

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL
of THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the ICE
RINK, PERTH, at 2.00 p.m. on
THURSDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1993.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, J.E. Cook, R. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, J.M. Marshall, D. Maxwell, I. Melrose, J. Logan Milne, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead, 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.P. Deuchar, J.G.H. Fenton, A.C. Galbraith and J.B. Hollywood.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 26th August, 1993 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

ACTION

(a) Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase: Mr. Hunter reported that at the morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee he had been instructed to write to the Association Membership advising them that the earlier versions of Conditions of Sale and Purchase were now out of date and that the new Conditions introduced earlier in the year should now be utilised.

RDH

(b) Membership: Mr. Hunter reported that at the morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee he had been instructed to write to various Potato Merchants advising them of the benefits of membership of this Association. Mr. Hunter was instructed to add the name of David Lindsay (Potato Merchants) Ltd. Huntingtower House, Perth to the list of companies to whom he is to write.

RDH

Mr. Hunter reported that he had been informed by the Potato Marketing Board that Messrs. J.J. & K. Trainer, North Berwick, had applied for a Ware Merchants Licence.

(b)/

- (b) Entertainments Sub-Committee: Mr. Hunter reported that at the morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee it had been recommended that the tickets for the 1993 Association Annual Dinner/Dance should be priced at £16.00 each. This decision was endorsed by Council.

RDH

Mr. Hunter reported that the South Leg of the Curling Match was booked to be held in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 7th December, 1993.

- (c) S.S.P.D.C. Mr. Hunter confirmed that the following nominations for appointment to S.S.P.D.C. had been submitted by this Association to the Secretary of State, namely:- Messrs. David Peebles, Gordon Smillie, Ian Melrose, Guthrie Fenton, James Robertson, James Hollywood, Adam Anderson and Hendry Lindsay. Mr. Hunter added that so far as he is aware the appointment of the new members of S.S.P.D.C. had not yet taken place.
- (3) S.S.P.D.C. Mr. James Robertson gave a brief resume of matters which had arisen at the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council held on 6th September, 1993. Mr. Robertson added that he had received from the Chief Executive of S.S.P.D.C. the draft of a Questionnaire which S.S.P.D.C. were proposing to issue to all Seed Growers seeking their views regarding the future of the P.M.B./Seed Potato Marketing Scheme. The terms of the draft Questionnaire were discussed. During discussion various comments were made with regard to the future of the P.M.B. and of the S.S.P.D.C. itself. Mr. Hunter was instructed to write to Mrs. Gillian Shephard, the Minister of Agriculture, sending a copy to Mr. Ian Whitelaw at The Scottish Office, reminding her of this Association's position with regard to the future of the Potato Marketing Board.

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ACTION

- (4) JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter tabled copies of Minutes of the Joint Liaison Committee held on the morning of 20th October and of the meeting of members of the J.L.C., along with The Scottish Farmers' Union, with The Scottish Office Agriculture & Fisheries Department, held on the afternoon of the same day. Mr. Hunter highlighted the request of the N.A.S.P.M. that this Association enters into a Joint Working Party with the N.A.S.P.M. to discuss Arbitration Procedures. Mr. Hunter was instructed to advise the N.A.S.P.M. that this Association was agreeable to such a Working Party being set up. It was agreed that this Association would be represented on the Working Party by the President, Vice President and Messrs. I. Melrose and K. McKenzie, with Mr. R. McArthur as substitute.
- (5) CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF 6th SEPTEMBER and 28th OCTOBER, 1993. The Minutes of these meetings had been previously circulated to Council Members and were taken as read.
- (6) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. J. Marshall reported on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee which he had attended on 21st October, 1993. Mr. Marshall was thanked for his attendance at that meeting.
- (7) DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: Mr. Hunter reported that a draft Account had been prepared by him which indicated that at the year end there would be a surplus of approximately £800. Mr. Hunter added that the draft Account had been discussed at the morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee who had found it to be satisfactory. Mr. Hunter added that a final unaudited Account would be submitted to Council for its approval at its next meeting.

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- (8) ANNUAL ELECTIONS TO COUNCIL: Mr. Hunter reported that 5 nominations for appointment to Council had been received. He stated that these had included the nomination of three retiring Members of Council, namely, Messrs. Bayne, Deuchar and Swinton. He added that the other two nominations were Mr. John MacFarlane, Scott & Newman Group, and Mr. A.M. Beattie, PBI Fenton. Mr. Hunter stated that the retiring Members, Messrs. Cook, Fenton and Maxwell had intimated that they did not wish to stand for re-election. Mr. Hunter informed Council that in terms of the Association's Constitution, Council should comprise the President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President, along with 16 other Members or such other number as Council may determine. Accordingly, the appointment of these 5 nominations would bring the composition of Council back in line with the original terms of the Constitution. It was resolved that Messrs. Bayne, Beattie, Deuchar, MacFarlane and Swinton be appointed Members of Council.

RDH

The Chairman took the opportunity of thanking the former Members of Council for their work and effort during their terms of appointment.

- (9) ASSOCIATION YEAR BOOK: Mr. Hunter reminded Council of the recommendations of the Year Book Sub-Committee and of the quotations received from the Printers. After discussion it was agreed that Mr. Hunter would prepare a "mock up" of the Year Book for future consideration by Council.

RDH

- (10) CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Seed Potatoes: Protected Region and Community Grades. Mr. Hunter referred to a letter received by Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel Members from The Scottish Office Agriculture & Fisheries Department, dated 18th October, 1993. The terms of the letter were discussed. The Secretary was instructed to respond to The Scottish Office stating that although the proposal to tighten tolerances for viruses in respect of EEC2 Grade was very stringent this Association were prepared to accept the proposal in order to facilitate retention of Protection Region Status. The Council noted/

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noted the proposal of The Scottish Office to raise the tuber standard and apply the "Export Standards" to all Trade. Council considered that this proposal would be intolerable and the Secretary was instructed to obtain an assurance from The Scottish Office that this change would not take place without the matter being fully discussed at the Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel meeting due to be held later in the year.

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(b) Exports. Mr. Hunter referred to a Paper issued by the Potato Marketing Board entitled "E.C. Crop Prospects as at 15th October, 1993", copies of which he tabled. Mr. Lindsay pointed out that the meeting of the P.M.B.'s Ware Imports Committee scheduled for 26th October had been cancelled and he believed that the Paper contained the information which would have been given to that meeting.

(c) Chairmanship of J.C.C. Mr. Hunter referred to the terms of a letter received from the P.M.B., dated 24th September, 1993, seeking the views of the representative Organisations on J.C.C. regarding the re-appointment of Sir Michael Franklin as Chairman of J.C.C. for a further term of three years and seeking the views of all representative Organisations regarding their contributing towards the cost of the Chairman's salary. Mr. Hunter added that at the morning's meeting of the Chairman's Committee it had been resolved to recommend the re-appointment of Sir Michael Franklin as Chairman but to decline to make any contribution towards his salary. This decision was endorsed by Council.

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(11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting of Council would be held at Perth Ice Rink on Tuesday, 16th November, 1993.

This terminated the business of the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Hunter', is written at the bottom of the page.