

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, 2nd JULY, 1998.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.M. Beattie, D. Harley, D.H. Lindsay, J. MacFarlane, J.R. McArthur, I. Melrose, J.L. Milne, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson and D.Y. Stewart, 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, J.B. Hollywood, J.M. Marshall, K.A. McKenzie and J.M. Swinton.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 6th May, 1998 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Subscriptions/Membership: The Secretary reported that Association Subscriptions for the current year were outstanding in respect of Messrs. M. & J. Murphy and Messrs. Vinny Farms. The Secretary was instructed to cancel the Membership of Messrs. M. & J. Murphy and it was arranged that the Association President would approach Messrs. Vinny Farms to make arrangements for settlement of their Subscription.

(b) Seed Potato Forum: The Secretary reported that no word had yet been received from S.A.S.A. regarding the formation of the Seed Potato Forum. It was arranged that the Secretary would approach S.A.S.A. in order to endeavour to expedite matters.

(c) Fothergills Mail Order Catalogue: The Secretary reported that there was still no further information regarding steps which The Scottish Office were proposing to take.

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

(e) Trophy Insurance Cover: The Secretary reported that he had received a quotation through Messrs. Pearson Insurance for the Commercial Union to issue All Risk cover in respect of the William Weir Paul Curling Trophy at an annual premium of £52.00. The Secretary was instructed to arrange insurance cover with the Commercial Union.

(3) FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION: After a detailed discussion it was agreed to initiate exploratory discussions regarding the possible formation of an umbrella organisation to represent the interests of all Bodies in the Potato Industry from throughout the U.K. As a first step it was agreed to discuss the matter further with NASPM and that this Association would be represented at such a discussion by Messrs. A.B. Pullar, A.M. Beattie, D. Harley and J.R. McArthur. The Secretary was instructed to suggest to the Secretary of the NASPM that the discussion meeting be convened in Scotland.

It was proposed by Mr. David Stewart and duly seconded that Mr. Hugh Edmond who had recently retired from the British Potato Council be approached to enquire if he was interested in making

application to be considered for appointment as Association Secretary to succeed Mr. Hunter on his retirement. After a vote it was the majority decision of Council that such an approach be made to Mr. Edmond. During subsequent debate with regard to the appointment of a new Association Secretary, Council appointed a Sub-Committee comprising the three Office-Bearers to place a Press advertisement inviting applications for the post of Association Secretary and to present to Council their recommendation with regard to the appointment of a replacement Secretary.

- (4) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: Mr. Stewart took Council through the Report on the meeting of the British Potato Council held on 2nd June, 1998 which had been previously circulated to Council Members. During discussion regarding the British Potato Council, Council of this Association expressed the opinion that BPC should in future years have its own Stand at the Royal Highland Show at Inghliston.

Mr. Stewart took Council through the proposals received from BPC for amendments to its Levy Arrangements collected under the Potato Industry Development Council Order 1997 ("PIDC Order"). After discussion Council resolved to support the amendments proposed by BPC.

The Secretary reported that a letter had recently been received from The Scottish Office inviting the Association's comments regarding BPC's recommendation that the Area Levy on Growers and the Tonnage Levy on Purchasers for the period from 1st July, 1998 to 30th June, 1999 remain unchanged at £35.00 per hectare and 20p per tonne, respectively. It was noted that the latter figure may be subject to review if the proposed changes to the PIDC Order receive the agreement of the Potato Industry.

- (5) END OF SEASON EXPORTERS' MEETING: Mr. Pullar reported on an End of Season Exporters' Meeting convened by The Scottish Office and held on 3rd June, 1998. Mr. Pullar reported that the following matters had been discussed at the meeting:-

(a) Brown Rot Testing: The Scottish Office had reported that the State of Israel Plant Protection Authority had advised them that there would be a nil tolerance for Brown Rot (Based on official laboratory tests) and in addition Lot Samples will be tested in Israel for Brown Rot prior to permission to import. The Scottish Office stated that it was seeking clarification from Israel regarding these requirements.

(b) PCN Testing: The Scottish Office stated that they were unable to give information on this as they were still awaiting responses from importing countries however, they did agree to issue a note when this was received. A letter issued on 15th June stated that where soil was found in a consignment then a PCN test would be required. If the sample was found to be completely soil free then an additional declaration would be added to the Phytosanitary Certificate. The declaration would be as follows:- "In addition the lots to be loaded were inspected and found to be free from soil. As no soil was present a further test for Potato Cyst Nematode was not undertaken".

(c) Dockside Inspections/Foreign Delegations: The Scottish Office were not agreeable at the meeting to dispensing with on farm inspections when there was also a dockside inspection. They did state that they would give it further consideration and

may allow one boat to be loaded on a trial basis.

(d) Phytosanitary Inspections: The Scottish Office did agree to allowing Phytosanitary Certificates to be issued at the point of loading where small lots were involved. This would only apply where all the correct documentation had been received prior to the Inspector leaving the Area Office.

(e) Exports to Canary Islands (Spraing): The Scottish Office were considering convening a "Work Shop Discussion" on Spraing:

(f) Exports to Poland (Ring Rot Testing and Chemical Treatment): Difficulties had been encountered with exports to Poland. The Scottish Office agreed to help wherever possible but this was difficult as the Polish Authorities appeared to keep changing their regulations.

(g) Inward Missions: Inward Missions had been arranged through the BPC. A visit to SASA was being made by the missions on Tuesday, 7th July.

(h) Dutch Seed Entering Scotland: Mr. Pullar reported that it had not yet been possible to identify the Grower who had imported Dutch Seed into Scotland for the current growing season.

(i) Update on Review of the Seed Potato Classification Scheme: Mr. Pullar reported that a wide divergence of opinion had been received by The Scottish Office in response to their Consultation Document.

(j) U.K. Ware Growing: Mr. Pullar reported that there was little likelihood of persuading the Ministry to introduce similar requirements in England as presently apply in Scotland for the growing of Ware Potatoes.

Mr. Pullar reported that it was considered that the meeting with The Scottish Office had proved to be most useful and a similar meeting is to take place on 2nd June, 1999.

The Secretary referred to a letter, dated 23rd June, 1998 received from The Scottish Office under the heading "EU Directive: 83/189/EEC: Technical Standards and Regulations" and enclosing a copy of Danish proposed new Technical Regulations for seed and ware potatoes. The Scottish Office were requesting comments on the Danish proposals. It was agreed that a sub-committee comprising Messrs A.B. Pullar, D.Y. Stewart and D. Harley would prepare comments for submission to The Scottish Office.

(6) JOINT ARBITRATION RULES: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter that day from the National Farmers' Union of Scotland giving its approval of the proposed new joint Arbitration Rules and of the proposed amendments to the Association's recommended Conditions of Purchase. Council formally approved the joint Arbitration Rules and the Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for the introduction of the new Rules with effect from 1st September, 1998.

(7) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of Council correspondence had been received from The Scottish Office under the following heading:- "European Commission Proposal for a Regulation to set limits for Lead and Cadmium in Foodstuffs".

The Secretary reported that letters had been received from the Ministry of Agriculture under the following headings:-
25th Agrokomplex 98' Exhibition Nitra, The Slovak Republic -

13th to 20th August, 1998;
Expointer '98, International Trade Fair, Porto Alegre, Brazil -
29th August - 6th September, 1998.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the National Farmers' Union of Scotland under the heading "Trading Conditions and their Effect on Output and Jobs".

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

Guidance and Criteria for the Preparation and Presentation of Dossiers for the Inclusion of Active Substances in Annex I of Directive 91/414/EEC;

Aspiration Hazard;

Guidelines on the Advertising of Pesticides;

Officially Recognised Efficacy Testing Facilities or Organisations in the UK.

The Secretary confirmed that he would be happy, on application from Members, to send on to them copies of any of these items of correspondence.

(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, 27th August, 1998.

(9) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

(a) Dance Prize Draw: The Secretary reported that on the instructions of the President the proceeds of the 1997 Dance Prize Draw had been donated as follows:-

(1) Multiple Sclerosis Society in Scotland £472.66

(2) Tenovus Scotland (To be used
in connection with a Cancer
Project) 475.00

£947.66

(b) The Secretary reported that he had recently circulated to Association Members, Statistics regarding the Inspection of Growing Crops of Potatoes by Variety, Area (in hectares) Entered for Inspection. It was noted that Potato Call is issued with these Statistics simultaneously with this Association and BPC. It was agreed to approach The Scottish Office to suggest that Potato Call should not be given the same priority with regard to these figures as is this Association and BPC, particularly bearing in mind that Potato Call had mis-reported these figures in both this and the previous year.

(c) The Secretary reported that Greig Middleton & Co.Ltd., the Association's Stockbrokers, had recently carried out a review of the Association's investments and were recommending that no change be carried out at this time.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

One the Spiller.