

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, 21 November, 2002.

PRESENT: Messrs R. J. S. Doig, T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, H. Hughes, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, J. R. McArthur 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 with a special welcome to Heather Hughes who was there for the first time as a new Council Member. He said her appointment to Council was an event to be recorded, she being the first female Council Member of SPTA. He also extended the welcome to Ronnie McKay in his absence.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs A. M. Beattie, R. Haynes, C. J. Herron, J. Macfarlane, R. McKay, K. A. McKenzie, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, P. Peebles, A. B. Pullar and D. Y. Stewart.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 17 October 2002 was taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a), The Secretary reported that there were only 77 applications for tickets for the Dinner and Dance so far and that the NFU(S) and NASPM were both sending representatives. It was felt that there would only be about one hundred attendees this year due to a number of other special occasions being celebrated by Members. Curling: The Secretary also reminded members that the first round of the North v South curling competition would take place at Murrayfield Ice Rink on Tuesday 26 November at 3.00pm.
 - (b) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item 3(b), the Secretary intimated that he had received all the subscriptions that were going to be paid.
 - (c) SEERAD Matters: Arising from Items (3)(c), (3)(d) and (9), the Secretary said he had requested that SASA include these items on the agenda for the Seed Consultative Panel meeting the following day. The matters concerned were, unclassified seed potato production, disease concerns/protected zones and re-instating of the grade of downgraded stocks.
 - (d) Seed Potato Trail: Arising from Item (6), Council were informed that Messrs A. Pullar and R. McArthur had composed a letter as agreed at the last meeting of Council and this had been sent to the Seed Sectoral Group.
 - (e) British Potato Trade Association: Arising from Item (7), a letter had been sent to NASPM as per the details recorded in the Minute of the Council meeting of 17 October. An acknowledgement of receipt had been received.
 - (f) SPTA's Investments: Arising from Item (8), the Secretary had purchased a one year bond from the Bank of Scotland as instructed at the last meeting. He intimated that the interest rate of 4.3% was better than first indicated by the bank.

All other items were on the agenda.
- (4) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS: Mr Harley proposed that Mr Vincent Lumb be appointed the new Association President. This was seconded by Mr T. Halliwell and unanimously carried.

Vincent Lumb proposed that A. J. B. Redpath be appointed Vice-President of the Association. This proposal was seconded by J. R. McArthur and unanimously carried. A. J. B. Redpath proposed that R. J. S. Doig be appointed Deputy Vice-President of the Association. This was seconded by J. R. McArthur and again unanimously carried.

The retiring President, D. J. Harley 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. Vincent Lumb took the chair and thanked Douglas Harley 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 2003:-

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

Seed Potato Consultative Panel – V. Lumb and A. J. B. Redpath (A. B. Pullar and R. J. S. Doig as Deputies).

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

British Potato Council – D. J. Harley and 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 once again.

Council made the following appointments to the Association's internal Committees for the year to 31 October 2003 (The President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President being *ex officio* representatives on each Sub-Committee):-

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

Entertainment's Sub-Committee – A. B. Pullar (Convenor), H. Hughes, A. D. Lamont, G. Lothian, J. Macfarlane, A. Melrose and G. Smillie.

Ware Sub-Committee – D. Y. Stewart (Convenor), A. D. Lamont, J. Macfarlane, A. Melrose and J. L. Milne.

Conditions Sub-Committee – D. J. Harley, J. R. McArthur, K. A. McKenzie and A. B. Pullar

Panel of Arbiters – All Members of Council plus Mr Bob Doig (Robert J. S. Doig Ltd) and J. B. Hollywood (MBM Scotland).

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

It was suggested that the Conditions Sub-Committee should meet to look at updating the Conditions. Also, as a number of Council members had no experience of Arbitration, J. R. McArthur suggested that a meeting including a mock arbitration should take place in the near future. Mr McArthur was asked to arrange this as soon as possible.

- (6) 2001/2002 ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary took Council through the Association's unaudited Accounts for the year 2001/2002, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda. The accounts showed a deficit of £129.20, slightly less than that indicated in the draft presented at the October meeting.

There were no questions and the accounts were approved for submission to the Association's Accountants, Messrs MacMillan & Co., Glasgow for certification in the usual way.

- (7) BUDGET for 2002/2003: The Secretary distributed a summary of his best estimates of income and expenditure for the coming year. He reported that he had prepared a budget based on £12,180.00 of possible income from the subscriptions of 55 members. He indicated that he had trimmed likely expenses as far as practical and the budget still showed a deficit of £900. In general Council were of the opinion that membership would further contract in line with numbers in the industry. After debate and various suggestions as to the rate of subscription, it was agreed that Council should recommend to the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting that subscriptions for the current year be increased by £15 for all size brackets.

That is:-

	<u>Subscriptions</u> <u>(Net of VAT)</u>
0 - 6,000 tonnes	£195.00
6,001 - 10,000 tonnes	£240.00
10,001 - 14,000 tonnes	£280.00
14,001 - 18,000 tonnes	£310.00
over 18,000 tonnes	£340.00

- (8) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: A copy of the minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council of 8 October 2002 had been issued with the agenda. D. J. Harley gave a brief resume. He said the meeting was poorly attended by members representing the interests of growers. Only four out of a possible nine attended and as a result the meeting was not quorate. Agenda matters were dealt with and confirmed by correspondence with those not present. The meeting was given an update on technological developments in agriculture by Jim Godfrey and Prof. Hillman, Chairman and Director respectively of SCRI. The Policy Commission on the Future of Food & Farming had proposed the formation of an Applied Research Forum to improve co-ordination of applied farming and food research. The Chairman of the BPC was a member of a sub-group set up to draft a remit for this forum. It had been reported that a press launch of the Potato Futures Market had taken place on 26 September. The BPC Corporate Plan had been reviewed and it had been concluded that only activities, which made a real difference and were valued by levy payers would be retained. A poll of Potato Weekly subscribers as to whether the planting intentions survey should continue had been undertaken. The majority of purchasers were in favour but the majority of producers weighted by hectareage were against. After discussion a vote by members was conducted and the majority decision was that the survey should not take place. A discussion on potato stocks statistics had taken place. There was criticism over the BPC's stock reports for the previous season. The meeting agreed that the interpretation of statistics required some skill and experience. An analysis of the previous years information was going to be provided to facilitate a meaningful review. It was reported that there had been a positive feedback from a Marketing Conference on 26 September on the BPC's New Marketing Campaign. There had been many statements of commitment to take part in the campaign. Under R & D matters a number of items were discussed. A blight campaign for 2003 was approved based on a programme of information, awareness and educational activities. Continued availability of water for the GB potato industry was an issue concerning the industry. Promotion and knowledge transfer activities were required to encourage the efficient use of water, although it was felt this did not apply in Scotland. On

the review of PCN controls Mr Harley said he could report that there were unified responses from most of industry similar to the BPC response. On an item on the Seed Conference he said that this had been successful and well attended. With reference to seed export matters it was reported that seed exports in 2001/2002 season showed a marginal increase of almost 2,000 tonnes to 70,581 tonnes. Also, two industry companies had visited Turkey and Lebanon and the exercise had been very successful. A report on the GIS system was given to the members. GIS was originally used for enforcement activities but there was potential for use in many other ways such as brown rot eradication programmes and PCN controls. A report was given on Registration and Levy Collection. This was proceeding very satisfactorily.

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

Letter from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "The Scottish Parliament – Annual Report 2001 to 2002".

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Register of Pre-Basic and Basic Seed Potato Crops 2002".

Letter from British Potato Council.

- (a) "eyewitness – October issue".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Food Labelling Action Plan: Food Labelling Forum, London 6 Dec. 2002".
(b) "Food Standards Agency News November Issue".
(c) "EC Working Group Meeting – proposals for harmonised limits for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and proposed maximum levels for cadmium in sunflower seeds, linseed and groundnuts".
(d) "EC Working Group Meeting – Proposals for Harmonised Limits for Tin".

Letter from British Heart Foundation

- (a) "Thanking SPTA for Donation".

Letter from CHAS

- (a) "Thanking SPTA for Donation".

Email from NASPM

- (a) "Acknowledging receipt of SPTA's letter concerning their comments on proposed Constitution".

Letter from Bank of Scotland

- (a) "Enclosing 1 Year Term Bond".

Letter from William O. Gordon (Potatoes)

- (a) "Proposing James Taylor & Son for Membership of the Association".

Letter from Paul Thomson Potatoes Ltd

- (a) "Proposing James Taylor & Son for Membership of the Association".

(10) TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR 2003: A list of the corresponding dates to the previous year was laid on the table. After discussion the proposed dates were agreed as under:-

AGM	Thursday 30 January 2003 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 30 January 2003 at 2.30 p.m.
Council	Thursday 13 March 2003 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 8 May 2003 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 26 June 2003 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 14 August 2003 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 16 October 2003 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 20 November 2003 at 2.00 p.m.

(11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Membership Matters: The Secretary reported that he had received an application for membership of the Association from James Taylor & Son, Wellhill Farm, Dyke, Moray, IV36 2TG. They were proposed and seconded by William O. Gordon (Potatoes) and Paul Thomson Potatoes Ltd. Council unanimously agreed that the company should be granted membership. The Secretary was instructed to write the usual letter of welcome.
- (b) Seed Consultative Panel: The agenda for the meeting the following day was discussed and matters raised by SPTA confirmed (see item (3)(c) above). A report on the meeting would be given at the next meeting of Council.

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

