

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, 19 October, 2000.

PRESENT: Messrs. A. M. Beattie, T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, C. J. Herron, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, 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. He gave a particularly warm welcome to Mrs Joanne Knowles who was present for item 7 of the agenda. It was agreed that item 7 should be taken first.

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman referred to the recent death of a respected member of the Trade, Buchanan Fulton. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs Fulton conveying Council's condolences to herself and family.

- (7) COST OF PRODUCTION FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICE: Mrs J. Knowles gave a presentation on the survey carried out by the British Potato Council on the cost of production using certified seed, home saved seed and outgrade material including smalls. A model had been constructed from surveys of actual growers and this was available for growers to enter their own figures. J. Knowles indicated this would be available on a CD and she would make this available to Council members. The membership required time to study the model and it was agreed that they would come back in two months with their comments and questions.
- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs R. J. S. Doig, J. B. Hollywood, J. M. Marshall, K. A. McKenzie, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne and J. M. Swinton.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 17 August 2000 was taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
- (a) Association Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that the three outstanding subscriptions were still not paid. Three Council members individually agreed to make one last approach to the members concerned.
- (b) Ware Members' Interests: Item (4), although most matters would be covered under items 4 & 8 of the agenda the following was discussed. In respect of item (4)a D. Y. Stewart indicated that an average ware price for Scotland should be available from the BPC shortly, probably before the next Council meeting.
- (c) Royalties on Home Saved seed: Arising from item (4)c, it was reported that a copy of a letter from BSPB giving a list of varieties on which they would be collecting royalties on home saved seed in 2001 had been sent to all members. It was pointed out that this was not all the varieties on which royalties on home saved seed could be collected, as all breeders did not use BSPB. Some breeders make their own arrangements and also have the option whether to make a charge or not.

(d) Potato Industry Meeting: Arising from item (5), it was intimated that the meeting scheduled for Thursday 12 October had been cancelled.

- (4) BALANCE OF MEMBERS ON COUNCIL: The Secretary presented a letter from J. B. Hollywood intimating his resignation from Council due to his business commitments. In the letter he wished the Council continued success. The Chairman spoke highly of his services to the Council especially in respect of his work on the Arbitration Rules and as an Arbiter. As a result of the nomination and election to Council the balance between seed and ware representation had not changed. There had been no response from A. C. Galbraith on the invitation to become a co-opted member. A message from K. A. McKenzie that morning indicated that he was upset at not having received the invite although he had read the report in the minute of the last meeting. D. J. Harley said he had also been contacted. A copy of the letter had been faxed to him that morning. After further discussion on the matter it was agreed that the invite should be re-issued by recorded delivery and that A. D. Lamont, the ware trader with MBM Scotland should also be invited to become a co-opted member of Council to assist in current ware matters. Both were to be sent by recorded delivery.
- (5) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Secretary confirmed that there had only been eight nominations for the eight vacancies on Council following the resignation of J. B. Hollywood. No election was therefore necessary and accordingly they had all automatically been elected to Council with effect from 1 November 2000. J. O. Robertson had decided not to stand again saying he had enjoyed his time on Council and felt it was time to give younger members their chance. The Chairman thanked him for his devoted services. He had a remarkable attendance record at Council and he would be missed for his steady and balanced views. The Secretary was instructed to write to both J. O. Robertson and J. B. Hollywood expressing Council's appreciation for their services. The Secretary explained that Messrs A. M. Beattie, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, J. L. Milne and A. B. Pullar had been re-elected to Council and that Messrs R. Haynes and P. Peebles had been elected to Council. The Secretary was instructed to write the usual letter to the new members of Council. A discussion followed on the attendance of members at Council. A proposal that the Constitution should be altered to expel any member who failed to attend 50% of the meetings was withdrawn in favour of a suggestion that the President with the backing of Council should approach members concerned.
- (6) DRAFT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary tabled interim unaudited accounts of the Association for the year to 31 October 2000. The Secretary took the meeting through the draft accounts and pointed out that although the accounts showed a surplus of £607.91, 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 would be about three times last year due to the move of accounts to the Bank of Scotland. It was also suggested that any possible surplus should be used to assist in building the Association website.
- (8) WARE GROWERS' CONCERNS: The Chairman and Secretary had had a meeting with Bill Rennie to discuss some of the issues currently being pursued by Council. A letter from SASA reporting on the meeting was laid on the table. The support of NFU would be required to strengthen the case for any alteration to the Plant Health Order and for changes to the requirements for growers under the seed potato classification scheme. A meeting with the NFU and the ware committee was to be organised as soon as practical.

- (9) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council of 8 August 2000 had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting and the minute of the meeting of 3 October was laid on the table. Mr D. Y. Stewart went through the reports, requesting any questions from Council. He referred to page 2 of the first minute where it had been recorded that the publication of a Scottish average price was imminent. An update on the Brown Rot situation had been given. Outbreaks had been reported in Greece, Portugal, Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The BPC were reporting encouraging results on their levy collection both from producers and purchasers. There was a lengthy report on the 'Cost benefit analysis', which had been presented by Mrs Knowles of the BPC earlier. The Planting Intentions Survey was not going to be repeated. The BPC Website was being updated and Mr Stewart suggested members should take a look at the information available. The activities of the Marketing and Communications Committee, including the success of the earlies and maincrop campaigns were highlighted. The R & D Committee report was discussed. The budget for 2000/2001 had been set at £1.3m compared to £1.57m in the previous year. Mr Stewart mentioned the revision of RB 209, concerning fertiliser recommendations for potatoes. It appears there was still some disagreement on some aspects but the Steering Group continued to work on it. Mr Stewart then gave a resume of the minute of the 3 October 2000. He said the new Council Members were introduced, including Colin Bradley, James Harrison, Kevin Littleboy and Alex. Stephen representing the interests of growers. Alan Owens – representing the interests of the industry beyond the farm gate and Don Pollard who was appointed to represent the interests of people employed in the industry. A Levy Collection Task Force had been set up to look at alternative methods of levy collection. A consultation letter had been sent out to industry bodies. SPTA had received their copy and this would be considered under item 11 of the agenda. The progress of levy collection was further updated. The Ministerial Review of the BPC was detailed. A number of action points had been put to the BPC, including the suggested disposal of SBEU. Other points included, a review of market information needs, improved communications with levy payers, evaluation of promotion campaigns, review of levy collection, review of BPC membership and increased industry awareness of the work of the BPC. The potato supply chain was being looked at by the BPC. The shape of the industry over the next five years would have an influence on resource allocation, levy collection and many other issues. 50% of growers now accounted for 90% of the crop and similarly the largest 100 merchants handled 90% of the tonnage. Comments were made on the World Potato Congress and Potato 2000. BPC attendance was regarded as a great success. A. Pullar suggested that the BPC should be congratulated on the professional way they organised the British input into the event. It was agreed the Secretary should write to the Chairman of the BPC complimenting them on the success of the British Trade Area at Potato 2000. There was a further update on the Brown Rot situation. The potential financial implications of extensive irrigation bans in areas bordering affected waterways ranged between £6m and £12m. Investigations into eradication continued. Council felt there was a greater risk from Ring Rot and the extent of recent cases in Europe was not known. It was suggested that more information would be available after the Seed Consultative Panel Meeting in November and the subject should be considered at the next meeting.
- (10) BROWN ROT AND EXPORTERS' MEETING: This item was left until the next meeting following the Seed Consultative Panel Meeting.

(11) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "Modernising the Complaints System" Consultation on Public Sector Ombudsmen in Scotland. (Booklet requiring response by 10 January 2000 – I think it should be 2001) The Chairman agreed to review this item and recommend if a response was appropriate.
- (b) "New Controls on Ozone Depleting Substances"
- (c) "Ware Growing in the High-Grade Seed Potato Regions of Scotland".
(Response to a request for information on behalf of a member).
- (d) "The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000".

Letters from SASA headed

- (a) "Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel Meeting: Scottish Agricultural Science Agency, East Craigs, Friday 17 November 2000".
- (b) "Marketing of Seed Potatoes – 2000/2001 Season" (Sent to all Seed Potato Producers).
- (c) "Statistics on Area Classified in Scotland 2000". (Issued to All Members).
- (d) "Ware Growers' Concerns"
(Letter following meeting with Bill Rennie – issued to Council Members).

Letter from MAFF

"Planet Britain 2000 Georgia: 16 – 27 October 2000".

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "Revision of the Policy for Acceptance of Applications for Specific Off-label Approvals: Clarification".
- (b) "EC Review of Existing Active Substances: Fees for the Second Stage of the Review".
- (c) "Guidelines on the Provision of Pesticide Mixing Services and Sale of Pesticide Twin Packs and Kits".
- (d) "Amendment of Guidance on Off-label Applications to Reflect the Revision of Policy on Acceptance of Off-label Applications".
- (e) "Revocation of Product Approvals".
- (f) "Action Following Inclusion of Existing Active Substances in Annex 1 to Directive 91/414/EEC".
- (g) "Pesticides 2001: Part B, Products Registered with the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD)".
- (h) "Revision of PSD's Internal Data Logging Procedures".
- (i) "Update of the List of Active Ingredients where the Streamlined Approach is Appropriate".
- (j) "Directive 91/414/EEC – Guidance Documents on Methods of Analysis".
- (k) "Pesticides Safety Directorate at the British Crop Protection Council Conference in Brighton".
- (l) "News Update No 43".
- (m) "Various Issues Relating to Maximum Residue Levels".
- (n) "Longevity of Rats Carcinogenicity Bioassays".
- (o) "News Update No44 – Implementation of the Authorisations Directive (91/414/EEC)".

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the British Potato Council Meeting held on 8 August 2000".
(On Agenda).
- (b) "Consultation on Levy Collection".(Copy issued to Council Members - Response required). Views were requested from Council. It was agreed that whatever system was used it had to be viewed as fair and at minimum cost. Council was prepared to look at any suggestions of a cheaper method and one, which would spread the cost through the sales chain. The Council would also welcome the Association being part of the working group. It was suggested that this should be an item for the JPTC to debate.
- (c) "Inserts for Growers' Guides".
- (d) "Seed Industry Meeting – 12 October" (Cancelled).
- (e) "Minute of the British Potato Council Meeting held on 3 October 2000.

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Commission Proposals to Prohibit Certain Pesticides in Agricultural Products used to Manufacture Infant Formula, Follow-on Formula and Baby Foods".
- (b) "Task Force on the Burdens of Food Regulations on Small Food Businesses". (Response by 7 November 2000)
- (c) "Consultation on the Agency's Approach to Openness and Risk".
(Response by 17 Nov.).
- (d) "CODEX; Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses".
- (e) "The Draft Coffee Extracts and Chicory Extracts (Scotland) Regulations 2000".

Letter from NASPM

"Mailing List for Training Days".

Letter from James B. Hollywood

"Resigning from Council".

Letter from Specialist Potatoes Ltd

"Notifying Council of the Appointment of John M. Marshall as a Consultant".

Letter from SE Growers Ltd

"Requesting statistics on the monitoring of crops grown from home saved seed"

Letter from Society of Events Organisers

"Offering their Services".

Letter from Scottish Enterprise

"Invitation to Health Enhancing Food and Drink Event".

Letter from PRN Publications

"Copy of Association Journal"

Letter from the Macmillan Cancer Relief.

“Receipt and Letter of Thanks for Donation from Fund Raising at Dinner and Dance”.

Letter from Scottish Industrial and Trade Exhibitions Ltd

“ScotHot 2001” (The 15th Scottish Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Pub & Bar Bistro Show)

(12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 30 November 2000 in Perth.

(13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Association Dinner and Dance: A. Pullar confirmed that the Dinner and Dance was organised for Friday 8 December at the Huntingtower Hotel. The Albany Band was booked and tickets would once again be £21.00. The President of NASPM and his wife and the NFU Potato Committee Chairman and his wife were to be invited as guests of the Association President.

(b) The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000: A letter from SERAD informing us of developments in the Regulation was laid on the table. The Regulation came into force on 7 July 2000 with the exception of Regulation 6, which takes effect from 1 April 2001. The purpose of Regulation 6 is to protect the health of seed potatoes by controlling their contact with ware potatoes and with plant, machinery, equipment, containers, stores or vehicles previously used for the production of ware potatoes. Anyone wishing to apply for exemption from regulation 6 should do so now and not later than 31 December 2000.

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

OK
A. S. H.
30/Nov/00