

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the ICE
RINK, GLOVER STREET, PERTH, at
2.00 p.m. on TUESDAY, 19th
APRIL, 1994.

PRESENT: Messrs. R. Doig, J.M. Hollywood, J.M. Marshall, I. Melrose, J.R. McArthur, J. MacFarlane, K.A. McKenzie, A.B. Pullar and J.O. Robertson, 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. A.B. Beattie, J.M. Swinton, D. Veitch and A.S. Whitehead.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 10th March, 1994 was taken as read, approved and signed.

ACTION

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase: The Secretary reported that he had written to 28 Members of the Association reminding them that they were not entitled at law to use the new Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase until they make payment of the Basic Fee of £20.00. Mr. Hunter added that to date the only response to that letter had been a letter from one Member of the Association and a telephone call from another suggesting that these Conditions should be supplied to Members, free of charge. The meeting confirmed its previous decision that until such time as a Member makes payment of the Basic Charge of £20.00 it will not be entitled to make use of the new Conditions. It was agreed that the Secretary would seek the assistance of Council Members to ensure that there was no unauthorised use of the Conditions.

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(b) Membership: The Secretary reported that there were 18 Members whose subscriptions were still outstanding. The Secretary gave to the meeting details of those outstanding. One Member was known to be in Receivership and its membership was cancelled. Council Members undertook to contact with those Members whose subscriptions are still outstanding with a view to getting them paid without further delay.

(c)/

- (c) Association Book: Mr. Hunter tabled a "mock-up" of a Association Book prepared by Mr. Marshall based on a "Superfine" Display Book with 20 A4 sized transparent pockets. There was a mixed response to utilising the pocket format as opposed to a hard backed loose-leaf binder. The matter was remitted back to the Year Book Sub-Committee for it to come up with a positive proposal. RDH
- (d) E.C. Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels: Mr. Hunter reported that he was awaiting the comments of Mr. Veitch to the letter from The Scottish Office, dated 23rd February, 1994. DV
- (e) U.K.S.A.B. The Secretary confirmed that as instructed he had written to The Scottish Office stating that this Association would expect to be invited to nominate a representative to sit on U.K.S.A.B.
- (f) Pesticides Safety Directorate: Mr. McKenzie stated that his firm also receive the correspondence from Pesticides Safety Directorate and that accordingly he would review that correspondence and contact the Secretary if any action was required by the Association.
- (g) Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel: The Secretary confirmed that the Minute of Meeting of the Panel held on 13th December, 1993 had now been received from The Scottish office and circulated to Council Members.
- (3) APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY VICE-PRESIDENT: In view of the small attendance at the meeting it was resolved to postpone further consideration of the appointment of a Deputy Vice-President until the next meeting of Council. The Chairman invited Council Members to let him have proposals for candidates for the appointment.
- (4) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: The Secretary issued to Members of Council a copy of the Minutes of Meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 16th February, 1994. Mr. James Robertson, assisted by Messrs. Melrose and Hollywood, gave a verbal report on the meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 6th April, 1994. The main item on the Agenda for that meeting had been discussion/

discussion regarding the future of the Potato Marketing Board and its possible replacement by a successor Body. S.S.P.D.C. had resolved to take no active part in the debate but had expressed a preference for there to continue to be a separate Seed Organisation such as itself.

- (5) FUTURE OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: Mr. Hunter read to the meeting a Report which he had prepared of a meeting between representatives of this Association and representatives of the Potato Marketing Board held on 23rd March, 1994. Mr. Hunter also read to the meeting correspondence which had passed between himself as S.P.T.A. Secretary, and Mr. A.C. Fairbairn, the Chief Executive of the P.M.B., subsequent to that meeting. Mr. Hunter was instructed to reply to Mr. Fairbairn's most recent letter stating that, unless the Potato Marketing Board agrees to carry out a Referendum/Survey to be completed and the results implemented before the 1995 Potato Crop incorporating at least the following three questions, the Demands for a Poll, which were now held, would be formally submitted to the Potato Marketing Board. The three questions are as stated in the letter to the Chairman of the Potato Marketing Board, dated 11th March, namely:-

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- "(A) Do Producers want the Potato Marketing Scheme, as amended, to continue until 1997 or do they want it to be discontinued forthwith?
- (B) When the Potato Marketing Scheme is wound up do they want, or do they not want, there to be a successor Body to the P.M.B. set up?
- (C) If such a successor Body is set up what functions would they wish it to fulfil and what would Producers' priorities be with regard to the allocation of expenditure on these functions?"

The Chairman stated that in the event of the Demand for a Poll Forms being submitted to the P.M.B. in terms of the Potato Marketing Scheme, he considered that the role of this Association in the matter will have been fulfilled and that any canvassing thereafter would be a matter for individual Producers.

The Chairman confirmed that this Association had been invited/

invited to send two delegates to the MAFF Potato Conference to be held in London on 28th April, 1994. It was agreed that the Chairman, along with Mr. David Stewart, whom failing, Mr. K. McKenzie, would represent the Association at that Conference. The Chairman confirmed that there was to be a meeting on the afternoon of the Conference between this Association and the Potato Marketing Board. He added that the Association would be represented at that meeting by himself, Mr. David Stewart and Mr. K. McKenzie.

- (6) MEETING WITH NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF SCOTLAND: Mr. Hunter gave a verbal report on the meeting between representatives of this Association and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland on 22nd March, 1994. The main item on the Agenda had been discussion regarding the future of the P.M.B./Marketing Scheme. The problem of trade in Small Ware had also been discussed at that meeting. It was agreed that the trade in Small Ware was a serious matter which must be eradicated. It was agreed to include discussion on this matter on the Agenda for the next meeting of Council.
- (7) ENTERTAINMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: The Secretary gave a verbal report on the meeting of the Entertainment Sub-Committee held on 29th March, 1994. Mr. Hunter confirmed that the 1994 Golf Outing was due to be held at Forfar Golf Course on Thursday, 19th May, 1994.
- (8) CONDITIONS SUB-COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter referred to the meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee held on 31st March, 1994, a copy of the Minute of which had been circulated to Council Members. Mr. Hunter confirmed that he was awaiting response from Association Members regarding the numbers wishing to attend the proposed Arbitration Seminar.
- (9) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Hunter reported that the Potato Marketing Board's Minute of the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held on 23rd March, 1994 was still awaited. Mr. Doig gave a brief verbal report on that meeting.
- (10) CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Hunter reminded Council Members that the new Subscription Year for Agra Europe was shortly to commence and/

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and invited any Members who wished to participate in the Association's Subscribers Group to contact him as soon as possible. Mr. Hunter reported that substantial discounts were available to Subscribers in the Group.

- (11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Tuesday, 21st June, 1994.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Hunter".