

MINUTES of a MEETING of COUNCIL of  
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
in the Ice Rink, PERTH, at 2 p.m. on  
Tuesday, 10th NOVEMBER, 1992.

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PRESENT:

Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.P. Deuchar, R. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, J.M. Marshall, D. Maxwell, J.L. Milne, J.R. McArthur, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart and J.M. Swinton, with R.D. Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

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

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs. J.G.H. Fenton, A.C. Galbraith, J.B. Hollywood, K.A. McKenzie and I. Melrose.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting of Council in Perth on 13th October, 1992, 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) Press Matters - In the absence of any developments, this matter was duly continued.

(b) Potato regime - In the absence of official announcement, Messrs. Lindsay and McArthur reported remarks made at meetings of the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee and the Joint Consultative Committee by Mr. Pooley and Dr. Spitz respectively. These indicated revised draft proposals are believed to envisage an even lighter-weight, non-supportive regime than previously indicated.

(c) Maximum Residue Levels -

Mr. Hunter regretted that these matters had

(d) Registration for Ware Packing - still to reach completion for circularisation to all members.

(e) Inspections of Ware Crops -

(f) Farm Assured Ware - No further information was reported.

(g) Association Year Book - A first meeting of the sub-Committee is to be arranged as soon as possible.

(h) Land Rentals - Brief re-discussion of this matter confirmed the majority view that through market forces reflecting individual commercial decisions, this matter will resolve itself in due course.

(i) Conditions of Purchase - Mr. Hunter reported that the revised Conditions of Purchase had been forwarded to NFUS for consideration and approval. Although verbal indications had been received that the revised Conditions are acceptable, Council agreed a formal written response should be awaited.

(j) Membership - Mr. Hunter also reported receipt of notification that Taypack Potatoes Ltd., Inchture has applied for a P.M.B. Merchants Licence and had telephoned for details of Association membership. Mr. Lindsay expressed support for this Company and Council agreed formal Nominations should be awaited.

Mr. Hunter also reported receipt of a formal letter from Mr. Deryk Smith confirming his resignation as Vice President of the Association and as a Member of its Council. The Chairman explained that efforts to arrange a replacement for the remainder of Mr. Smith's term of Office had almost reached fruition.

S.S.P.D.C.: In reply to Mr. McArthur, Mr. Hunter reported that his letter had not resulted in a correction of SSPDC Minutes as requested. Council agreed a reminder letter be sent to Mr. Bethel before 18th November and copied, with a copy of the original request, to each SPTA nominated member of SSPDC Council for information.

Reporting on the SSPDC meeting in Perth on 27th/28th October, Mr. Robertson explained that the morning part of the meeting on 28th discussed a new five year plan and the 1993 Budget. It has been decided that printing of a second edition of the Scottish Seed booklet be left over until next Season. Mr. Swinton felt the discussion on the plan in the evening of 27th had not been very helpful, about four hours having been spent discussing three or four of the twelve proposed headings, but providing background for a properly prepared draft of the plan. In reply to the Chair, Mr. Robertson reported that the infrastructure of exports to the CIS seemed to have collapsed and in reply to Mr. McArthur regarding repayment for 1991/92 consignments, Mr. Lindsay reported his expectations that reimbursement of haulage costs will be made later this month. Mr. Robertson added that priority is to be given to improving CIS storage in 1993. He also reported that SSPDC is to participate in the East of England Show in 1993 and that the cost of SSPDC's frost warning service had been given as £550 for the Season.

In respect of the Budget it had been decided that the Levy will be £15.00 per hectare with a £1.00 discount for early payment. It was also noted that prior approval of extension of SSPDC powers is to be sought from NFUS and SPTA.

W.P.I.A.C.: Council noted Mr. Lindsay's pre-circulated Report on the meeting of the Ware Potato Imports Advisory Committee which he had attended in London on 27th October, 1992. The Chairman voiced Council's compliments to Mr. Lindsay on the comprehensiveness of the Report. Mr. Lindsay explained that much more detailed supporting statements were available if required. He added that subsidies to French producers totalling FF110m were legal. He also reported that rejections for virus in Dutch seed crops is believed to be about double the 7.1% announced.

N.A.S.P.M.: Mr. Hunter read out a draft Report on a meeting arranged by NASPM in Edinburgh on 27th October, 1992 to discuss revision of complaints periods in Conditions of Sale which Messrs. Brass, Doig, Lindsay and Stewart had attended as SPTA representatives. The Chairman added that Mr. Piccaver (English NFU) felt the Scots were very "head-in-the-sand" about complaints periods and he was in favour of at least one month. Mr. Brass felt that from experience the discussions had been predictable but he voiced his concern that the original single-item Agenda had been extended by four further items before the meeting took place.

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In reply during Council's following discussion Mr. Hunter re-stated his legal assessment of the different purposes of Conditions of Sale and the Seed Potato Regulations. Messrs. Deuchar and Cook highlighted the critical effects of where and how seed is stored while Mr. Lindsay, supported by Mr. Marshall, was in favour of a fourteen day complaints period for all faults except frost. Mr. Brass also reminded Council of individual discretion when trading. After full discussion it was agreed to give the matter further thought and to include it in the Agenda for Council's next meeting, meanwhile sending a copy of the report on the NASPM meeting to each member of Council.

S.P.A.C.:

The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee which he had attended in Edinburgh on 29th October, 1992. It had been reported that 72% of the crop had been lifted with 47% in store by that date, much behind comparable 1991 figures. In the recent buying programme 408,000 tonnes had been offered and 168,484 tonnes bought. Wastage was believed to be 2% more than in 1991.

J.C.C.:

Mr. McArthur reported on a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee which he had attended in London on 3rd November, 1992. In an updating report on an E.C. Potato Regime, Mr. Pooley had stated that a second draft was in circulation but he had not seen it. Discussion had covered grants of basic area for new marketing initiatives, with an assurance that extra area allocated will be carefully monitored. There was widespread support for a 50mm. minimum grading standard, but SPTA and NFUS had not agreed with this. Quota leasing, mainly in England, had also been discussed and crop reports had also been given. Mr. Mole (vice J. Black NFUS) had sought reconsideration of the 1993 Target Area but it had been explained that this could not now be reduced.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE:

The Secretary reported on a meeting of the Chairman's Committee held earlier today which had reviewed the finalised draft Association Account 1992 and considered the Budget Estimates for 1993, copies of both of which were tabled for Council's information. The Account was approved by Council for submission to Audit as soon as possible. In respect of the Budget Estimates Mr. Doig's proposal, seconded by Mr. McArthur, that Council adopt the Committee's recommendation to increase the Secretary's Salary by £275 (3.08%) to £9,200.00 was carried unanimously. Council also agreed to endorse the Committee's recommendation that the Annual General Meeting of Association Members be invited to determine that Membership Subscriptions for the year to 31st October, 1993 be increased by approximately 3% as follows:-

0 - 6,000 tonnes	£110.00
6,001 - 10,000 tonnes	£142.00
10,001 - 14,000 tonnes	£175.00
14,001 - 18,000 tonnes	£207.00
over 18,000 tonnes	£240.00

A.O.C.B./

A.O.C.B.:

(a) Sponsorship - The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Alan Wilson seeking sponsorship of £1,000.00 towards the cost of publishing a book he has written entitled "The History of Potato Varieties". Following discussion it was agreed the Secretary should reply recommending that the request be more appropriately addressed to the SSPDC.

(b) Royal Highland Show - The Secretary read a letter from the PMB enquiring whether the Association would be interested in participating in revival of a PMB Stand at the 1993 Royal Highland Show. Council agreed to reply in a supportive letter seeking more details in due course.

(c) Brown Rot - The Secretary read a letter and a Press Release from MAFF in respect of an outbreak of Brown Rot in Oxfordshire. Council agreed clarification be sought from MAFF before circularising to all Members by News Letter.

(d) Agvet Conference - In reply to an enquiry, Mr. McArthur agreed to make further enquiries regarding a possible event in 1993.

(e) Date of next meeting - In brief discussion it was decided that the next meeting of Council be held in the Ice Rink, Perth on Thursday, 7th January, 1993 commencing at 2 p.m., being suspended to allow the Annual General Meeting to commence there without an invited Speaker at 2.30 p.m. and thereafter resuming as an Open Council Meeting. The Secretariat undertook to make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting was thereupon concluded.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. McArthur', is written across the lower half of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.