

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, 20 November, 2003.

PRESENT: R. J. S. Doig, D. J. Harley, R. Haynes, C. J. Herron, H. Hughes, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, R. McKay, A. Melrose, P. Peebles and A. J. B. Redpath along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr V. Lumb, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting. As this was the first meeting of a new term for Council Members, he extended a special welcome to Neil Pullar in his absence.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs T. Halliwell, J. L. Milne, A. B. Pullar, N. Pullar and D. Y. Stewart.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 16 October 2003 was taken as read, approved and signed by A. J. B. Redpath who was Chairman of that meeting.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a), The Secretary reported that there were currently only 19 applications for tickets for the Dinner and Dance and that NASPM was being represented by the President and his wife but as yet he had not heard from the NFU(S). It was felt that there would only be seventy to eighty attendees this year. 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 25 November at 3.00pm.
 - (b) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item 3(b), the Secretary intimated that three subscriptions were still outstanding. One had been contacted yesterday and had resigned. The other two had been contacted and were likely to pay their dues.
 - (c) British Potato Trade Association: Arising from Items (7), the Secretary had emailed NASPM as per instructed at the last Council meeting and they had responded with suggested meeting times towards the end of January/beginning February in Stansted or Luton. It was agreed this should be taken up provided proposals for a Business Plan and budget can be prepared by that time. Current membership of both Associations and membership likely to continue into the new body would have to be considered before a budget with the level of subscription could be calculated.
All other items were on the agenda.
- (4) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS: Council unanimously agreed that the President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President should continue in office and that the Secretary, Hugh B. Edmond should be re-appointed for a further year. Mr R. Doig did however state that due to other commitments he would have to consider his situation in the future especially if the new body was not formed. Council also resolved to re-appoint Messrs. MacMillan & Co., Chartered Accountants, Glasgow as the Association's Accountants.
- (5) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, ETC.: Council agreed that Members of all Committees should remain the same provided that, the names of Members who were no longer members of Council were removed. As a result Council appointed

the following representatives to serve on the following external Committees for the year to 31 October 2004:-

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

Seed Potato Consultative Panel – V. Lumb and A. J. B. Redpath (D. J. Harley, 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 – R. J. S. Doig and D. J. Harley.

Seed Sectoral Group of BPC – R. J. S. Doig, D. J. Harley, A. J. B. Redpath and N. Pullar.

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 agreed the following appointments to the Association's internal Committees for the year to 31 October 2004 (The President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President being *ex officio* representatives on each Sub-Committee):-

President's Sub-Committee – D. J. Harley, J. R. McArthur, 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 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.

- (6) 2002/2003 ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary took Council through the Association's unaudited Accounts for the year 2002/2003, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda. The accounts showed a surplus of £110.79, but this would be greater if any of the two outstanding subscriptions materialise before the accounts are submitted to the Accountants. 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 2003/200: 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 £13,005.00 of possible income from the subscriptions of 55 members. He indicated that he had trimmed likely expenses as far as practical and the budget based on those estimates showed a surplus of £72. Council unanimously agreed that the Secretary should be awarded an increase in salary at the rate of inflation and as a consequence the budget would now show a marginal deficit. Council agreed to recommend to the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting that subscriptions for the current year remain the same as the year just ended.

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) TRADE VOLUNTARY BAN AND RING ROT OUTBREAK: The outbreak of Ring Rot in Wales was viewed by Council as a serious concern to the whole seed industry and in particular the export trade. It was felt that a safe haven for high-grade seed was an essential requirement and should be the aim of all states within the EC. Council debated on how the trade should go forward from here and the general opinion was that something more binding than a voluntary ban was necessary. It was considered that current EC Directives were not working as cases were increasing throughout the EC. A letter from D. Y. Stewart stressing the threat to the industry from Ring Rot and from bringing planting material into the high-grade area was read out to Council. A suggestion made by the President and Immediate Past President that a pledge from members should be obtained. Their names could then be published as businesses who have agreed not to bring seed potatoes into the high-grade region. The names would be published on the web and buyers would know who they could obtain supplies from with confidence. Some discussions had already taken place with the NFU(S) and it was agreed this should be progressed with the campaign extended to growers. A joint letter seeking the pledge would be sent out as soon as possible. The campaign would also include a Press Release to concentrate the mind of all those in the industry on the severity of the threat and at the same time give some weight to SPTA's action to raise awareness.
- (9) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: A copy of the minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council of 7 October 2003 had been issued with the agenda. D. J. Harley gave a brief resume. He said the meeting opened with the Chairman giving a welcome to new members including Robert Doig and Fraser Scott from Scotland. These two members were also appointed to the Seed Sectoral Group. Requirements for additional information had been identified in the Corporate Plan and a working group had been set up to identify gaps in knowledge and needs of the Information Committee. A report on system changes to the Crop Check Weighing procedure was given. This had given rise to savings due to a reduction in the number of digs and further savings were proposed. In addition to cost savings, the exercise had revealed that the data collected could be analysed to produce a wealth of information. BPC Council was updated on the proposed Grower Panel. A pilot group had been set up with some teething problems experienced. The concept was worthy of consideration and there was the potential of encompassing crop check weighing information. In considering R & D knowledge transfer issues, it was noted that the characteristics considered in the Independent Variety Trials were being reviewed. Mr Harley said that the Planting Intentions survey had been raised again and the subject was to be considered by the new Information Committee. A provisional timetable for the next Ministerial Review of the British Potato Council due in 2004/2005 was given to the Members. They were also given a report on the Area Monitoring Programme in 2003. This was regarded as successful and accepted by the majority of levy payers as a positive means of ensuring fairness. Mr Harley felt that the minute was fairly full and covered most points but said if anyone had questions he would try to answer them.
- (10) TOLERANCE LEVELS FOR COMMON SCAB: Two Members raised a problem they were experiencing this season due to the increased amount of common scab on some varieties. It appears there will be a shortage of these varieties if current Scottish scab tolerance levels are maintained. The proposing parties felt that a slight relaxation to UNECE standards would be an advantage.

That is $\frac{1}{3}$ cover on 5% of tubers as opposed to $\frac{1}{4}$ on 4% in the Scottish standard. After discussion Council agreed to support a request for derogation provided a letter of acceptance from the buyer was obtained to support each request. The matter was on the agenda for the Seed Consultative Panel meeting tomorrow and was to be raised by SPTA representatives.

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

Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:

- (a) "Scottish Executive Development Department (SEDD) Circular 3/2003 Environmental Impact Assessment (Water Management) (Scotland) Regulations 2003".
- (b) "Herbicide Treatment of Solanum Dulcamara Plants growing in Lunan Burn etc". (Final report 2003 Season)

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Agenda and Papers for The Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel Meeting". (By email)

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the Meeting of the British Potato Council of 7 October 2003".
- (b) "eyewitness" (October/November 2003 Edition).
- (c) "BPC Seed Sectoral Group Invitation for Nominations for Members".
- (d) "2003 Potato Supply Position". (By email).
- (e) "An Update of BPC Response to Potato Ring Rot Outbreak". (By email).

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "EC Proposals – Maximum Limits for Mycotoxins in Food".
- (b) "Food Standards Agency Open Board Meeting - Invitation".
- (c) "Commission Proposals to Set Limits for Tin and PAH in Foodstuffs. Review of Commission Regulation 466/2001 (Maximum Limits for Heavy Metals)".
- (d) "Mycotoxins – EC Permitted Levels".
- (e) "Food Standards Agency – News". (November 2003 Edition).
- (f) "Health Quarterly – Holyrood Policy Journal".

Letter from ADAS

- (a) "Food Standards Agency Action Plan to Minimise Residues in Food – Potatoes". (Invitation to stakeholders meeting)

Letter from Alex G. Denholm

- (a) "Notification of Change of Address".

Letter from International Spinal Research Trust

- (a) "Letter of Thanks for Donation".

Letter from the Royal Highland Education Trust

- (a) "Seeking Assistance with Fund Raising – Claire Smith of IPM Ltd".

Emails from A. M. Beattie

- (a) "Views and Comments on Ring Rot Outbreak".
- (b) "Views and Comments on FSS and Long Distance Movement".

Letters from the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants

- (a) "President's Acceptance of Invitation to Annual Dinner and Dance".
- (b) "Suggested Date for Next Meeting of JPTC". (By email).

Letter from D. Y. Stewart

- (b) "Views on Matters to be considered in Papers Issued with Agenda for Seed Consultative Panel Meeting".

- (12) TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR 2004: 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 29 January 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 29 January 2004 at 2.30 p.m.
Council	Thursday 11 March 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 6 May 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 24 June 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 12 August 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 14 October 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
Council	Thursday 18 November 2004 at 2.00 p.m.

- (13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Seed Consultative Panel: The agenda for the meeting the following day was discussed and matters raised by SPTA confirmed. 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.

