executive's salary be increased from £35,000 to £45,000 per annum for the next three years. In the absence of the Chief Executive and his staff, discussion of the proposal will not be Minuted.

Strongly supported by Mr. Doig, Mr. McArthur had pointed out that until an official announcement on whether or not the SSPDC is to continue in being, the proposal was both presumptive and premature. Mr. Doig had felt that the increase was excessive and in any case should be in respect of 1991 only. With three other SPTA representatives absent, these views were not supported and the proposal was therefore approved.

During Council's discussion Mr. McArthur regretted that he had been unable to be more effective in his representation of SPTA and he had given most careful thought to his continuation in this respect. Mr. Swinton also voiced his own misgivings of his own continued representation. Reflecting Council's deep concern over these events the Secretary was instructed to write to the Chairman of the SSPDC inviting his comments and to send a copy of the letter to the Minister and to Mr. Ian Whitelaw of DAFS.

MARKETING
OF SEED
POTATOES
199-91:

The Chairman explained this Item had been placed on the Agenda to provide an opportunity to consider DAFS' recent Paper. In the event he felt the discussions following Mr. McLaren's address had covered most of the principal points. Mr. Hunter noted DAFS' intention to carry out tuber inspections to ensure within-tolerance conditions are maintained for 14 days after delivery to the customer. He also reminded Council that possible extension of the ten day complaints period to 14 days had been included at NASPM's request on the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S
COMMITTEE:

Reporting on the meeting of the Chairman's Committee earlier today, the Chairman explained an updated draft of the Association Accounts had been considered. As well as recommending expenditure for standfitting at Ingliston (already authorised above), the Committee had also recommended a prepayment of £120 towards the costs of the Joint Liaison Committee meeting on 31st October, 1990. After brief discussion Council accepted this recommendation, noting that together with payment of the costs of today's meetings, the earlier indicated surplus income would be virtually exhausted. Council instructed finalisation of the Accounts and submission of them to the Auditor. It was also agreed to seek the Auditors' views on future accounting arrangements in respect of the Press Fund.

(a)/

A.O.C.B.: (a) Minutes and Reports of Council meetings - The Secretary reported a suggestion from a Council Member that it was an unnecessary expense to send him a copy of the Minutes and a copy of the Report of each Council meeting when these are identical. Council agreed that Minutes should continue to be copied to each Member of Council in his personal capacity and Reports should continue to be copied to each company, firm or individual member of the Association.

(b) Forthcoming P.M.B. meetings - In brief discussion in readiness for tomorrow's joint meeting of the Scottish and the Seed Potato Advisory Committees in Edinburgh, it was suggested that opportunity should be sought to enlist support for the Association's letter regarding the revised Quota Leasing arrangements.

(c) Date of next meeting - Council agreed to hold its next meeting in Scone on Thursday, 22nd November, 1990. To provide for a further meeting of the Chairman's Committee there at 1.30 p.m. on that date, it was agreed the meeting of Council will commence at 2.30 p.m. The Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements accordingly.

The meeting closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

