

MINUTE of MEETING of PRESIDENT'S  
SUB-COMMITTEE of THE SCOTTISH  
POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION held in  
the Board-room of Pseedco Ltd, 9  
Inveralmond Way PERTH at 10.00 a.m. on  
Wednesday, 7 November, 2001.

PRESENT: Messrs. D. J. Harley, J. R. McArthur, A. B. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath and D. Y. Stewart along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs V. Lumb and K. A. McKenzie.
- (2) FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION: The main reason for the meeting was to discuss the proposals presented by NASPM to Council of the Association on 18 October 2001 as recorded in the minute under Item (4). The committee looked at a SWOT analysis carried out in April 1998 by this committee and came to the conclusion that there was no real change in the list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats detailed in that minute although some had greater weight now. They agreed with the reasons put forward by NASPM for forming one united body eventually although it was not an immediate problem for SPTA to continue as it currently operates. NASPM had listed four main reasons for their concerns and NASPM felt that the move to one body was inevitable as neither body's future was secure on its own. These reasons were: -
- Decline in membership.
  - Duplication of membership.
  - Financial implications.
  - Council members time restraint.

As NASPM's proposals were brief and contained no detail it was felt that SPTA should go to NASPM with detailed proposals outlining their vision of the structure of a new body. A new body would have to be responsible for the following functions.

1. Discuss and consult with SEERAD on any legislative and policy matter.
2. Discuss and consult with DEFRA on any legislative and policy matter.
3. Discuss and consult with SASA on classification and plant health matters.
4. Discuss, lobby and consult with and on behalf of exporters with official bodies on export matters.
5. Communicating with and considering the actions and functions of the BPC and SSG directly and through representation on these bodies.
6. Administration of Conditions of Sale and Purchase, along with Arbitration service.
7. Provide social functions. Would possibly require national as well as regional functions
8. Provide training and educational events. Would again require to be national as well as regional.
9. Discuss and provide conferences or meetings on high-grade seed potato production. This may result in an amalgamation with the VTSC Association
10. Administer RUCIP rules and arbitrations.

11. Represent and protect ware traders interests. In particular on issues arising from plant health and the certification scheme in Scotland.
12. Lobbying and publicity on behalf of the membership through press etc.

Based on the above the committee felt that a lot of the work of the new organisation would be dealing with Scottish seed related issues and as a result a new constitution would require to include the following: -

Have a national name.

Subscriptions based on tonnage.

The secretary should be based in Scotland.

Council of 12-15 members. (80% to have an office in Scotland)

Greater than 70 percent of Council meetings should be held in Scotland.

Only one representative from each company can be nominated for election to Council (as currently with SPTA).

No expenses should be paid to members attending Council or other internal Association meetings (as currently with SPTA).

Committees (of members, not necessarily council members, with specialist knowledge) would represent various functions such as: the ware trade, seed, high grade seed production, export, entertainment, conditions, arbitration, RUCIP, press and representative to the plant varieties and seeds advisory body etc.

It was agreed that a proposal based on these suggestions should be put to Council of SPTA and if agreed put to NASPM and VTSC.