

MINUTES of a MEETING of COUNCIL of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION in
the Ice Rink, PERTH at 2 p.m. on
Monday, 11th NOVEMBER, 1991.

PRESENT:

Messrs. A.W. Bayne, G.S. Brass, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, I. Melrose, J.L. Milne, J.R. McArthur, J.O. Robertson, 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 and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. J.E. Cook, R. Doig, J.G.H. Fenton, J.B. Hollywood, A.B. Pullar and D. Smith.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting of Council in Perth on 9th October, 1991 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) Merchant Licensing - The Secretary read out a letter received from the P.M.B. in reply to the Association's enquiry. The Chairman felt this should be deferred until Mr. Doig could be present. During brief discussion Mr. Robertson reminded Council that the origin of licensing was for support purposes.

(b) Annual Dinner Dance - The Secretary reported briefly on the progress of arrangements which had now been circulated to the whole Membership.

(c) Press Matters - In a review at the conclusion of the six months trial-period engagement of Colin Ley Associates the Chairman recalled the valuable media-wide coverage which the Association had received in refuting allegations of labels fraud and disease levels in classified seed. He posed the questions of whether the Association needed or could afford to renew this engagement. During discussion it was agreed that voluntary replenishment of the Press Fund was not a viable option and Mr. Lindsay felt that since renewal of the engagement would add more than £30 to each Member's Annual Subscription, this would not be an acceptable alternative either. In conclusion the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Colin Ley to ask if he would be prepared to reconsider accepting a "pay-as-you-use" basis.

ELECTION
OF OFFICE
BEARERS:

Following his two-year term as President of the Association which ended on 31st October, 1991, Mr. McArthur recorded his sincere thanks to his fellow Office Bearers and to all Members of Council for their support throughout that time. In retrospect he summarised his experience/

experience as a mixture of pleasure and pain. Stressing Mr. Doig's profound disappointment that he could not attend today's meeting, Mr. McArthur proposed he be elected as President of the Association for two years to 31st October, 1993 with every confidence that he will serve the Association well. Mr. Robertson seconded this proposal which was carried unanimously. Mr. Whitehead proposed and Mr. Robertson seconded Mr. McArthur to continue as Chairman of today's meeting and this proposal was also carried unanimously.

On behalf of Mr. Doig, Mr. McArthur proposed that although also unable to attend today's meeting, Mr. Smith be elected to serve as Vice President of the Association for two years to 31st October, 1993. This proposal, duly seconded by Mr. Maxwell, was also carried unanimously.

In respect that the newly elected President and Vice President were both absent, the Chairman felt that election of a Deputy Vice President should be deferred until Council's next meeting. However, Mr. Brass proposed that Mr. Stewart be elected to this Office for two years to 31st October, 1993 and this proposal, duly seconded by Mr. Whitehead and accepted by Mr. Stewart, was also carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed that Mr. R.D. Hunter and Mr. Blackmore, as Secretary and Treasurer and Assistant Secretary respectively, together with Messrs. Craig, McIntyre & Co., Chartered Accountants, Glasgow as the Association's Auditors, be re-appointed for the year to 31st October, 1992 and this proposal was adopted without dissent.

After due consideration Council appointed the following representatives to serve on the following external Committees for the year to 31st October, 1992:-

POTATO MARKETING BOARD -

Joint Consultative Committee -

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

Seed Advisory Committee -

Messrs. R. Doig and J.M. Swinton, with D. Smith as Deputy for either.

Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee -

Mr. D.H. Lindsay, with Mr. J.O. Robertson as Deputy.

OTHERS -

Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Liaison Committee -

Office Bearers ex officio, together with Messrs. J. Marshall, K.A. McKenzie and A.S. Whitehead.

Seed Potato Consultative Panel -

Messrs. R. Doig and D. Smith, with Mr. J.R. McArthur as Deputy for either.

Scottish Working Party (Joint NFUS/SPTA/SSPDC) -

as for Consultative Panel above

ASSOCIATION
REPRESENT-
ATIVES:

After further consideration Council also made the following appointments to the Association's own INTERNAL COMMITTEES for the year to 31st October, 1992 (the President/

President, Mr. R. Doig and the Vice President, Mr. D. Smith being ex officio representatives in each case):-

Chairman's Committee -

Messrs. G.S. Brass, K.A. McKenzie, J.R. McArthur and D.Y. Stewart, Jnr.

Entertainments Committee -

Messrs. P. Miller (Convenor), A.C. Galbraith and A.S. Whitehead.

Panel of Arbiters -

All Members of Council.

Press Officers -

Messrs. R. Doig, D. Smith and D.Y. Stewart, Jnr.

Scotch Seed Potato Exhibitors -

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

Varieties sub-Committee -

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

Ware Interests -

Mr. A.C. Galbraith.

S.S.P.D.C.:

Opening discussion of Scottish Seed Potato Development Council matters, Mr. Robertson reported it had been decided that until the Minutes of each S.S.P.D. Council meeting have been approved and signed, they will not be circulated to external organisations. Mr. Blackmore stated that the amended Minutes of the S.S.P.D. Council meeting on 5th September, 1991 are still awaited by the Association. The draft Minutes of the subsequent S.S.P.D. Council meeting (on 10th October, 1991), Mr. Robertson added, extend to fourteen pages. During that meeting the 1992 Budget had been presented, in which provision has been made to allocate 25% of expenditure to outside interest (S.E. Growers Ltd. and F.E.P. s.a.r.l.).

S.P.T.A. Council held a prolonged discussion of S.S.P.D.C. matters during which Mr. Milne voiced details of discriminatory treatment he had suffered. Mr. McArthur felt the four options open to S.P.T.A. are to call for a Judicial Enquiry, to obtain an Opinion of Counsel, to conduct a Poll of all levy-payers, or to lobby members of Parliament. He proposed the Association should ask the Electoral Reform Society to quote their charge for conducting a Poll of the between 650 and 700 levy-payers listed in the Crop Register. Mr. Robertson seconded this proposal which was duly adopted. It was also agreed Council should frame the questions to be posed by the Poll. Mr. Melrose urged care not to infringe any Crop Register copyright and stated that the questions must be vetted by SOAFD. The Secretariat was instructed to write the Electoral Reform Society to request a quotation for consideration by Council at its next meeting.

During further discussion Mr. Stewart expressed his view that the principal points at issue are non-S.E. Grower levy-payers funding of S.E. Growers Ltd. and whether S.S.P.D.C. is acting within its statutory powers, his understanding being that this question will require to be answered by the Opinion of Counsel. Mr. Maxwell also reported an approach from an Association Member expressing serious concerns about S.S.P.D.C. matters, which Council discussed.

Mr./

SEED
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE:

Mr. Blackmore explained that a report on the meeting of the Seed Advisory Committee held in Edinburgh on 17th October, 1991 had yet to come to hand. Council instructed this to be copied to each Member of Council when it is received.

W.P.I.A.C.:

Council took note of a pre-circulated analysis statement which Mr. Robertson had prepared following his attendance at a meeting of the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee in London on 6th November, 1991. He enlarged verbally on several aspects of his statement, which Council agreed was both comprehensive and very informative.

CHAIRMAN'S
COMMITTEE:

Reporting on the salient points of the meeting of the Chairman's Committee held earlier today, Mr. McArthur explained the draft Association Account for the year to 31st October, 1991 (copies of which were tabled for Council's perusal) disclosed a satisfactory surplus of £202.45 for the year and £475.89 remaining in the Press Fund. Council instructed the Account to be finalised for submission to the Auditor in the usual way.

During scrutiny of the Budget Estimates for 1992 the Committee had recommended that the Secretary's Salary be increased by 5% to £8,925. After due consideration Council accepted this recommendation and authorised this increase. Mr. McArthur explained this and one other minor change to the Estimates indicated an overspend of £690. To remedy this the Committee recommended that without changing the tonnage brackets, Annual Membership Subscriptions for 1992 should be increased by approximately 6% as follows:-

1 - 6,000 tonnes	£106.00	
6,001 - 10,000 tonnes	£138.00	
10,001 - 14,000 tonnes	£170.00	plus V.A.T.
14,001 - 18,000 tonnes	£201.00	
over 18,000 tonnes	£233.00	

Following discussion Council adopted this recommendation for consideration by the Annual General Meeting of Members in due course.

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Plant Breeders' Rights - The Secretariat tabled copies of a letter received from MAFF this morning and Papers presented at a meeting earlier today in connection with a proposed extension of the protected period for both new and existing protected varieties of potatoes from 25 to 30 years. After full discussion Council felt that a period of 30 years for all new protected varieties would be acceptable but, in view of the five year extension already granted in 1983, it was very unhappy about granting a further extension to existing protected varieties. In particular, Mr. Bayne's view that varieties due to become free of Breeders' Rights before the year 2000 should not be granted an extension of protected period was firmly supported. The Secretariat was instructed to reply to the letter from MAFF in these terms.

(b) Minimum Residues declarations - Mr. Robertson voiced concern expressed to him regarding requirements of certain customers. Some Council Members stated they are refusing to provide declarations. It was agreed this matter be placed on the Agenda for Council's next meeting.

(c)/

(c) British Standard for potato boxes - Mr. Blackmore reported that having been alerted by Mr. McArthur, he had learned that a proposed British Standard for potato boxes is in draft form. He was instructed to request a copy of it for consultative purposes in readiness for Council's next meeting.

(d) E.C. trade barriers - Mr. Hunter reported receipt of a letter from the DTI inviting submission of any known examples of barriers to E.C. trade. Council offered no comments.

(e) Date of next meeting - After brief discussion Council agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Association Members will take place in the Ice Rink, Perth at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 9th January, 1992 to be followed immediately thereafter by the next meeting of Council. The Secretariat was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

(f) E.C. Potato Regime and (g) further Co-option to Council were both deferred for discussion at Council's next meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hunter', is written in a cursive style across the lower middle of the page.