

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 THURSDAY, 29th JANUARY,  
1998.

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, J.L. Milne, 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 Association President, Mr. A.B. Pullar, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs, A.M. Beattie, I. Melrose and J. MacFarlane.

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman reminded Council Members that Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Association Secretary, was to receive a presentation at a luncheon to be held in Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, on 12th February, 1998 to mark his forty years in a secretarial capacity with the Association and its preceding Bodies. The Chairman informed Council that Mr. Hunter had given prior notice of his intention to retire as Association Secretary during 1999.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 20th November, 1997 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Subscription/Membership: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from West Fife Potato Co. Ltd. stating that it had ceased trading on 31st December, 1997 and wished its name to be taken off the Association Membership List. Mr. Robertson informed the meeting that Williamson (Broxburn) Ltd. had also ceased trading and that its name should also be removed from the Membership List.

The Secretary reported that Specialist Potatoes Ltd., Kilda Way, North Muirton Industrial Estate, Perth, had been proposed for Membership of the Association by David Lindsay (Potato Merchants) Ltd. and Robert J.S. Doig Ltd. The Secretary also reported that Messrs. W.W. Martin & Son, (Garguston), Ardnagrask Mains, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire had been proposed for Membership of the Association by William O. Gordon (Potatoes) and Croy Potatoes Ltd. Council resolved to grant Membership of the Association to Specialist Potatoes Ltd. and W.W. Martin & Son, (Garguston).

(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) Arbitration Rules: The Secretary reported that as a result of legal advice obtained by the NASPM, the NASPM Members of the Working Group had made suggestions for further fairly minor amendments to the draft Arbitration Rules. He added that these suggestions had been accepted by the Scottish Members of the Working Group and that he had incorporated them into the draft Arbitration Rules which were presently with Messrs. McKenzie and Hollywood for their approval.

(d) Frost Warning Service: The Secretary reported that no further companies had applied to participate in the Frost

Warning Service and that accordingly there were still only seven participants. Those participating companies represented at the Council meeting expressed their satisfaction at the way in which the Service was operating.

(e) Exports to Israel: The Secretary reported that a response from The Scottish Office was awaited to his letter of 11th December, 1997 on this subject.

(f) Fothergills Mail Order Catalogue: The Secretary reported that this matter had been raised at the meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel held on 21st November, 1997 and that details of any action taken by The Scottish Office were awaited.

(g) Royalties on Home Saved Seed Potatoes: As far as the meeting was aware no further progress had been made with regard to the prescribing of the level of Royalty to be applied in respect of Home Saved Seed Potatoes.

(h) Annual Dinner and Dance: The Secretary reported that a provisional booking for the 1998 Association Dinner and Dance to be held on Friday, 11th December had been made with Huntingtower Hotel, Perth. There was discussion regarding various problems with Huntingtower Hotel which had occurred during the 1997 Dance. It was left to the Entertainments Committee to try and ensure that similar problems did not arise during the 1998 Dance. The Secretary reported that there was a surplus of £43.44 in connection with the 1997 Dance.

(i) Small Ware: The Secretary tabled a copy of a leaflet prepared by the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. following the advertisement placed by it in the January/February issue of "Potato Review".

- (3) ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary confirmed that the Association Accounts for the year to 31st October, 1997 had been approved earlier in the day at the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association. The Secretary reported that as a result of an error on the part of the Royal Bank of Scotland the dividend due on 27th May, 1997 on the Association's holding of £3,060.00 6 3/4% Treasury Stock 2004 had not been credited to the Association's Account until 20th November, 1997. The Secretary added that the Bank had made an *ex gratia* payment of £10.00 to the Association in respect of its error. The Secretary pointed out that the small Savings Account with the Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd. existed purely to receive the dividends on the Association's investments. He suggested that matters would be simplified if these investments were transferred to the Clydesdale Bank Nominees which would enable the Royal Bank of Scotland Savings Account to be closed. The Secretary was instructed to proceed accordingly.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from Greig Middleton & Co. Ltd., the Association's Stockbrokers, stating that they had reviewed the Association's investments and did not see any reason to suggest any changes.

- (5) 1997/98 ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS: Council noted that its recommendation with regard to the level of subscriptions for the year to 31st October, 1998 had been approved at said Annual General Meeting of Members. The Secretary was instructed to make arrangements to ingather the subscriptions from Members for the current year.
- (5) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The Secretary reminded Council Members

that he had circulated to them a copy of the Minute of the seventh meeting of the British Potato Council held on 2nd December, 1997. Mr. Stewart reported that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on 10th February, 1998. He stated that the Council was currently actively involved in the promotion of seed potatoes for export and also in taking steps to overcome problems which were arising in connection with the collection of the Tonnage Levy.

Mr. Harley reported that the Seed Sectoral Group of BPC had met on 27th January. He commented that the Seed Sectoral Group was undertaking a lot of useful work and in his opinion was proving to be a "Positive Organisation". He added that it had been agreed that this Association would be issued with a copy of the Minutes of Meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group provided that the Association Secretary wrote requesting that copies be issued to this Association. The Secretary was instructed to make such a request.

- (6) POTATO BROWN ROT: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter, dated 23rd January, 1998, received from The Scottish Office rejecting the Association's proposal that all crops of potatoes intended for export be tested for Brown Rot immediately after harvest. The Scottish Office was suggesting that it intensifies its contacts with Plant Health Authorities in importing countries to re-enforce the message that Scotland is free from Brown Rot and that testing is unnecessary. The letter also stated that it was The Scottish Office's intention to call a meeting of exporters towards the end of the season so that "we can reflect on our recent experience and review prospects for the next season". After discussion Council agreed that The Scottish Office's response was not satisfactory and that this Association should continue to press for all export consignments to be tested for Brown Rot immediately after harvest. In this connection it was agreed to request that the meeting of exporters to which representatives of this Association would be invited be held as quickly as possible when this matter could be debated further. It was agreed that this Association would be represented at The Scottish Office meeting by Messrs. A.B. Pullar, V. Lumb, G. Smillie and D. Scott (Gordon & Innes Ltd.).
- (7) EXPORT OF SEED POTATOES TO THE CANARY ISLANDS: The Secretary read to the meeting a letter received from The Scottish Office, dated 21st January, 1998, enclosing a copy of a letter which The Scottish Office had issued to the main Scottish exporters regarding the export of seed potatoes to the Canary Islands. The Scottish Office letter stated that the Canary Islands Phytosanitary Regulations now require a nil tolerance for the symptoms of Potato Mop Top Virus and Tobacco Rattle Virus. Council agreed that this matter should also be taken up with The Scottish Office at the proposed meeting of exporters.
- (8) SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL: The Secretary reported that he was awaiting from The Scottish Office a copy of its Minute of the meeting of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel held on 21st November, 1997. It was agreed that as soon as that Minute was received it would be circulated to Council Members.
- (9) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from The Scottish Office under the heading "Import of Egyptian Potatoes : 1997/98 Season". The letter gave details of the new provisions being introduced governing the import of

ware potatoes from Egypt commencing on 1st February, 1998. Council did not consider that there was a need for a copy of that letter to be circulated to Association Members but the Secretary should draw attention to the letter in order that any Member wishing a copy could receive it on request.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from The Scottish Office under the heading "Plant Varieties Act 1997 : Draft Secondary Legislation". The Secondary Legislation included a proposed Order and proposed Regulation regarding Farm Saved Seed. The Secretary was instructed to liaise with Mr. Beattie regarding the Draft Secondary Legislation.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from The Scottish Office seeking the Association's views on the White Paper "The Food Standards Agency - A Force for Change", a copy of which had been supplied to the Association. The Secretary was instructed to liaise with Messrs. J.O. Robertson and K.A. McKenzie regarding any comments to be made on behalf of this Association.

The Secretary reported that further correspondence had been received from The Scottish Office under the following headings:-

Mycotoxins - EC Permitted Levels;  
Specified Risk Material (SRM) Unilateral Controls on Imports of Animal Products.

The Secretary reported that letters had been received from Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-  
Consultation Paper on Future Funding Arrangements for Pesticides Regulated under Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 and Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986;  
Guidance on the Estimation of Supervised Trials Median Residue Levels and Maximum Residue Levels for Products of Animal Origin;

New Pesticide Legislation : The Plant Protection Products (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1997; and  
Commission Proposal for MRL's to Replace Open Positions in Directive 93/57/EEC.

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 on Thursday, 12th March, 1998 at Perth Ice Rink.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*Archie Spiller*