

# REPORT OF COUNCIL

of

THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
for the year to 31st October, 1998

TO

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION  
held in the Ice Rink, Perth  
on Thursday, 28th January, 1999

During the year under review eight meetings of Council of the Association were held and a Report on each of these meetings was issued to the Members of the Association.

The Membership of the Association as at 31st October, 1998 was eightyone which represents a net loss of one Member during the year under review. Five new Memberships were granted but this was offset by four Memberships being terminated as a result of ceased trading and two resignations. One of the resignations was a Company dealing predominately in Ware which considered that the Association offered Ware Merchants very little as compared with those involved in the Seed Potato business. Council is considering ways in which the fairly considerable amount of work which is in fact undertaken on behalf of Ware Growers and Merchants can be made more apparent and better appreciated by the Potato Trade in Scotland. As in previous years Council again invites Members to suggest to the Association Secretary or to a Member of Council the names of Companies or people involved in the Scottish Potato Trade who they consider might be interested in taking out Association Membership.

During the year under review representatives of your Association attended meetings

with The Scottish Office with particular regard to Potato Brown Rot, Small Ware and the Classification Scheme for Seed Potatoes.

Association representatives also attended meetings with the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants and other Trade Bodies. It was also represented at meetings of the British Potato Council and also the Seed Sectoral Group of the British Potato Council. Council records its appreciation of the work undertaken by the Association's representatives on the British Potato Council.

David Hunter who has been in a secretarial capacity with the Association and it's predecessors for the last forty odd years is now taking retirement. Mr. Hunter is to be succeeded as Association Secretary and Treasurer by Mr. Hugh B. Edmond, formerly employed by the Potato Marketing Board and, until recently, by the British Potato Council. Hugh Edmond was awarded a MBE in the Queen's recent New Year Honours List. Council congratulates Hugh Edmond on this well deserved honour.

After detailed discussion and a lot of hard work, the new Arbitration Rules agreed jointly by this Association and the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants have now come

into operation. It is hoped that these new Rules will result in improved Arbitration Procedures. It is intended that during the current year an Arbitration Training Seminar will be arranged in Scotland to which Members will be invited to send representatives. Council believes that the Training Seminar will be of value to existing Arbiters, prospective Arbiters and even more importantly to Trade Members who find themselves involved in Arbitrations as one of the disputing parties.

In last year's Council Report it was stated that Council supported a proposal to set up a Seed Potato Forum. That Forum has now come into being as a UK Seed Potato Forum under the auspices

of the British Potato Council. Your Association is seeking to be included in the activities of the Forum.

Also as reported in last year's Report new Plant Variety Legislation provides for Royalties to be charged on Home Saved Seed. Discussions are still continuing between the Farmers' Unions and the British Society of Plant Breeders regarding the level of Royalty to be applied in respect of Home Saved Seed Potatoes.

As in previous years, the Association organised a Dinner and Dance, Golf Outing and Curling Matches. These social occasions continued to be well supported and enjoyed by all participants.