

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the
COUNCIL of THE SCOTTISH POTATO
TRADE ASSOCIATION held in the ICE
RINK, GLOVER STREET, PERTH, at
2.00 p.m. on THURSDAY, 2nd APRIL,
1998.

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

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. J.B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, K.A. McKenzie and D. Scorgie.

ARBITRATION RULES: The Chairman confirmed that the Special Meeting of Council had been convened for the sole purpose of considering the Consultation Document received from The Scottish Office on Proposals for the Revision of the U.K. Seed Potato Classification Schemes. He added, however, that he proposed to take the opportunity of inviting Council to give its formal acceptance of the joint Arbitration Rules drawn up between this Association and the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants. The Secretary referred to a letter from the Secretary of the NASPM in which it was stated that the NASPM were now satisfied with the final draft of the joint Arbitration Rules and were now seeking to have the new Rules brought into operation. The Secretary added that in the NASPM letter they had stated that they considered that it would be desirable for the new joint Rules to become operative for both Associations on the same date and had proposed that the new Rules be brought into operation as of 1st June, 1998. The Secretary added that at a meeting of the Chairman's Sub-Committee held earlier in the day it had been agreed that it would be desirable for both Associations to introduce the new joint Rules on the same date. The Secretary pointed out, however, that this Association had more work to do to introduce the new Rules than did the NASPM. He reminded Council that the introduction of the new Arbitration Rules would involve an alteration to this Association's recommended Conditions of Sale and Conditions of Purchase. The Secretary also reported that approval of the new Arbitration Rules and certain alterations to the Conditions of Purchase has still to be obtained from the National Farmers' Union of Scotland. He added that a meeting with representatives of the Union to discuss these matters was arranged to take place on Wednesday, 15th April.

The Secretary also reminded Council that although the NASPM had had the new Rules vetted by an English Solicitor they had not yet been vetted by a Scottish Solicitor. The Secretary confirmed that Council had already, at an earlier meeting, given its approval to the Arbitration Rules being sent for scrutiny so far as the Law of Scotland was concerned to Mr. Donald Rennie, Solicitor, Edinburgh. The Secretary confirmed that he was now proceeding to make arrangements for Mr. Rennie to receive a copy of the new Rules for comment.

Council formally approved the final draft of the Arbitration Rules. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the final Rules to each Member of Council for his information.

Reverting to the date on which the new Arbitration Rules are to

become operative it was agreed that the 1st of June was too early and that the date should be postponed until 1st July, 1998.

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF U.K. SEED POTATO CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES: After a detailed discussion on the Consultation Document received from The Scottish Office it was agreed that the Secretary was to draft a letter for approval by the Chairman and Mr. Douglas Harley to be sent to The Scottish Office in response to the consultation exercise. There is attached to this Minute a copy of the letter which was sent to The Scottish Office.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

Archie Spiller