

REPORT OF COUNCIL  
of  
The Scottish Potato Trade Association

for the year to 31st. October 1994

TO

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

in the Ice Rink, Perth

on Thursday, 12th. January, 1995.

Seven Meetings of Council were held during the year under review and a Report on each Meeting was prepared and issued to all Members of the Association.

At 1st. November 1993 there were eighty-nine Members of the Association. During the year three Members resigned their membership following retirements; two Memberships were cancelled on the grounds of their ceasing to be eligible for Membership; one Membership was cancelled following a "take over"; the membership of one Member was suspended for non-payment of Subscription; and six new Members were enjoined leaving a membership of eighty-eight at the year end. Council is continuing the campaign to recruit new Members. Council would still like to see the Membership Roll back up to at least one hundred and in this connection it again requests the assistance of all Association Members. The Association Secretary will be happy to receive from Members details of any potential new Association Members.

During the year the Association was represented at meetings with the The Scottish Office, Agriculture and Fisheries Department; the Potato Marketing Board; National Farmers' Union of Scotland and other Organisations in the Potato Trade. The Association also provided delegates to sit on various Committees of the Potato Marketing Board. Association nominees continued as members of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council. Your Association also provided representatives to sit on the newly formed United Kingdom Plant Varieties and Seeds Advisory Body (UKSAB) and the Potato Farm Assurance Working Group. Council members and other Association members sat on the various internal Association Committees and

Sub-committees. Council records its appreciation of the time and effort given so willingly by these representatives, particularly by its Office Bearers, to the work of your Association.

Mr. Bob Doig stood down from Presidency of the Association at the year end following seven years in Office of which three were as President. Council takes this opportunity of expressing its appreciation of the diligent and competent manner in which Mr. Doig carried out his duties in Office particularly during the year under review which involved an exceptional volume of work relating to the forthcoming termination of the Potato Marketing Scheme. Notwithstanding that some people may have had a degree of reservation regarding the desirability of having a Statutory Poll, there is no doubt that the pressure exerted by your Association on the Potato Marketing Board had the most beneficial result of accelerating the discussions concerning and planning towards the identification of a Successor Body to replace the PMB following its demise in 1997 (or possibly earlier). In that connection Council used the services of Colin Ley, the Association's Press Agent, to issue various Press Releases during the year which did much to promote the image of the Association. Your Association will continue to play a very active part in these ongoing discussions during the current year.

The review of Association Arbitration Procedures is continuing and is expected to be completed in the relatively near future. As a part of that review an Arbitration Training Seminar was arranged and took place during November. The Seminar was well supported by members and was considered to be rewarding in both an

educational and entertaining way. Consideration will be given to arranging a similar event during the current year.

Council resolved to have prepared a "Members Book" for issue to all Association Members. The Book will be in a loose leaf form, to allow it to be updated from time to time, and will include various items of information which it is believed Members will find to be useful. It is expected that the Book will be issued to Members in the Spring of this year.

The Association organised the usual Dinner and Dance, Golf Outing and Curling Matches during the year. The Dinner and Dance which was held last month in Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, was again extremely well supported. Last year's Golf Outing was held at Forfar Golf Course and Council is pleased to note that there was a much better turn out of Members than in recent years. This year's Golf outing is to be held at Forfar Golf Course on Thursday 18th. May.