

MINUTE of MEETING COUNCIL of THE  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE  
ASSOCIATION held in the ICE RINK,  
GLOVER STREET, PERTH, at 2.00  
p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 6th MAY,  
1998.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.M. Beattie, J.B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, J.R. McArthur, A.B. Pullar and J.O. Robertson, 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. R.J.S. Doig, D.H. Lindsay, J. MacFarlane, K.A. McKenzie, J.M. Marshall and J.M. Swinton,

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 12th March, 1998 and the Minute of Special Meeting of Council on 2nd April were taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Subscriptions/Membership: The Secretary reported that at the date of the meeting there were 18 subscriptions outstanding. The Secretary was instructed to issue an individual Reminder to each Member whose subscription was outstanding. The Secretary reported interim Accounts prepared for the first six months of the current year disclosed that expenditure was very much in line with Budget. He added that the level of income for the current year as compared with Budget depended upon payment of the outstanding subscriptions.

(b) Seed Potato Forum: The Secretary reported that an initiative was still awaited from SASA regarding the formation of the Seed Potato Forum.

(c) Fothergills Mail Order Catalogue: The Secretary reported that no further information had been received from The Scottish Office.

(d) Royalties on Home Saved Seed: Mr. Beattie reported that there had been no further developments that he was aware of with regard to the prescribing of the level of Royalty to be applied in respect of Home Saved Seed Potatoes.

(e) Royal Bank Savings Account: The Secretary reported that the Clydesdale Bank PLC had informed him that there would be an annual charge of £34.00 per annum to retain the Association's investments in name of the Clydesdale Bank Nominees Company which was considerably more than the Royal Bank of Scotland were currently charging for the same service. It was agreed not to proceed to transfer the investments to the Clydesdale Bank Nominees but to alter the Constitution of the Association to allow the investments to be registered in name of "The President and Vice-President for the time being of the Association". The Secretary pointed out that such an alteration to the Constitution would require to be submitted to a meeting of Members of the Association and suggested that this should be dealt with at the 1999 A.G.M.

(f) Exports to PCN Sensitive Countries: The Secretary reported that an acceptable response had been received from The Scottish Office regarding PCN Consignment Testing and that the contents of the letter had been intimated to those Members of the

Association involved in the export of seed potatoes to PCN Sensitive Countries.

(g) Export of Seed Potatoes to Canary Islands: The Chairman reported that no further word had been received on this matter from The Scottish Office.

(h) Wart Disease: The President reported that no further word had been received from The Scottish Office regarding the designation of "Restricted Areas" in Scotland following previous outbreaks of Wart Disease.

(i) Revision of Seed Certification Schemes: The Secretary confirmed that the letter previously circulated to Council Members had been sent to The Scottish Office. The Secretary added that a copy of the letter had also been issued to individual Members of the Association. Council hoped that any Members of the Association who had views other than the proposals contained in said letter should inform Council Members accordingly. This would ensure that Council is fully aware of the opinions of Members regarding the revision of the Seed Potato Certification Scheme in order that it is fully briefed for future meetings on this subject which are to be convened by The Scottish Office.

(j) Ware Production: The Secretary confirmed that, as instructed, he had written to the Association Member reporting Council's decision at it's previous meeting regarding the Member's request for a relaxation in the Regulations which would permit Scottish Ware Growers to keep twice grown seed for their own use. The Chairman informed the meeting that he understood that The Scottish Office would be convening an End of Season Meeting with the Potato Industry in the relatively near future. It was agreed to raise at that meeting the possibility of persuading the English Ministry to introduce similar Regulations governing the growing of ware potatoes in England and Wales to those which presently apply in Scotland.

(k) Draft Proposal on Marketing of Seed and the Common Catalogue: The Secretary read to the meeting the response which had been sent to The Scottish Office with regard to the revision of draft proposals on the Marketing of Seed and on the Common Catalogue.

- (3) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: Council noted the contents of the Minutes of Meetings of the British Potato Council held on 18th March and 6th April, 1998 which had been previously circulated to Council Members.
- (4) ARBITRATION RULES: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Donald Rennie, Solicitor, making eight comments regarding the draft Arbitration Rules. The Secretary stated that he considered that Mr. Rennie's comments did not require any material change to the Arbitration Rules as presently drafted and were mostly of a "cosmetic" nature. Mr. Hunter added, however, that following a meeting with Mr. Rennie, he was proposing to amend the draft Rules in two areas for the consideration of the Arbitration Rules Joint Working Party. The Secretary reported that the draft Arbitration Rules and proposed amendments to the Association's Conditions of Purchase had been discussed with the National Farmers' Union of Scotland and their final reponse was now awaited. The Secretary stated that he was still hopeful that it would be possible to introduce the new Arbitration Rules on 1st July, 1998. He added that it was the intention of the NASPM to introduce the new

Arbitration Rules on 1st July, 1998 even if this Association was not ready for that date.

- (5) FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION: The Secretary reported that the Office-Bearers had met and carried out a SWOT analysis regarding the possible amalgamation of this Association with another Body. The Secretary added that following the results of the analysis it was the unanimous opinion of the Office-Bearers that it was not an appropriate time to pursue any such amalgamation. In view of the small attendance of Council at the meeting the Chairman proposed that this subject should be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of Council when it could be fully debated. The Secretary was instructed to issue to Members of Council a copy of the Minute of said meeting of the Office-Bearers.
- (6) ASSOCIATION TROPHY INSURANCE COVER: The Secretary reported that the William Weir Paul Curling Trophy was currently insured for the sum of £1,633.00 with the General Accident, Fire & Life Assurance Corporation at an annual premium of £52.00. Mr. Hunter added that the General Accident had now indicated that they were not now able to renew the insurance cover when it falls due on 11th June, 1998. The Secretary was instructed to obtain quotations for the insurance of the Trophy from other Insurance Companies.
- (7) CORREPENDENCE: The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of Council correspondence had been received from The Scottish Office under the following headings:-  
Export of Seed Potatoes from Scotland to Poland;  
Agricultural Reconstructing;  
Proposed Amendment to the 1985 Product Liability Directive to Remove Exemption of Primary Agricultural Products and Game;  
Quantitative Ingredient Declarations ("QUID"):Guidance Notes;  
Labelling of Allergens and Removal of the "25% Rule";  
Industry Guides to Good Hygiene Practice : Retail Guide and Baking Guide;  
Your Views on how The Scottish Parliament should work;  
Reporting the Results of Chemical Surveillance;  
Agenda 2000 : CAP and Rural Policy Reform;  
Mycotoxins EC Permitted Levels.

The Secretary reported that letters had been received from the Ministry of Agriculture under the following headings:-  
Agricultural Mission to South Russia :Krasnodar and Stavropol : June 1998;

Havana International Fair : 1 - 8 November 1998;  
Kiev Agrihort '98, Ukraine : 7 - 10 April.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from The Patent Office under the heading "Plant Varieties Act 1997 : Draft Secondary Legislation".

The Secretary reported that correspondence had been received from the Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-

Report of Adverse Effects - New Condition of Approval for all Holders of MAFF Full, Provisional or Experimental Approvals under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 as Amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997 (COPR) and the Plant Protection Products Regulations 1995;  
Adjuvant List and Controls;

Procedures for Checking Dossiers Submitted in support of Applications for Approval of Pesticide Products Containing

Active Ingredients new to the UK;  
Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Ethoxylates.

The Secretary reported that he had received a fax from the produce buyer of a vegetable supply company based in Middlesex seeking to buy quantities of ware potatoes. The Secretary was instructed to make reference to this enquiry in the next Members Letter making it clear that the Association had no knowledge of the Company concerned and, therefore, could not vouch for the financial status or integrity of the Company concerned.

- (8) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council is to be held in Perth Ice Rink at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd July, 1998.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

*Archie Bell*