

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
held in the ICE RINK, PERTH, at
2.00 p.m. on MONDAY, 26th APRIL,
1993.

PRESENT: Messrs. R. Doig, J.G.H. Fenton, D.H. Lindsay, D. Maxwell, I. Melrose, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson and J.M. Swinton, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: The President, Mr. R. Doig, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.E. Cook, A.C. Galbraith, J.B. Hollywood, J. Marshall and A.S. Whitehead.

(1) MINUTES. The Minute of Meeting of Council of 5th March, 1993 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

ACTION

(a) Press Matters. The Chairman intimated that the services of Colin Ley had been utilised in connection with a Press Release issued at the recent P.M.B. Demonstration.

(b) Brown Rot. Mr. Hunter confirmed that response had been received from the Ministry and previously circulated to Council Members.

(c) Year Book Sub-Committee. Mr. Hunter reported that a further meeting of the Sub-Committee had not yet taken place. It was agreed that a meeting of the Sub-Committee would take place before the next meeting of Council.

RDH

(d) Banking Arrangements. Mr. Hunter confirmed that the new Bank Accounts with the Clydesdale Bank and now been opened.

(3) S.S.P.D.C. Mr. Robertson gave to the meeting details of the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of S.S.P.D.C. to be held on 29th April, 1993. During discussion Mr. Guthrie Fenton reported that the preparation of the Five Year Plan for S.S.P.D.C. would be deferred until the future of the Potato Marketing Board was known.

Mr. Hunter referred to the Report of the Meeting between representatives of this Association and the Scottish Office held in Edinburgh on 2nd April, 1993 which had been previously issued to members of Council at which meeting this Association's unease regarding various matters concerning the activities of S.S.P.D.C. had been aired. Mr. Robertson commented upon the very considerable increase in salary for the current year awarded by the Scottish Office to the Chairman of S.S.P.D.C. ~~He confirmed that this would be discussed at the next meeting of S.S.P.D.C.~~

(4)/

- (4) Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase. Mr. Doig reported that he had had discussions with representatives of N.A.S.P.M. at the recent P.M.B. Demonstration regarding the revision of and harmonising of the Conditions of Sale recommended by this Association and by N.A.S.P.M. Mr. Doig handed to the Secretary a copy of a letter, dated 16th April, which he had received from the Secretary of N.A.S.P.M. regarding the respective Associations Conditions of Sale. Mr. Hunter reported that the main area in which the respective Association's Conditions were at variance was that the N.A.S.P.M. were seeking a complaints period in respect of Shortweight of fourteen days as opposed to the three days proposed by this Association. It was pointed out that the Conditions of Sale recommended by this Association must be consistent with its Conditions of Purchase. In discussions with the National Farmers Union of Scotland it appeared that the Union was in agreement with this Association that the period for Shortweight should remain at three days and not be increased to ten days. Mr. McArthur reported that he would shortly be having a meeting with Mr. Bill Reid, the Convener of the Union's Potato Committee, when he would take the opportunity of discussing this matter further with him. It was considered that it may be desirable to have a meeting with representatives of N.A.S.P.M. before the revision of the Conditions was finalised.

JRMcA

RDH

Mr. Hunter reported that it had been brought to his attention that the Higgins Group who are not members of this Association were prescribing S.P.T.A. Conditions of Sale in certain of their Purchase Notes. It was agreed that if this related only to purchases from S.P.T.A. Members this would not constitute an infringement of this Association's Copyright. It was agreed that the Secretary would take the matter up with the Higgins Group.

RDH

- (5) Future of P.M.B./E.C. Potato Regime. Mr. Hunter again referred to the Report prepared by him of the meeting between representatives of this Association and the Scottish Office held on 2nd April, 1993. Mr. Hunter also referred to a letter, which he tabled, from the Scottish Office, dated 15th April, 1993, indicating that it was very unlikely that the P.M.B. would continue in existence and urging the Potato Trade in Scotland to urgently consider the future of the Potato Trade in Scotland following the disappearance of the P.M.B. It was agreed that Mr. McArthur would have tentative discussions with Mr. Bill Reid of the Scottish N.F.U. when he meets him later in the week and would suggest that a meeting be arranged between this Association and the Scottish Farmers Union to discuss the future of the Scottish Potato Trade. In this connection a Sub-Committee of this Association comprising Messrs. R. Doig, D.Y.Stewart, J. Logan Milne, A.B. Pullar, I. Melrose and J.R. McArthur/

JRMcA

McArthur was constituted to conduct these discussions on behalf of this Association.

- (6) Protected Region and Community Grades. Mr. Hunter read to the meeting a letter, dated 8th April, 1993, from the Scottish Office which had been previously circulated. The letter contained the proposals of the Scottish Office for complying with the E.C. Directive setting out the Conditions to apply to the Community Grade material and the E.C. listing of areas authorised to operate as Protected Regions. These proposals contained a "first step" which required to be implemented almost immediately and a "second step" which would be implemented later in 1993. After discussion Council agreed to accept the proposals with regard to the first step but to request a meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel to discuss the proposals with regard to the second step. RDH
- (7) E.C. Directive on Control of Potato Ring Rot. Mr. Hunter referred to the letter, dated 6th April, 1993, from the Scottish Office detailing proposals for a new E.C. Directive on the control of Potato Ring Rot. After discussion it was agreed to accept the proposals. Mr. Melrose pointed out that Potato Ring Rot was endemic in Denmark and Germany and that the relaxing of trade barriers within the E.C. would open the door to the possibility of Potato Ring Rot being brought in to the U.K. Protected Region. It was agreed that the Secretary would take this matter up with the Scottish Office. RDH
- (8) Registration of Food Premises and other Legislation. Mr. Hunter tabled a Paper which he had prepared in conjunction with the Environmental Health Officers of Perth & Kinross District Council regarding recent legislation included the Registration of Food Premises. It was agreed that the Secretary would issue a copy of this Paper to members of the Association. RDH
- (9) Joint Consultative Committee. Mr. McArthur undertook to let Mr. Hunter have, for circulation, a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 8th February, 1993. Mr. Hunter pointed out that the next meeting of the J.C.C. to be held on 28th April, 1993 would be fixing the Target Area for potato plantings in 1994. After detailed discussion it was agreed that Mr. McArthur, on behalf of this Association, would hold out for a maximum of 145,000 hectares to include all plantings of potatoes. JRMcA

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- (10) Ware Imports Committee. Mr. Lindsay referred to the meeting of the Ware Imports Committee held on 10th March, 1993 the Minute of which meeting had been issued to Council Members. Mr. Lindsay commented upon the lack of overseas delegates who had attended that meeting.
- (11) Seed Potato Advisory Committee. Mr. Doig reported on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held on 24th March, 1993. He stated that not much of consequence had come out at the meeting other than a lot of statistical information.
- (12) Membership. After detailed discussion it was agreed to accept the nomination of H. & J.M. Bennett (Scotland) Ltd. for membership of the Association. RDH
- (13) Meeting with Scottish Office. Mr. Hunter reported that at the request of the Scottish Office a meeting had been held on 23rd April, 1993 to discuss the fees to be charged in 1993 in connection with the Seed Potato Classification Scheme. Mr. Hunter stated that this Association had been represented by Messrs. D.Y. Stewart and J. Logan Milne at that meeting. In the absence of these gentlemen at the Council Meeting no Report on that meeting was available.
- (14) Presentation to D.I. Blackmore. It was agreed that Mr. Blackmore would be invited to attend at the beginning of the next meeting of Council when a Presentation would be made to him on behalf of the members of the Association. RDH
- (15) Date of Next Meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting of Council would be held in the Ice Rink, Perth, at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 22nd June, 1993. RDH
- A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Doig", is written across the bottom of the page.