

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, 18th JUNE, 1996.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.M. Beattie, B. Doig, D. Harley, V.Lumb, J. MacFarlane, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur and J.O. Robertson, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the Deputy Vice-President, Mr. A.M. Beattie, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.P. Deuchar, J.B. Hollywood, D.H. Lindsay, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose, J. Logan Milne, A.B. Pullar, D.Y. Stewart, J.M. Swinton and D.W. Veitch.

Mr. David Maxwell Before proceeding with the business of the meeting the Chairman referred to the sad death of Mr. David Maxwell of G. & D. Maxwell Ltd. which had occurred after a short illness on 27th May, 1996. The Chairman paid tribute to Mr. Maxwell's long and conscientious involvement with The Association and to his many years as a diligent member of Council. Council instructed the Secretary to write to Mrs. Maxwell expressing their sincere condolences.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 16th April, 1996 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

- (a) Members' Outing to Knockhill Racing Circuit: The Secretary reported that as a result of a lack of interest from members the Outing to Knockhill Racing Circuit had not been proceeded with.
- (b) Members Book: The Secretary issued to the members of Council present a copy of the Association Members Book which he had prepared under the guidance of the Members Book Sub-Committee. Council approved the Members Book for free issue to Association members. The Secretary stated that in order to avoid postage and packaging, so far as possible, he would arrange for the Members Book to be delivered by hand to Association Members. It was agreed to make additional copies of the Book available to Members at a cost of £5.00 per book plus postage and packaging.
- (c) Association Membership: The Secretary reported that 88 subscriptions had now been received for the current year leaving only two outstanding, namely, Lacanto Potato Ltd. and Messrs. John Spink's Potatoes. The Secretary confirmed that these two memberships had now been cancelled and that he had written letters to these Companies informing them that they were no longer legally entitled to use the Associations' Conditions. The Secretary reported that Robert J.S. Doig Ltd. and James

Haggart & Sons Ltd. had verbally proposed Mr. William P. Balfour, 16 Lorne Street, Ladybank, Cupar, Fife, for membership of the Association. Council approved the granting of membership to Mr. Balfour as soon as the Proposers had written to the Secretary accordingly.

- (d) Arbitration Rules: The Secretary reported that he, along with Messrs. J. Hollywood and K. McKenzie had met the representatives of the NASPM on the Arbitration Rules Working Party in York on the previous week when draft Arbitration Rules prepared by him had been discussed and approved subject to various relatively minor amendments. The Secretary added that he, on the instructions of the Working Party, was drawing up Guidelines for Arbiters and Guidelines for Parties in the Dispute and that the final drafts of the Arbitration Rules and the two sets of Guidelines would be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Party scheduled to be held on 19th August, 1996. The Secretary also added that the Working Party were aiming to have the Rules and Guidelines finalised for submission to the Councils of the respective Associations during November, 1996. He stated that it was the recommendation of the Working Party that the members of the Working Party be present at the respective meetings of the Councils of the Associations when the Rules and Guidelines were being considered.
- (e) 1997 World Potato Congress in South Africa: The Secretary reported that he had been informed by Grampian Tours, Perth, that the next mailing from the organisers of the World Potato Congress would be issued in July and thereafter Grampian Tours will prepare their proposals for an Association travel package to the Congress.
- (3) REVOCATION OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: The Secretary reported that the main business of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 8th May, 1996 had been discussion regarding "The Way Forward and Financial Scenarios of a GBPO". The Secretary stated that the Association President, Mr. Stewart, had attended that meeting of the JCC. The Secretary read to Council excerpts from the Minute of Meeting of the JCC prepared by the PMB.
- (4) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Chairman gave a brief report on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held on 9th May, 1996 which he had attended. It was agreed that the Secretary would issue to Members of Council a copy of the Minutes of that meeting as soon as they were received from the PMB.
- (5) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Mr. Robertson gave a brief report on the meeting of SSPDC held on 18th April, 1996. The main items on the Agenda for that meeting had been discussion on the Brown Rot situation in Holland and the results of the SSPDC Poll. The Secretary read to the meeting a letter from a member of the Association and a letter from that member's customer in England criticising the actions of Mr. John Bethell and Ms Sue Hair of SSPDC. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of that correspondence to Mr. Bethell inviting his comments. It was noted that the next meeting of SSPDC was

scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 25th June, 1996.

- (6) INTERIM ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary reported that he had presented to a meeting of the President's Committee, held earlier in the day, Interim Unaudited Association Accounts which he had prepared for the half-year to 30th April, 1996. The Secretary added that, based on these Accounts, the President's Committee had found the Association's finances for the half-year to be in a satisfactory condition.
- (7) SALE OF UNCERTIFIED SEED POTATOES (SMALL WARE): The Secretary reported that the morning's meeting of the President's Committee had discussed the draft Report on this subject prepared by the Agricultural Departments which had been circulated to all members of Council. The Secretary took Council through the instructions which he had received from the President's Committee with regard to a reponse to The Scottish Office which was invited before the end of the current month.
- (8) PMB LEADING MERCHANTS' INFORMATION GROUP: The Secretary reported that there had been meetings of the Merchants' Information Group on 26th April and 11th June, 1996. The Secretary referred to correspondence relative to these meetings which indicated a very low response to the Group's invitation to join "A Working Independent Price Service for the Potato Industry" which had been issued to all members of the trade earlier in the year.
- (9) BROWN ROT: It was noted that The Scottish Office had issued to all Scottish Potato Growers in recent weeks a letter updating the position regarding the outbreak of Potato Brown Rot in Holland.
- (10) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter, dated 21st May, 1996, received from The Scottish Office under the heading "Seed Potatoes - Protected Regions". The letter made it clear that The Scottish Office believed that it would be counter productive for them to continue their efforts to persuade the Commission to restore quarantine status to the existing Protected Regions throughout the Community and they were recommending that the only way to proceed was for the Scottish Industry to try and persuade its counterparts elsewhere in the Community about the arguments in favour of Protected High Grade Seed areas. It was agreed to discuss this matter with the National Farmers' Union of Scotland at the Association's next meeting with them and in the meantime to press The Scottish Office to continue its campaign to ensure that Scottish Growers are aware of the risks of planting Dutch Seed Potatoes in Scotland.
- Seed Potato Classification Scheme: The Secretary read to Council a letter, dated, 21st May, 1996, headed "Seed Potato Classification Scheme" received from The Scottish Office inviting comments by the end of July, 1996. Council considered that the letter raised some very important matters and resolved to remit these matters for the consideration of the President's Committee. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of The Scottish Office letter to each member of Council.

The Secretary referred to further letters received from The Scottish Office under the following headings:-  
Community Plant Variety Rights: Period of Protection for Potatoes;  
Sulphuric Acid - Approval for a Haulm Desiccant;  
Draft Directive amending Directive 94/54/EC: Further Compulsory Labelling of Foodstuffs containing sweeteners;  
The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Amendment) Regulations 1996;  
Labelling of the Ingredients of Alcoholic Drinks;  
EC Regulation 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs;  
Review of Food Premises (Registration) Regulations 1991;  
Mycotoxins-EC Permitted Levels.

The Secretary reported that letters had been received from the Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-  
Clarification of Arrangements for Authorisation of Adjuvants under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986;  
Updating of UK Regulations on Pesticides and European Legislation on Plant Protection Products;  
Labelling Treated Seed, Tubers, Bulbs and Corms - Update;  
Common Pesticide Labelling Initiative for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland;  
Pesticide Safety Directorate: Label Restriction - Air Assisted Spraying Equipment;  
Further Progress Report on European Union Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels Directives - Adoption of 4th Commission Proposal for MRL's/Deadlines for 3rd and 4th Set of Open Positions.

The Secretary reported that letters had been received from the Patent Office under the heading of Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions - Commission Proposal COM (95) 661 Final and from the Department of Trade & Industry under the heading "Unit Pricing and Prescribed Quantities".

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

- (11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held at Perth Ice Rink at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd August, 1996.
- (12) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:
- (a) Golf Outing: The Secretary reported that 32 people had attended the Association Golf Outing held at Forfar Golf Club on Thursday, 23rd May, 1996. The Secretary added that an Account prepared by him, but not yet submitted to the Entertainments Committee, disclosed a surplus of £83.71 for the event.
- (b) Conditions of Purchase: The Secretary reported that a recent dispute had indicated a need to carry out a review of one section of the Association's Conditions of Purchase. It was agreed to remit this matter to the Association's Conditions Sub-Committee.

- (c) Curling: The Secretary reported that the Edinburgh Leg of the Annual Curling Tournament was booked to be held at Edinburgh Ice Rink at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 3rd December, 1996. He added that confirmation of the date of the Perth Leg was still awaited.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*Trinity O'K*

