

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, 29 June, 2000.

PRESENT: Messrs. A. M. Beattie, R. J. S. Doig, C. J. Herron, J. M. Marshall, K. A. McKenzie, A. B. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath, J. O. Robertson and D. Y. Stewart 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 A. P. Bayne, D. J. Harley, J. B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, A. Melrose, and J. M. Swinton.

(2) MINUTES: The Minute of the meeting of Council of 4 May 2000 was approved and signed by the Chairman after discussion on two matters.

(1) Mr McKenzie indicated that he had been contacted by Mr Hollywood who had explained the difficulty he was experiencing in attending Council meetings due to the pressure of work. He had enquired as to whether he could be represented by another member of MBM staff. As it was the individual who was elected to Council, not the company, Council agreed that substitutes could not attend as a voting member. They did however agree that if a representative of a member company wanted to present an agenda item on behalf of the member who was unable to attend, this could be accommodated by prior arrangement.

(2) Mr McKenzie questioned the way item (8) on page 3 was handled including the wording of the minute and a number of other Council members agreed with him. They felt, that whilst the minute reflected the discussion, the reproduction by letter had a distinct seedsmen's bias. Also, that the letter referred to in the minute could have been more tactfully written. There was also an opinion that the Association was not doing enough for the interests of ware trading members and could lose more members unless the situation was addressed. It was agreed that one of the problems stemmed from a lack of ware trading members standing for Council to represent their interests. Currently all office-bearers were involved in seed potatoes and protected varieties.

The President apologised for reflecting his own views in the reply to Messrs Cavaghan & Gray Group Ltd and agreed the response could have been more diplomatically worded. It was agreed, however that the facts recorded in the minute were correct. It was also unanimously agreed that the Association should attempt to better represent ware members. All members were to be asked in the next Members Letter for suggestions/comment and an item was to be included in the agenda for the next Council meeting, entitled '*To debate how the Association can best represent ware members' interests, now and in the future*'.

(3) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from item (3)(b), it was intimated that although the golf outing at Forfar on 18 May had a poor turn out, all those who took part had an enjoyable time. George Lothian won the Beeson Trophy, Tim Fletcher was second and Alistair Redpath was third. In the afternoon the John Deuchar Trophy was won by the team made up of M. Morris, R. Laing and G.

Lothian. It was also confirmed that the Annual Dinner and Dance was now a firm booking for the Huntingtower Hotel on Friday 8 December 2000. Members were asked to take note that the first round of the Association's Curling Competition was booked for Tuesday 28 November 2000 at 3.00pm at Murrayfield Icerink

(b) Association Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that 9 subscriptions were still outstanding. A number of those had been contacted by Council members and were not intending renewing their membership. Others were to be sent a polite reminder by the Secretary.

All other matters were on the agenda or would be considered in item (12)

(4) NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL:

The Secretary had issued the letter from SERAD requesting nominations to all Council members. The President proposed that the two sitting members (D. Y. Stewart and J. S. Cruickshank) should be endorsed for re-appointment and that the Association should nominate Messrs D. J. Harley, A. J. B. Redpath and R. J. S. Doig,. After discussion those present unanimously agreed this. The Secretary was instructed to communicate this to SERAD as soon as possible.

(5) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: A copy of the Minute of the meetings of the British Potato Council held on 4 April 2000 and on 13 June 2000 had been circulated by the Secretary. The minute of 4 April had been with members since the last meeting of Council and as no one had any questions Mr D. Stewart was asked to give a report on the meeting of 13 June. The Planting Intentions survey conducted by the BPC had received a mixed reception. Some individuals and representative bodies were opposed to this kind of information being provided as they felt it influenced actual plantings. Further discussions were to take place on the subject. The next meeting of Industry Bodies to discuss 'Recommendations for Change' was scheduled to take place the following day. Mr Stewart reported that there had been an increase in the number of Scottish contributors to the WAPS and it had been felt there was now sufficient to give a reliable average weekly price for Scotland. Mr Stewart had had the opportunity to examine this and was not yet satisfied with the results. He said the BPC were taking a further look at it before finalising the system. He commented on the outcome of the Statutory Review of the BPC. The Government had decided to allow the BPC another term until 2005. The outcome of the poll had been disappointing but the other two parts of the review, the independent economic evaluation and the industry body consultation had been very positive. Brown Rot continued to cause concern and Mr Stewart said the Brown Rot eradication programme in England continued to operate. Council was informed of the number of rivers infected, including the Nene, Hiz, Ouse and Ivel as well as an area in Kent. The President thanked Mr Stewart for his report.

(6) SEED SECTORAL GROUP: A copy of the Minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group of the British Potato Council held on 25 May 2000 had been circulated by the Secretary. The President gave a resume of the main points recorded in the minute. He announced that Sandy Bayne, an SPTA Council member was now the new Chairman of NFU(S) Potatoes Working Group. The BPC's R & D Website had been updated and now included access for levy payers to CSL's pesticide information database. Brown Rot had been discussed and growers irrigating from the rivers Hiz, Ivel Thames and Nene had received letter warning them that there may be an irrigation ban. Also if there was flooding, the farms affected could become a designated area. **The President asked members to note that the voluntary ban still operated in Scotland and that diligence was required to keep both Brown Rot and Ring Rot out of Scotland.** It was

policy to inform SERAD of any imports of seed from risk Countries as a safeguard. E. Allen had given the group a presentation on the research work done on potatoes at Cambridge University Farms. A presentation had also been given by Mr K. Leddington-Hill on the results of a cost benefit analysis survey. A sample of high-grade producers in Britain had been visited to ascertain the cost of seed and ware production. SSG had agreed that best practice for production was ideal and the costing model would be made available to producers through EYEWITNESS and other channels. The consultation on the new Seed Potatoes Regulations had been discussed and these were now with government departments. A. MacLennan had given a resume of seed potato export activities to the Group. 15 varieties were on trial in the Lebanon and the results of the harvest in July would be fed to exporters. He was negotiating with a consultant to introduce varieties to Turkey. 27 companies were exhibiting with the BPC at the Potato 2000 Event in Holland in September. In addition to work in Portugal there was a plant health inward mission planned for October.

(7) ARBITRATION RULES: Mr Hollywood was disappointed he could not be present and it was decided to leave this item until he was in attendance.

(8) MEMBER'S CONCERNS: Mr Redpath raised two points brought to his attention by a member of the Association:-

1. The member felt that there was too great a differential between what a seed grower got for growing a controlled variety and what an English producer had to pay for the seed. Although many members had sympathy for this view the situation was a commercial issue which those involved would have to take up with the controller.

2. The member requested that the Association address the outdated requirement where a ware and seed grower has to plant his once saved seed on a farm with a different code from his certified seed. It was regarded as a total anomaly for a seed crop to be in a field at the boundary of a farm with an unclassified crop immediately over the boundary. A separation on the same farm would be more appropriate with the inspectorate having more control over the situation. The requirement dates back to when ware could be planted from seed of any age and there was high risk of virus infection. NFU support on the subject was to be sought before approaching SERAD.

As some members requested to be excused from the meeting at this point the President suggested item (12) should be taken next.

(12) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

(a) Recommendations for Industry Improvements: As the President was attending a potato industry meeting organised by the BPC the following date to progress the recommendations he required confirmation from Council that their wishes were still the same as those recorded in the minute of the meeting of 9 March 2000. Council agreed that the President should proceed as per the minute.

(9) SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL MEETING: The minute of the Seed Potato Consultative Panel Meeting of 19 November 1999 had been circulated to all Council members either at the last Council meeting or with the agenda. The President gave a resume of the main points recorded in the minute. He indicated that technical notes on the control of groundkeepers were now available from SASA. Small ware had been discussed and it was hoped that the industry meetings being organised by the BPC would resolve the underlying causes. The retention of seed for planting and SERAD's requirements in respect of this were fully explained. Dr Carnegie gave a report on trials using cut seed and it appeared there had been no significant problems. There had been only 10

complaints received by MAFF concerning Scottish seed deliveries during the year. Aphid monitoring was continuing but it was being looked at in the light of the risk of over use of aphicides and the possibility of creating resistant strains of aphids. Vigilance in respect of Brown Rot and Ring Rot had been encouraged, as was the voluntary ban on imports of seed potatoes into Scotland. SPTA's request for an alteration to the plant health regulation to allow the planting of twice grown farm saved seed was discussed. No decision had been made on the subject as yet. Off-farm grading of material for planting had been discussed and as this was now included in the Seed Potatoes Regulations about to be issued many of the issues would be covered. Legislation on generation markers was unlikely for some time due to legal problems within Europe where it was deemed to be a barrier to trade. A voluntary arrangement had been suggested and this has been introduced by SPTA for those wishing to participate with SASA assistance. It was confirmed that the Department did not certify weights of containers. They inspect the seed potatoes in a declared weight container and any dispute regarding weight is a matter for the Weights and Measures authorities.

- (10) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the undernoted correspondence had been received.

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture – Discussion Document"
(Copies with Office-bearers)
- (b) "A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture: Conference on 21 June 2000".
- (c) "Rural Scotland: A New Approach". (Document launched by Mr Finnie on 22 May 2000)
- (d) "Appointments to the British Potato Council (BPC)". (On agenda – Nominations submitted by Friday 30 June 2000)

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Area and Varieties entered for inspection for classification in 2000"

Letter from MAFF headed:

- (a) "Vacancies on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides".
(Looking for Applicants)
- (b) "MAFF Services to Exporters at the Royal Show".

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "News Update - EC Directive 91/414/EEC: non-inclusion in Annex 1 of Monolinuron and Pyrazophos".
- (b) "EC Review of Existing Active Substances and UK Approvals".
- (c) "News Update No. 40 – The New PSD Internet Website www.pesticides.gov.uk".
- (d) "News Update no 39 – Future of the Registration Handbook".
- (e) "News Update No 38 – EC Directive 91/414/EEC: Annex 1 Inclusion of Fluroxypyr".
- (f) "16th Amendment (97/56/EC to the Marketing and Use Directive (76/769/EEC)".

- (g) "News Update No 41 – Official Recognition of Efficacy Testing Facilities or Organisations in the UK".
- (h) "Adoption of Further Maximum Residue Levels".

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of British Potato Council Meeting of 13 June 2000". (On Agenda)
- (b) "Minute of Meeting of Seed Sectoral Group on 25 May 2000.(On Agenda)
- (c) "June Issue of EYEWitness"
- (d) "Re: Recommendations for Improvement for the British Potato Industry" (letter calling meeting on 30 June 2000).

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Proposed Directive on Food Supplements".
- (b) "Draft Guidance Notes on the Regulation and Labelling of Food Supplements"
- (c) "Announcement that Mr Jim Thomson has joined staff of FSA"
- (d) "European Commission (EC) Draft Regulation Setting Maximum Levels for Certain Contaminants in Foodstuffs (SANCO/890/2000)".
- (e) "EC Directive Relating to Honey Intended for Human Consumption (Document Denlog 7861/00 ADD 2 – 19 May 2000)".

Letter from The Patent Office

"Change of SACIP Secretary".

Letter from Greig Middleton

"Review of Association's Investments". (Recommend no change)

Letter from William Reed Directories

"Offering Their Services".

Letter from smartgroups.com

"Offering online group service.

Letter from Promosalons

"Offering space at SIAL 2000 – The Largest International Food Event in 2000"

Letter from International Associations

"Offering free Listing".

Letter from the Inland Revenue

"Taxation of Intellectual Property, Goodwill and other Intangible Assets".

- (11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 17 August 2000 in Perth.

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

AMB
17/8/00
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