

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, 4 May, 2000.

PRESENT: Messrs. A. M. Beattie, T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. M. Marshall, J. R. McArthur, K. A. McKenzie, A. B. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath and J. O. Robertson along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr A. M. Beattie, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of R. J. S. Doig, C. J. Herron, J. B. Hollywood, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, D. Y. Stewart, and J. M. Swinton.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Extraordinary General Meeting of ~~4 May~~^{9 March} 2000 was approved and signed. The Minute of the meeting of Council of the same date was also taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman subject the following two amendments:-
 1. Item (8) first para. line 5 after Richard Watson-Jones. add '*David Walker chaired the Working Party.*'
 2. Item (8) para (b); Add the following final sentence to the paragraph '*Council rejected the suggestion of a 'certified' seed system for home saved seed.*'
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Ware Identification Requirements: Arising from item (4), page 1, last para. the Secretary had obtained a copy of the requirements for ware identification for export and EU sales from the Scottish Executive and issued it to all Members with the last Members Letter.
 - (b) Entertainment Matters: Golf – A reminder was given that this year's Golf outing is at Forfar on Thursday 18 May, teeing off at 9.30am and 2.30p.m. The response had been poor so far and the President requested that Council Members encourage as many as possible to take part. Dinner and Dance - The Secretary intimated that the Huntingtower Hotel had been provisionally booked for the Dinner and Dance in the year 2000 and they were now requesting confirmation. After discussion it was agreed that the venue for the function should again be the Huntingtower Hotel and the Secretary was instructed to confirm the reservation for Friday 8 December 2000.
 - (c) Association Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that 14 subscriptions were still outstanding. It was agreed that Council Members should contact the Members concerned. The Secretary presented a budget for the six months to the end of April. The budget presented at the Annual General Meeting had indicated a surplus of £189 but with four resignations since then there was likely to be a deficit for the year. The Secretary felt he could make some savings in administration expenses, which would keep the deficit modest at possibly around £450.
 - (d) Trade Insurance: Arising from item (3)(f) the Secretary reported that he still had not received back any risk assessment questionnaires from the membership to pass to Willis Corroon Ltd. Due to the lack of interest the Chairman felt the matter should no longer be pursued. The Secretary indicated

that another debt insurance company had contacted him. Details of the company concerned, Credico formerly Cimco were available from the Secretary.

(e) Membership: Arising from Item (11) the Secretary reported that he had now received the full constitutional requirements for the application from Garden Isle Frozen Foods Ltd for membership of SPTA. They were proposed by Pseedco Ltd and seconded by Agrico UK Ltd. A. J. B. Redpath, the proposer, said a few words on behalf of the company and Council unanimously agreed to accept the application. The Secretary was instructed to process the request for membership.

- (4) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENTS: Subject to the amendments at item (2) above it was agreed that a copy of item (8) of the Minute of the meeting of Council of 9 March 2000 should be used in the response to the British Potato Council on the subject. The preferred date for the industry meeting was 30 June and it was agreed that the President, Vice-President and possibly one other would represent the SPTA at that meeting.
- (5) THE SEED POTATOES (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000: The consultation papers on the subject had been issued to members of Council. Douglas Harley was asked by the Chairman to highlight the important aspects of the proposed regulation. He firstly pointed out that it was not an amendment to existing arrangements but was a completely new regulation. In addition to bringing pre-basic material into the classification scheme it covered a lot of other changes which had been proposed for sometime. He drew members' attention to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the covering letter, as these were important changes to existing requirements. The main aspect of these proposal was to reduce the possible contamination of seed from organisms such as Brown Rot or Ring Rot etc due to contact with machinery, equipment, containers stores or vehicles which have been in contact with ware which could be infected, particularly imports. Where seed was mentioned in these paragraphs it was not clear whither this meant all potatoes for planting or just classified seed. The Secretary was asked to make enquiries of the Scottish Executive. Membership felt there was a greater danger from non-classified material. The proposals gave a legal definition for both seed potatoes and marketing, two items which have been the wish of industry for years and Council welcomed this. Mr Harley drew attention to page 6, para 8(e) (b) of the consultation document and questioned if a container included a bulker. If so did this mean that it had to be disinfected before loading with seed. He also expressed concern at paragraph 19 on page 10 regarding exemptions to the regulation. He felt an explanation was required of the full implications of this paragraph. Could the discretion mentioned in this paragraph be used to allow seed to be loaded on a bulker without disinfecting? Mr Harley also mentioned that the legislation stipulated that the maximum size variation between tubers in any lot was set at 25mm. After discussion it was agreed that split grading could allow an order outside this size range to be filled. The Chairman thanked Douglas Harley for the time he spent studying the document and for his comments.
- (6) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: A copy of the Minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council held on 4 April 2000 had been circulated by the Secretary. As Mr Stewart was not present it was agreed that this item would be left to the next meeting unless any member had any immediate comment.
- (7) ARBITRATION RULES: the Secretary had circulated A letter from J. B. Hollywood on the subject of Arbitration. A lengthy discussion on the subject took place and it was agreed that the use of Lawyers should be avoided if possible

but it was pointed out that in some instances legal matters were complicated and required legal advice. The Chairman said it was regrettable that Mr Hollywood could not be present to debate the subject but he was to be asked what actual changes he would like to propose.

- (8) ROYALTIES ON FARM SAVED SEED: A letter from Mr A. C. Galbraith of Cavaghan & Gray Group Ltd had been circulated to Council members by the Secretary. He had discussed the subject with the President, Vice-President and at least one other Council Member and had asked for the subject to be debated in Council. A full discussion on the matter along the lines of the previous meeting of 9 March took place and Council continues to be supportive of, and agreed with the principle of Royalties on Home Saved Seed on the basis of the undernoted:-

1. Returns to Breeders are at present insufficient to support a viable UK Breeding programme.
2. Increase in income via Royalties on Home Saved Seed could in the long-term lead to a reduction in the Royalties on Certified Seed.
3. The increased use of Certified Seed can only lead to improved quality of the ware crop, together with improved traceability.
4. The long-term aim may well be to shift the point of Royalties collection to the point of first purchase of the ware crop, spreading the cost over a greater unit base with a smaller Royalties charge, which would be in our view a fairer system.
5. Notwithstanding the four points above. In 1991 the UPOV Convention (the international body responsible for the protection of Plant Breeders Rights) agreed the principle of Royalties on Home Saved Seed. This Convention's Directive has now been or is in the process of being ratified by seventy-one countries worldwide. Other than the fact that Royalties on Home Saved Seed is now UK law, the Council (ware growing Members included) believe that points 1 to 4 above are of benefit to our industry, seed and ware growers alike.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Galbraith to this effect assuring him that the Council will continue to support the interests of all sectors of the industry.

- (9) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the undernoted correspondence had been received. Where responses were requested the papers were distributed to members of Council to study and make comment.

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "Mycotoxins – EC Permitted Levels"
- (b) "European Commission (EC) Draft Regulation Setting Maximum Levels for Certain Contaminants in Foodstuffs (ENTR/5799/99-rev 4)".
- (c) "Ware Potato Exports: Registration Numbers".(Identification Requirements for Ware issued to members)
- (d) "British Potato Council Levy 1999-2000". **(Response given)**
- (e) "A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture – Discussion Document" **(Response required by 22 September 2000)**
- (f) "EC Seed Equivalence Arrangements with Third Countries".

(g) "The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) Regulations 2000 – Draft Supplementary Consultation". **(Supplement to consultation responded to in December).**

Letters from MAFF headed:

(a) "Business Tracker 2 – the 2000 IDEA Agriculture Industry Business Tracker CD & Web Site". (Looking for Association to Register with them)

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "EC Review of Existing Active Substances: Second Review Regulation".
- (b) "Updating of Contact Records". (Done)
- (c) "News Update No. 36 – Seminar on Environmental Risk Assessment of Pesticides (SERAP) 11 July 2000".
- (d) "EC Review of Existing Active Substances and UK Approvals".
- (e) "New EU Maximum residue Levels for Pesticides in Food".
- (f) "Open Procedures for the Advisory Committee on Pesticides".
- (g) "Vacancies on the Pesticide residues Committee".
- (h) "Parallel Imports of Pesticides – New Approval Procedures and Condition of Approval".

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of British Potato Council Meeting of 4 April 2000".(On Agenda)
- (b) "March issue of EYEWITNESS"
- (c) "March issue of SSG Newsletter"

Letters from SASA

- (a) "Inspection of Seed Potatoes – Growing Crop Season 2000". (Issued to all seed potato growers)
- (b) "Inspection of Seed Potatoes – growing season 20002". (Green notes to all growers).
- (c) "Minutes of the Panel Meeting held on Friday 19 November 1999"

Letter from HS Financial Publishing

"Introducing your Combined Encyclopaedia of Corporate Britain Today".

Letter from TradeUK

"TradeUK Leads to Export Opportunities at www.tradeuk.com". (Internet based government service set up to encourage exporting – looking for trade association support.

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Consultation List Details". (Completed for Association)
- (b) "The Genetically Modified and Novel Foods (Labelling) (Scotland) Regulations 2000"

Letter from The Patent Office

"Implementation of EC Directive (98/44/EC) on Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions".

Letters from Department of Trade and Industry

- (a) "Price Marking Order 1999".
- (b) "Consultation List – email Contacts". (Completed for Association)

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 29 June 2000 in Perth.

(11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Seed Consultative Panel Meeting: The Minute of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel Meeting of 19 November 1999 had come to hand since the agenda for the meeting had been issued. It was agreed this should be left over until the next meeting.

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

*AMB
OK 29/6/00*