

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

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

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

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 23rd August, 1994 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Membership: The Secretary reported that Mr.Morrison Colquhoun of Girvan had now retired from business and had tendered his resignation from Membership of the Association. Mr. Hunter reported that he had received intimation from Tom Mitchell (Cornwall) Ltd. that they had closed their Scottish Branch following the retirement of their Manager, Mr.W. Brooksbank. Mr. Hunter pointed out that for the reason that Tom Mitchell (Cornwall) Ltd. no longer had a Scottish Trading Office they were no longer eligible for membership of the Association. Mr. Hunter reported that he had received a letter from Galbraith & Roy Ltd. proposing James Forsyth Coatbridge Ltd.for membership of the Association. He added that he understood that a letter proposing James Forsyth Coatbridge Ltd. for membership of the Association would be received from Peter Grewar (Potatoes) Ltd. Council resolved that on receipt of the letter from Peter Grewar proposing James Forsyth Coatbridge Ltd. for membership, membership of the Association would be granted to that Company. Mr. Hunter reported that he had received a letter from Mr.Peter Miller intimating his retiral as Convener of the Association Entertainments Committee.

(b) Conditions of Sale and Purchase: Mr. Hunter reported that there were now only two relevant Members of the Association who had neither paid the Copyright Fee entitling them to use the Association's Conditions nor written confirming that they do not use these Conditions. The Chairman reported that one of these Members was shortly to retire and that he would speak to the other Member in order that the matter may be sorted out.

(c) Arbitration Training Seminar: Mr. Hunter gave to the meeting details of the revised time-table for the

Arbitration Training Seminar to be held on 9th November, 1994. Mr. Hunter added that at the date of the meeting 17 candidates names had been put forward for attendance at the Seminar. Messrs. Brass and Stewart intimated that they would also be attending. Mr. Swinton intimated that W.C.F.Ltd. would also be sending one candidate.

- (d) Association Members' Book: Mr. Hunter reported that progress was being made to the compiling of the Association Members' Book. Mr. Hunter stated that to date 45 Association Members had still to return completed proformas giving details of their telephone and fax numbers. Mr. Hunter stated that he would be sending out a reminder to these Members.
- (e) Small Ware: It was agreed to deal with this item under the Report on the meeting with The Scottish National Farmers' Union on 20th September which was Item 7 on the Agenda.

- (3) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Mr. Hunter reported that in the recent Annual Election of Council Members, 52 Voting Forms (58%) had been received, one of which was a spoilt paper. The result of the election was that the following had been elected to Council:-

Douglas Harley - Kirkforthar Potato Co.Ltd.
Vincent Lumb - Agrolon Ltd.
Ron McArthur - James Haggart & Sons Ltd.
J. Logan Milne - J. Logan Milne (Potatoes) Ltd.
Archie Pullar - Grampian Growers (Services) Ltd.
James Robertson - Galbraith & Roy Ltd.

The Chairman thanked Mr. George Brass who had not stood for re-election to Council and Mr. Stewart Whitehead, who had not been re-elected, for their work over the years as Council Members of the Association.

- (4) DRAFT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS to 31st OCTOBER, 1994: The Secretary reported that at a meeting of the Chairman's Committee held earlier in the day, draft Accounts down to 31st October, 1994 had been tabled. He added that he had now received instructions to finalise these Accounts for presentation to the next meeting of Council on 15th November, 1994. The Secretary indicated that the Accounts would disclose a deficit in the General Account of £500.00 - £600.00.
- (5) FUTURE OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME/P.M.B.: The Chairman suggested that this item could conveniently be dealt with under Item 9 in the Agenda "Meeting of Seed Potato Advisory Committee".
- (6) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Mr. James Robertson gave a brief report on the meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 8th September, 1994. He reported that independent Consultants had been commissioned to carry out a review of

the future of S.S.P.D.C. and that Mr. John Bethell had recently returned from a trip to South Africa. Mr. Hollywood added that there had also been discussion on the question of ownership of new varieties bred on behalf of S.S.P.D.C.

- (7) NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF SCOTLAND: The Chairman reported on the meeting with representatives of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland held on 20th September, 1994. At that meeting there had been discussion regarding the Potato Marketing Scheme; S.S.P.D.C. and The British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. With regard to the future of the Potato Marketing Scheme, Mr. Reid, the Convener of the Union's Potato Committee, had stated that it was the policy of his Union to have set up a National Potato Development Council with satellites responsible for the various sectors within the potato industry. The Chairman stated that this was in line with this Association's policy. The Chairman reported that Mr. McArthur had proposed at the meeting that both this Association and the Union should write to the Scottish Office seeking an assurance that there would be a fair and independent Poll conducted in 1995 on the question of whether S.S.P.D.C. should be continued after the end of 1995 or disbanded at that time. Mr. Reid had stated that his Union would consider this proposal at its next Potato Committee meeting. Following discussion by Council the Secretary was instructed to write to Sir Hector Monro, Minister for Agriculture at the Scottish Office, (sending a copy to Mr. Ian Whitelaw) stating that this Association understood that such a Poll would be commissioned and requesting a note of the date on which the Poll would be carried out. The letter is also to confirm that this Association wishes to be given the opportunity of being involved in discussions with the Scottish Office regarding a Successor Body to represent the interests of the Scottish Seed Potato Industry. The Secretary reported that the Union had received a letter from the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. in similar terms to that received by this Association. Mr. Hunter stated that Mr. Reid had stated that his Union had not given to B.S.P.B. support by condemning of the illegal trading of uncertified potatoes for planting which they had sought but rather had requested a meeting with B.S.P.B. in the first instance to air the Union's dissatisfaction with certain practices being adopted by Controllers.
- (8) POTATO FARM ASSURANCE SCHEME: The Chairman reported that there had been a further meeting regarding the setting up of a Potato Farm Assurance Scheme for potatoes on 6th October, 1994. Neither he nor Mr. Veitch had been able to attend that meeting.
- (9) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Swinton gave a report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held on 19th October, 1994 which he and the Chairman had attended. Mr. Swinton stated that a Paper entitled "Framework for Definition of a P.M.B. Successor Body" prepared by Messrs.

Godfrey & Cruickshank had been tabled and discussed at the meeting. Mr. Swinton stated that he considered the Paper to be very helpful and the Secretary was instructed to circulate to all Council Members a copy of the Paper. Council agreed to place on the Agenda for the next meeting of Council the setting up of a Sub-Committee to consider this Association's policy with regard to the setting up of a successor body to replace the Potato Marketing Board. Mr. Swinton reported that there had also been discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Committee a Paper prepared by Mr. Christopher Baker on the subject of the collection of Plant Breeders Royalties for potatoes. The Secretary was instructed to circulate to Council Members a copy of that Paper.

- (10) UNITED KINGDOM PLANT VARIETIES AND SEEDS ADVISORY BODY: Mr. Beattie reported that items to be included on the Agenda for the first meeting of U.K.S.A.B. had been required to be submitted by the previous week. He stated that he had suggested two items for the Agenda, namely, Small Ware and early germination of seed but both had been rejected on the grounds that they were "too specific". Mr. Beattie added that other people had had similar items rejected and that the Agenda for the first meeting was all to do with vegetable seeds. He believed, however, that the Advisory Body would get round to looking at potatoes at a later stage.

Mr. Beattie stated that he had been informed that the Advisory Body would not be funding travelling expenses of its members attending meetings. Council agreed that if the Advisory Body could not be persuaded to accept responsibility for travelling expenses this Association would refund Mr. Beattie's travelling expenses.

- (11) Annual Dinner and Dance: Mr. Hunter confirmed that the Association Annual Dinner/Dance was to be held at Huntingtower Hotel, Perth on Friday, 9th December, 1994 and that a circular inviting Members to apply for tickets would be issued during the following week.
- (12) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that since the previous meeting of Council letters had been received from the Scottish Office under the following headings:-

Compulsory Indication on the Label of certain Foodstuffs of Particulars other than those provided for in Directive 79/112/EEC.

Food Temperature Controls.

Food Handlers: Fitness to Work.

Food Temperature Controls - Industry Guides Template.

Mr. Hunter also reported that letters had also been received from Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-

Intergation of U.K. and E.C. Review Programmes.

P.S.D. Approvals: Linking specific approvals rather than

products.

Pesticides Safety Directorate Technical Secretariat applications: What is an acceptable "Add-to"?

Pesticides Safety Directorate - Relocation to York.

Appendix 8 "Guidelines on the Classification and Labelling of Pesticide Products.

Pesticides Safety Directorate at the British Crop Protection Council Conference in Brighton.

Mr. Hunter reported that a letter had also been received from the Patent Office headed "USPTO. Consultation on the Protection of Biotechnological Inventions".

The Secretary confirmed that copies of these letters were available for issue to Association Members on request.

Mr. Hunter referred to the Paper issued by the Scottish Office to all Seed Potato Producers headed "Marketing of Seed Potatoes - 1994/95 Season". It was pointed out that the document included provision for issuing of Holding Notices for a maximum of fourteen days in respect of Skin Spot. It was pointed out that this had been introduced without prior consultation. It was agreed to raise this matter with The Scottish Office at the forthcoming meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel.

- (13) SCOTTISH OFFICE PERSONNEL: It was reported that Mr. Andy Robb was being transferred from the Potato Section at the Scottish Office. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Robb, on behalf of the Association, thanking him for his assistance in the past and wishing him the best for the future.
- (14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting of Council would be held at Perth Ice Rink, Glover Street, Perth, at 2.00p.m. on Tuesday, 15th November, 1994.

This terminated the business of the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Airl", is written in a cursive style across the lower half of the page.