

MINUTES of a MEETING of the
CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel,
SCONE at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday,
22nd NOVEMBER, 1990.

PRESENT: Messrs. G.S. Brass, R. Doig, J.C.H. Fenton, R.D. Hunter, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, J.O. Robertson and (by invitation) J.M. Swinton, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.E. Cook and K.A. McKenzie.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Committee's meetings in Scone on 17th October, 1990 and in Perth on 5th November, 1990 previously copied to each Committee Member, were taken as read. Mr. Fenton pointed out that in the latter meeting, in his support for Mr. Stobo, he had stated that Mr. Stobo's control of the Chief Executive was different from, not better than, Mr. Fotheringham's control. To dispel misunderstanding it was agreed the sentence should end at the word "Chairmanship" by deletion of the subsequent three lines (from "however" to "had been"). Thereafter, both Minutes were formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: Discussion of the Minutes of the latter meeting revealed a continuing lack of knowledge of the terms of the SSPDC's Chief Executive's Contract of Service. In Mr. Hunter's view it was not competent for SPTA to ask for details but the enabling legislation clearly provided the Development Council with power to engage staff. Clarification of "Severance terms" (if any) and any linking to Civil Service salary scales was also regarded as desirable. The Committee formally requested Messrs. Fenton and I.R. McKenzie to ask to see the Chief Executive's Contract of Service to satisfy themselves on these matters.

In reply to Mr. Brass the Chairman reported on the Development Council meeting on 15th November, 1990 and read out from the Minutes of that meeting which he had received earlier today. Mr. Brass felt that since a poll had not taken place, a campaign for support for a poll at the first opportunity should now be launched. In this respect SPTA must first crystallise its own policy and, in reply, Mr. Hunter felt this would need majority rather than 100% prior Association support.

The Committee considered the Secretariat's draft reply letters to Mr. Loudon Hamilton and to Mr. Ian McEwan (both DAFS). The first of these received general approval but the latter was rejected for recommendation to Council later today. In respect of the latter it was decided that subject to Council's approval the letter should simply submit a list of the Association's ten Nominations for Ministerial appointment of six representatives to the SSPDC. It was also agreed that no preferences should be indicated.

Further/

Further discussion confirmed the present representatives' concern at the current direction of the Development Council's policies and their inability to have influenced it to any degree. The Committee strongly supported a proposal that the Association's nominated representatives should meet together prior to each Development Council meeting, to try to reach a co-ordinated response to Agenda and/or other topics.

ANNUAL
ACCOUNTS:

Mr. Hunter explained that submission of the Accounts to the Auditor had been regrettably delayed. Copies of the finalised Account as submitted to Audit had been pre-circulated and Mr. Blackmore explained where changes had occurred following Council's last meeting. Noting that the Auditor's examination had still to be completed, the Committee approved the Account as submitted to Audit and instructed its circularisation to all Association Members once the Audit has been completed.

PRESS FUND
ACCOUNT:

Mr. Hunter explained his suggestion that a Note of the Press Fund be shown as an Addendum to the Association's Audited Account. Mr. Blackmore confirmed that, as instructed, he had sought the Auditors' views on this matter when sending the Annual Accounts to Audit. During subsequent discussion it was suggested that an Association Year Book might be prepared. It was agreed this be given further thought before Council's next meeting.

1991 BUDGET
ESTIMATES:

The Committee considered pre-circulated copies of Budget Estimates for 1991 which the Secretariat had prepared. During discussion of each heading in turn the Estimates were approved and the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that the Secretary's Salary be increased by £500 (6.25%) to £8,500 for the year to 31st October, 1991.

MEMBERSHIP
SUBSC-
RIPTIONS:

Following approval of the Estimates the Committee also agreed to recommend to Council that no change be made to tonnage brackets and the 1990 rates of Membership Subscriptions remain unchanged for the year to 31st October, 1991.

In the absence of any further business the meeting formally concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.