

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, 8th MAY,
1997.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, J.P. Deuchar, R.J.S. Doig, D. Harley, J.B. Hollywood, D.H. Lindsay, V.Lumb, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose, J.L. Milne, A.B. Pullar and D.Y. Stewart, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: The President, Mr. A.B. Pullar, occupied the chair. Before commencing the business of the meeting Mr. Pullar welcomed Mr. McKenzie to the meeting of Council following his recent surgery.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.O. Robertson, D. Scorgie and J.M. Swinton.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 13th March, 1997 was taken as read and, subject to the addition of an apology for absence from Mr. J.M. Marshall, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Subscription/Membership: The Secretary reported that to date Subscriptions had been received from 80 Members. He added that intimation of termination of membership had been received from Messrs. John McLean, Balbrogie, Coupar Angus, Perthshire and Girvan Early Growers Ltd., Girvan, Ayrshire. The Secretary added that there were four Subscriptions outstanding from the following Members:- John Bryden (Potatoes) Ltd., Messrs. John Lascelles (Seeds), James Lindsay & Son PLC and Messrs. Keith R. Stacey (Potatoes). It was agreed that delegated Council Members would speak to these Members with a view to getting their Subscriptions brought up to date.

The Secretary reported that H. & L. Aykroyd Dalcross Ltd., Dalcross, Inverness had been proposed for Membership of the Association by Kirkforthar Potato Co.Ltd. and Nickerson Seeds Ltd. Council resolved to grant Membership to H. & L. Aykroyd Dalcross Ltd. The Secretary stated that with the addition of the new Member the Association's Membership Roll stood at 85.

The Secretary issued an Interim Unaudited Income and Expenditure Account for the Association for the half-year to 30th April, 1997.

(b) Arbitration Training Seminar: The Secretary confirmed that arrangements had been made in conjunction with NASPM for an Arbitration Training Seminar to be held in York on 27th/28th June, 1997. The Secretary added that at that date bookings had been received from Association Members for four places at the Seminar. Other Council Members intimated that they would be writing to the Secretary to book spaces. The Secretary was instructed to send out a reminder regarding the Seminar to Association Members pointing out that attendance at the Seminar would be of commercial benefit to Members even if they had no aspirations with regard to becoming Arbiters.

The Secretary reported that arrangements were being made to have a meeting with representatives of the National Farmers Union of Scotland to discuss the new Arbitration Rules. The Secretary was instructed to suggest to the Union that the meeting be held in Perth at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 6th June. It

was agreed that in addition to the President and Vice-President, Messrs. Hollywood and McKenzie would attend that meeting together with the Association Secretary.

- (3) POTATO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: The Secretary referred to the fax which he had sent to all Council Members on the instructions of the President reporting that Mr. David Walker the Chairman of the Potato Industry Development Council had invited this Association to let him have before the end of April nominations for suitable appointees to sit on the Seed Sector Group of the new Organisation. The fax had suggested that the Association's nominations would be Messrs. A.M. Beattie, D. Harley, J.B. Hollywood, I. Melrose, A.B. Pullar, G. Smillie and D.Y. Stewart but subject to the comment that if any of these nominations had been appointed a Member of the Council of the new Organisation he should not be considered for appointment to the Seed Sector Group. The Secretary reported that these nominations had in fact been submitted to Mr. Walker by letter dated 15th April. Council formally ratified these nominations but Mr. Stewart suggested that in the future an effort should be made to make sure that names proposed for appointment to the new Organisation should be Members of Council in order to ensure a satisfactory feedback from the new Organisation to Council.

It was reported that it was expected that the names of the remaining Council Members of the new Organisation will be announced within the following seven days.

- (4) MEETING REGARDING LEVY COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR PIDC: Mr. Pullar reported that he had attended a meeting convened to discuss the system of collection of Levy for the new Development Council. Mr. Pullar reported that the outcome of that meeting had been to confirm that there was considerable uncertainty within the Trade regarding the new Body's ability to collect the proposed Tonnage Levy.
- (5) JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: Mr. Pullar reported on the meeting of JCC which he had attended on 2nd April, 1997. The Agenda for that meeting had comprised:-
- (a) The presentation of a Paper by Mr. Fairbairn regarding the transfer of assets to the new Body.
 - (b) A revised timetable for the introduction of the new Body.
 - (c) Discussion regarding the name to be given to the new Body.
 - (d) A European Potato Regime which appears likely to be delayed at least until the UK's Presidency of the Community in 1998.
- (6) SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Beattie reported on the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee which he and the President had attended on 10th April, 1997. The Agenda for that meeting had comprised:-
- (a) The venue for the "Spring Event". It was agreed to consider holding the event in future years further south in Scotland to ensure a full attendance of the "right" customers.
 - (b) Scheme for the Transfer of Assets to the new Body: Mr. Beattie stated that the Potato Marketing Board had been seeking an indemnity from the Government against possible claims being pursued against the Potato Marketing Board in the future but this had been refused. Mr. Beattie added that the intention was for the Transfer of Assets to take place on 1st July, 1997.
 - (c) Review of Potato Industry: Mr. Beattie stated that it had been reported that statistics disclosed that 60% of the retail

sales of potatoes were through Supermarkets.

(d) Farmers' Union of England and Wales: Mr. Beattie reported that Mr. Richard Watson-Jones from Cheshire had been appointed as Convener of the Union's Potato Committee in succession to Mr. Padfield.

(e) Seed Sector Group of New Development Council: Mr. Beattie reported that Mr. Walker the new Chairman of the new Potato Development Council had emphasised to the meeting the need to achieve a good line of communication between the Seed Sector Group and the Industry. Mr. Walker had also suggested that all of the activities of the new Organisation, including the Seed Sector Group, might be administered from south of the border. Strong opposition to this suggestion had been conveyed to Mr. Walker pointing out that there was a need for there to be an Administrative Centre based in Scotland.

(f) European Seed Sector Working Group: The formation of this Group designed to discuss, report and lobby on matters of general interest to the Seed Potato Industry throughout the Community had been reported. Mr. Richard Watson-Jones of the English Union had expressed the opinion that the Group is illegal and that such matters should be channelled through the E.U. Farmers' Union which represents the interests of the UK Seed Producers regarding Community matters.

(g) Brown Rot: It had been reported that one case had been discovered of Dutch seed potatoes being imported by an organic group into the Lothians without details being reported to The Scottish Office.

(7) WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION: The Chairman reported that there had been a meeting of the Working Group on Information held on 15th April, 1997. For the reason that the Group appeared to be struggling and not achieving much he had decided that the cost of travelling and the time involved were not justified and accordingly he had not attended the meeting.

(8) ENGLISH SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION SCHEME: The Chairman pointed out that it was possible in the future that potato crops in England may be eligible for entry for Super Elite or VT Grades. He added that, in that event, he considered that, like Scotland, there should be a requirement in England for ware crops grown on farms entering seed crops for the higher seed grades to be planted with certified seed. It was agreed to discuss this matter with the National Farmers' Union of Scotland at the next meeting with them.

(9) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Mr. Beattie reported on the meeting of the SSPDC held on 29th April, 1997. The Agenda for that meeting had comprised:-

(a) Collection of Levy: Mr. Beattie reported that 98% of Levy for the current year had been collected.

(b) Residual Funds: It was estimated that at the wind up of SSPDC there would be Residual Funds of approximately £50,000.00. Mr. Beattie added that consideration was being given to "ring fencing" these funds to ensure that they would be devoted in the future for the benefit of the Scottish Seed Potato Industry.

(c) European Seed Sector Working Group.

(d) Presentation Luncheon: Mr. Beattie reported that SSPDC were arranging a Luncheon to which present and past Council Members and representatives from The Scottish Office would be invited to attend to be held in Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh on

Friday, 20th June, at which a presentation to the retiring Chief Executive, Mr. John Bethell, would be made. The Secretary was instructed to write on behalf of Council conveying to Mr. Bethell its best wishes on his retirement.

- (10) SEED POTATO FORUM: The Secretary reported that on the instructions of the President he had accepted the proposal received from Scottish Agricultural Science Agency that a Seed Potato Forum be set up and that this Association would nominate a representative to attend an initial planning meeting to establish terms of reference, etc. The Secretary was instructed to issue to Council Members a copy of proposals for the establishment of the Seed Potato Forum which had been prepared by SASA.
- (11) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary referred to correspondence received by him since the last meeting of Council, namely:-
From The Scottish Office under the following headings:-
The Contaminants in Food Regulations 1997;
Mycotoxins - EC Permitted Levels;
The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 1996;
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:-
Control of Pesticide Regulations or Plant Protection Products Regulations;
ECCO Expert Working Group Meetings.
The Secretary confirmed that he would be happy to make available copies of any of these letters to Association Members on request.
- (12) 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, 3rd July, 1997.
- (13) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:
(a) United Kingdom Plant Varieties and Seeds Advisory Body: Mr. Beattie reported that the next meeting of this Body was scheduled to be held on 19th June, 1997 and requested to be informed of any suggested items to be put on the Agenda for that meeting.
(b) NASPM Conditions of Sale: The Secretary reported that it had been brought to his attention that the NASPM had revised their Conditions of Sale as from 2nd April, 1997. Mr. Hollywood explained that prior intimation of the revision of the NASPM Conditions of Sale had not been notified to this Association as a result of an oversight on the part of NASPM and that this Association's Secretary would be likely to receive a letter of apology from the NASPM. It was agreed that consideration of the alterations introduced by NASPM to their Conditions of Sale would be considered by the Conditions Sub-Committee of this Association for the possible alteration to our own Conditions.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

John Bethell