

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the ICE
RINK, GLOVER STREET, PERTH, at
2.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, 21st
JANUARY, 1997.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, D. Harley, J.B. Hollywood, D.H. Lindsay, V. Lumb, J.M. Marshall, K.A. McKenzie, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart and J.M. Swinton, along with Mr. J. MacFarlane of Scott & Newman Group and Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: The Association President, Mr. A.B. Pullar, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.P. Deuchar, R.J.S. Doig, J.R. McArthur, I. Melrose and D. Scorgie.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 21st November, 1996 was taken as read and, subject to one minor amendment, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) RUCIP Rules: The Secretary confirmed that he had now issued advice to Association Members with regard to the use of RUCIP Rules.

(b) European Seed Sector Working Party: The Secretary reported that he had received a verbal report from Mr. John Bethell of SSPDC regarding the formation of the European Seed Sector Working Party. That report stated that three meetings of the Working Party had now taken place and that it's Constitution and funding had now been agreed. The U.K. are represented on the Working Party by John Bethell, Veronica Magennes of SSPDC and Mr. J. Cruickshank of the PMB. The Secretariat comprised Veronica Magennes and a French person. Voting was on the basis of one vote per country irrespective of area. Decisions are carried by a majority vote. The Working Party does not have direct access to the Community and its decisions require to be fed back through the Governments of the various representatives. Mr. Hunter added that he had been informed that at the next meeting of the Working Party three Resolutions are to be tabled, namely:- (1) the re-introduction of quarantine controls for Protected Regions (this is proposed by the U.K.), (2) the addition to RUCIP Rules to include reference to three additional diseases (this is proposed by France), (3) the investigation of steps to control over production of free potato varieties (this is proposed by France). Mr. Hunter added that Mr. Bethell had stated that a full Report on the activities of the Working Party will shortly be issued by SSPDC.

(c) Annual Dinner and Dance: The Secretary confirmed that the Association Dinner and Dance had been held in Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, on Friday, 13th December, 1996 at which 137 people had attended. Apparently the function had been a great success. The Secretary added that there had been a deficit of £86.63 in respect of the function but this had been anticipated by the Entertainments Committee when fixing the price of the dance tickets. The Secretary also added that the net proceeds of the Charity Prize Draw was £1,092.54. Council authorised the Association President to donate the proceeds to an appropriate Charity of his choice.

(d) Arbitration Rules: The Secretary reported that there had been a meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee earlier in the day when the opportunity had been taken to discuss steps requiring to be taken to implement the introduction of the new Arbitration Rules to be adopted by this Association and the NASPM. Council agreed that the new Arbitration Rules are to be introduced in time for them to govern the 1997 growing crop. The Secretary reported that he would be seeking advice from the Institute of Arbitrators with regard to the setting up of a Training Course for Arbiters in Scotland to which representatives of this Association and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland would be invited to attend. It was anticipated that the NASPM would arrange a similar Training Course in England for their own Arbiters and those nominated by the English Farmers' Union. Notwithstanding it was agreed to encourage English Arbiters to attend the Scottish Course and vice versa. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries with regard to the availability of grants to assist with the cost of the Training Course. It was agreed that the SPTA Panel of Arbiters should comprise ten to twelve Arbiters but that the Panel should not be drawn up until after the Training Course had taken place. It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the Joint NFUS/SPTA Working Party to enable the Scottish Union to be informed of developments with regard to the introduction of the new Arbitration Rules.

(e) Association Accounts: The Secretary confirmed that the Association Accounts for the year to 31st October, 1996 had been approved earlier in the day at the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association.

(f) 1996/97 Association Subscriptions: Council noted that its recommendation with regard to the level of Subscriptions for the year to 31st October, 1997 had been approved at the said Annual General Meeting of Members.

- (3) REVOCATION OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter, dated 17th December, 1996, received from The Scottish Office inviting this Association to submit nominations for appointments to the Potato Industry Development Council. Council confirmed its previous decision to nominate Messrs. J.B. Hollywood, I. Melrose and D.Y. Stewart. Consideration was also given to nominating a further candidate for the post of a seed potato specialist on the Development Council. It was agreed that the President would seek clarification from The Scottish Office and thereafter the Association Office-Bearers would make a final decision with regard to the submission of nominations to The Scottish Office.

Council noted that it had been reported in the publication "Focus on Facts" that a letter had been written to the Minister, Mr. T. Boswell, outlining opposition to the Levy proposals contained in the draft Potato Order. The article stated that the letter had been written on behalf of FPC, NJC, NASPM and BEPA which it claimed represents the overwhelming majority of the purchasers of potatoes at the first point of sale.

Reference was again made to the PMB Paper entitled "Future Seed Promotion and the handover from SSPDC to the Seed Sector Group of a Future Development Council". It was considered that the Paper was now out of date and an up-dated Paper was likely to be tabled at the meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel

of the Potato Marketing Board to be held on the following Monday.

- (4) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL: The President gave a brief verbal report on the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel held on 22nd November, 1996. It was noted that The Scottish Office had not yet issued the formal Minute of that meeting. The Secretary agreed to issue a copy of the Minute to the Members of Council when it was received from The Scottish Office.
- The Secretary read to the meeting a letter received from Mr. Gordon Brown of The Scottish Office intimating that he was moving from agriculture to fisheries and aquaculture on 10th January, 1997 and would be succeeded by Mr. Charlie Greenslade. The Secretary added that he had already written to Mr. Gordon Brown expressing the Council's appreciation of the work carried out by him on behalf of the Potato Trade during his period of responsibility for plant health and potatoes and wishing him well in his new post.
- The Secretary confirmed that The Scottish Office had issued a Report by the U.K. Agricultural Departments entitled "The Sale of Unclassified Seed Potatoes". It was agreed to respond to The Scottish Office requesting that they keep the problem of Small Ware under close review and arrange meetings with the Industry periodically to review progress which was being made towards eradicating the illegal trading in Uncertified Seed Potatoes.
- (5) BROWN ROT: The Association President reported that he had attended a meeting in York on 10th December, 1996 arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food to discuss the Brown Rot problem in Holland. The President reported that he had been perturbed at the meeting to discover that only a sample of imported seed potato consignments from Holland were being tested, namely, the first twentyfive tonnes. He stated that he had expressed his concern to the meeting in York and had requested that total consignments should be tested in the future.
- (6) SSPDC: Mr. Robertson, assisted by Mr. Hollywood, reported on the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council held on 12th December, 1996. It was reported that at the meeting the Levy for the 1996 crop had been fixed, the Brown Rot problem had been discussed and the Report on the sale of Unclassified Seed Potatoes had been considered.
- (7) CONDITIONS SUB-COMMITTEE: The Secretary confirmed that there had been a meeting of the Conditions Sub-Committee held earlier in the day. The items on the Agenda for that meeting were (1) consideration of Paragraph 14 (Compensation and Damages) in the Association's recommended Conditions of Purchase, and (2) consideration of changes required to be made to the Association's Conditions following the introduction of new Arbitration Rules. The Secretary added that he had received instructions from the Conditions Sub-Committee to prepare revised wording of the appropriate Clauses to cover these matters for further discussion by the Sub-Committee.
- (8) UN/ECE STANDARDS FOR EARLY AND WARE POTATOES: The Secretary referred to a letter, dated 8th January, 1997, received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food under the heading "UN/ECE Standards for Early and Ware Potatoes. He added that he had sent a copy of that letter to the Association President and

also to Mr. Swinton as Convener of the Association's Ware Sub-Committee. Mr. Swinton stated that he had concern regarding a proposal from the French regarding sizing. It was agreed that Mr. Swinton would send to the Secretary a suggested letter to be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture.

- (9) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary referred to correspondence received by him since the last meeting of Council, namely:-
From The Scottish Office under the following headings:-
Imports of Egyptian Potatoes;
E.C. Regulation 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs;
Revision of the "Use By" Guidance Notes;
European Commission Proposal for a Regulation to set limits for Nitrate in Lettuce and Spinach.
From Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-
PSD Consultation Document 30th April, 1996 "Clarification of Arrangements for Authorisation of Adjuvants under The Control of Pesticides Regulation 1986";
Informing Applicants of progress of Applications and Deferment of the Publication of Approvals in the Pesticides Register;
Follow-Up to the PSD Industry Seminar on 15th October, 1996: Implementation of the Pesticides 'Authorisation' Directive (91/414/EEC) in U.K.;
New Label Phrases for Vertebrate Control Products;
PSD - Review of Insecticide and Acaricide Resistance;
Packaging Containing Multiple PVA Bags;
Residues Data Requirements;
Changes to the 1997/98 Fees and Charges Structure and Application Arrangements Operated by the Pesticides Safety Directorate;
New U.K. Technical Policy on Consumer Risk Assessment;
Procedure for Revocation of Parallel Import Approvals where the Master Product Approval is Revoked;
Comparability of Formulations : Efficacy Considerations.

- The Secretary confirmed that he would be happy to make available copies of any of these letters to Association Members on request.
- (10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held in Perth Ice Rink at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 13th March, 1997.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

Robert Puller