

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in PERTH ICE
RINK, GLOVER STREET, PERTH, at
2.00 pm. on THURSDAY, 27th
JANUARY, 1994.

PRESENT: Messrs. G.S. Brass, R. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, J.M. Marshall, J. Logan Milne, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J. MacFarlane, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart, J.M. Swinton and A.S. Whitehead, along with R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. M. Beattie, J. Deuchar and J. Hollywood.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 19th November, 1993 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

ACTION

(a) Co-opting of Additional Council Member. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. David Veitch of Stoke Bomford (Cluny) Ltd. be invited to become a Member of Council in order that Council may obtain the benefit of his experience in the Ware Trade.

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(b) Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase. Mr. Hunter reported that to that date 43 members of the Association had subscribed for the right to use the new Conditions of Sale and Purchase. It was agreed that the Secretary would draw up a list of members of the Association who had not yet purchased copies of the new Conditions in order that any such members known to use the Conditions could be approached informally. It was agreed that no copyright charge for the use of the new Conditions would in future be imposed when Association Membership is granted to new members.

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(c) Membership. It was agreed that Membership of the Association would be granted to the following companies as soon as the Secretary received the appropriate Proposal Letters from existing members, namely:-
Agrolon Ltd. Forfar.
David Lindsay (Potato Merchants) Ltd., Perth
William O. Gordon (Potatoes), Portmahomack.
Ian Caird, Arbroath.

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(d)/

- (d) Association Book. Mr. Hunter reported that he had not yet completed the preparation of the "Mock-up" of the Year Book but that he would endeavour to do so before the next meeting of Council.
- (e) S.S.P.D.C. Questionnaire. It was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance pending the completion of the campaign to demand that a Poll of Registered Producers be conducted regarding the revocation of the Potato Market Scheme.
- (3) S.S.P.D.C.: Mr. Robertson gave a brief report on the meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 20th December, 1993.
- (4) CHANGING FUTURE OF POTATO INDUSTRY: There then followed a very full and constructive discussion regarding the changing future of the Potato Industry. During the discussion the President confirmed that he had received the opinions of various members of the Association regarding the way in which they would wish to see the Potato Industry structured following the demise of the Potato Marketing Board. He stated that it was the overwhelming consensus of those who had approached him that there should be a United Kingdom Development Council for Potatoes whose functions would be the collecting of statistics, co-ordinating of research in development and promotion of the product. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter from Croy Potatoes Ltd. being the only member who had contacted him regarding this subject. At the end of the debate it was the unanimous decision of Council that the Association's Policy will be to press for a United Kingdom Potato Development Council. It is envisaged that the new Development Council would have the minimum number of employees and would work within an annual Budget of, say, four million pounds. Its functions would be to collect statistics, to co-ordinate research and development and to carry out promotional work. It would have Statutory powers to collect Levy from all sections of the Potato Industry, not just from growers as under existing arrangements. The new Council would have a U.K. Seed Potato Section which would supersede the existing Scottish Seed Potato Development Council which could then be wound up.

It was confirmed that the Association should continue its campaign to have a Poll of Registered Producers carried out as soon as possible on the question of whether or not the Potato Marketing/

Marketing Board should be wound up forthwith. The Chairman confirmed that to date the Association had received an excellent response to recent Press Releases on the subject and that he was satisfied that the signatures would be forthcoming of at least the required 400 Registered Producers with 4,000 hectares demanding that such a Poll be carried out. The Chairman stated that the timing of sending out forms for Registered Producers to sign calling for the Poll had not yet been finalised although it was likely that the forms would be sent out within the next week or so. Mr. Hunter gave to the meeting details of the questions which will be included in the forms which are sent out for signature.

The Chairman read to the meeting the first draft of a Statement which he proposed making at the P.M.B. Road Show to be held in Perth on 1st February, 1994. The President added that he would also be issuing a further Press Release in the very near future.

Council granted full power to the Chairman's Committee to finalise the terms of the Statement which the Chairman is to make at the P.M.B. Road Show, the terms of the Press Release and the timing of the issue of forms to Registered Producers for them to complete calling for a Poll. It was agreed that Association members would be requested to assist in getting the signatures of as many Registered Producers as possible calling for the Poll. In this connection the Secretary was instructed to send out to each Association member six copies of the form. It was also agreed that a Fighting Fund to cover administration expenses incurred in connection with the campaign to have the Poll carried out would be set up. The Secretary was instructed to invite Association members to make a voluntary contribution of, say, £25.00 to the Fund.

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- (5) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter confirmed that a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held on 30th November, 1993 had been circulated to Council Members. Mr. McArthur reported that there was to be a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee to be held on 7th February, 1994. He added that one of the items on the Agenda for that meeting was the determining of the Target Area for potatoes for 1994. Mr. McArthur was instructed to propose that the/

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the Target Area should not exceed 140,000 hectares.

- (6) SCOTTISH NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION: The Secretary confirmed that copies of the Minute of Meeting of this Association with S.N.F.U. on 23rd November, 1993 had been circulated to Council Members. Mr. Hunter added that a further meeting with S.N.F.U. had taken place on 25th January, 1994. Mr. Hunter reported that most of the discussion at that meeting had concerned the future of the Potato Industry and the Campaign to have a Poll of Registered Producers. Mr. Hunter stated that at the meeting there had also, at the instance of the Union, been discussion regarding controlled varieties. Mr. Hunter reported that the Union had complained that they considered that certain Controllers were exercising their power in a manner which was disadvantageous to their Growers.
- (7) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL: Mr. Hunter gave a verbal report to Council regarding the meeting of the Panel which had taken place on 13th December, 1993. Mr. Hunter stated that he was awaiting from The Scottish Office their Minute of that meeting and when it was received it would be copied and issued to Council Members.
- (8) CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter confirmed that a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the Chairman's Committee held on 13th December, 1993 had been issued to Council Members. Mr. Hunter added that the Chairman's Committee had also met on 13th January and earlier that day for the purpose of considering the Campaign to have a P.M.B. Poll carried out.
- (9) POTATO MARKETING BOARD: The Chairman gave a brief report on a meeting which he had attended in London with the Potato Marketing Board on 16th December, 1993. He stated that the purpose of the meeting had been to discuss arrangements requiring to be made following the abolition of the Licensing of Merchants.
- (10) CONDITIONS SUB-COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter confirmed that a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee held on 16th January, 1994 had been issued to Council Members. Mr. Hunter reported that Mr. Hollywood had been the Association's observer at the N.A.S.P.M.'s Course for Arbiters held on 12th January, 1994. Mr. Hunter added that he had received a full written/

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written Report regarding that Course from Mr. Hollywood and that there would be a further meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee to consider matters further. It was agreed to co-opt Mr. Hollywood on to the Conditions Sub-Committee. It was further agreed that the Association would refund to Mr. Hollywood one-half of his travelling expenses attending the Course on 12th January, 1994.

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- (11) TIME-TABLE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: The following time-table for Council Meetings during the remainder of 1994 was agreed:-

Thursday, 10th March	-	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 26th April	-	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 21st June	-	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 23rd August	-	2.00 p.m.
Thursday, 27th October	-	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 15th November	-	2.00 p.m.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. M. A. I. P.', is written across the page.