

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, 23rd AUGUST, 1994.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, R. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, J. MacFarlane, J.M. Marshall, R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart, D.W. Veitch and S. Whitehead, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, Secretary.

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.P. Deuchar, J.B. Hollywood, J.L. Milne and J.M. Swinton.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 21st June, 1994 was taken as read. It was agreed that the final sentence of Paragraph (4) "Future of Potato Marketing Scheme/P.M.B." be amended to read:- "Mr. Hollywood expressed regret that the campaigners for change had felt it necessary to implement a Poll at this time and congratulated Mr. Doig and the other campaign members for the work they had undertaken on behalf of the Potato Trade". Subject to that alteration the Minute was approved and signed.

ACTION

RDH

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Deputy Vice-President: Mr. Hunter reported that Mr. A. Pullar had confirmed his acceptance of the appointment of Deputy Vice-President of the Association on the basis that, if the work load turned out to be such that he was unable to satisfactorily fulfil his duties on behalf of Grampian Growers, he would have to re-consider his position.

(b) Membership: The Secretary reported that Messrs. John Spink's Potatoes, who had opened a Trading Office at Abbotsford Grove Business Centre, Kelso, had been formally proposed for membership of the Association by G.S. Brass (Perth) Ltd. and by J. Logan Milne (Potatoes) Ltd. Council resolved to grant membership of the Association to John Spink's Potatoes and that they be asked to pay one-quarter of a year's subscription in respect of the current year.

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- (c) Conditions of Sale and Purchase: The Secretary reported that there were eight members of the Association who were potential users of the Association's Conditions who had not paid the basic copyright fee of £20.00. The Secretary was instructed to write a formal letter to the eight members concerned. RDH
- (d) Arbitration Training Seminar: Mr. Hunter tabled a letter containing proposals for an Arbitration Training Seminar received from Mr. John D. Spencely who had been nominated by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Mr. Hunter added that his rough estimate of the costs of the Seminar indicated a sum in the region of £1,000.00. Mr. Hunter added that he had been in touch with Scottish Enterprise Tayside who had agreed to pay half the costs of the Seminar on the basis that these costs did not materially exceed £1,000.00. It was agreed that the Seminar would be held in Perth Ice Rink early in November. It was decided that attendance at the Seminar would be restricted to Association Members and their Staff and that other than one representative from N.A.S.P.M. no other Organisations would be invited to attend. The Conditions Sub-Committee was instructed to finalise the arrangements for the Seminar. RDH
- (e) National Farmers' Union of Scotland: Mr. Hunter read to the meeting a letter which he had sent to the Convener of the Potato Committee of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland inviting him to suggest a date for the next meeting between the Union and this Association. Mr. Hunter added that a reply was awaited.
- (f) Investments: The Secretary reported that the proceeds of sale of the Association's holdings of £1,100.00 10 % Exchequer Stock 1995 and £2,630.00 9% Treasury Loan Stock 1994 had been re-invested in the purchase of £4,000.00 7% Treasury Stock 2001.
- (g) Association Members Book: The Secretary reported that he was still working on the preparation of the Association Members Book. RDH
- (h) P.C.N. Regulations: The Secretary reported that a letter had been sent to The Scottish Office requesting that the period of validity of P.C.N. Clearance Certificates be left at the existing fortyeight months and not reduced as proposed to twentyfour months.

- (3) FUTURE OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME/P.M.B. POLL: Mr. Doig reported that the result of the P.M.B. Poll had been received earlier that day. He stated that there had been a 65% turnout and the result had been to reject the Demand to have the Potato Marketing Scheme wound up forthwith by a majority of approximately 80% to 20%. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Chairman of the Potato Marketing Board confirming this Association's wish to work with the Board towards the early setting up of a new Organisation acceptable to the Potato Industry to replace the existing Board.
- (4) SMALL WARE: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter received from the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. requesting this Association's support with steps aimed at reducing the recent substantial increase in the illegal trading of uncertified potatoes for planting. Mr. Hunter was instructed to reply confirming that this Association condemns the illegal trading in uncertified potatoes for planting and adding that this Association will be very happy to send representatives to attend a meeting to discuss what avenues may be open to deter current and potential offenders. There was general discussion regarding effective steps which can be taken. It was accepted that under existing legislation it was very difficult to combat this illegal trade. Mr. Pullar suggested that it would be helpful if legislation were to be introduced to facilitate the prosecution of Growers who bring illegal material on to farms for planting. Mr. Beattie reported that his Company had been instrumental in the drafting of the letter received from the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. He felt that rather than this Association setting up a Sub-Committee to consider the matter it would be better to leave it for the British Society of Plant Breeders to form a Committee of all interested parties. It was also felt that a Quality Assurance Scheme for Potatoes might assist in controlling this illegal trade. Mr. Doig confirmed that he and Mr. Veitch had agreed to sit on a Committee formed by the National Farmers' Union of Scotland to consider the introduction of a Farm Assurance Scheme for Potatoes.

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- (5) 1994 POTATO CROP: There was general discussion regarding the current potato crop. It was the general consensus that throughout the U.K. tonnages of potatoes produced this year would be well down compared with 1993.
- (6) S.S.P.D.C.: Mr. Melrose gave a brief report on the meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 12th July, 1994. He stated that consideration regarding the setting up of a Scottish Seed Potato Breeding Programme was currently occupying most of the time of S.S.P.D.C.
- (7) J.C.C.: Copies of the Board's Minute of the meeting of J.C.C. held on 20th July, 1994 were issued to Members of Council. Mr. McArthur took Council through the Minute. Council noted that J.C.C. had resolved by a substantial majority to:-  
"Determine the Target Area for 1995 at 146,000 hectares; and  
Make the following recommendations to the Board:-  
that the Quota Rate for 1995 be set at 97.5% of Basic Area; and  
that 4,000 hectares (within the Target Area) be set aside for distribution by way of special grants, to encourage the production of potatoes for the processing industry and for other market initiatives."

It was also noted that it had been reported that the Board had drawn up certain proposals for an alternative system of Price reporting and that these were set out in an information paper which was available on request from the Secretary of the P.M.B.

- (8) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that, since the previous meeting of Council, letters had been received from The Scottish Office under the following headings:-  
Report of the Interdepartmental Scrutiny of Fire Safety Legislation.

Food Law De-Regulation Plan: Review of E.C. Hygiene Directives.

Food Temperature Controls.

Commission Proposal for Regulation on Nitrates in Vegetables.

The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Amendment) Regulations 1994.

The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) Regulation 1994.

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The Secretary reported that Information Documents had been received from the Department of Trade and Industry on the following subjects:-

(1) Weights & Measures - Unit Pricing; and (2) Metrication - Amendments to Units of Measurement, Weights and Measures and Price Marking Legislation implementing the Units of Measurement Directive.

Mr. Hunter confirmed that copies of these letters and Documents were available for issue to Association Members on request.

The Secretary reported that in response to a letter from The Scottish Office this Association had nominated Mr. David W. Veitch for consideration for appointment as a member of a new Non-Statutory Committee being set up to provide advice to the Government on the development and recognition of Industry Guides to Good Hygiene Practice.

- (9) CURLING: Mr. Hunter reported that the date for the Perth Leg of the 1994/95 Curling Match had now been altered to Friday, 24th February, 1995 at 3.00 p.m.
- (10) ANNUAL ELECTIONS: The Secretary was instructed to make the usual arrangements for the annual election of Council Members. RDH
- (11) UNITED KINGDOM PLANT VARIETIES AND SEED ADVISORY BODY: Mr. Beattie reported that the first meeting of U.K.S.A.B. was to take place later in the year. He added that the terms of reference of the new Body were as follows:- "The U.K.S.A.B. shall provide a forum for discussion of the operation and development of the U.K. systems of seed certification and enforcement, National Listing and Plant Breeders' Rights, and other relevant matters including, where appropriate, E.C. and other international issues related to these systems." It was agreed to place on the Agenda for the next meeting of Council discussion on this topic in order to identify matters which Mr. Beattie might be invited to raise at the meeting of U.K.S.A.B. RDH
- (12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday, 27th October, 1994.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

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