

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, 21 October, 1999.

PRESENT: Messrs. A. P. Bayne, D. J. Harley, C. J. Herron, J. B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, A. B. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath, J. O. Robertson, J. M. Swinton along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary. J. McKenzie attended as an observer.

The Association Vice-President, Mr D. J. Harley, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting. He gave a welcome to J. McKenzie who was present by consent of Council.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs A. M. Beattie, R. J. S. Doig, J. M. Marshall, K. A. McKenzie, J. L. Milne, and D. Y. Stewart.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 26 August 1999 was taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: The Annual Dinner and Dance was now confirmed for the Huntingtower Hotel for Friday 10 December 1999. The Albany Band has again been booked at a cost of £475.00. The Secretary was instructed to write to all members with the usual details and application form once the price of the ticket had been agreed. There was to be a raffle for charity similar to the previous year.
 - (b) British Potato Council: The Secretary reported that the minute of the British Potato Council meeting of 5 October 1999 had just come to hand and copies had been laid on the table. Council agreed that discussion on the report should be left until the next meeting when Mr D. Y. Stewart would be present.
 - (c) Membership: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Kirkview Potatoes. Bert Ironside had retired.
- (4) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Secretary confirmed that there had only been five nominations for the five vacancies on Council. No election was therefore necessary and accordingly they had all automatically been elected to Council with effect from 1 November 1999. He explained that Messrs A. P. Bayne, R. J. S. Doig and J. M. Swinton had been re-elected to Council and that Messrs T. Halliwell and A. Melrose had been elected to Council.
- (5) DRAFT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary tabled Interim Unaudited Accounts of the Association for the year to 31 October 1999. The Secretary took the meeting through the draft Accounts and pointed out that although the Accounts showed a surplus of £1,033.11, the projected expenses to the end of the year had been estimated and the final surplus would probably be slightly different. He also pointed out that bank interest received was much lower than last year and would have been even lower had the bank accounts not been moved to the Bank of Scotland.

- (6) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group of 24 August 1999 had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting. Mr D. J. Harley went through the report, requesting any questions from the Council. The seed satisfaction survey report had been well received but it was felt that some of the key messages needed further communication to the industry. In common with other organisations the Seed Sectoral Group had expressed concern at the practice of off-farm grading of potatoes for planting. Council noted and endorsed the BPC's intention to put seed related R & D projects forward to the SSG for approval. The SSG had rejected the project on 'Aphid monitoring in potato crops and timing of haulm destruction'. They felt the information to be gained would be of limited value and that other research topics were a higher priority. There were no questions on the minute but A. Pullar raised the topic of aphid monitoring and the necessity for it now that virus levels were of less concern. It was suggested that the subject should be brought up at the Seed Consultative Panel meeting on 19 November. J. M. Hollywood expressed the view that we should be sure that what we apply to the potato crop is absolutely necessary. He suggested that the Consultative Panel should look at the subject more closely.
- (7) WARE GROWERS CONCERNS: The Chairman referred to the letters sent to SERAD, copies of which had been circulated. Council approved the letters and awaits the response from the Scottish Executive.
- (8) RESIGNATION OF DAVID LINDSAY(POTATO MERCHANTS)LTD: The letter of resignation from this member had been circulated to Council. All had agreed to the contents of the response in the Association's letter of 27 September 1999. J. O. Robertson expressed the view that Council could have treated the matter with greater consideration in the light of the dedicated work for the Association which Hendry Lindsay had performed over the many years he was a Council Member. Council had acted in accordance with its Constitution and Rules and agreed the matter should be finalised. The Secretary was instructed to write to Messrs Lindsay informing them that Council had formally accepted their proposals for resignation.
- (9) JPTC MEETING OF 22 SEPTEMBER 1999: The report on the meeting had been circulated with the agenda. In respect of item (3) last paragraph, it was reported that Margaret Barnes was no longer dealing with policy matters and could not attend the next meeting of the JPTC. The Secretary said that Charlie Greenslade had requested that we submit a list of the points which the members of the Council required clarification on in respect of weights and measures issues before he could organise the most appropriate personnel to be present. In respect of item (4) on the 'Revision of the Seed Potato Classification Schemes', a response had been received from MAFF to the letters from the JPTC. It indicated that they would be considering the topic at a meeting in November. With reference to item (7) 'Bonding System for Traders', R. McArthur indicated that he was in the process of organising someone to give a presentation at the next Council meeting on this subject. The Chairman referred to the response to the consultation on 'Assessment of Value for Cultivation and Use of Agricultural Plant Varieties', indicating that when assessing it was important that the end users requirement should be kept in focus. A lengthy discussion took place on item(11) (b) 'Seed Chemical Treatment'. It was felt there was an educational role for the Association in giving members advice on Chemical treatment of seed. It was important that all chemicals were applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction. At times there was incompatibility with the order for seed where

treatment was specified. A late order may result in seed having broken dormancy and be at a stage where treatment is inappropriate with the possibility of germination being affected. In these cases the buyer should be made aware of the fact that treatment would be contrary to manufacturer's instructions. It was suggested that NASPM should point out to its members that proper treatment could be applied if seed orders were made earlier with greater notice for chemical treatment. It was suggested this subject was also an item for the Joint NFU/SPTA meeting.

- (10) **MEETING WITH THE NFU(S)**: The Secretary indicated that he had been in touch with Scott Walker of the NFU who had suggested two dates for the meeting. The 15 November was agreed subject to the President being available. The Secretary was instructed to confirm this with the NFU and draft an agenda to include the items already mentioned during this meeting.
- (11) **CORRESPONDENCE**: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:

Letters from the Scottish Office headed:

- (a) "European Commission's Green Paper on Product Liability".
- (b) "Variety Denominations". (Response made by A. Redpath)
- (c) "Assessment of Value for Cultivation and Use of Agricultural Plant Varieties". (Response made from the JPTC)
- (d) "Export of Scottish Seed Potatoes to Israel". (Copy of letter to exporters)
- (e) "Arable Area Payment Scheme: Commission Implementing Regulation to Apply from 2000".
- (f) "Mycotoxins – EC Permitted Levels".
- (g) "GM Food Labelling".
- (h) "Potatoes from Europe and Third Countries"
(Copy of letter to potato processors and packers in Scotland)
- (i) "Export Season 1999/2000"
(Copy of letter to Scottish seed and ware potato exporters)

Letters from MAFF headed:

"Revision of the UK Seed Potato Classification Schemes".
(Reply to letter from JPTC)

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "News Update – ECCO Peer Review Meetings".
- (b) "Implementation of New Procedures for Checking Dossiers Submitted in Support of Applications for the Approval of Pesticide Products Containing Active Substances New to the UK".
- (c) "Maximum Residual Levels(MRLs) – Update on EU Activity"
- (d) "News Update – Pesticide Safety Directorate at the British Crop Protection Council Conference in Brighton".
- (e) "New Pesticide Residue Regulations and Compliance Costs".
- (f) "News Update – Implementation of the Authorisation Directive(91/414/EEC).
- (g) "Aspiration Hazard – (R65 Harmful: May Cause Lung Damage if Swallowed"

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of Meeting of 5 October 1999" (Laid on the table)
- (b) "Minute of Seed Sector Group Meeting of 24 August 1999"
(copy already issued)

Letter from Action 2000.

"Millennium bug – Act now"

Letter from Business Link Humberside.

"Enclosing a questionnaire for their database".

Letter from Erasmus University, Rotterdam

"Report on research project on inter firm co-operation in the Dutch and UK potato industries".

Letter from Dyson Bell Martin

"Consultation Update – The Scottish Parliament"

Letters from The University of Reading

"The Single European Currency – Implications for the UK Agriculture and Food Industries". (Offering copies of publication)

Letter from The Patent Office

"ECJ Case no. C-258/99 BASF AG v Bureau voor de Industriële Eigendom"

Letter from Ben Williams Corporate Psychology

"Influential Communication – 24-26 November 1999".
(Offer of course in Communication)

(15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 18 November 1999 in Perth.

(16) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Arbitrators Meeting in Glasgow: R. McArthur had attended a Conference in Glasgow on behalf of the Association. The event was organised by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to launch the new Scottish Code for Arbitration.

(b) Membership of the Association: A. Redpath informed the Council that Smith & Holbourne Ltd who had applied for membership of the Association were now conducting trade through their office in Perth. Council agreed that this now met the requirements of the Association and the Secretary was asked to write to them. Further discussion on membership took place and it was agreed that a proposal should be put to the Annual General Meeting that clause 3 of the Association's Constitution and Rules should be amended to 'Membership shall be open to any person, company or partnership firm engaged in the selling or processing of potatoes originating in Scotland'.

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Ally Redpath
18/11/99