

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, 16th
APRIL, 1996.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, J.P. Deuchar, D. Harley, D.H. Lindsay, V. Lumb, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart, J.M. Swinton and D.W. Veitch, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.B. Hollywood, J. MacFarlane, J.L. Milne and A.B. Pullar.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 19th March, 1996 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Annual Dinner and Dance: The Secretary reported that the distribution of the proceeds of the Prize Draw and Auction held during the 1995 Dance had now been completed as follows:- (i) to Tenovus Scotland Tayside Branch (to be devoted to a Cancer Project) - £1,691.38 and (ii) to Macmillan Nurses Appeal for Stracathro Hospital, Brechin - £1,500.00.

(b) Members' Outing to Knockhill Racing Circuit: The Secretary reported that he had received notification of interest from members wishing to take up four places at the proposed Members' Outing to Knockhill Racing Circuit on 28th May, 1996. Mr. Deuchar stated that he was hopeful that at least ten places would be taken up and a final decision with regard to whether or not to proceed with the Outing will be made within the next seven days.

(c) Members Book: It was agreed that there will be a meeting of the Members Book Sub-Committee to be held at 25 South Methven Street, Perth, at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th April, 1996.

(d) Annual Subscriptions for 1995/96: The Secretary reported that three subscriptions were still outstanding, namely, James Lindsay & Son plc., Lucanto Potato Limited and Messrs. John Spink's Potatoes. Mr. Robertson stated that he had still to speak to James Lindsay & Son plc. regarding their subscription. Mr. Veitch reported that Lucanto Potato Limited were not proposing to continue their Association Membership but that Mr. Bill Balfour who traded as agent for that Company would be applying for Association Membership. The Secretary reported that he had been informed that John Spink's Potatoes were no longer trading in Scotland but its Scottish business had been sold to one of its employees who would be applying for membership of The Association. The Secretary reported that Messrs. W.J. Whyte & Son had changed their business name to Ian A. Whyte, Esq.

(e) Arbitration Rules: The Secretary reported that he had now drafted Arbitration Rules which might be adopted jointly by

this Association and the NASPM. The Secretary added that he had spoken on the telephone that day to the Secretary of the NASPM who had informed him that new English Arbitration Legislation was expected to be enacted before Parliament's Summer Recess and that NASPM were suggesting that it may be desirable to delay any further discussions regarding Arbitration Rules until after the content of that new legislation was known. Council instructed the Secretary to suggest to NASPM that a meeting of the Arbitration Rules Working Party should be held as soon as possible to discuss the draft Arbitration Rules notwithstanding the new legislation which was pending.

(f) Seed Potato Labels: The Secretary reported that he had written to The Scottish Office expressing Council's unhappiness with the decision to again, this season, require "End Users" letters in respect of bulk loads of seed potatoes but no reply had yet been received.

(g) Brown Rot: The President informed the meeting that he understood that there had been one outbreak of Brown Rot discovered in a growing crop in England. He added that the crop was in the same vicinity as the outbreak discovered in 1992 and that the likely cause of the most recent outbreak was irrigation with infected water. Mr. McArthur reported that he understood that the Dutch Authorities had not yet made a final decision as to whether or not to introduce a ban on the irrigation of potato crops in Holland. He suggested that The Association should urge The Scottish Office to press for a ban on the irrigation of Dutch potato crops. Mr. Robertson reported that it was rumoured that two consignments of Dutch seed potatoes had recently been imported into Scotland for growing ware crops in East Lothian and Fife and suggested that The Association should bring this matter to the attention of The Scottish Office to ensure that they are alerted to the possible existence of these two imported consignments. Council expressed its dismay that an Importer should bring Dutch seed potatoes into Scotland at this time. It was agreed that the President would take these two matters up with Mr. Gordon Brown at The Scottish Office.

- (3) REVOCATION OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: Mr. Stewart reported that the results of the PMB Poll would be announced at the Board's Potato Planting Demonstration at Stafford during the following week. He noted that the SSPDC Poll had been extended to 30th April, 1996. There followed general discussion regarding the way in which The Scottish Office would be likely to interpret the results of these two Polls.
- (4) ASSOCIATION RULES/APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS: The Secretary reported that having given due consideration to the terms of the existing Association Constitution and Rules, it was his opinion that there was no need to amend Rule 9. He pointed out that the existing wording of Rule 9. gives to Council "complete discretion" with regard to the annual audit of the Association Accounts.
- (5) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that since the previous meeting of Council letters had been received under the following headings:-
From The Scottish Office -
EC Regulation 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical

Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Food Stuffs;
Commission Proposal for a Regulation to set limits for Lead and Cadmium in Food;
Deregulation:Draft Food(Lot Marking)Regulations 1996;
Additive References in Ingredients Lists on Food Labels;
Mycotoxins-EC Permitted Levels.

From The Patent Office -

Legal protection of Biotechnological Inventions-Commission Proposal COM95(661)Final.

From the Pesticides Safety Directorate -

Revocation of Approvals for the use of Pesticides following the Adoption of Directive 95/61/EC.;

Status of previous letters issued by the Pesticides Safety Directorate;

14th Amendment to the Marketing and use Directive: Restrictions on Chlorinated Solvents, Carcinogens, Mutagens and Substances Toxic for Reproduction;

Labelling Treated Seeds, Tubers, Bulbs and Corms.

The Secretary confirmed that copies of any of these letters can be obtained from him on request.

- (6) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held at Perth Ice Rink at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th June, 1996.

- (7) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: The Secretary reported that some interest had been expressed in the possibility of the Association putting together a package for members visiting the World Potato Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa on 2nd to 7th March, 1997. The Secretary was instructed to make preliminary enquiries with regard to putting together of such a package.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

AMS

