

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, 21st OCTOBER, 1997.

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

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 28th August, 1997 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Subscriptions/Membership: The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of Council Veitch Moir Ltd. had resigned their Membership of the Association for the reason that a change in their trading practices had rendered their Membership of the Association to be no longer appropriate. The Secretary stated that the Association Membership Roll now stood at 82.

(b) English Seed Potato Certification Scheme: The Secretary read to the meeting a reply which he had received from The Scottish Office to his letter requesting it to put pressure on the English Ministry to introduce into England and Wales similar controls with regard to seed potato production as presently applied in Scotland. The Scottish Office letter explained in detail why it considered that it would be inadvisable to pursue the Ministry in England on this matter. The Secretary added that since the last meeting of Council a further letter had been received from the Association Member who had complained that as a grower of ware potatoes in Scotland the having to buy new Certified seed each year put it at a severe disadvantage to its English counterparts who do not require to do so. The Secretary added that in the most recent letter the Member had clarified what he was seeking, namely, that the restrictions on ware growers in Scotland should be relaxed to the same standards as applied in England and Wales. Council resolved not to support the Member in his request on the grounds that such a relaxation would prejudice the Protected Region of Scotland and the Northern Counties of England which would be of a considerable disadvantage to seed potato producers in these areas.

(c) Seed Potato Forum: The Secretary again reported that no further developments had been made with regard to the formation of the proposed Seed Potato Forum.

(d) Late Payment of Commercial Debt: The Secretary reported that, as instructed, he had circulated to all Council Members a copy of the letter regarding late payment of Commercial Debt and had invited them to let him any comments that they may wish to make. The Secretary added that no such comments had been received and accordingly the matter had not been pursued further.

(e) SSPDC Residual Funds: Mr. Harley reported that it had been decided at a meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group of the British Potato Council that the SSPDC Residual Funds should be utilised in connection with the financing of Overseas Study Tours for young members of the Scottish Seed Potato Industry.

(f) Potato Industry Working Group on Information: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter which he had received from the British Potato Council requesting details of the type of Price Information and Statistics which Members of this Association would like the British Potato Council to provide. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate to Association Members pro formas received from the British Potato Council seeking information on these matters and requesting Members to complete the pro formas and send them back direct to the British Potato Council

- (2) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Secretary reported that as a result of the recent Annual Council Elections the following, listed in alphabetical order, had been elected/re-elected as Members of Council as from 1st November, 1997, namely:-
Douglas Harley, Kirkforthar Potato Co.Ltd., Milnathort;
Vincent Lumb, Agrolon Limited, Forfar;
Ron McArthur, James Haggart & Sons Ltd., Muthill;
John Macfarlane, Scott & Newman Group, Forfar;
Logan Milne, J. Logan Milne (Brechin) Ltd., Brechin; and
James Robertson, Galbraith & Roy Ltd., Dalkeith.
The Secretary added that accordingly the following candidates had not been elected to Council:-
Alexander Murray, Messrs. A.F. Murray & Co., Brechin;
Clarence Murray, Clarence Murray Ltd., Laurencekirk;
George Neilson, Stokes Bomford (Cluny) Ltd., Kirkcaldy; and
Alistair Redpath, Pseedco Ltd., Perth.
- (3) DRAFT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary tabled a copy of draft Unaudited Accounts for the Association for the year to 31st October, 1997. The Secretary confirmed that final Accounts would be submitted to the next meeting of Council for approval prior to their being certified by the Association's Accountants.
- (4) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The Secretary reported that during a telephone call from Mrs. Inga Martin, the Secretary of British Potato Council, she had stated that for the time being the Council would be unable to send direct to Council Members of this Association copies of the Minutes of Meeting of the British Potato Council but that it was hoped that they would be able to do this in the relatively near future. The Secretary added that he was not receiving from BPC copies of the Minutes of the Seed Sectoral Group. It was agreed that the Secretary would take this matter up with Mr. Hugh Edmond of BPC. Council noted the contents of the Minutes of Meetings of BPC held on 2nd September and 2nd October, 1997 which had been circulated by the Association Secretary.
- (5) ARBITRATION RULES: The Secretary reported that he had received instructions at a meeting of the Scottish Members of the Arbitration Rules Joint Working Group to revise the draft Arbitration Rules to provide for an Appeal Procedure which could be more simply accommodated within the Law of Scotland. He added that when the revisions had been completed a copy would be sent to the NASPM Members of the Working Group for their consideration.

- (6) UN/ECE STANDARDS FOR EARLY AND WARE POTATOES: Mr. Swinton referred to a letter received by the Association from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food enclosing copies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council papers giving details of two proposals for adoption as new UN/ECE Standards for early and ware potatoes at a meeting to be held in November, 1997. Mr. Swinton gave details of the proposals but recommended that there was no necessity for this Association to make any comments. Mr. Swinton's proposal was approved by Council.
- (7) POTATO FROST WARNING SERVICE: The Secretary reported that up to the date of the meeting he had received only four Applications for Membership of the Potato Frost Warning Service being coordinated by the Association. Council considered that more Applications for Membership would require to be received to enable the Service to proceed. The Secretary was instructed to contact the Chairman of the Seed Sectoral Group of the British Potato Council to seek their participation in the Service.
- (8) POTATO BROWN ROT: Concern was expressed that Potato Brown Rot had been discovered in a growing crop of tomatoes in England. It was agreed to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel scheduled to be held on Friday, 21st November, 1997.
- (9) BULK LOADS: Concern was expressed regarding the requirement of The Scottish Office that they receive a letter from the end purchaser before they would issue labels for bulk loads of potatoes. It was agreed to also discuss this matter at the forthcoming meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel.
- (10) PCN TESTING FOR EXPORTS: Mr. Pullar confirmed that The Scottish Office were adopting the position that if post harvest PCN tests disclose the presence of eelworm the whole crop from which the seed had been obtained would be rendered as unclassified and would have to be sold as ware. Mr. Pullar added that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Greenslade of The Scottish Office who had agreed, as a concession for this year only, to restrict the downgrading to the actual consignment being sampled. It was agreed to request a Special Meeting with The Scottish Office to discuss this problem. It was agreed that the representatives who would meet The Scottish Office would be Messrs. V. Lumb, G. Smillie, A. Pullar and a representative from Gordon & Innes. Mr. Pullar confirmed that he would contact Mr. Greenslade on his return from holiday with the request that such a meeting be convened.
- (11) EU AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Pullar gave a brief verbal report on the Address which Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner had given to the National Farmers' Union of Scotland in Edinburgh on 7th October. He stated that Mr. Fischler's Address had not contained any significant comments affecting potatoes.
- (12) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary referred to correspondence received by him since the last meeting of Council, namely:-
From The Scottish Office under the following headings:-
 Mycotoxins - EC Action on Pistachio Nuts;
 Proposal to amend the EC Directives on Seed and The Common Catalogue - Document COM(97)403 final;
 EC Regulation 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs;
 Mycotoxins - EC Permitted Levels.

From the Department of Trade & Industry under the heading:-
State Aid : Consultation of Business on a Draft EC Regulation.

From Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-

Pesticides Safety Directorate at the British Crop Protection Council Conference in Brighton;

Updating of UK Regulations Implementing European Legislation on Plant Protection Products;

Independent Advisory Committees Request for Nominations for Lay Membership;

Commission Proposal for MRLs to replace Open Positions in Directives 93/57/EEC and 93/58/EEC.

From The Patent Office under the following headings:-

Amended Proposal for a Directive on the Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions;

Consultation on the Commission's Amended Proposal for the Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions.

The Secretary confirmed that he would be happy to make available copies of any of these letters to Association Members on request.

- (13) 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, 20th November, 1997.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

Orlando Puller