

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, 30 November, 2000.

PRESENT: Messrs. A. P. Bayne, A. M. Beattie, R. J. S. Doig, T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. M. Marshall, J. R. McArthur, K. A. McKenzie, A. Melrose, P. Peebles, A. J. B. Redpath, D. Y. Stewart and J. M. Swinton along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary. Also present, as co-opted members were Messrs A. C. Galbraith and A. D. Lamont.

The Association President, Mr A. M. Beattie, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting. He gave a particularly warm welcome to the two co-opted members A. C. Galbraith and A. D. Lamont and to the new members of Council, P. Peebles and R. Haynes. There was an apology from Mr Haynes who had been present before the meeting but had been called away urgently.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs R. Haynes, C. J. Herron, J. L. Milne and A. B Pullar.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 19 October 2000 was taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Arising from the opening remarks it was reported that a letter of condolence on behalf of Council had been sent to Mrs Fulton and her family on the death of her husband.
 - (b) Mrs J. Knowles Presentation: Arising from item (7) Council were informed that the Secretary had CDs of the cost model for each member of Council. If any member had difficulty Mrs Knowles was prepared to organise a tutorial using the member's actual figures.
 - (c) Association Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that the three outstanding subscriptions were still not paid although one was said to be in the post and Mr A. Redpath indicated that another had been contacted and would be paid. The remaining one was to be treated as a lapsed membership.
 - (d) Ware Members' Interests: Arising from item (4), the Chairman confirmed that both invitees from Council for co-option had accepted and had been welcomed.
 - (e) Potato 2000: Arising from item (9), it was reported that a letter had been sent to David Walker, Chairman of the British Potato Council congratulating them on their participation in the World Potato Congress and Potato 2000 and in particular the 'British Trade Area' at Potato 2000.
 - (f) Association's Annual Dinner and Dance: Arising from item (13)a, it was intimated that there were 155 applications for tickets for the function.All other items were covered in the agenda.
- (4) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS: Mr Beattie proposed that Mr Douglas J. Harley be appointed the new Association President. This was seconded by V. Lumb and unanimously carried.
D. J. Harley proposed that Vincent Lumb be appointed Vice-President of the Association. This proposal was seconded by J. R. McArthur and unanimously carried. V. Lumb proposed that A. J. B. Redpath be appointed Deputy Vice-

President of the Association. This was seconded by J. M. Swinton and again unanimously carried.

The retiring President, A. M. Beattie thanked Council for their support and assistance during his term as President. He said he had enjoyed it and wished the new President every success for his term in office. D. J. Harley took the chair and thanked A. M. Beattie for his work as President over the previous two years. He said he was privileged to hold the office and hoped that the Association would have a successful period under his Presidency.

Council confirmed the re-appointment of H. B. Edmond as Association Secretary and the re-appointment of Messrs MacMillan & Co, Chartered Accountants, Glasgow, as the Association Accountants.

- (5) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, ETC.: Council appointed the following representatives to serve on the following external Committees for the year to 31 October 2001:-

JPTC Committee – President, Vice-President and J. R. McArthur.

Seed Potato Consultative Panel – D. J. Harley and V. Lumb (A. B. Pullar and A. J. B. Redpath as Deputies).

Working Party (Joint NFUS/SPTA) – D. J. Harley, V. Lumb and A. J. B. Redpath (C. J. Herron, J. R. McArthur and P. Peebles as Deputies).

British Potato Council – D. Y. Stewart.

Seed Sectoral Group of BPC – R. J. S. Doig, D. J. Harley, A. J. B. Redpath and D. Y. Stewart.

United Kingdom Plant Varieties and Seeds Advisory Body – A. J. B. Redpath.

Arbitration Rules Joint (NASPM/SPTA) Working Party – To be left in abeyance in the meantime.

Council made the following appointments to the Association's internal Committees for the year to 31 October 2001 (The President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President being *ex officio* representatives on each Sub-Committee):-

President's Sub-Committee – J. M. Marshall, J. R. McArthur, K. A. McKenzie, A. B. Pullar and D. Y. Stewart.

Entertainment's Sub-Committee – A. B. Pullar (Convenor), T. Halliwell, C. J. Herron, G. Lothian, J. Macfarlane, A. Melrose and G. Smillie.

Ware Sub-Committee – J. M. Swinton (Convenor), J. Macfarlane, J. L. Milne and D. Y. Stewart.

Members' Book Sub-Committee – J. R. McArthur and J. M. Marshall.

Conditions Sub-Committee – J. M. Marshall, K. A. McKenzie and J. M. Swinton.

Panel of Arbiters – All Members of Council plus Mr Bob Doig (Robert J. S. Doig Ltd).

Press Officers – President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President.

In connection with the Ware Sub-Committee it was agreed that the two co-opted members should serve on it.

- (6) 1999/2000 ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary took Council through the Association's unaudited Accounts for the year 1999/2000, copies of which had been laid on the table. The Accounts were approved for submission to the Association's Accountants, Messrs MacMillan & Co., Glasgow for certification in the usual way.

- (7) BUDGET for 2000/2001: The Secretary reported that he had prepared a budget of £13,711.00 to submit to Council on his best estimates of likely expenditure during the year ending 31 October 2001. This left a deficit of £621.00 on the assumption that the membership subscriptions and number of members did not change. In addition the budget did not provide for an increase in the Secretary's

salary by the rate of inflation which was agreed by Council in the Secretary's absence. After a lengthy debate on subscription rates, a proposal of an increase for all subscription ranges of £15 was withdrawn and it was agreed that Council would recommend to the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting that subscriptions for the current year be increased by £10 for the first size bracket and by £25 for all other size brackets.

That is:-

	<u>Subscriptions</u> <u>(Net of VAT)</u>
0 - 6,000 tonnes	£175.00
6,001 - 10,000 tonnes	£220.00
10,001 - 14,000 tonnes	£260.00
14,001 - 18,000 tonnes	£290.00
over 18,000 tonnes	£320.00

It was agreed that the budget should be trimmed where possible by a greater use of email and other forms of electronic transfer. A discussion on the progress with the website took place and it was agreed to proceed as soon as Pseedco's web builder was available. A deeper look at the options available for the use of internet technology by the Association was suggested and it was agreed the subject should be on the agenda for a future meeting.

- (8) WARE GROWERS' CONCERNS: The Immediate Past Chairman gave a resume of the contents of the letter from Bill Rennie outlining the discussions which took place at the meeting on 11 October. Both points being pursued by SPTA Council had also been raised at the Seed Consultative Panel meeting. Again it had been stressed that industry backing would be required for the proposals to proceed. Consultation on alterations to the Plant Health Order 1993 would be taking place next year and it had been suggested that an extension to cover twice-saved seed should be pursued at that time. At the Consultative Panel meeting there were signs that the NFU and SERAD/SASA may be accepting that the requirement to plant ware from once saved seed on a different holding to seed was outdated and that with SPTA's proposals greater control of the health of the crop could be maintained. Once or twice saved seed was not the real problem, but the difficulties arose due to the lack of access to certain controlled or managed varieties. A change of attitude and better understanding would make this particular proposal unnecessary. A. C. Galbraith maintained that Scottish ware growers were disadvantaged as in England growers were allowed to grow any age of seed and had no additional costs for testing. J. M. Swinton and the ware committee were to be furnished with copies of the original proposals to SERAD and would make a decision on how to proceed.
- (9) SCOTTISH SEED POTATO CONSULTATIVE PANEL: The minute of the meeting held on Friday 17 November was not as yet to hand but the Chairman gave a brief resume. A full report would be given after the next meeting.
- (10) BROWN ROT AND EXPORTERS' MEETING: V. Lumb reported that the testing of stocks for export was proceeding well and that all samples had been found negative. There had been only one request for consignment testing from Israel. There had been no comments on the situation from other countries, possibly due to SERAD's letter informing them of the action taken to tests all export stocks. Concern was expressed at the possible cost to certain growers to withdraw seed stocks from the certification scheme if any further contaminated waterways are discovered. Withdrawing stocks was to the benefit of the whole industry. It was suggested that the SPTA and NFU should lobby SERAD for government help in these cases although C. W. Greenslade had already indicated

that he could not see the Scottish Executive being involved. The reputation of Scottish seed depended on safeguards being taken and it was agreed that some sort of insurance should be investigated. The NFU Mutual was to be approached to see if they would be able to provide any kind of cover.

- (11) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL LEVY: A letter from David F. Walker, Chairman of the British Potato Council requesting that industry bodies discuss the BPC levy and confirm that they are willing to examine alternatives to the current system. Council agreed to support any system that was fair, easy to collect and was a cost saving over the present system. The suggestion was a tonnage levy, which would be cheaper to operate as 90% of the tonnage was handled by approximately 100 traders compared to more than 7,000 growers currently. The Secretary was instructed to reply to David Walker stating that SPTA was prepared to examine the issue further and would ask to be included in the working party on the subject.
- (12) MEMBERSHIP OF THE SEED SECTORAL GROUP: A list of new members of the Seed Sectoral Group of the British Potato Council had been issued to Council. Council congratulated D. J. Harley on being appointed to the committee and as Vice-Chairman. He in turn congratulated D. Y. Stewart, A. J. B. Redpath and R.J.S. Doig on their appointments to the committee.
- (13) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "Assessment of Risk to Biodiversity from GM Crop Management"
(Response requested)
- (b) "Priority Access to Fuel Stocks"
(Action to take by priority users in event of fuel shortage)
- (c) "Export season 2000/2001" (Sent to all exporters of seed & ware)

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Copy of Seed Register".

Letter from MAFF

"Opportunity in Iran: Agrofood 2001 – Tehran : 27-30 May 2001".

Letter from Advisory Committee on Release to the Environment

"Best Practice in the Design of GM Crops"
(Response required by 21 December 2000).

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "News Update No. 45 – Quicker, Cheaper and Easier process for Obtaining 'Own Use' Parallel Import Approvals".
- (b) "News Update No. 46 – EC Directive 91/414/EEC; Annex 1 Inclusion of Metsulfuron-methyl".
- (c) "News Update No. 47 – Correction to (a) above".
- (d) "The EC Pesticides Review and Essential Uses".
(Response requested by 31 January)

Letter from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Copy of EYEwitness".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

(a) "Food – Chewing the Facts".

(b) "Proposed Draft Amendment to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods". (Response by 5 January 2001)

Letter from A. D. Lamont

"Accepting Co-option to Council".

Letter from The Patent Office

"Consultation on Computer Software and Business Methods".

Letter from National Consumer Council

"How to make your Self-regulatory Scheme Work for you".

Letter from Dr G. Rouschias

"A lengthy letter drawing attention to chemical and biological warfare effects on human life". (9 pages for someone with time to read)

Letter from Scottish Industrial and Trade Exhibitions Ltd

"ScotHot 2001"(The 15th Scottish Hotel, Rest, Catering, Pub & Bar Bistro Show)

- (14) TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR 2001: A list of the corresponding dates to the previous year was laid on the table. It was suggested that Council met too often. All meetings in the past had very full agendas but it was agreed that the June meeting should only be confirmed if there is sufficient and urgent business to make it worthwhile. The proposed dates were as under:-

AGM Thursday 25 January 2001 at 2.00 p.m.

Council Thursday 25 January 2001 at 2.30 p.m., Council Thursday 8 March 2001 at 2.00 p.m., Council, Thursday 3 May 2001 at 2.00 p.m., Council, Thursday 28 June 2001 at 2.00 p.m., Council, Thursday 16 August 2001 at 2.00 p.m., Council, Thursday 18 October 2001 at 2.00 p.m., Council, Thursday 29 November 2001 at 2.00 p.m.

- (15) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Meeting of the JPTC: The Secretary reported that the Secretary of NASPM had contacted him suggesting a meeting in early January in York. NASPM had three items for the agenda.

- (1) Additional clause in Conditions – NASPM
- (2) BPC levy.
- (3) Royalties on home saved seed.

The Secretary was instructed to go ahead and agree dates suitable to both organisation and also obtain more details on the additional clause intended for the conditions.

(b) Organic seed potatoes and the seed register: A. Redpath raised the issue of the identification of organic seed crops in the official seed register. Currently it was difficult for buyers to source organic crops and if they were marked in some way in the register the situation would be improved. He said it had been discussed with C. W. Greenslade at the VT conference and he appeared willing to consider the possibility. It was agreed that A. Redpath would consider the issue before the next meeting and prepare a proposal. The item was to be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

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

