

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, 13 March, 2003.

PRESENT: Messrs. R. J. S. Doig, T. Halliwell, R. Haynes, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, P. Peebles, A. J. B. Redpath and D. Y. Stewart along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr V. Lumb, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of H. Hughes, Messrs A. M. Beattie, D. J. Harley, C. J. Herron, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, K. A. McKenzie, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne and A. B. Pullar.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 30 January 2003 was taken as read approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a) it was confirmed that the Huntingtower Hotel and Willie Simpson's band had been booked for Friday 5 December 2003 for this year's Annual Dinner and Dance. Curling – Members were informed that the second round of the Association curling competition had taken place in Perth Ice Rink on Friday 7 March at 3.00p.m. North had won this year's competition by one shot and J. Stewart's MBM rink was the overall winner of the cup. This year's Golf outing was also confirmed for Thursday 5 June at Forfar Golf Club.
 - (b) Seed Potato Trail: Arising from Item (3)(b) a letter which had been received from the Seed Sectoral Group of the BPC was laid on the table. It was explained that improved communication was required in the seed industry and that the Seed Satisfaction survey had shown that customers wanted to know more about the history of the seed they were buying. The exercise would be very targeted and limited to a specific period. It was intended to hold it during the week of 'Potatoes in Practice' and would possibly be website driven. In the circumstance the Secretary was instructed to proceed with the development of SPTA's site, which had been held in abeyance pending the outcome of negotiations on a new body.
 - (c) Training for Arbiters: Arising from item (3)(d), Ron McArthur had asked the Secretary to inform Council that he was on target to hold the exercise on Thursday 22 May as originally announced. Full details would be given on the 8 May at the next Council meeting.
 - (d) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item (5) The Secretary reported that he had sent out requests for annual subscriptions at the end of February. They had just started to come in with about 40% collected so far.
 - (e) Proposals for BPC Levy: Arising from item (9) the President reported that the Secretary had responded to SEERAD as per the terms recorded in the minute.
 - (f) Inspection in 1 tonne and 1 tonne+ containers: Arising from items (10) a discussion took place on the inconsistent way the requirement had been administered in the various SEERAD Areas and consistency was needed. It was suggested that proposals to consider stopping the requirement was hard to defend when cases of abuse of the system had occurred. Inexpensive specialist

equipment was available for this type of inspection, which had been used in some Areas for a few years. It was considered that in the case of VTSC stocks that discretion by the inspectorate could be used and consideration was being given on seeking a special concession for these stocks.

All other matters were on the agenda.

(4) FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION: Following the decision made at the last Council meeting, the President and Secretary had drafted a letter in response to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the President of NASPM. This was laid on the table and used as a basis for discussion. Council felt that there had been a marked change in the negotiating policy of NASPM towards the formation and structure of the new body since the meeting of the JPTC on 6 March last year. Although they agreed with most of the content of the draft they considered that a response from SPTA portraying an even more positive intend for the new body was required. It was agreed that the President should re-word the letter accordingly and forward it to the President of NASPM.

(5) VENUES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE: The President suggested that consideration should be given to holding some of the Council meetings in other parts of Scotland as the membership came from all over Scotland. Currently the majority of Council members came from Forfar, Brechin, Montrose area and it was felt that Forfar should be considered for at least some of the meetings. It was suggested that a member's premises could be used and this possibility was to be investigated.

(6) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: A copy of the Minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council held on 3 February 2003 had been circulated with the agenda. The minute was very full but Mr Stewart gave a report on items of greatest interest to members. On page 3 there was a report on 'The Fight against Blight Campaign' and Dr Storey had intimated that dump management was an important part of this BPC initiative. The Fight against Blight campaign had been launched in December and appeared to have hit the right note. There had been significant interest from the industry and from the media. The system was website driven and scouts were being sought. They had already registered a good number but members were encouraged to join. Full instructions were on the website. Mr Stewart said there had been a review of the membership of the R & D Committee. The BPC Chief Executive reminded the meeting that one of the lessons learnt from the recent Industry audits was that some technical staff felt that they lacked influence on the Council's R&D work, and that they did not relate to either the process or the project portfolio. They had also expressed a willingness to contribute and a commitment to devoting the necessary resources to do this effectively. The Council had agreed that this was a good opportunity to review the structure and membership of the R&D Committee and then to use the outcome as a model for other Committees. The following membership was suggested, and approved by the BPC:

Four BPC Grower representatives and one representing the industry beyond the farm gate.

5

One of the growers would be the Committee Chairman.

Of the others, one would be a seed grower – nominated by the SSG;

one would be a representative of the fresh produce sector; and

one would represent the processing sector.

Scientific representatives from DEFRA and SEERAD would be invited members.

2

The SSG would nominate a second member (non-BPC) for the Committee	1
The PPA would nominate one member; and	1
The packing sector would nominate an agreed representative from within the Technical directors group.	1
There would be one independent scientist and one agronomist.	<u>2</u>

12

A similar review of the Marketing Division was being considered. A replacement for Alasdair MacLennan was progressing and second interviews would be taking place the following week.

- (7) SEED SECTORAL GROUP: The Minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group held on 27 February 2003 had just arrived and a copy was laid on the table. Mr A. Redpath gave a brief report on some of the main points of interest. The group had been updated on the changes in the R & D Committee detailed in Item (6) above. They were also updated on Brown Rot and Ring Rot. In Scotland brown rot eradication work would continue and a report had been circulated by email. In England eradication work had resulted in restrictions being lifted from some watercourses but at the same time new infections had been detected in the Witham, Fossdyke Navigation in Lincolnshire, Stanground Lode and Crown Lakes and a section of the Great Ouse. The finding of Brown Rot in Pelargoniums from Kenya caused some concern. DEFRA reported on the outbreak of Ring Rot in Lady Rosetta in Holland. It appeared that the outbreak had been reported in the press before the Dutch authorities had complied with EU requirements. The Dutch had agreed to review their procedures on notification. Dr Storey gave an update on the work being done at CUF on Physiological/Chronological Seed Management. A report on the trial programme on chronological seed taking place in Israel was given. Although the results were not positive they could be used by SSG to give direction for future trials. The new initiative on blight mentioned in Item (6) above was welcomed by Council and members were encouraged to register as scouts. The date for 'Potatoes in Practice' this year is 7 August 2003. It would continue to be the key summer event with more field-based activity, which would include the trade. The seed potato trail would take place at the same time as detailed in Item (3)(b) above. It was also announced that the Seed Industry Conference would take place this year on 13 and 14 November in Crieff Hydro. SSG agreed that this would be a better venue as all delegates would be accommodated at the same location and facilities would not be shared with other companies. It was also announced that a refurbished seed varieties handbook was being produced. This would be a loose-leaf version to assist updates/additions.
- (8) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:

Letters from the Scottish Office headed:

- (a) "CAP Reform: Consultation on Mid Term Review of Agenda 2000".
- (b) "British Potato Council : Appointment of Chairman".
- (c) "Import of Ware Potatoes from Cuba".
- (d) "Summary of the Ralstonia Solanacearum Contamination Eradication Exercise in the Tay River System" (Email)

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Soil Sampling for Potato Cyst Nematodes (PCN)".

Letter from DEFRA

- (a) "Review of UK National List (NL) and Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) Testing Services and Fees Structure".

Letters from the British Potato Council

- (a) "Minute of the British Potato Council Meeting of 4 February 2003".
(b) "eyewitness". (January/February issue)
(c) "The Potato Industry Development Council (Amendment) Order 2002". (Copy of Order)
(d) "Response from SSG of BPC on 'Seed Potato Trail' Proposal".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Improving Allergy Information in Catering Outlets".
(b) "Food Standards Agency News February Issue".
(c) "Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Infant Formula (a step 3). Request for Comments on Section 3.1 Essential Composition".
(d) "Food Standards Agency Open Board Meeting – Invitation".
(e) "Food Standards Agency News March Issue".

Letter from Scot Hot 2003

- (a) "The 16th Scottish Hotel, Catering and Licensed Trade Exhibition".

Letter from PRN Publications

- (a) "Association Journal". (January/February issue)

Letter from Scottish Food and Drink

- (a) "Marketing and Commercial Knowledge Development Programme - Workshops".

Letter from Clark Thomson Insurance Brokers Ltd

- (a) "Renewal of Combined Liability Policy".

Letter from Messrs J. R. & J. A. Barron

- (a) "Resignation from Association".

The Secretary was instructed to write to Messrs Barron thanking them for their support over the years of their membership.

- (9) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 8 May 2003. Subject to the outcome of Item (5) above the venue will be notified to all Council members.

- (10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Association Membership: Mr A. Redpath suggested that a campaign should be initiated to encourage and recruit new members. It was agreed that the subject should be an item for the next agenda and members were asked to bring forward suggestions.

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