

REPORT on MEETING Between
Representatives of S.P.T.A. and N.A.S.P.M.
held in the HUNTINGTOWER HOTEL,
PERTH at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 11
February 1999.

PRESENT: S.P.T.A.:- Messrs. A.M. Beattie, D. Harley, V. Lumb, J.R. McArthur
and H. B. Edmond, the Secretary
N.A.S.P.M.:- Messrs. R. Reiss, I. Stirling and R. Baker

It was agreed that the meeting would be chaired by NASPM as the previous one was chaired by SPTA. R. Reiss welcomed all present with a special mention of the new SPTA Secretary and congratulated him on the award of an MBE in the New Year's honours list.

M. Beattie proposed that the Agenda be taken in the order: (2), (3), (1) & (4)

Namely:- Arbitration Rules.
NASPM Conditions of Purchase.
A UK Potato Organisation.
Any Other Business.

- (1) ARBITRATION RULES: NASPM reported that the new rules had not been widely tested and therefore they had little experience to base a report on as yet. SPTA had one case currently which was complicated but it was too early to comment on the new rules.
R. Reiss informed the meeting of an Arbitration Seminar being arranged for this year and invited SPTA participation. The Secretaries of both organisations were instructed to go ahead and finalise the arrangements. David Fradd had already organised contributors and possible dates. H Edmond along with David Fradd were requested to proceed with the contacting of Donald Rennie in preference to one of the other presenters. The date was agreed as 17 and 18 June in York as at the previous Seminar.
- (2) NASPM CONDITIONS OF PURCHASE: R. Reiss confirmed that their Association was working on producing 'Conditions of Purchase'. SPTA were concerned that there may be a conflict with their 'Conditions of Sale'. R. Reiss indicated that he would keep this in mind in the discussions and if there was a Joint Body formed the need for separate Purchase Conditions would be eliminated.
- (3) A UK POTATO ORGANISATION: R. Reiss felt that NASPM membership would strongly approve of a joint body giving:-
 - (a) A strong lobby.
 - (b) Strength in representation
 - (c) Strength in dealing with Weights & Measures, Arbitration matters, Seed Legislation, SSG, Trading Standards and in Europe.

Douglas Harley stated that there were three options available:-

- (1) Retain own Individual Organisations as at present.
- (2) One National UK Organisation.
- (3) A Joint Organisation with representation from both Associations.

After a lengthy discussion a proposal from D. Harley for Option (3) met with general agreement. Both organisations would put the suggestion to their respective Councils for comment. The proposed Joint National Council would deal with national matters passed to them by the two Association Councils whilst English or Scottish matters would continue to be dealt with by the individual Councils. It was felt there would be strength in this joint body, satisfying all NASPM and SPTA needs.

It was suggested this Joint Body should meet twice per year.(one in Scotland and one in England or when there was sufficient on the agenda to justify a meeting). It was agreed that good progress had been made and the next steps to be made were resolved:-

- (a) Report on this meeting to both Councils.
 - (i) NASPM the following week.
 - (ii) SPTA on 11 March
- (b) Formalise the Joint Council
It was suggested it should be made up of three Office-Bearers plus one other(variable, depending on the subject on the Agenda).
- (c) The Chairman and Secretary would alternate depending on whither the meeting was in England or Scotland.
- (d) If approved, joint statement to be issued(probably after NASPM AGM).
- (e) Decide on area for Joint Council to cover.(What individual Councils should devolve to the Joint Council).

There was a feeling of more positive progress and there was an air of optimism for the success for this suggestion.

- (4) ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There was no further business and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.