

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL
of THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in The ICE
RINK, GLOVER STREET, PERTH,
AT 2.30p.m. on THURSDAY,
12th JANUARY, 1995.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, B. Doig, D. Harley, D.H. Lindsay, V. Lumb, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, A.B. Pullar, D.Y. Stewart, J.M. Swinton and B.W. Veitch, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary. Messrs. J. Grant and D. Maxwell were in attendance.

CHAIRMAN: The President, Mr. D.Y. Stewart, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.P. Deuchar, J.B. Hollywood, J.O. Robertson, J.Logan Milne, I. Melrose and J. MacFarlane.

- (1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 15th November, 1994 was taken as read and, subject to the addition of an apology for non-attendance from Mr. J. Swinton, approved and signed.
- (2) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Membership: The Secretary reported that he had received letters from two Association Members formally proposing Messrs. Keith R. Stacey (Potatoes), 16 Barry Road, Carnoustie, for membership of the Association. The meeting resolved that membership of the Association should be granted to said Company. The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Mr. J. Logan Milne intimating that he was now trading under the name J. Logan Milne (Brechtin) Ltd. as opposed to J. Logan Milne (Potatoes) Ltd. The Secretary was instructed to amend the company name in the Association Membership List.
 - (b) Conditions Sub-Committee: Mr. Hunter reported that arrangements would be made in the near future for a meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee to take place to discuss the possible revision of the Association's Arbitration Procedures. Council confirmed that membership of the Working Party to meet with the N.A.S.P.M. to investigate the possible harmonising of Arbitration Procedures between the two Associations would remain as the President, Vice-President, along with Messrs. I. Melrose and K. McKenzie with Mr. R McArthur as substitute.
 - (d) S.S.P.D.C. Review: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter, dated 16th December, 1994, which he had received from Mr. Ian Whitelaw of The Scottish Office in response to the Secretary's letter requesting details of The Minister's time-table for carrying out the review in 1995 of S.S.P.D.C. The letter from The Scottish Office was not particularly helpful but the President reported that he

was hoping to arrange an "off the record" meeting with either Mr. Ian Whitelaw or Mr. Gordon Brown of The Scottish Office when this matter would be discussed further.

(e) Annual Dinner and Dance: The Secretary reported that an Account which he had prepared, but which had not yet been approved by the Entertainments Committee, disclosed a surplus of £237.70 in connection with the recent Association Dinner and Dance held on 9th December, 1994. The Secretary confirmed that the net proceeds of the Prize Draw held during the Dance was £1,211.06 which was being donated to Tenovus Tayside. The Secretary added that a provisional booking had been made for the 1995 Dance to be held at Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, on Friday, 8th December, 1995.

(f) Audited Accounts: The Secretary confirmed that the Association Accounts for the year to 31st October, 1994 had been duly audited and had been approved earlier in the day at the Annual General Meeting of Association Members.

(g) Subscriptions: The Secretary confirmed that at the Annual General Meeting of Members held earlier in the day it had been resolved that the Members Subscriptions for the current year would be as follows;-

<u>Total Tonnage Handled</u>	<u>Subscriptions (Net of V.A.T.)</u>
0 - 6,000	£150.00
6,001 - 10,000	£180.00
10,001 - 14,000	£210.00
14,001 - 18,000	£240.00
over 18,000	£270.00

(h) Small Ware: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter, dated 21st December, 1994, received from The British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. stating that this Association could expect to be contacted by The Scottish Office with a view to arrangements being made for a Joint Meeting of all interested parties regarding the illegal trade in Small Ware for planting.

(i) Periodic Potato Stock Returns: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter, dated 1st December, 1994, received from the Potato Marketing Board in response to the letter sent by the Secretary on 19th November, 1994 concerning Stock Returns. The Board in said letter were requesting this Association's opinion as to whether in setting up a Growers Panel the Board should work with individual Growers directly or with Co-operatives or Associations such as S.P.T.A. The Secretary was instructed to reply stating that this Association believes that the Board should work with individual Growers directly.

(3) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL: The Secretary gave to the meeting a verbal report on the meeting of the Scottish Seed

Potato Consultative Panel held on 22nd November, 1994. The Secretary added that an official Minute of that meeting would be received from The Scottish Office. It was agreed that when the Minute was received it would be circulated to all Council Members.

- (4) PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS: The Secretary referred to a letter received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food seeking comments from interested parties on proposals to amend Part I of the Plant Varieties & Seeds Act 1964 which is the primary legislation providing for the system of Plant Variety Rights. There was general discussion on the proposals. Concern was expressed regarding the proposal to charge Royalties on Farm Saved Seed. Council was firmly of the opinion that if Royalties were to be charged on Farm Saved Seed it would be essential that the additional Royalty Revenue derived from that source be entirely utilised to reduce the existing rate of Royalty charged on Seed Production rather than to provide extra revenue for the owners of Protected Varieties. It was agreed to remit consideration of the proposals to a Sub-Committee comprising the President, Vice-President, Deputy Vice-President and Mr. D. Veitch.
- (5) JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: Mr. McArthur gave a brief verbal report on the meeting of J.C.C. held on 23rd November, 1994. Mr. McArthur undertook to let Mr. Hunter have a copy of the Board's Minute of that meeting for circulation to Council Members.
- (6) MEETING OF PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE; The Secretary referred to the Minute of Meeting of the President's Committee held on 29th November, 1994 which had been previously circulated to all Council Members. The Minute contained the proposals of the President's Committee regarding the identification of a Successor Body to replace the PMB. Council agreed with these proposals. The Secretary was instructed to write to the PMB and The Scottish Office with details of these proposals.

The Minute also contained the statement that the President's Committee was in favour of Mr. Christopher Baker's suggestion that Royalties should be paid on every acre (including Ware Production) of Protected Varieties grown. Council accepted this proposal subject to steps being taken to ensure that the additional Royalties received are used to reduce the overall rate of Royalty as opposed to merely increasing the revenue received by the holders of Plant Breeders Rights. The Secretary was instructed to write to The Scottish Office, the N.A.S.P.M. and The British Society of Plant Breeders confirming Council's opinion regarding this matter.

- (7) MEETING WITH NATIONAL FARMERS'S UNION OF SCOTLAND: The Secretary referred to the Minute of the meeting between this Association and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland held on 14th December, 1994, a copy of which Minute had been previously circulated to all Council Members. The President confirmed that he was proposing to arrange an "off the record" meeting with either Mr. Ian Whitelaw or Mr. Gordon Brown of The Scottish Office to ascertain the Minister's proposals with regard to the

review in the current year of S.S.P.D.C. and in particular to press for a Poll of Levy payers to be carried out.

Council considered in detail the Union's concern at the prospect of there being a lack of seed of Controlled Varieties for planting in 1996. After a full discussion the Secretary was instructed to write to the Controller of the Variety, Cara, to obtain a statement of its intentions with regard to the supply of seed of that variety to Scottish Ware Growers. It was also agreed to raise the matter with The Scottish Office at the "off the record" meeting which was proposed.

- (8) S.S.P.D.C.: Mr. Grant gave to the meeting a verbal report on the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council which had been held earlier in the day. The Secretary was instructed to write to S.S.P.D.C. requesting that this Association be given a copy of the Report issued following the Scottish Enterprise Review of S.S.P.D.C.

In the course of Mr. Grant's Report he confirmed that the Minute of Meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 20th December, 1994 had been approved. The Secretary undertook to issue to Members of Council a copy of that Minute when it was received.

- (9) P.M.B./MERCHANTS WORKING PARTY: The President reported on the first meeting of the newly constituted P.M.B./Merchants Working Party which had been held in London on 10th January, 1995. Mr. Stewart stated that he had found it to be an uncomfortable meeting to attend. Mr. Robin Pooley of Anglian Produce Ltd. had suggested that the Working Party should comprise only the large Merchants and that Associations such as S.P.T.A. should not be represented. The next meeting of the Working Party which is to be held towards the end of February, 1995, will make the appointment of a Chairman of the Working Party. Mr. Stewart stated that one of the first functions of the Working Party will be to discuss the manner in which Statistics are to be collected in the future.
- (10) N.A.S.P.M. ARBITRATION TRAINING SEMINAR: Mr. Stewart confirmed that he had attended the N.A.S.P.M. Arbitration Training Seminar held on 11th January, 1995.
- (11) ASSOCIATION INVESTMENTS: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Stockbrokers Greig, Middleton & Co.Ltd. in which they had stated that they could see no reason to recommend any changes in the Association's investment portfolio at the moment but that they will continue to keep a close watch on the Association's investments.
- (12) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that since the previous meeting of Council letters had been received from The Scottish Office under the following headings:-

Food Temperature Controls;

International Agriculture & Food Processing Exhibition, Shenzhen, China;

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

Notice of Requirements for Official Recognition of Efficacy Testing Organisations in U.K.;

Change to Normal Stream Procedures;

Definitions of Non Edible Crop and Amenity Situations;

The Revised Long Term Arrangements for Extension of Use (1995);

The Secretary also reported that letters had been received from the Department of Trade & Industry under the following headings:-

Metrication: Amendment of Units of Measurement, Weights & Measures and Price Marking Legislation.

Proposal for a Directive Amending Council Directives on Consumer Protection in the Indication of the Prices of Foodstuffs and Non-Food Products.

- (13) DATES OF MEETINGS: The following time-table of meetings of Council of the Association for the remainder of 1995 was agreed as follows:-

Tuesday, 14th February, 1995
Thursday, 20th April, 1995
Tuesday, 20th June, 1995
Thursday, 24th August, 1995
Thursday, 26th October, 1995
Thursday, 23rd November, 1995.

- (14) DATA PROTECTION: On the suggestion of the Secretary, he was instructed to make arrangements for the Association to be registered under the Data Protection Act.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Secretary mentioned in the text. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.