

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, 14 October, 2004.

PRESENT: T. Halliwell, H. Hughes, V. Lumb, J. R. McArthur, J. Macfarlane and A. B. Pullar along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr V. Lumb occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting. The President was disappointed at the turnout and suggested that the date for this meeting should be considered at the November meeting. He also intimated to Council the death of James Robertson of Galbraith & Roy Ltd. Mr Robertson was President from 1975 to 1977 and a founder member of the Association. He was a Council member up until 2 years ago when he semi-retired. He was also instrumental in organising the terms for the capital taken over from the Glasgow and West of Scotland Potato Trade Association when SPTA was formed in 1970 and which SPTA has invested to produce income. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to his wife and family.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs R. J. S. Doig, C. J. Herron, D. J. Harley, R. Haynes, A. D. Lamont, R. McKay, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, P. Peebles, N. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath and D. Y. Stewart.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 12 August 2004 was taken as read and approved and thereafter signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
 - (a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a), Mr A. Pullar reported that the Annual Dinner and Dance was organised for Friday 3 December at the Huntingtower Hotel. The Secretary would circulate details shortly. The usual invitations were to be extended to the President of NASPM and to the Chairman of the Potato Working Group of the NFU. The Secretary said that he had already had a response from David Walker that he and his wife would be attending but that the President and Chief Executive of the US Potato Marketing Board had as yet not replied. A discussion on ticket price took place and it was agreed that this should remain at £22 and any costs for guests etc taken from the Entertainment Fund.
 - (b) Association Subscriptions: Arising from Item (3)(c) The Secretary reported that the 3 outstanding subscriptions still had not been paid. The Secretary would contact one of them and Council Members agreed to contact the other two to finally resolve the situation.
 - (c) End of Season Exporters' Meeting: Arising from Item (5) The Secretary reported that he still had not received a report on the meeting.
 - (d) Arbitration Fees and Rates: Arising from Item (10). The Secretary had been informed by NASPM that they would be changing their fees and rates to those mentioned in the report on the last meeting and that they would let us know when this was done. NASPM had also indicated that their legal advisors had advised them not to alter their Conditions of Sale in the meantime. Council concurred with this and agreed that as there had been any problems with our Conditions of Sale or Purchase they should not be amended.

All other matters were on the agenda for today.

- (4) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Secretary confirmed that there had only been four nominations for the five vacancies on Council. No election was therefore necessary and accordingly they had all automatically been elected to Council with effect from 1 November 2004. The Secretary explained that Messrs Colin J. Herron, Andrew D. Lamont and David Y. Stewart had been re-elected to Council and that Mr Andrew Skea had been elected to Council. The Secretary was instructed to write the usual letters to the re-elected members and to the new member of Council.
- (5) DRAFT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS: The Secretary tabled interim unaudited accounts of the Association for the year to 31 October 2004. The Secretary took the meeting through the draft accounts and pointed out that although the accounts showed a deficit of £397.00, the projected expenses to the end of the year had been estimated and the total income depended on how many of the three outstanding subscriptions were eventually paid. The remaining Treasury stock will redeem in November and the £4,000 Bank of Scotland Term deposit expires in February. It was agreed that these sums should be reinvested in a short-term bonds (6 months) at the best interest possible. The Secretary suggested that we should look at the Constitution as the words 'taken in the name of Stockbroker Nominees' is mention and it is reported in minutes of Council that our Nominee Stockbroker is Gregg Middleton who have been taken over and changed their name to Gerrards. The Secretary was instructed to look at the Constitution and have a suggested change for consideration of Council in November.
- (6) SEED SECTORAL GROUP: The Secretary had circulated a copy of the Minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group held on 26 August 2004 with the agenda. There were no representatives of the Seed Sectoral Group present and it was agreed to leave this item over until the next meeting. The Chairman referred to paragraph 04/038 on the paper detailing the 'Safe Haven' protocols. He indicated that he had a copy, which he would email to the Secretary to go out to all Council members for comment. The six members of Council present were disappointed to learn that the aims of SPTA to keep Scotland as a quarantine disease free safe haven were not being pursued. The aim of the Trade's voluntary ban was towards this end. The views of the rest of Council were to be sought in time for the next meeting of Council.
- (7) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The Secretary had circulated a copy of the Minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council held on 15 July 2004 with the agenda. There were no Members present on the British Potato Council so it was agreed to leave this item over until the next meeting.
- (8) STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The consultation papers on this item had been issued with the agenda and it was indicated by the Secretary that the full consultation could be accessed on the internet at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>. It was commented that there was no one present totally anti and that in general there were few dissenters but the President felt that a response required input from a larger proportion of Council. This item was to be included on the agenda for the November meeting. The term for the BPC was originally three years then five. Council felt that this was too short a period and did not provide enough time to show the results of their efforts. Ten years would be more appropriate. A review could possibly take place but was a poll necessary with all the resultant costs. In general the membership felt that the industry needed some form of representative body – having nothing was not a feasible option.

- (9) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SEED POTATOES (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000: Again the consultation papers on this item had been issued with the agenda and it was indicated by the Secretary that the full consultation could also be accessed on the internet at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations> Most of the proposals had been agreed at the Seed Potato Consultative Panel meeting last November but members were asked to look at the proposals closely and bring back comments to the next meeting. In particular there were references to low and even nil tolerances to skin defects, which would be difficult to attain although the nil tolerance referred to a condition not seen in Scotland. It was essential that we responded in detail to an item as important to the industry as this regulation.
- (10) SEED POTATO CROPS CLASSIFIED IN SCOTLAND IN 2004 GROWING SEASON: These statistics had not been issued to all members as they were available on the internet at <http://www.sasa.gov.uk> Any member who had difficulty obtaining a copy from the web was issued with one. There was very little change in the total area classified from the previous year.
- (11) APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION: The under-noted applications for membership of the Association were considered:-
 Branston Limited.
 Proposed by:- Pseedco Ltd
 Seconded by:- Cygnet Potato Breeders Ltd
 Evans & Newton Ltd.
 Proposed by:- Robertson of Perth
 Seconded by:- Cygnet Potato Breeders Ltd
 Council unanimously agreed that these two companies should be granted membership. The Secretary was instructed to write the usual letter of welcome.
- (12) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary reported that the following correspondence had been received:
 Letters from the Scottish Executive headed:
- (a) "Workshop on Agronomic Measures Necessary for the Coexistence of GM and Non-GM Crops" – Invitation to attend on 14 September in Edinburgh.
 - (b) "Consultation on a Proposal to Introduce Charges for Plant Health Import Inspections and Changes to the Import Elements of the Plant Health Directive". (Response required by 19 October 2004)
 - (c) "Meetings to discuss to discuss the Changes to Plant Health Import Arrangements in (b) above"
 - (d) "Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Bill –A Consultation" (Response by 29 October 2004)
 - (e) "Consultation on the Revised Code of Practice for the Safe use of Plant Protection Products in Scotland and on Public Information on Pesticide Use". (Response by 17 December 2004)
 - (f) "Statutory Review of the British Potato Council" (Response by 21 December 2004)
 - (g) "Proposed Amendments to the Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (Response by 17 December 2004)

Letter from Defra

- (a) "Potato Ring Rot : Lessons Learned Report"

Letters from SASA headed

- (a) "Seed Potato Statistics". (Area Classified in Scotland in 2004).
- (b) "Arrangements for the Examination, Labelling and Sealing of Scottish Pre-Basic and Basic Seed Potatoes-2004/2005".
(Sent by SASA to all Seed Potato Producers).

Letters from British Potato Council.

- (a) "Minute of the Seed Sectoral Group Meeting of 26 August 2004".
- (b) "Minute of the Meeting of the British Potato Council of 15 July 2004".
- (c) "Potato Newsletter" (September 2004 Edition).
- (d) "National Chip Week – BPC Campaign".
- (e) "Total Plantings in Great Britain in 2004, Breakdown by Variety – Provisional Figures".
- (f) "A Crucial Decision – BPC Review letter to all Levy Payers".
- (g) "BPC Retail Report". (September issue).
- (h) "BPC World Service".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Food Standards Agency Open Board Meeting" - Invitation.
- (b) "The Food Safety Act 1990 (Amendment) Regulations 2004 – The General Food Regulations 2004 – The Feeding Stuffs (Safety Regulations for Feed for Food-producing Animals) Regulations 2004".
- (c) "Food Standards Agency – News". (September 2003 Edition).
- (d) "Food Standards Agency Open Board Meeting" - Invitation.
- (e) "Consultation on Draft Regulations Enforcing the Provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 2065/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Smoke Flavourings used or Intended for use in or on Foods".

Letter from Evans and Newton Ltd

- (a) "Application to join SPTA".

Letter from Robertson of Perth Ltd

- (a) "Proposing Evans and Newton Ltd Membership of SPTA".

Letter from Cygnet Potato Breeders Ltd

- (a) "Seconding Evans and Newton Ltd Membership of SPTA".

Email from Branston Limited

- (a) "Application to join SPTA".

Email from Pseedco Ltd

- (a) "Proposing Branston Limited for Membership of SPTA".

Letter from Cygnet Potato Breeders Ltd

- (a) "Seconding Branston Limited for Membership of SPTA".

(13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 18 November 2004 in Perth.

(14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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