

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, 20th NOVEMBER,
1997.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.M. Beattie, D. Harley, D.H. Lindsay, V. Lumb, J.R. McArthur, J. MacFarlane, J.L. Milne, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson, D.Y. Stewart and J.M. Swinton, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

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

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Mr. John MacFarlane back as a member of Council.

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

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

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Subscription/Membership: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Specialist Potatoes Ltd. Kilda Way, North Muirton Industrial Estate, Perth, applying to be granted membership of the Association. The letter stated that Specialist Potatoes Ltd. had been advised verbally that Robert J.S. Doig Ltd. and Strathearn Seed Growers Ltd. would be prepared to nominate them for Association membership. The Secretary was instructed to reply stating that Specialist Potatoes Ltd. should make arrangements to be nominated by two Association Members and that the matter would be considered at the next meeting of Council. Members of Council were encouraged to advise the Office-Bearers of potential new Association members.

(b) 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.

(c) Potato Information and Statistics: The Secretary confirmed that, as instructed, he had circulated the British Potato Council's pro formas regarding Potato Information and Statistics to Association members inviting them to respond direct to BPC.

(d) Arbitration Rules: The Secretary reported that he had now drafted amendments to the proposed Arbitration Rules to provide for an Appeal Procedure which could be accommodated within the Law of Scotland. He added that the amendments had been approved by Messrs. Hollywood and McKenzie and were now with the NASPM's members of the Working Group for their comments.

(e) Frost Warning Service: The Secretary reported that the Potato Frost Warning Service co-ordinated by this Association was now in operation with seven members currently participating.

(3) 1996/97 ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary took Council through the Association's unaudited Accounts for the 1996/97, copies of which he had handed to Council members. The Accounts were approved for submission to the Association's Accountants, Messrs. Craig, McIntyre & Co., Glasgow for certification in the

usual way.

- (4) BUDGET for 1997/98: Mr. Hunter reported to Council that at the morning's meeting of the President's Sub-Committee a Budget for 1997/98 totalling £15,400.00 had been accepted for approval by Council. The Secretary pointed out that the Budget included a provision for an increase in the Secretary's salary to £11,350.00 for the 1997/98 Association year. Council approved the fixing of the Secretary's salary for the current year at £11,350.00. Council also approved the Budget of £15,400.00. A copy of the Budget is annexed to this Minute. Council, on the recommendation of the President's Sub-Committee, agreed to recommend to the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting that subscriptions for the current year be fixed as follows:-

<u>Total Tonnage Handled.</u>	<u>Subscriptions (Net of VAT)</u>
0 - 6,000 tonnes	£160.00
6,001 - 10,000 tonnes	£190.00
10,001 - 14,000 tonnes	£230.00
14,001 - 18,000 tonnes	£260.00
over 18,000 tonnes	£290.00

- (5) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS: Council confirmed the re-appointment of Mr. R.D. Hunter as Association Secretary for a further year. Council also resolved to re-appoint Messrs. Craig McIntyre & Co., Chartered Accountants, Glasgow, as Association Accountants.
- (6) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, ETC.: Council re-appointed the members of the Association's Sub-Committees, other appointments and Industry Committees with the same personnel as the previous year.
- (7) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The Secretary reported that in a conversation with Mr. Cruickshanks, the Chairman of the Seed Sectoral Group, Mr. Cruickshanks had informed him that it was the policy of the British Potato Council not to circulate copies of Committee Meetings unless a need to receive them was established. It was agreed to press BPC to issue copies of the Minutes of Meetings of the Seed Sectoral Group to the Association Secretary. Mr. Beattie agreed to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 25th November.

Mr. Stewart referred to the Minute of Meeting of the British Potato Council held on 2nd October, 1997 which had been previously circulated to members of Council. Mr. Stewart stated that he was not happy with the estimate by BPC of the available tonnage of potatoes currently in the U.K. and had accordingly instigated an investigation into some of the assumptions on which the estimate had been based.

- (8) POTATO BROWN ROT: The Chairman reported that it had been suggested by the Chairman of the Seed Sectoral Group that a Press Release be issued jointly by this Association, the Seed Sectoral Group and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland re-emphasising the potential dangers which the outbreak of Potato Brown Rot in Holland posed to the Scottish Seed Potato Industry. It was agreed that this Association would participate in such a Press Release.
- (9) SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL: The Secretary confirmed that there was to be a meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel to be held in Edinburgh the following day, 21st November.

The Chairman added that, as agreed at the last meeting of Council, he had attended a meeting with The Scottish Office along with Messrs. Lumb, Smillie and a representative of Gordon & Innes Ltd. during the previous week. At that meeting the following matters had been raised with The Scottish Office:-

- (i) The apparent lack of communication between The Scottish Office and the Potato Industry.
- (ii) Exports to Israel and in particular the unacceptable arrangements for PCN Testing of seed potato exports to Israel.

With regard to the lack of communication from The Scottish Office it was agreed to remind The Scottish Office that the Potato Industry in Scotland was represented by this Association and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland and accordingly all communication with the Industry should be directed through these two Organisations.

Referring to the PCN Testing of exports to Israel the Chairman confirmed that changes had been made to the Regulation without consultation. After representation from SPTA a concession had been granted for the current season only. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to The Scottish Office demanding that the concession be allowed in future years.

It was agreed to warn The Scottish Office of the possibility of other countries seeking similar Brown Rot Testing to be carried out as currently required by Israel. Accordingly it was agreed to write to The Scottish Office requesting that they test all export consignments to the EPO standard and advise importing countries that such a test has been carried out and remind them that Potato Brown Rot is not known to have been found in Scotland.

Mr. Swinton tabled copies of a Potato Catalogue being issued by the Mail Order Company, Fothergills. He pointed out that in the catalogue Fothergills were offering for sale seed potatoes and plantlets which were not included in the UK National List of Potatoes. It was agreed to take this matter up with The Scottish Office at the meeting of the Consultative Panel. It was also agreed to write to The Scottish Office pointing out that the potato material being offered for sale in the catalogue constituted a potential plant health risk to the Scottish Seed Potato Industry.

The Chairman gave details of the items included on the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel. One item on the Agenda was "IT/Review of Classification Scheme." It was agreed to request The Scottish Office to make arrangements for the introduction of Field Generation marking on seed potato labels on a voluntary basis. Also on the Agenda was the item "Review of Aphid Monitoring." It was suggested that the issue by The Scottish Office of Aphid Warnings was resulting in unnecessary spraying for Aphid Controls. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the forthcoming meeting of the Consultative Panel.

- (10) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from The Scottish Office under the heading "Proposal to amend the Seed Potato Regulations 1991 (as amended)". The Secretary added that the letter reported a proposal that the Seed Potato Regulations be amended to allow more than one generation of seed potatoes at the certified category. This would allow the CC Class of Certified Seed Potatoes grown in

England and Wales to be entered for further multiplication at the CC Class.

The Secretary referred to a letter from an Association member seeking information regarding the introduction of Royalties on Home Saved Seed Potatoes. Mr. Beattie stated that discussions were still taking place between The British Society of Plant Breeders and the National Farmers' Unions regarding the prescribing of the level of Royalty to be applied to Home Saved Seed but no final decision had yet been made. It was agreed that Mr. Beattie would keep Council advised of progress in these discussions.

The Secretary read to the meeting a letter from an Association member suggesting that The Scottish Office be requested to discontinue the 100% inspections of seed consignments and to revert to the previous system of random checks. Council expressed some sympathy for the reasons expressed by the member for such a change but considered that to make such a request to The Scottish Office would be turning the clock back and could for that reason not be supported. The Secretary was instructed to reply to the member concerned accordingly.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. seeking the Association's support to a proposed advertisement to be placed in the January 1998 edition of Potato Review warning of the risks and dangers of buying Uncertified "Small Ware" potatoes for planting. It was agreed to give to BSPB the support which it was requesting.

The Secretary referred to further correspondence received by him since the last meeting of Council, namely:-

From The Scottish Office under the following headings:-

The Food Premises (Registration) Amendment Regulations 1997;
Mycotoxins - EC Permitted Levels;

EC Regulation 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs.

From the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food under the heading "Proposed Plant Health Code of Practice for the Management of Agricultural and Horticultural Waste".

From Pesticides Safety Directorate under the heading "Amendment to other Specified Restrictions Phrase"; and

From the Department of Trade & Industry regarding the DTI's Action Single Market unit.

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

(11) TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS in 1998: The following timetable for meetings in 1998 was approved:-

A.G.M.	Thursday, 29th January, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 29th January, 1998	at 2.30 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 12th March, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 7th May, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 2nd July, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 27th August, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 22nd October, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday, 19th November, 1998	at 2.00 p.m.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.