

MINUTE of MEETING of the
CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE OF THE
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held at 25
SOUTH METHVEN STREET,
PERTH, at 11.00 a.m. on
THURSDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER,
1993.

PRESENT: Messrs. Bob Doig, D. Stewart, G.S. Brass, K. McKenzie and R. McArthur, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bob Doig occupied the Chair.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr. J. Logan Milne.

ARBITRATION PROCEDURES: Mr. McKenzie expressed misgivings regarding the various aspects of Arbitrations being carried out under the S.P.T.A. Conditions of Sale, particularly those involving a non-member of the Association. Other members of the Committee also voiced concern. It was agreed that steps must be taken to improve the situation. The Committee formulated the following proposals designed to improve matters:-

- (1) That a panel of competent Arbitration Clerks be drawn up. In this connection it was proposed that Mr. Hunter would contact firms of Solicitors in the Perth, Fife, Angus and Kincardineshire area to invite them to put forward names of Solicitors to be included in the panel. It was further agreed that before a Solicitor's name was accepted it would be necessary to ensure that the Solicitor had the required experience.
- (2) That a panel of competent Arbiters be drawn up. In this connection it was proposed that members of the Association would be invited to nominate suitable persons to be included in the panel of Arbiters. It was agreed that the Arbiters need not necessarily be current members of the Association. It was suggested that there would require to be, say, 20 Arbiters on the panel. It was further agreed that when inviting nominations it would be made clear that the suitable training of Arbiters will be provided.
- (3) That steps must be taken to endeavour to speed up the completion of Arbitrations. It was believed that the Arbiters should be able to make their decision within at the most seven days of a Hearing and that their Findings should be capable of being issued within at the most a further seven days.

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- (4) That the current suggested figure of £1,000.00 to be deposited by the parties before the Arbitration commences should be increased at the discretion of the Arbiters to up to, say, £4,000.00. It was suggested that the Arbiters must call for the deposits before the Arbitration commences rather than, say, after the Hearing has taken place.
- (5) Hearings. That unnecessary Hearings be avoided. Mr. Hunter advised that it was a legal requirement that a Hearing should take place unless the parties agree to it being dispensed with. It was felt that unnecessary Hearings may be avoided if it were to be made clear to the parties that, inevitably, the holding of a Hearing will considerably increase the Arbitration costs.
- (6) Appointment of Arbiters. That in Arbitrations involving a non-member of the Association the Arbiter appointed on behalf of the Association member should be nominated from the Association's panel of Arbiters by the S.P.T.A. President and that the Arbiter appointed on behalf of the non-member should be nominated by, N.A.S.P.M., the Scottish Farmers' Union or the English Farmers' Union or such other Body as may be appropriate.
- (7) Arbitration Expenses. That the Association should prescribe from time to time a recommended hourly rate to be charged by Arbiters.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the introduction of some of the foregoing proposals would require further amendments to the Associations recommended Conditions. Mr. McArthur suggested that the Association should draw up Arbitration Rules which would be referred to in the Conditions and thereby avoid in the future the Conditions having to be amended if Arbitration Procedures are altered.

FUTURE OF P.M.B./POTATO SCHEME: Reference was made to the P.M.B. Paper entitled "The Changing Potato Market in Great Britain". Mr. Doig also referred to an article on potatoes prepared by Mr. John L. Anderson which had been quoted in the September issue of Commodities. Mr. Hunter was instructed to write to the Potato Marketing Board stating that it is the opinion of this Association that the Board should remain in existence but only on the basis of it having adequate power to impose Quotas and to fund a proper Support Buying Programme.

S.S.P.D.C./

S.S.P.D.C. Mr. Hunter referred to the Association's nominations for appointment to S.S.P.D.C. Mr. Hunter confirmed that at the previous week's meeting of the Association's Council it had been proposed that this Association should nominate the existing six members appointed from the Association's nominees (Messrs. Anderson, Fenton, David Peebles, Gordon Smillie, Swinton and Robertson) provided that they were willing to be re-appointed, together with Messrs. Lindsay, Hollywood and Melrose. Mr. Hunter also reminded the Committee that Council had left it to the President and Vice-President to make the final decision regarding priority of nomination. Mr. Hunter reported that Mr. Swinton had informed him that he does not wish his name to be put forward for re-election. Mr. Hunter added that other than Mr. Smillie, who he had not been able to contact, the other existing members were agreeable to their names being put forward. Mr. Hunter stated that because Mr. Melrose was on holiday he had been unable to ascertain whether Mr. Melrose would be agreeable to his name being put forward. Mr. Doig undertook to speak to both Mr. Melrose and Mr. Smillie and inform Mr. Hunter whether they were willing to allow their names to be put forward.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter confirmed that there was to be a meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee with the N.A.S.P.M. in Edinburgh on Wednesday, 20th October. Mr. Hunter was instructed to put the following items on the Agenda for that meeting:-

- (1) Arbitration Procedures;
- (2) Future of P.M.B./Potato Marketing Scheme.

This terminated the business of the meeting.