

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, 2 May, 2002.

PRESENT: Messrs. D. J. Harley, T. Halliwell, R. Haynes, K. A. McKenzie, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, A. B. Pullar and A. J. B. Redpath along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr D. J. Harley, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs A. M. Beattie, R. J. S. Doig, C. J. Herron, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, P. Peebles, D. Y. Stewart and J. M. Swinton.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 7 March 2002 was taken as read and approved after a correction was made to page 5. Scott & Newman Group proposed Solanum Ltd not Agrico UK Ltd as reported in the minute. The Chairman thereafter signed the minute.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
  - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a) – Curling, the Secretary had received an application form for ice for next season from Perth Ice Rink. It was agreed the Secretary should apply for the same ice as in past years for Friday 7 March 2003. J. Macfarlane suggested that a different format for the competition should be considered. This was left for the Entertainment Committee to discuss. A. B. Pullar confirmed that the annual Golf outing was now fully booked for Forfar Golf Course for Thursday 6 June 2002. The Secretary would be sending details to all Members shortly as in the past.
  - (b) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item (3)(c) The Secretary reported that 42 members had so far paid their subscriptions with a further 6 in the post. 12 were outstanding and the members of Council agreed to contact most of those concerned. The Secretary presented a half-year budget showing a reduced subscription income due to loss of membership. There was now likely to be a slight deficit for the year but with savings through using email this would be kept at a manageable level.
  - (c) Aphid Monitoring: Arising from Item (3)(d) the President reported that very welcome changes to the Aphid Monitoring policy had been announced in SASA's recently issued advice notes to growers. Under the revised arrangements no aphid alert letters will be issued by SASA in 2002. Inspectors will continue to monitor aphid in seed crops and growers should take appropriate action to control them. If aphids are found in crops at a level considered to be significant for virus transmission the grower will be given seven days to bring the aphid under control or burn down. Full details are on SASA's green notes.
  - (d) Production of unclassified seed: Arising from Item (7) the Secretary reported that a letter received from SEERAD indicated that following our letter on the subject that they were looking at the long distance movement of home saved seed.

All other matters were on the agenda.



- (4) **BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL:** A copy of the Minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council held on 9 April 2002 had been circulated with the agenda. The President highlighted some of the main subjects discussed. He said the BPC were intending publicising the proposed monitoring of planting returns from the air using GIS. It had been indicated to them that the Futures Market was still negotiating on a proposed cash settlement system. The Chairmen accompanied by the Marketing & Communications Director had visited the US Potato Board during their Annual Meeting. This had been a very worthwhile visit and opportunities for future co-operation had been identified. A report on marketing strategy was given and they were looking at research carried out on the subject. The BPC proposed to be involved in generic PR activities working with supply chains. Success would be monitored by consumer awareness testing. The publication of the Planting Intentions Survey had caused mixed reaction. Producers were unhappy at it being carried out and results published, questioning as to whose benefit it had been done. The processing representatives appeared to favour the exercise. They agreed that in future careful consideration should be given to predictive statistics. They had debated the consultation document on the benefits of BPC funded R&D. Past experience indicated that many users of levy funded research were unaware of the link and that the communication angle was important in this respect. It was agreed that further review was necessary. The BPC Corporate plan for 2001-2007 was discussed. The revised draft on the critical success factors (CSFs) related to creating and maintaining links between Council members and the industry, with the aim of stimulating awareness of BPC activities. Council accepted the Corporate Plan and this would be circulated to stakeholder bodies and other organisations. Nash Court Open Days had been very worthwhile and found to be a good way of communicating to any doubters. The next open day was 16 May and Mr R. McArthur expressed an interest in attending. A review of levy collection issues finished the meeting.
- (5) **SEED SECTORAL GROUP:** The Secretary had circulated a copy of the Minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group held on 28 February 2002. Mr Harley had already given a verbal report on the meeting at the last Council meeting but asked Mr A. Redpath if he had anything to add. He indicated that Louise Chapman, the new Seed Supply Chain Manager had attended the meeting for the first time. They were also briefed on other staff changes. He also said that the Group had been updated on Brown Rot and Ring Rot by SEERAD and DEFRA. Awareness of the dangers of these diseases to the Scottish potato industry was important especially with Ring Rot being found in Sweden this week. Members were to be reminded to take every care at all times. There were no further questions on the contents of the minute.
- (6) **PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION:** Mr A. Redpath presented this subject with the assistance of a paper he had prepared and laid on the table. The relevant legislation is 'The Producers Responsibility Obligations(Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997'. He indicated that SEPA in respect of this legislation were treating wooden boxes as packaging and as a result was making certain members liable to a sizable cost for this tax. He had been unsuccessful in trying to persuade SEPA that wooden boxes were not packaging as he felt the term packaging was intended in this legislation as wooden pallet boxes were used over and over again. He requested SPTA support for his problem. All Council shared his concern and agreed this regulation could cost the industry a lot of money. It was suggested that packer members of the Association would probably be the most likely to be affected. The Secretary was instructed to include the matter in



the next Members Letter requesting that any Member who has encountered a problem to contact him.

- (7) FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION: The President gave a resume of developments on the subject of a new representative body. He firstly referred to the areas of agreement between NASPM and SPTA recorded in the minute of the Council meeting of 7 March 2002. Following that a constitution based on the current constitutions of NASPM and SPTA had been drafted using SPTA's as a starting point. This had been distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that 'The British Potato Trade Association (BPTA)' should be the suggested name for the new organisation. Each clause was discussed and after agreeing that clauses concerning the funds of the new body should be left out in the meantime it was agreed that the draft should be put to NASPM for comment. It was felt that the question of funds required input from both parties.
- (8) RHIZOMANIA: A letter from SEERAD detailing their policy on Rhizomania had been circulated with the agenda. Scotland is in a strong position on this front as Rhizomania has never been here and surveys conducted by SEERAD have all resulted in negative results. They propose continuing these surveys which they believe meets the requirements of the Plant Health Directive and provides an assurance of rhizomania freedom for movement of Scottish seed potatoes through the inclusion of XP-dl certification on seed potato labels. Council was very supportive of the actions taken by SEERAD and the Secretary was instructed to write to them indicating SPTA's backing for their policy.
- (9) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "Proposals for the Amendment to the Potato Industry Development Council Order 1997 (as amended)". (Response by 29 May 2002).
- (b) "Fees for Plant Breeders' Rights and National Listing 2002-03". (Response by 13 May 2002)
- (c) "Long Distance Movement of Farm Saved Seed". (Reply to SPTA letter as per Item (7) of Minute of Meeting of 7 March 2002).
- (d) "Colorado Beetle Publicity Campaign 2002-2004".
- (e) "Rhizomania".
- (f) "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Environmental Liability with Regard to the Prevention and Remedying of Environmental Damage". (Response by 24 May 2002).
- (g) "Water Quality - Action Programme for Scottish Nitrate Vulnerable Zones: A Consultation".
- (h) "The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000.
- (i) "The Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993 (As Amended) - Potato Brown Rot Measures - Irrigation Ban".
- (j) "End of Season Meeting with Seed Potato Exporters".

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Inspection of Growing Crops 2002". (Notes to all Growers)
- (b) "Aphid Monitoring".  
(Response from SASA to letter as per Item (8) of Council Minute of 24 Jan. 2002).

Letter from DEFRA

- (a) "Council Regulation 2100/94–Collection of Information for the Commission Report" (Response by 31 May)

Letters from the Pesticides Safety Directorate headed:

- (a) "The Pesticides EC Review Programme: Essential Uses". (Invite to Meeting)  
(b) "The Pesticides EC Review Programme: Essential Uses". (Report on above)

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the British Potato Council Meeting of 9 April 2002".  
(b) "Minute of the Seed Sectoral Group Meeting of 28 February 2002".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Labelling of Foods Containing Caffeine and Quinine".  
(b) "Consultation on Draft Commission Decision (SANCO/362/2002) Suspending the Placing on the Market and Import of Jelly Confectionery Containing the Food Additive E 425 Konjac".  
(c) "Consultation:- The Draft Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Regulation 2002".  
(d) "Food Standards Agency – News". (March 2002 Edition)  
(e) "Recent Developments on Food Labelling".  
(f) "Food Labelling: Advice on Clear Labelling".  
(g) "Public Consultation: Proposed Regulations Implementing Two EC Directives on Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Foodstuffs".  
(h) "Use of the Name 'Basmati Rice'".  
(i) "Food Standards Agency – News". (April 2002 Edition)  
(j) "Draft Food Labelling (Scotland) Regulations 2002".  
(k) "Food Standards Agency Open Meeting - Invitation"

Letters from The National Association of Seed Potato Merchants

- (a) "Invitation to SPTA's President to NASPM Annual Dinner". (Reply already sent)  
(b) "Notifying Change of Address".

Letter from Forfar Golf Club

- (a) "Confirming Booking for Thursday 6 June 2002".

Letter from Promosalons (UK) Ltd

- (a) "Sial 2002 Anticipates Trends". (Invitation to Attend and Exhibit)

Letter from PRN Publications

- (a) "Copy of Association Journal". (March/April Edition)

Letter from Perth Ice Rink

- (a) "Ice Booking Form".

Letter from Freshproduce Journal

- (a) "Updating SPTA Entry and Inviting Subscription to Internet Market Prices".



Letter from COEX

- (a) "Invitation to Seoul International Exhibition of Machinery, Science and Technology for Agriculture".

Letter from E-commerce in Horticulture

- (a) "Survey of Organisations involved in Trading or Marketing using Electronic Technology".  
(Came by Email)

Letter from Scottish Food & Drink

- (a) "Notification of Scottish Food and Drink Conference and Excellence Awards 2002 on 16 May, together with application form".

Letter from Burnmouth Potato Co. Ltd

- (a) "Notifying that Company has Ceased Trading".

The Secretary was asked to respond to the Scottish Executive on their letter (a) as per the minute following discussion on the subject in the autumn. In respect of the letter at (b) some Members felt that any increases in fees for Breeders Rights and National Listing would not be very welcome in the light of current returns in the industry. It was commented that the National List system was necessary and to the benefit of the whole industry. Anyone wishing to respond should do so individually.

- (10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 27 June 2002 in Perth.

- (11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Farm Saved Seed: A letter from DEFRA on recent developments in the Standing Committee on Plant Breeders' Rights was laid on the table. DEFRA was seeking responses to the letter by 31 May 2002 to present to the EU Commission. The EU Commission is required to make a report on established varieties on 'prior use' exemption clause in Council Regulation 2100/94. The Community regime came into force on 1 September 1994. It dealt with farm saved seed of established varieties, which were granted Community protection under transitional arrangements.

(1) Individual farmers who had farm saved seed of these established varieties before 1 September 1994 were allowed to continue to do so free of charge until at least 30 June 2001.

(2) This 'prior use' concession was due to expire automatically in Community law on 30 June 2001 unless extended by the Council of Ministers.

(3) Once the concession expires, all farmers would be liable to pay for use of farm saved seed of these varieties, except small farmers.

The UK regime came into force with the commencement of the Plant Varieties Act 1997 and was designed to keep in step with the Community regime. Its equivalent provisions in the 1997 Act are:

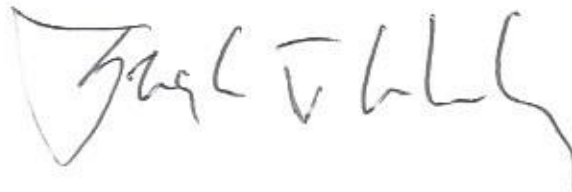
- (1) Varieties protected under the 1964 Act become protected under the 1997 Act  
(2) Individual farmers who had saved seed of varieties protected under the 1964 Act before 8 May 1998 were allowed to continue to do so free of charge.  
(3) A statutory instrument is needed to discontinue the UK prior use exemption.

The exemption has lapsed in EU law but remains in UK legislation. DEFRA has been pressing the Commission to produce its report and decide on whether the

exemption should be reinstated in EU law. When the issue has been resolved at Community level, any differences between EU and UK law will be addressed. A number of the Members of Council felt that the statue quo should remain but this was not unanimous. It was agreed that all members should have the opportunity to comment. The Secretary was instructed to include comments in the next Members letter drawing their attention to this request from DEFRA for comment. A copy of the letter was to be issued on request.

(b) Designating Organic Seed Potatoes in the Seed Register: Mr A Redpath raised the point that DEFRA intended marking seed potatoes grown on organic registered land in their seed register. He was unsuccessful in seeking support from Council to further the same with SEERAD.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. L. L.", is written over the text of the meeting minutes.