

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 THURSDAY, 24th OCTOBER,  
1996.

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PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, J.P. Deuchar, B. Doig, D. Harley, D.H. Lindsay, J. MacFarlane, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur, J.L. Milne, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson and D.Y. Stewart, 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. A.M. Beattie, J.B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose and J.M. Swinton.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 22nd August, 1996 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Members Book: The Secretary confirmed that complimentary copies of the Members Book had now been issued to each member of the Association. The Secretary confirmed that Council had previously agreed that additional copies of the Members Book would be offered to members at a cost of £5.00 per book, plus postage, packaging and V.A.T. Council resolved that initially at least any members purchasing additional copies of the Members Book would receive up-dates for the Book, free of charge.

(b) Association Membership: The Secretary reported that he had received letters from G. & D. Maxwell Ltd. and G.W. Porteous Ltd. stating that their respective businesses are to cease trading and requesting that their memberships of the Association be terminated. The Secretary stated that after the cancellation of these two memberships the Association Membership Roll then stood at 87. The Secretary suggested that an effort be made to recruit new members.

(c) Conditions of Purchase: The Secretary reported that owing to pressure of seasonal work on the part of Council members it had been decided to delay further the proposed meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee to discuss possible amendments to the Association's recommended Conditions of Purchase.

(d) Seed Potato Classification Scheme: The Secretary confirmed that he had written to The Scottish Office as instructed at the last meeting of Council but, as yet, no response had been received. The Secretary reported that the next meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel was due to be held on Friday, 22nd November which was the day after the next meeting of Council. It was agreed in view of the proximity of that meeting to the next meeting of Council that this Association be represented at that meeting by Messrs. Stewart and Pullar, along with the Secretary.

(e) RUCIP Rules: The Secretary stated that he had now received via Greenvale Produce Ltd. a copy of the up-to-date RUCIP Rules. The Secretary reported that the RUCIP Rules were much more complicated and much less easily understood than the Association's existing Conditions. He also pointed out that the tolerances in the RUCIP Rules were considerably more lax

than those in the Association's Conditions. The Secretary expressed the opinion that he would prefer that members traded under the Association's recommended Conditions but recognised that imported seed potatoes would be purchased under the RUCIP Rules and in these circumstances the seed may be sold on also under the RUCIP Rules. It was agreed that the Secretary would issue advice to Association members regarding the "pros and cons" of using the RUCIP Rules as opposed to the Association's Conditions.

- (3) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Secretary reported that following the close of voting on 22nd October, voting papers had been received from 47 members giving a return of 56.32%. The Secretary added that the result of the Election was the re-election of Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, J.P. Deuchar and J.M. Swinton and the election of Messrs. Robert J.S. Doig of Robert J.S. Doig Ltd. and David Scorgie of Heather Prepacks Co.Ltd. The Secretary pointed out that as a result of the Election Mr. John MacFarlane had not been re-elected to Council. The President expressed Council's thanks to the two retiring Council members, Messrs. Bob Doig and John MacFarlane.
- (4) REVOCATION OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: Mr. Stewart confirmed that notwithstanding the decision of Council at its last meeting the Secretary on his instructions had written to The Scottish Office giving the Association's support to the proposal that the new Potato Development Council be funded, at least in its earlier years, by a dual Levy comprising an area contribution from persons growing for sale and a tonnage contribution at the first point of sale. The Chairman explained in detail his reasons for departing from the decision made by Council at its previous meeting. During discussion the Chairman reported that he had recently had an informal meeting with Mr. Gordon Brown of The Scottish Office when Mr. Brown had complimented this Association on the quality of its responses to Consultation Papers issued by The Scottish Office. The Chairman also reported that he had attended a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board on 9th September, 1996. He stated that the main discussion at that meeting had concerned the funding of the new Development Council and it had been <sup>successfully</sup> ~~decided~~ by the J.C.C. that, in order that the whole Industry is seen to be contributing towards the funding of the new Body, there should be a dual Levy.
- (5) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The President reported that he had attended a meeting of the Potato Marketing Board's Seed Potato Advisory Committee held in Edinburgh on 4th September, 1996. Mr. Stewart issued to each member of Council a Discussion Paper entitled "Future Seed Promotion and the Handover from SSPDC to the Seed Sector Group of a future Development Council". It was agreed that discussion of that Paper would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of Council. Mr. Stewart added that at the Advisory Committee meeting Veronica Meginnes of SSPDC had reported further regarding her efforts to form a European Seed Sector Working Group. Mr. Stewart confirmed that there had been an initial meeting of the Group held on 10th September, 1996 in France but that Holland had declined to be represented at the meeting. The Report on that outcome of that meeting was awaited.
- (6) J.C.C.: The Chairman gave a verbal report on the meeting of the

Joint Consultative Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held on 3rd September, 1996. He reported that in addition to discussing the funding of the new Development Council there had been discussion regarding the present and future preparation of Potato Statistics. He added that it had also been agreed to press for the introduction of a "lightweight" EC Potato Regime.

- (7) S.S.P.D.C.: Mr. Robertson gave a brief verbal report on the meeting of S.S.P.D.C. held on 23rd August, 1996. S.S.P.D.C. had considered in detail the proposed Brown Rot Control Directive. He added that the next meeting of S.S.P.D.C. was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 29th October.
- (8) SEED POTATO PROTECTED REGIONS: It was confirmed that a Report on the initial meeting of the European Seed Sector Working Group held on 10th September, 1996 was still awaited. Mr. Stewart added that four new cases in Holland of Brown Rot had recently been confirmed. Mr. Stewart also referred to recent Press comments which appeared to minimise the dangers of Brown Rot. It was agreed that this Association would issue a Press Release emphasising the very serious consequences which would result were Brown Rot to be imported into Scotland and urging the continuation of strenuous efforts to ensure that Brown Rot is not imported into Scotland.
- Mr. Stewart also reported that he had received a letter from an Association member drawing to his attention the fact that the Israeli Plant Health Authorities are now insisting that all seed potatoes, including Scottish seed, destined for Israel undergo a very comprehensive and expensive test for Brown Rot. In view of the fact that Brown Rot was not present in Scotland it was considered that such tests in respect of Scottish seed potatoes were far more severe than the circumstances justified. It was agreed that Mr. Stewart would take the matter up with The Scottish Office with a view to endeavouring to exempt Scotland from the Israeli plant health requirements.
- (9) ARBITRATION RULES: The Secretary reported that the drafting of proposed Arbitration Rules, Guidance Notes and Schedule of Costs was now almost complete. Mr. Hunter added that Mr. Kevin Burke of the N.A.S.P.M. would be attending the next meeting of Council of this Association during discussion on these draft documents. Mr. Hunter informed Council that he would be issuing copies of the draft documents to members of Council in advance of the next meeting of Council. Mr. Hunter also reported that both he and Mr. Hollywood would be attending a meeting of Council of N.A.S.P.M. to be held on 20th November, 1996 for discussion of the draft Arbitration documents.
- (10) POTATO INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION: The Chairman took the meeting through a letter, dated 5th September, 1996, which he had received from the Potato Industry Working Group on Information. From the terms of the letter it was clear that there was little support in the Industry for the Group's offer of membership of it's Electronic Price Recording System.
- (11) ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary reported that at a meeting held earlier in the day of the President's Committee draft interim Accounts for the Association down to 31st October, 1996 had been discussed. Mr. Hunter added that a final copy of the Accounts would be issued to members in advance of the next meeting of Council.

Mr. Hunter reported that at the President's Sub-Committee meeting it had been decided to recommend to Council that the advice of Greig Middleton & Co.Ltd., the Association's Stockbrokers, be accepted. That advice was to sell the Association's holding of £2,900 Treasury Conversion 9% 2000 Stock and to re-invest the sale proceeds in the purchase of Treasury 6 3/4% Stock 2004. Council instructed the Secretary to request the Stockbrokers to proceed accordingly.

- (12) ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER and DANCE: It was confirmed that the Association's Annual Dinner and Dance was to be held at Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, on Friday, 13th December, 1996. He added that the Entertainments Committee had decided to price the tickets for this year's function at £18.00 per ticket and that he would be issuing in the near future a letter to Association members enclosing an Application Form for tickets. Mr. Hunter stated that the Entertainments Committee had decided that the number of tickets for the function must be limited to 150 and that he had been instructed to telephone round the members who had attended the 1995 function with a view to reconciling members' demand for tickets with an overall limit of 150 tickets.

- (13) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary referred to correspondence received by him since the last meeting of Council namely:-  
From The Scottish Office under the headings:-

The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 1996;

Reporting Survey Results;

Revision of the "Use By" Guidance Notes;

Long-Term Basic and Strategic Agricultural and Related Biological Research;

The Secretary read out said letter which invited the Association's views on the ideas contained in the letter and an indication whether the Association would be interested in participating in any of the levels of consultation which The Scottish Office had in mind. The Secretary was instructed to respond by stating that the existing line of communication between The Scottish Office and this Association was satisfactory and requesting that said line of communication be maintained.

From Pesticides and Safety Directorate under the following headings:-

Import of Pesticide Products - Amendment to the Application Form (IDI 1);

Definitions for Pesticides Approved for use in Forestry Situations;

Re-Registration:Current Progress;

PSD at the British Crop Protection Council Conference, Brighton;

PSD - Environmental Exposure Assessments for Use of Pesticides on "Land not intended to bear vegetation";

Publication of the Working Party on Pesticide Residues 1995 Annual Report;

PSD - Technical Secretariat Applications; Procedure for Listing New Data Studies and Confirmation of Data Protection Periods.

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

- (14) 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, 21st November, 1996.

(15) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

(a) Timetable of Meetings for 1997: It was agreed that at the next meeting of Council a timetable for meetings in 1997 would be finalised.

(b) London and International Futures and Options Exchange. Mr. Robertson reported that he had accepted the invitation for him to become a member of the Commodities Advisory Group on Potatoes.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Robertson', with the initials 'LR' written to the right of the signature.

