

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, 15 August, 2002.

PRESENT: Messrs. T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, K. A. McKenzie, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, P. Peebles A. B. Pullar 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. M. Beattie, R. J. S. Doig, R. Haynes, C. J. Herron, A. J. B. Redpath and J. M. Swinton.
 - (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 27 June 2002 was taken as read and approved and thereafter signed by the Chairman.
 - (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a) Curling - The Secretary confirmed that the first round of the North v South curling competition was organised for Murrayfield Ice Rink for Tuesday 26 November at 3.00pm and the second round for Perth Ice Rink for Friday 7 March 2003, also at 3.00pm.
 - (b) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item (3)(b) The Secretary reported that there were still 3 outstanding subscriptions. Members of Council were once again requested to contact these members to try and resolve the situation.
 - (c) Production of Unclassified Seed: Arising from Item (3)(c) the President said he was in the process of drafting a report on the situation for the approval of Council before submission to SEERAD.
 - (d) Packaging Waste Regulation: Arising from Item (3)(d) it was confirmed that the Secretary had obtained a full copy of the Regulation from the Internet. It appeared there were ways of avoiding involving the legislation in respect of wooden boxes used in the transport of seed potato sales. Mr R. McArthur agreed to have a look over the Regulation.
 - (e) Seed Industry Disease Concerns: Arising from Item (5) the Secretary had drafted a letter as per the terms set out in the minute of the last meeting under this item. Council agreed the contents of the letter and the Secretary was instructed to send it to SEERAD.
- All other matters were on the agenda for today.
- (4) EU REVIEW OF CONTROLS AGAINST PCN: A copy of the papers on this subject had been sent to Council by email. SEERAD had subsequently arranged a meeting at East Craigs on Wednesday 28 August to explain the current situation and the possible options to representatives of industry bodies. The President was not available on that day. Vincent Lumb and Alistair Redpath had agreed to represent SPTA. To give some assistance to them in putting forward Council's views at that meeting the President took the meeting through the consultation paper. After discussion Council were unanimous that the current requirements for PCN should be retained for seed potato production in Scotland (status quo maintained). They were concerned at the increase in the species *G. pallada* in

England and Wales. It was also increasing in Scotland and without some controls on farm-saved seed' they felt that Scotland would not be long in following suit. They were in general in favour of the testing of land where farm saved seed was to be produced but not of scheduling the land if PCN is found. Administering such a scheme might be difficult but it was felt the suggestion warranted being look at. If the PCN free status and reputation of Scottish seed was to be maintained it was agreed that tighter controls over 'farm-saved seed' was required.

- (5) END OF SEASON EXPORTERS' MEETING: A copy of the report on the meeting of 28 May had been issued with the agenda. As the report was fairly comprehensive the President asked for questions. There were no matters raised.
- (6) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The Secretary issued the minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council of the 6 August 2002 to those present. The President highlighted some of the main subjects discussed. It had been reported to the meeting that the EU Commission had decided that the use of 2-AB would be permitted until December 2007. This was welcomed. Further developments in the replantable hectares concept was discussed and trials and demonstrations had been held to develop and promote the initiative. Under Water Resource Management the use and wastage of water was being seriously looked at. Was irrigation justified? The environmental impact of water extraction for irrigation was being monitored. Under R & D issues, work on physiological and chronological ageing undertaken by Cambridge University Farms was discussed. The visual impact of the work was impressive but no interim report had been made available. A number of actions were agreed. The interim reports would be chased up, a list of sites where the work could be viewed was to be compiled, visits for members in groups was to be arranged and photographs were to be taken. The planting intentions survey was discussed. Mr Harris had requested that the survey should be repeated, as he believed it was a valuable tool for the industry. SPTA Council felt that this was questionable. A vote taken round the table indicated that Council's unanimous opinion was that the survey should not be continued. This gave the President a clear message to take to the BPC meeting in October. A benchmark survey of levy payers had indicated that the BPC was doing the things, which were wanted but this was not getting through to the levy payers. The new Chief Executive indicated that an analysis of tasks showed that the BPC was involved in 111 separate activities. The critical thing was to concentrate on and retain those that made a real difference and were valued by levy payers. In a discussion on consumption trends, rumour of a state of considerable decline in the fresh potato market was reported. BPC's Agricultural Economist, Guy Guban said that figures to hand only showed a slight decline and this was in the supply of new potatoes. A debate on stock figures followed. There was to be a review of the whole system of calculating potato stocks. Crop check weighing was to continue his year but the SFP survey was to be replaced by a physical measuring of field leavings. A growers' panel was also proposed and run in parallel with the existing system in the first year. Details of the current levy collection position were given to the members of BPC Council. Mr Harris had reported that good progress had been made with negotiations for a futures market operated by Hanover Bourse to replace LIFFE, which had ceased its operations. It was expected to be up and going by November.

(7) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:
Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "PCN Consignment Test on Stock being Exported to Sri Lanka".
(Sent to all Exporter Members for response)
- (b) "Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)".
(Letter and papers already issued with agenda – Item (4) on minute).
- (c) "PCN Consignment Test on Stock being Exported to Sri Lanka".
(Reply to Response to (a) above).
- (d) "Commission Proposals on Thresholds for the Adventitious Presence of Approved GMOs in Seed and Seed Potatoes". (Response by 12 September).

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Area Entered for Inspection for Classification in 2002".
(Update of figures issued on 17 June)

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the Seed Sectoral Group Meeting of 30 May 2002".
(August 2002 Edition).
- (b) "eyewitness"

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Food Standard Agency Open board Meeting - Invitation".
- (b) "Promotion of Foods to Children - Update".
- (c) "The use of the terms 'pure' and 'freshly squeezed' in fruit juice labelling".
- (d) "Food Standards Agency – News".
(July/August Edition)
- (e) "Draft FSA Position Document Based on a Review of Food Assurance Schemes".
(Response by Friday 6 September 2002).
- (f) "Commission Directive Laying down the Sampling Methods and the Methods of Analysis for the Official Control of Dioxins and the Determination of Dioxin-like PCBs in Foodstuffs".
- (g) "The Draft Contaminants in Food Amendment (Scotland) Regulation 2002".
- (h) "Food Standards Agency – Business Plan 2002/03".
- (i) "Food Labelling: Ingredient Listing and Allergens".
- (j) "CODEX Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables – San Antonio, Texas, 23-27 September 2002".
- (k) "Draft Food Labelling Amendment (Scotland) Regulation 2002: Implementation of the New European Definition of 'Meat'".
- (l) "The Kava-kava in Food (Scotland) Regulation 2002".
- (m) "Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation on Smoke Flavourings used or Intended for use in or on Foods".
- (n) "Dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Foodstuffs".
- (o) "Review of Food Assurance Schemes – Stakeholder Meetings".
(Response by 30 August)
- (p) "Update on Acrylamide".

Letter from Pearson Insurance Consultants

- (a) "Renewal of Trophy Insurance".

Letter from Dewars Centre

- (a) "Allocation of Ice for 2003 Season".

Letter from Food Technopole

- (a) "Innovation Insight – Newsletter from Yorkshire and Humber Regional Food Technopole with the message 'linking business needs with technical solutions'".

Letter from HM Customs and Excise

- (a) "Invitation to: Business Advice Open Day for Scotland, 12 September".

Letter from the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants

- (a) "Invitation to NASPM Autumn Assembly".

Email from Pesticide Network UK

- (a) "New Resources on the Pesticide Action Network UK Website".

- (8) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 17 October 2002 in Perth.

- (9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(b) Annual Council Elections: The Chairman intimated that the following Council members will retire by rotation in accordance with the Association's Constitution and Rules on 31 October 2002:- A. S. Bayne, R. J. S. Doig, T. Halliwell, A. Melrose and J. M. Swinton. The Secretary was instructed to make the usual arrangements for Council Elections to fill these five vacancies.

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

