General Meeting January 1968

The General meeting was held in the British Legion club and members present were as follows.
Mr Hunter Mr Horrod Mr Bowen Mr Timms Mr Jones.
Mr Hunter took the chair.

Observations were made by the chairman at the poor attendance once again and felt that members were not interested in the running of the Association, and stated that if members did not rally round there was a possibility the Association would be in jeopardy of closing down.

Sec report. Sec reported by loss in Mauls Croft potatoes to the extent of £48 and this had put us in serious position with working funds the balance standing of £7.5.1.
On the allotments side the position was about the same as the year before still plenty of plots to let. Both A/C had been checked by Mr H Jones and audited by Mr Hember and signed as correct.
Both reports adopted and duly signed by Mr Hember.

Gen Discussion. It was agreed to try and keep the Assn alive those present would act as committee for 1968-9.
It was agreed to look into the position of Seed Potatoes and it was felt that the members did not require this service. Sec reported he had been in touch with Rudgeons of Cambridge re seeds and tools etc. No other business was forthcoming the meeting closed 9.30.

During 1969 I started dealing with Hodgsons of Cambridge and found that their terms were most satisfactory to the extent that by year ending December 1969 our fortunes had made a good recovery and the balance standing to the Ass^n was as follows. cash at bank was £9. 8. 1 and stock in hand amounted to 79. 11. 3 making a total of 88. 19. 4 this was a marked improvement over the balance of 1968 £7. 5. 1 most of the stock in hand was non perishable. On the advice of the President Mr Machen no main crop seed potatoes were on sale this year and this had proved to be good advise. It was either late in 1969 or early in 1970 that we were advised by the Federation that a complaint had been lodge about the way in which our Ass^n was being run and would we agree to meet members of the federation and City Council to discuss matters and see if there was any foundation for the complaint. I contacted Mr Hawtin Chairman and Mr Hawtin President and informed them of the position and it was agreed we would meet the delegates. The confrontation took place at my home and all books balance sheets were presented for inspection to Mr Brewster Fed delegate and Mr Powell from the City Council. After discussion with Mr Hawtin Mr Machen & myself they agreed that they could find no reason for complaint and complimented us on the way the Ass^n was being run. They raised the question of meetings and we explained that we had found over the past two years members did not seem to want to come but if we found the feeling changing we would call a meeting at once. During 1970 progress was still being made and sales were quite good although members still seemed to be only interested when they came on Sunday mornings and I myself was beginning to feel dispondent at the apathy and unfortunately became ill and for a few months was myself very uninterested with all matters of the Assn but it was during this period that matters took a turn for the better Mr R Spicer offered his help and this I gratefully accepted and I must report that from the day he started things got better and better and by the end of 1970 the Assn was in the strongest position it had been for some time, the cash balance in the bank stood at 31.9.4 and stock in hand amounted to 86.19.3 making a total of 119.8.7 and the rents A/C had increased to 7.7.10 plus 3.14.0 outstanding. This A/C would have been greater but we had to pay £12.1.3 water rent outstanding from 1969.

Coming to 1971 we are still improving on both sides Sales have been fairly good but there still seems to be some hesitation by members to purchase their requirements through us but we are at the moment owing only one A/C to Rudgeons for £91 plus (there a a few small items to be added to this up to about £125) but in the bank we have £98.99. and outstanding £30.12.10 and stock in hand of £172.3.6 but I must advise that some of this stock will not be saleable for sale next year.

On the allotment side there is some improvement plots let to date are and rents collected are as follows £72 so I think you will agree that we are now on the way to recovery. Shed rent paid £5 allotment rent £52.f to be paid.