

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year to 31st October, 1991

to

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF

THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION

in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, Scone on

Thursday, 9th January, 1992

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For a number of reasons completion of the Audit of your Association's Account for the year to 31st October, 1991 was slightly delayed. Coupled with the fact that today's Annual General Meeting is taking place more than a week earlier than last year, it has not been possible to provide every Member with their copy of the Audited Account a full fourteen days before today's Meeting. Sincere apologies are offered for this shortcoming which, with your forbearance on this occasion, I trust will be acceptable to you all.

As you will see, the Account is in its usual straightforward and easily understood format. To provide some brief background comment on each heading in turn, I refer first to the INCOME side of the Account, at the top right-hand quarter of the page. Although SUBSCRIPTIONS of £11,280 show a slight reduction of £164 (1.4%) against the previous year as shown in the margin, they were nevertheless £80 more than the Budget Estimates. Those Budget Estimates, of course, cannot accurately allow for Membership and/or between-tonnage-brackets changes that invariably occur. INVESTMENT INCOME shown net of tax at £472.08 includes the expected increase of £17 which I explained in my Report last year. BANK INTEREST, on the other hand, shown gross at £272.23, is much lower than both the previous year and the Budget Estimate. Prophecying future rates of interest is obviously a less than exact activity. Part of the effect of this fall, however, is reflected in the CORPORATION TAX repayable being shown some £27 more than the previous year, at £102.25.

On the EXPENDITURE side of the Account in the top left-hand quarter of the page, EXPENSES OF MEETINGS shown at £790.82 were £80 and £60 less than last year and the Budget Estimate respectively. Similarly, GENERAL EXPENSES were £36 and £54 lower respectively. The costs of PHOTOCOPYING and POSTAGES were both marginally higher than the previous year but, taken together, were exactly as estimated, while the costs of TELEPHONES was marginally lower than both the previous year and the Budget Estimate. TRAVELLING EXPENSES also show a reduction of £74 (28%) from the previous year and were even further below the Estimated figures. The SECRETARY'S SALARY reflects the increase authorised by Council at the start of the year under review. The next heading, EXCEPTIONAL ITEM, shows the balance of the cost of your Association's Stand at the P.M.B.'s "Scottish Potato" Event at Ingliston last February. The last heading shows a SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR of £202.46, a reduction of £31.45 against the previous year but an acceptable improvement over a deficit of £100 which the Budget Estimates had indicated.

The LIABILITIES in the left-hand side of the BALANCE SHEET underneath shows the adjusted ORIGINAL (Capital) FUNDS remained unchanged during the year under review and the accumulated REVENUE SURPLUS has been increased by the £202.46 to which I have just referred, to the new total of £1,737.12 as shown. On the opposite side of the BALANCE SHEET, under ASSETS, details are shown of your Association's three INVESTMENTS in gilt-edged Government Stocks which/

which, at their total cost of £5,828.62 represent all the Original Funds together with some £485 of the accumulated Revenue Surplus. The Market Value of those Investments (£6,588.53) includes a tax-free Capital Gain of almost £760 (13.04%) and in their recent regular review of these Investments, your Association's Stockbrokers have recommended that no changes be made at this time. The balance of the accumulated Revenue Surplus (£1,255.29) is represented by the CASH balances and the SUNDRY DEBTOR (being the Corporation Tax repayable and still to be received) as shown. I should also explain that the V.A.T. repayable (£930.09) has now been received and placed in your Association's Special Premium Deposit Account which is currently earning gross interest at 9% on its daily balances.

An innovation this year has been to append a brief Statement of the transactions with the PRESS FUND to your Association's Account. In simple form, this shows the opening balance and Bank Interest received, set against expenditure on advertising and contract payments made to Press Consultants. The closing balance of £475.89 is now all in its own separate Special Premium Deposit Account.

This concludes this Treasurer's Report and I shall be pleased to answer any questions from the meeting.