

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, 13th MARCH, 1997.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.M. Beattie, J.P. Deuchar, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D. Scorgie, D.Y. Stewart and J.M. Swinton, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. R.J.S. Doig, D. Harley, A.B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, I. Melrose, and K.A. McKenzie ~~and J.M. Marshall.~~

It was reported that Mr. K.A. McKenzie had recently undergone major surgery and was making good progress towards recovery. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. McKenzie conveying to him Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery. It was also noted that Mr. Tom McClung, a former Member of Council, had been recently injured in a car accident. The Secretary was also instructed to write to Mr. McClung wishing him a speedy recovery. The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr. David M. Allan, the new Chairman of A.J. Allan (Brechin) Ltd., expressing Council's condolences concerning the recent death of his father, Mr. Ian Allan.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 21st January, 1997 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Donations to Charities: The Secretary reported that the proceeds of the Charities Prize Draw at the Association's 1996 Dinner and Dance had now been distributed as follows:-

(i) £546.27 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Scotland, Perth Branch, to be used either to assist some of its Members with short holidays or respites or for the purchase of cordless telephones.

(ii) £546.27 to Tenovus-Scotland Tayside Branch to be used towards a project investigating "Abnormal Expression of Components which can result in breast cancer, colon cancer or a type of skin cancer" the results of which project may help to design anti-cancer drugs in the future.

(b) 1996/97 Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that at that date subscriptions for the current year had been received from sixty Association Members and that one resignation had been received. He stated that the resignation was from Milbac Ogilvie & Co. who had sold off its Potato Trading interests. The Secretary pointed out that there remained outstanding twentysix subscriptions and that he would be issuing individual reminders to the Members concerned.

(c) Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel: The Secretary confirmed that he had issued to Members of Council a copy of the Minute prepared by The Scottish Office of the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel held on 22nd November, 1996.

(d) Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase: The Secretary confirmed that he had now prepared the revised clauses requested by the Conditions Sub-Committee and that copies of these clauses had been circulated to the Members of

- that Sub-Committee for their comment.
- (3) POTATO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: The Secretary reported that on the instructions of the Office-Bearers he, on behalf of the Association, had proposed Messrs. J.B. Hollywood, I. Melrose, G. Smillie and D.Y. Stewart for appointment to the Potato Industry Development Council. He added that Mr. Smillie had been proposed to fill the post of a Seed Potato Specialist. Mr. Beattie reported that a total of eight nominations for the new Council had been received from Scotland. In addition to this Association's nominations these comprised, Messrs. J. Cruickshank, W. Reid and P. Grewar, proposed by the National Farmers' Union of Scotland and Mr. J. Allingham, proposed by S.E. Growers Ltd. Mr. Stewart added that the eight nominees from Scotland were to be interviewed on the following Monday by Mr. Ian Whitelaw of The Scottish Office. It was anticipated that from the eight, two or possibly three appointments to the new Council would be made. Mr. Stewart added that names had been submitted to the Nolan Committee for the appointment of the independent Chairman of the new Development Council and that the appointment of the Chairman was expected by the end of the current month and the first meeting of the new Council was expected to be held during April 1997.
- (4) ARBITRATION RULES: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Scottish Branch, containing proposals for a Training Course to be held possible in the Green Hotel, Kinross at a cost of £475.00, including V.A.T., per delegate on the basis of there being fifteen participants. The Secretary added, however, that he had now received a letter from Mr. Kevin Burke of the NASPM stating that Council of the NASPM is strongly of the view that there should be a joint Training Course for potential Arbiters from both Scotland and England and Wales rather than two separate Training Courses being held. Mr. Burke had added that the NASPM were agreeable to any venue for the Training Course provided it is readily accessible from English areas and that Edinburgh would be a practical centre. The Secretary commented that the Institute of Arbitrators, Scottish Branch, were expressing the opinion that for the reason that the respective Arbitration Laws in Scotland and England were so different it would not be practicable to combine the lectures on law for the two countries. The Secretary also added that after consultation with Mr. Hollywood he had asked the NASPM to obtain competitive prices for a similar Training Course to be held in, say, York. Council delegated to the Office-Bearers and Mr. Hollywood to make decisions with regard to the final arrangements for the Training Course.
- (5) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Beattie confirmed that he had attended the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board held in Edinburgh on 27th January, 1997 but that there was nothing significant to report from that meeting.
- (6) S.S.P.D.C.: Mr. Robertson reported that there had been a meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council held on 10th February, 1997 but that there had not been many matters of importance dealt with at that meeting which warranted reporting. He added that it was planned that S.S.P.D.C. would be wound up in June/July 1997. Mr. Robertson confirmed that S.S.P.D.C. would not be seeking a levy in respect of the 1997

- crop.
- (7) PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS: The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food enclosing a copy of a draft Plant Varieties Bill and seeking comments by 18th April, 1997. Mr. Beattie reported that the legislation proposed in the draft Bill was designed to enable to U.K. to implement the terms of the 1978 International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants ("the 1978 UPOV Convention"). Mr. Beattie added that the new legislation provided inter alia for Plant Breeders Rights being extended to all genera and species and for Royalties to be paid on "home saved" seed. Mr. Beattie stated that the amount and the method of collection of the levy on "home saved" seed potatoes was still under negotiation with the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales. He added that it was hoped that this would be resolved in the relatively near future.
- (8) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary referred to correspondence received by him since the last meeting of Council, namely:-
From The Scottish Office under the following headings:-
Community Plant Variety Rights: Period of Protection for Potatoes;
Mycotoxins - EC Permitted Levels;
Food Labelling Regulations 1996: Revision of Guidance Notes;
Food (Lot Marking) Regulations 1996: Guidance Notes;
Quantative Declaration of Ingredients ("QUID");
Labelling of Ingredients of Alcoholic Drinks;
EC Regulation 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs.
From Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-
New Pesticides Legislation: The Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997, The Plant Protection Products (Basic Conditions) Regulations 1997 and the Plant Protection Products (Amendment) Regulations 1997;
Maximum Residue Levels for Pesticides;
Evaluation in the EU of Residue Trials Data undertaken to support Open Positions in MRLs Directives 93/57/EEC/93/58/EEC.
From The Patent Office under the heading "Trips: Scrunity of Laws and Regulations.
The Secretary confirmed that he would be happy to make available copies of any of these letters to Association Members on request.
- (9) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held in Perth Ice Rink at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 8th May, 1997.
- (10) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:
Brown Rot: Mr. Stewart reported that efforts were currently being made by certain English companies to encourage Producers to grow Dutch varieties of seed potatoes in Scotland. Council agreed that Association Members should be strongly advised to thoroughly check the source of the seed being offered to them to ensure that there was no possibility of Brown Rot being imported into Scotland and reminded that there was still a voluntary ban on the import of Dutch seed into Scotland.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

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