

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, 17 August, 2000.

PRESENT: Messrs. A. M. Beattie, A. P. Bayne, T. Halliwell, J. M. Marshall, J. Macfarlane, K. A. McKenzie, J. R. McArthur, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, J. O. Robertson and J. M. Swinton 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 R. J. S. Doig, C. J. Herron, D. J. Harley, J. B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, A. B. Pullar and A. J. B. Redpath.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the meeting of Council of 29 June 2000 was approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from item (3)(a), it had already been notified to members that the first round of the Association curling competition was on Tuesday 28 November 2000 at 3.00p.m. at Murrayfield Ice Rink. The Secretary had now been informed that the second round was booked for 2 March 2001 at 3.00p.m. at Perth Ice Rink.
 - (b) Association Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that there were now only 3 subscriptions outstanding. Council members were informed of the members concerned.

All other matters were on the agenda or would be considered in item (4)
- (4) REPRESENTATION OF WARE MEMBERS' INTEREST: The Chairman introduced this agenda item indicating that the subject had been included as a result of representation made by members. As a result of a request made in the July issue of the Members' Letter a number of concerns had been raised and the Chairman introduced those for debate individually.
 - (a) BPC ware price reporting: A request that an average Scottish ware price should be published had been taken up with the BPC by D. Y. Stewart. It was known that he was still working on this but as he was not present there was no report on progress. Council supported a request raised by K. A. McKenzie that the Association should ask the BPC to quote an average spot price, which did not including contract supplies. Although some members did not require this information they supported the publication of an impartially produced figure for Scotland. J. O. Robertson explained how the system of traders feeding information online onto the BPC's central database (WAPS) in respect of their trading gave sufficient information to produce an average price.
 - (b) Alteration of Plant Health Regulation: A request to SERAD for alteration to the Plant Health Regulation to allow ware growers in Scotland to plant twice saved home grown seed had not been resolved. C. Greenslade had indicated on at least two additional appeals for a response that our request was still in hand and that it would be part of the consultation on amendments to the Plant Health Regulation which would take place shortly. The Chairman and Secretary were instructed to go back to C. Greenslade on the subject.

(c) Royalties on Home Saved Seed: The Chairman felt this subject should be left until D. Harley was present as he was involved in the discussions between BSPB and the Unions. A number of Council disagreed and a lengthy debate took place on the subject. Some members were not happy at having to pay royalties on home saved seed but in general Council agreed that breeders required money from somewhere to maintain a breeding base and if it was collected on home saved seed it would be on a greater base and therefore spread the burden. Many members were unaware of the scope of the legislation for collection of royalties on home saved seed. The Chairman indicated that breeders, BSPB and the NFUs were currently negotiating on the level of royalties which could be charged on varieties, which have been registered for protection in Europe post 1 September 1994 or in the UK after 8 May 1998. The Plant Variety Rights Act allows breeders the right to charge a royalty on farm saved seed of these protected varieties, although the breeder may not wish to exercise this right for various reasons e.g. the area may be too small and uneconomic to collect.

(d) Ware Standard for Potatoes for Human Consumption: There was currently no minimum standard for potatoes for human consumption since the windup of the Potato Marketing Board. There was no organisation or inspectorate to administer a standard and it was felt this would be too expensive anyway. As 80% of potatoes sold for human consumption are sold through supermarkets and multiples that demand high standards anyway, Council agreed a minimum standard was no longer necessary.

(e) Imbalance of Seed to Ware Traders on Council: There was a view that Council was dominated by seed interests and that with all Office-bearers being involved in companies who are managers of controlled varieties, ware traders interests were not being pursued as vigorously as seed. Although Council have a very active ware sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Joe Swinton it was agreed, after discussion, that Council should encourage ware traders to put their names forward for election to Council and this was to be stressed in the circular which goes out with the nomination papers shortly. In the meantime it was agreed that Mr A. C. Galbraith should be invited to become a co-opted member of Council to assist in debating ware growers' concerns as he had raised a number of the points under discussion.

(f) Seed and Ware Grower's Separation Requirement: The requirement that a seed and ware grower was required to grow his ware crops on a holding with a different code from his seed crop had been discussed at the last meeting and recorded in item 8 of the minute of that meeting. It was felt this item should be taken up with SERAD but it was suggested that support from the NFU would be an advantage. A. S. Bayne required time to gather the views of the NFU potato committee before he could comment. The Secretary was instructed to organise a meeting with the NFU before drafting a letter to SERAD.

(5) POTATO INDUSTRY MEETING: A copy of the Minute of the Potato Industry Meeting held at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Heathrow on Friday 30 June 2000 had been circulated by the Secretary with the agenda. The Chairman who attended on behalf of the Association gave a verbal report on the meeting. Most Industry bodies had made '*positive responses*' to the paper and were prepared to continue discussions on the subject. As there were no controllers present at the meeting, discussion on '*home saved seed royalties collection*' was limited. None of the Industry bodies had supported the idea of '*voluntary certification*' of home saved seed. It was felt this would open the door to a trade in certified small ware. Industry bodies believed that '*protocols*' would enhance tractability and

the subject merited further debate. Industry bodies supported any vehicle, which increased the understanding of the value of seed and of problems facing breeders and subsequent ware growers. There was a strong message that bodies were not in favour of off farm grading of planting material, especially certified seed. It was felt that '*whole crop marketing*' was a matter for commercial decision but most bodies were willing to debate the subject. '*Pool price contracting*' was considered a nice idea in theory but trust would take a number of years to build and develop. The meeting had concluded that the recommendations needed pushing by the BPC.

- (6) ARBITRATION RULES: J. B. Hollywood was not present and it was decided to leave this item until he was able to be present.
- (7) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the undernoted correspondence had been received.

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "FAO Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)".
(b) "The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000" (Issued to all Members)
(c) "Area Entered for Inspection at all Levels in 2000".
(Issued to all Members)
(d) "Folic Acid and the Prevention of Disease"
(e) "Proposed Amendments to Pesticides Legislation – Access to Legislation and Other Legislative Changes".

Letter from MAFF headed:

"Updating Contact Address List".

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "EC Review of Existing Active Substances".
(b) "Vacancy on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides".
(c) "News Update No. 42 – The future of The Registration Handbook - II".
(d) "Proposed Amendments to Pesticides Regulations – Access to Information".
(e) "Revised Procedure for Submission of Applications for Provisional Approval of New Products which would be Subject to a Data Submission Deadline".
(f) "European Pesticide Regulatory Issues".

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the Potato Industry Meeting held on 30 June 2000".
(On Agenda)
(b) "British Potato Council Statistics Review". (Response given)

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Consultation on the Draft Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2000".
(b) "Involving Consumers in Policy Making".
(c) "Consultation on the Statement of General Objectives and Practices".
(d) "Draft Commission Proposals to Prohibit Certain Pesticides in Agricultural Products used to Manufacture Infant Formula, Follow-on Formula and Baby Foods".

- (e) "Better Food Labelling Initiative: Report of Responses".
- (f) "Proposed Directive on Food Supplements".
- (g) "European Commission Proposals to Consolidate and Simplify EU Food Hygiene Legislation".
- (h) "Commission Working Group on Food Additives: 3 and 4 July 2000".
(Copy of Report).
- (i) "Food Labelling: Application of QUID to Ham, Bacon, Cheese and Ingredients of Compound Ingredients".
(Copy of Report)

Letter from The Patent Office

"The Patents Regulations 2000".

Letter from Farmway

"Resigning from Association".

Letter from TradeUK

"TradeUK Leads to Export Opportunities at www.tradeuk.com".

Letter from Honest Food

"The Food Sector Survey" (A questionnaire)

Letter from Promosalons

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

Letter from Dod's Parliamentary Companion

"Offering Services"

Letter from the Cancer Research Campaign Scotland

"Receipt and Letter of Thanks for Donation from Fund Raising at Dinner/Dance".

(8) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 19 October 2000 in Perth.

(9) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

(a) The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulation 2000: Council was informed that copies of the Regulation could now be obtained from HMSO, 71 Lothian Road Edinburgh EH3 9AZ at a cost of £5.80 or it can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/stat.intm>

(b) Annual Council Elections: The Chairman intimated that the following Council members will retire by rotation in accordance with the Association's Constitution and Rules on 31 October 2000:- A. M. Beattie, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, J. L. Milne, A. B. Pullar and J. O. Robertson. The Secretary was instructed to make the usual arrangements for Council Elections to fill these seven vacancies.

(c) Cost of Production following 'Best Practice': The Secretary reported that he had received a request from the British Potato Council to give the Council a presentation on the recent survey conducted on their behalf on the cost of production following best practice. It was agreed this should take place at the October meeting.

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

Handwritten signature
OK
19/10/00