

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, 27 June, 2002.

PRESENT: Messrs. R. J. S. Doig, D. J. Harley, R. Haynes, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, P. Peebles, A. B. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath and D. Y. Stewart 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. P. Bayne, A. M. Beattie, T. Halliwell, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, K. A. McKenzie, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, and J. M. Swinton.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 2 May 2002 was approved and thereafter signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a) – The Annual Golf Outing had taken place at Forfar on Thursday 6 June. Although there had been a poor turnout of Members a most enjoyable day was had by those present. Results were as follows, Beeson Cup, 1st Rob Scott, 2nd Alan Learmonth, and 3rd Malcolm Morrice. A team consisting of Malcolm Fearon, Steven Caird, Malcolm Morrice and George Lothian won the John Deuchar Trophy. A. B. Pullar intimated that Thursday 5 June at Forfar had been booked for next year. Curling. The Secretary had received the allocation of ice for the first round of the Curling Competition next season. Members involved were asked to note Tuesday 26 November 2002 at 3.00pm at Murrayfield Ice Rink in their diaries.
 - (b) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item (3)(b) The Secretary reported that 4 subscriptions were still outstanding. These were allocated to Members of Council to contact.
 - (c) Production of Unclassified Seed Potatoes: Arising from Item (3)(d) It was reported that SEERAD and DEFRA had made no real progress with resolving the industry's concerns with 'the long distance movement of home saved seed'. Both were awaiting opinion from their legal people. Members of Council were concerned at the future of the whole seed classification scheme if the practice increased at the pace it was reported to be developing. It was also suggested that crops were being entered and inspected for classification then withdrawn for subsequent movement south as home saved seed. The President reported that he had spoken to C. W. Greenslade and W. Rennie on this subject and it was suggested that SPTA should prepared a written report for SEERAD. It was agreed that the President's Committee would discuss the subject and construct a detailed submission for SEERAD.
 - (d) Packaging Waste Regulation: Arising from Item (6) the President reported that there had been no responses to the Secretary's comments on the subject in the May Members Letter. Mr A. Redpath had been looking for SPTA's support to give strength to his argument on the issue of wooden potato pallet boxes being classed as packaging in a similar manner to polythene or paper in respect of this legislation. Council were sympathetic towards the concerns

expressed by Mr Redpath but as no other members had experienced any problems the matter was being left in abeyance in the meantime. It was commented that the issue might have wider implications for the industry in the future. It was suggested that a copy of the relevant legislation should be obtained and if appropriate a legal opinion could be sought.

(e) Future of the Association: Arising from Item (7) the President reported that a letter had been received from NASPM following receipt of our draft 'Constitution and Rules'. NASPM Council were intending to discuss the subject on 17 September prior to their Council meeting on 18 September. The Secretary informed Council that Mr K. A. McKenzie had spoken to Mr J. O. Robertson regarding dealing with the Association capital on a windup scenario. They were of the opinion that the Association funds referred to in clause 27 of the Constitution and Rules as capital, would have to be dealt with as per clause 33 (i.e. returned to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato Trade Benevolent Society).

(f) Farm Saved Seed: Arising from Item (11) a letter had been sent to DEFRA indicating that there was not a consensus of opinion within Council on the subject. Following the reference to the subject in the May Members Letter there had been no responses received by the Secretary.

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 11 June 2002 had been circulated with the agenda. Mr D. Y. Stewart highlighted some of the main subjects discussed. He said that Helen Priestley had been promoted to Chief Executive Officer and Nigel Jupe was leaving BPC's employment at the end of the month. With the failure in negotiations to continue the British Futures market, Mr Richard Harris was having talks with a German organisation. It appeared there were high expectations of success. He reported that there had been no outcome as yet on the submission for 2-AB under the 'Essential Use' derogations. Everything possible had been done to support the submission. A lengthy discussion had taken place on 'replantable hectares'. There was concern over the practice of growing dual-purpose seed and ware crops, which was contrary to information identified in the seed satisfaction survey. The educating of seed purchasers to ask for supplies by specification was regarded as important. A working group was being set up to make recommendations on the subject with a view to making the industry more efficient. A report was given on the 'Processing Study Tour in Europe'. This was regarded as very worthwhile and delegates were required to make presentations to at least one industry group. The World Potato Congress would be taking place in China on 20-25 April 2003. The BPC would have a presence and would involve industry in a similar manner to the last World Congress. Ten firms had expressed an interest so far. A discussion on Seed Sectoral Group issues had taken place and the increased findings of Ring Rot and Brown Rot in Europe caused serious concern. It was agreed that a press release would be published highlighting the need for vigilance in respect of both these diseases. Mr Tim O'Connor, Chairman of the US Potato Board, gave a presentation. The organisation was similar to the BPC and they had to deal with similar consumer trends and industry issues as the BPC. They were not in competition with this country. Members were given an update on the Geographical Information System (GIS). They were shown how the system compared returned plantings against O.S. field sizes and how it could be used to verify the accuracy of planting returns. Large areas could be checked quickly and accurately.

- (5) SEED SECTORAL GROUP: The Minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group held on 30 May 2002 had not as yet been received but the President gave a brief report on the main points discussed. Mr C. W. Greenslade had given a resume of the changes to the aphid-monitoring scheme. SEERAD and DEFRA also gave the Group an update on Brown Rot and Ring Rot. Mr Brian Ellam had indicated that there was increasing numbers of cases of these diseases being found in Europe and it was regarded as responsible to publicise the risk of importing seed potatoes. They would be imposing very strict rules if the diseases are found and the extent that vigilance was required could not be over emphasised. Council of SPTA expressed concern at the worsening situation and felt that a risk assessment of importing seed or ware should be conducted. The cost to the industry would be incalculable. It was suggested that SEERAD should take a lead. They were after all the certifying authority and the administrators of Plant Health controls. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to SEERAD expressing current thoughts and suggesting that every country within the EU should be able to set up a high health status area within their country where movement of seed into that area was not allowed. This would allow each country to maintain a nucleus of high-grade material. L. Chapman presented the Group with a paper on proposals for a seed buyers' guide. This was a sort of checklist for ware growers and it was felt it would be good for the seed industry. A. MacLennan reported that he was forming a working group to look at physiological and chronological age of seed potatoes. R & D required carrying out and it was proposed to compare seed in field trials. Members were updated on the BPC Seed Industry Conference on 14 and 15 November. This would take place in the Dewar Centre, Perth and would follow the VTSC format but be extended and cater for increased numbers. Mr MacLennan updated the group on the export front. Following an inward mission of senior plant health officials from Sri Lanka it was likely that the export trade for seed potatoes could once again be opened up. There would also be a group coming from Thailand later this year. The Group were informed that it was proposed to have an event focused on seed for ware growers. This would take the form of an entire building exclusive for this purpose at 'British Potato' at Newark in 2003. It was noted that in Information papers issued that SEERAD seed label issues was 30,000 tonnes down on the previous year. As exports were very similar it was suggested that this pointed to increased use of farm saved seed, legal or illegal. Mr Cruickshank had suggested there should be a Seed Industry Trail on a similar line to the Whisky Trails organised by the distilleries. Although Members felt that communication was an issue requiring addressing they were concerned at the threat this may bring to the normal trade ie encouraging buyers to make arrangements direct with growers, even to the extent of bypassing the classification scheme or controlled variety system.
- (6) BPC CORPORATE PLAN: All members of Council had been sent a copy by the BPC. The President requested questions but as there had not been time to study the document in detail there was no responses. The President indicated that as mentioned in the Plan he like other BPC Members would be hosting meetings with levy payers in an attempt to aid communication.
- (7) END OF SEASON EXPORTERS' MEETING: As the minute of the meeting of 28 May 2002 was not as yet to hand it was decided to leave discussion on this item until the next meeting of Council.
- (8) AREA ENTERED FOR INSPECTION FOR CLASSIFICATION IN SCOTLAND IN 2002: A letter from SASA which accompanied the issue of the figures requested the Association's views on the format and timing of these statistics.

After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should write to SASA suggesting that the total areas entered and classified in the previous year by variety should be shown for comparison i.e. two additional columns. Council commended SASA on the speed of issue of these figures and the Secretary was asked to request that when it comes to issue of the classified areas that they be dealt with in as efficient a manner.

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

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "Fees for Plant Breeders' Rights and National Listing 2002-03".
(Copy of Annex 3 not included with letter of 13 March 2002).
- (b) "Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment of Proposed Environmental Liability Directive".
- (c) "EU Commission Review of Derogation Procedures".
(Response by 20 August).

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Area Entered for Inspection for Classification in 2002". (Response required)

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the British Potato Council Meeting of 11 June 2002".
- (b) "Minute of the Seed Sectoral Group Meeting of 30 May 2002".
- (c) "Corporate Plan 2002 - 2007".
- (d) "eyewitness". (May/June Edition).
- (e) "Additions to BPC Seed Growers' Guide".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Food Labelling Action Plan: Food Labelling Forum, Cardiff Wednesday 29 May 2002".
- (b) "CODEX Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (CCFFV)".
- (c) "Food Labelling Forum - Summary Report, 3 December 2001".
- (d) "Food Standards Agency - News". (May 2002 Edition)
- (e) "Review of the Agency's Position on Bisphenol A".
- (f) "CODEX Committee on Food Labelling: 6 - 10 May 2002".
- (g) "Food Standards Agency Open Meeting - Invitation".
- (h) "Food Standards Agency - News". (June 2002 Edition)

Letter from The National Association of Seed Potato Merchants

- (a) "Interim response to letter sent with Draft Constitution".

Letter from PRN Publications

- (a) "Copy of Association Journal". (May/June Edition)

Letter from Gerrard Ltd

- (a) "Report on Association's Investments".

Letter from Qui et Quoi

- (a) "Updating SPTA Entry in Register".

Letter from C. & D. H. Batchelor

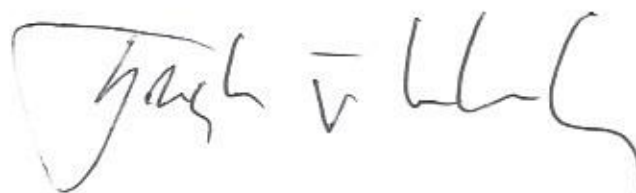
(a) "Notifying that Owner has Retired and that Company has Ceased Trading".

The Secretary was asked to write to Mr Batchelor wishing him many years of happy and healthy retirement and thanking him for his letter and for his support over the years.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 15 August 2002 in Perth.

(11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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 "Gough v. H. C.", is written across the page.