

MINUTES of a MEETING of COUNCIL of THE
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION in
the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, SCONE at
2.45 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd NOVEMBER,
1990.

PRESENT:

Messrs. G.S. Brass, R. Doig, J.G.H. Fenton, A.C. Galbraith, D.H. Lindsay, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur, J.O. Robertson, D. Smith, D.Y. Stewart, Jnr., J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead, with R.D. Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

The President, Mr. J.R. McArthur, took the Chair. He extended a warm welcome to Mr. Deryk Smith, attending his first meeting since his election to Council, and to the other Council Members present.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence received from Messrs. J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, J.B. Hollywood, D. Maxwell, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose and J.L. Milne.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Council in Scone on 17th October, 1990 (previously copied to each Member of Council) were taken as read. They were formally approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

(a) "Varieties" sub-Committee - Mr. Hunter explained that a further meeting of this sub-Committee had to be arranged and he undertook to do so as soon as practicable.

(b) Higher Voluntary Standards Scheme - Mr. Hunter reported that no developments had occurred since Council's last meeting, a response from DAFS being still awaited.

(c) Ingliston Event - Mr. Blackmore reported that standfitting costs had been paid as instructed, in respect of which lighting requirements had still to be ascertained. During Council's discussion it was pointed out that the Event was intended to emphasise the increasingly "hi-tech" nature of the potato industry. Council confirmed that the Association's stand was not intended for trading purposes, its principal function being to provide a meeting point for Association Members and to draw the attention of non-Members to the benefits of Association Membership. It was also agreed that copies of the Association's Membership Roll be available from the Stand and that if the Exhibitors' Committee (with co-options if necessary) declined to undertake further arrangements for the Stand, a sub-Committee should be appointed for this purpose. The Secretariat was also instructed to publicise details of the Stand in the next News Letter to all Association Members.

(d) Quota Leasing - The Secretary reported that a lengthy reply to the Association's letter had been received from the PMB which he read out to the meeting. The Chairman felt the reply had largely missed the point of the Association's letter and Mr. Marshall felt the reply had been predictable. Following discussion, the Secretariat was instructed to acknowledge the reply, to point out that some use of the procedure for late applications up to 31st March can be expected and to trust that Association Members requiring to use this procedure will be accommodated.

Council/

S.S.P.D.C.:

Council took note of the pre-copied Minutes of the Development Council meeting on 11th October, 1990 and the Secretariat undertook to copy the Minutes of the meeting of 15th November, 1990 to each Council Member as soon as they are received.

The Chairman reported that by letter dated 25th October, 1990 DAFS had asked for Association Nominations to serve on the Development Council. He explained that of the six presently serving Members nominated by the Association, neither he nor Mr. I.R. McKenzie wished to be re-nominated. Messrs. R. Doig and J.M. Swinton also stated they did not wish to be nominated again and Mr. Hunter added that by telephone Mr. J.E. Cook had indicated likewise and Mr. Ian Melrose had indicated his willingness to be nominated.

In the subsequent discussion, Mr. Fenton proposed Mr. Swinton agree to re-nomination on condition that all Association-nominated representatives eventually appointed meet together prior to each future Development Council meeting. Mr. Swinton accepted this proposal on this basis and Mr. Fenton also agreed to his own re-nomination. Mr. Lindsay agreed to inclusion of his name in the list of Nominations along with Mr. Melrose.

In respect of the six further Nominations required, Council agreed the Office Bearers should contact Mr. K.A. McKenzie, T. McClung, W. Nicoll, D. Peebles, G. Smillie and A. Pullar to seek their agreement to inclusion of their names in the list of Nominations. Mr. Robertson stated he would be prepared to be nominated if Mr. McClung declined to do so. The Secretariat was instructed to submit the names of those accepting Nomination to DAFS in alphabetical order and stating no preferences will be given.

ANNUAL &
PRESS FUND
ACCOUNTS:

Mr. Hunter reported that at its meeting earlier today, the Chairman's Committee had recommended acceptance and circulation of the Association's Annual Account after the Audit thereof has been completed. Council accepted this recommendation.

1991 SUBSC-
RIPTIONS:

The Chairman also reported that Committee has examined the Budget Estimates for 1991 and had agreed to recommend that Council approve an increase of £500 (6.25%) to £8,500 in respect of the Secretary's Salary for the year to 31st October, 1991. Council accepted this recommendation and approved accordingly. The Chairman's Committee had also recommended that the 1990 tonnage bracket and rates of annual Membership Subscriptions remain unchanged for the year to 31st October, 1991. Council endorsed this recommendation for submission to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of Association Members for adoption.

DEPUTY
VICE
PRESIDENT:

The Chairman repeated his continuing concern that the Office of Deputy Vice Chairman remained unfilled. Following further discussion of this matter Mr. Doig proposed that Mr. Deryk Smith be appointed to this Office and Mr. Whitehead seconded the proposal. Mr. Smith being prepared to accept the proposal Council agreed unanimously to confirm this appointment.

After/

APPOINT-
MENT OF
REPRESENT-
ATIVES:

After due consideration Council appointed the following Association representatives to serve on the following external Committees for the year to 31st October, 1991:-

POTATO MARKETING BOARD - (New) Joint Consultative Committee

Mr. J.R. McArthur, with Mr. R. Doig as Deputy

Scottish/Seed Potato Advisory Committee

Messrs. J.R. McArthur and R. Doig, with Mr. J.M. Swinton as Deputy for either.

Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee

(if required) Mr. D.H. Lindsay, with Mr. J.O. Robertson as Deputy

OTHERS - British Potato Trades Consortium - in abeyance meantime

British Rail-Freightliners -do-

Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee

Messrs. J.R. McArthur, R. Doig and D. Smith (all ex officio), with J.E. Cook, J.M. Marshall, K.A. McKenzie and D.Y. Stewart, Jnr.

(DAFS) Seed Potato Consultative Panel

Messrs. J.R. McArthur and R. Doig, with Mr. K.A. McKenzie as Deputy for either

(Joint NFUS/SPTA/SSPDC) Scottish Working Party

Same as Consultative Panel above

Scottish Seed Potato Development Council

Ministerial appointments awaited

The following further appointments to the Association's own INTERNAL COMMITTEES were also made (the President, Mr. J.R. McArthur, and the Vice President, Mr. R. Doig, being ex officio representatives in each case):-

Chairman's Committee

Messrs. D. Smith, G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook and K.A. McKenzie

Entertainments Committee

Messrs. P. Miller, A. C. Galbraith, D.H. Lindsay, D. Smith and A.S. Whitehead

Panel of Arbiters

All Members of Council with Mr. J.H. Barr (co-opted)

Press Officers

Messrs. J.R. McArthur, R. Doig and D. Smith

Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors

Mr. G.S. Brass as the Association's Nominee

"Varieties" sub-Committee

Messrs. A.C. Galbraith (Convenor), I. Melrose, D.H. Lindsay, J.O. Robertson, D. Smith and D.Y. Stewart, Jnr.

Ware Interests

Mr. A.C. Galbraith was re-appointed as Council Member responsible for ware matters.

The/

SCOTTISH/
SEED POTATO
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting of the Scottish and Seed Potato Advisory Committee in Edinburgh on 18th October, 1990. As usual, the bulk of the meeting had been devoted to historical matters. The Secretariat undertook to send a copy of the PMB's Minutes of that meeting to each Member of Council as soon as they are received.

JOINT
LIAISON
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Blackmore explained that a Report on the meeting of the Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee in Edinburgh on 31st October, 1990 was not yet completed. He reported briefly on the topics discussed. NASPM representatives had supported the SPTA opposition to the 1990 Catch Grade proposal but had had no firm views on the proposed Higher Voluntary Standards Scheme. NASPM is to continue to press for extension of the "complaints period" from ten to fourteen days and is in process of revising its Arbitrations procedures. In discussion of RUCIP matters, Mr. John Langlands had mooted formulation of a British Potato Trade Association. The Chairman expanded on this suggestion which he felt merited further serious thought. He had also been very gratified by the much improved atmosphere in this meeting. The Secretariat undertook to copy the Report on this meeting to each Member of Council as soon as it is completed.

CHAIRMAN'S
COMMITTEE:

The Chairman reported briefly on the special meeting of the Chairman's Committee in Perth on 5th November, 1990 devoted solely to SSPDC matters. He read out a letter from Mr. Loudon Hamilton (DAFS) and the Secretary read out a proposed letter in reply. Council approved the terms of the reply and agreed it be sent.

The Chairman also explained that the business conducted at a further meeting of the Chairman's Committee earlier today had already been reported above.

WARE POTATO
IMPORTS
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Lindsay reported on the meeting of this Committee which he had attended in London on 6th November, 1990. The PMB Chairman and many Board Members had joined the meeting early for an un-announced 20-minute address by an official from the E.C. Commission announcing the likelihood of an early introduction of an E.C. Regime for Potatoes. In view of the importance of this matter Mr. Lindsay had obtained a copy of the relevant part of the PMB's draft Notes on the meeting which the Secretariat had copied to each member of Council for information.

Mr. Lindsay explained his understanding was that although regarded as "light weight", the proposed Regime would end all support (including the PMB) within the European potato industry and would provide free movement of potatoes throughout the European Community. In his own view, he felt the proposal is too rushed altogether (it was hinted strongly that a draft will be available early in the New Year) and he was suspicious of the source of this sudden pressure, possibly connected with GATT negotiations. He added that the PMB Chairman and some Board Members had already visited the continent to consult with their counterparts there.

In Council's ensuing discussion, Mr. Doig recalled Dutch comment at Aviemore recently and having successfully prevented/

prevented imports, the Danes must be equally anxious too. In Mr. Galbraith's view this whole matter must be taken very seriously indeed. Adding to his Report, Mr. Lindsay stated that individual countries' reports had all indicated adequate supplies and lower prices than last year. Speaking on German unification problems Dr. Graf (W.Germany) had stated that West Germany, with a population of 62 million, produced 7 million tonnes of potatoes annually whereas East Germany, with a population of 16.4 million, produced 9 million tonnes of potatoes annually. At the same time, it must be remembered that Poland produces more potatoes each year than the whole of Western Europe put together.

In conclusion, the Chairman's proposal that European matters be placed high on the Agenda for next Council meeting was firmly supported.

ENTERTAIN-
MENTS
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Hunter reported on the meeting of the Entertainments Committee in Perth on 12th November, 1990. Primarily concerned with arrangements for the forthcoming Association Dinner and Dance (full details of which had now been sent to each Association Member), the meeting had also endorsed arrangements for the first leg of the Association's Annual Curling Match and given preliminary consideration to the 1991 Golf Outing.

(NEW) JOINT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE:

The Chairman reported on the meeting of the new Joint Consultative Committee which he had attended in London on 13th November, 1990. Following ratification of the recent changes to the PMB, applications from NASPM and from the National Federation for seats on the Committee were considered. While the first of these was rejected, the latter application was accepted unanimously, increasing the Committee to 18 members out of a permitted total of 25 members.

The meeting had also considered the 1990 Crop Report and statistics, reviewed the 1991 Quota and discussed proposed grading standards changes. Mr. McArthur gave extensive details of these latter proposals for closer grading in each of the three marketing periods and coupling these to buying programme prices. Council's discussion of these matters accepted that they will be raised again at the next meeting.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Dates of meetings - Mr. Blackmore apologised for not preparing a proposed timetable for Council meetings during 1991. After discussion, Council agreed the Annual General Meeting of Members be held in Scone at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 17th January, 1991 and be followed by an Open Meeting of Council immediately thereafter. The Secretariat undertook to make the necessary arrangements and to circularise a proposed timetable of meetings to each Council Member beforehand.

(b) Co-option to Council - Referring to earlier discussion, Mr. Doig proposed that Mr. W. Nicoll (Croy Potatoes Ltd., Nairn) be co-opted to serve on Council. Mr. Lindsay formally seconded the proposal which Council adopted.

(c)/

(c) - Council/Membership Liaison - Mr. Galbraith suggested that closer liaison would be achieved if each member of Council (excluding Office Bearers) undertook to maintain contact with four non-Council Members of the Association. This suggestion received general support and it was agreed to give further thought to it.

(d) Ingliston Event - Mr. Doig suggested that thought be given to sending printed invitations to non-Association members to visit the Association's Stand at the Ingliston Event. It was agreed to refer this suggestion to the organising Sub-Committee for further consideration.

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

R. M. Arthur