

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of  
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE  
ASSOCIATION held in the FINAVON  
HOTEL, FINAVON, FORFAR at 2.00  
p.m. on Thursday, 18 August, 2005.

PRESENT: R. J. S. Doig, C. J. Herron, H. Hughes, V. Lumb, R. McKay, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, A. B. Pullar, N. Pullar, A. Skea and D. Y. Stewart along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr A. J. B. Redpath, was unable to be present and the Vice-President, Mr C. J. Herron occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting. This was a new venue for the meeting and he hoped the member were in favour with the choice.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, R. Haynes, A. D. Lamont, J. Macfarlane, J. R. McArthur, P. Peebles and A. J. B. Redpath.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 5 May 2005 was taken as read approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:
  - (a) Ken McKenzie: It was confirmed that the Secretary had sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Association to Mrs McKenzie and family.
  - (b) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a) – Curling, It was confirmed that ice was booked for the first round of the North v South Curling Competition for Tuesday 22 November 2005 at Murrayfield for 3.00pm and the second round was on Friday 10 March at Perth Ice Rink also at 3.00pm. Dinner and Dance - A. B. Pullar, Entertainments Convener confirmed that all the arrangements for this year's event had been finalised. It would take place at the new venue of the Carnoustie Golf Hotel on Friday 11 November. Details and application forms were going out to all members now and it was anticipated there would be a good turn out. He asked Council to encourage as many to attend as possible. Golf - The golf outing had taken place on Friday 27 May. It was considered a great success with 41 players on the course. Prize winners – Individual, M. Clark, 44 Points, D. Harley, 41 Points and C. Brown, 41 Points. Nearest pin at 16<sup>th</sup>. M. Fearon. Nearest pin at 18<sup>th</sup>. D. Fearon. Longest drive G. Inglis. Ladies, N. Smith. Team prizes, 1<sup>st</sup>. A. J. Allan with A. Melrose, B. Farquharson, T. Fletcher & G. Anderson. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, McCain with C. Herron, N. Smith, A Braid & G. Inglis.
  - (c) Association Subscriptions: The Secretary reported that there was now only one outstanding subscription. H. Hughes agreed to contact the member concerned.
  - (d) British Potato Council: Arising from Item (4) – concerning the review of Levy Boards being carried out by Rosemary Radcliffe the Chairman gave a resume of the meeting representatives of SPTA and VTSC had with her at the Highland Show. She appeared to understand the situation and she had sent a brief report on the meeting, to which the President was currently making some minor corrections to the detail. A copy of the BPC's submission had been given to the Secretary with a request that it be issued to members at this meeting. This had been laid on the table.

(e) Seed Sectoral Group: Arising from Items (5) 'Safe Havens' – R. J. S. Doig said that some of the detail had taken sometime to finalise but the BPC was hopeful of the project being in place for the start of the season. The BPC Update in the correspondence gave some of the detail and copies of the most recent draft of the 'Safe Haven Certification Scheme' were laid on the table. Arising from the last two sentences in the same item (Item (5)) the Secretary had written to Charlie Greenslade as reported in the minute regarding statistics on seed imports from Germany, Poland and the Netherlands. The information had been received and sent to all Council Members. In relation to the 2005 growing season 6 lots totalling 112.2tonnes had arrived from The Netherlands.

All other matters were on the agenda.

- (4) BRITISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION: A poll of the Membership on their support for the formation of a new body to replace SPTA had been conducted. 34 members out of the total of 57 had responded (60%). 32 were in favour of the new body (94%). As a consequence of this poll Council agreed to recommend to the AGM that the Association support the formation of The British Potato Trade Association. Council would now await the results of the poll following NASPM's meeting in September.
- (5) BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL: The Minute of the meeting of the British Potato Council held on 7 June 2005 was issued with the agenda. R. J. S. Doig gave a resume of the report. He said the meeting had been dominated by the report on the Review of Levy Bodies being conducted by Rosemary Radcliffe. He said she was not a puppet of Government and was open-minded. She felt the BPC does well within the restraints it has to work. As regards the levy system the BPC was the only body with a two-tier system and there would have to be changes. Dr. Rob Clayton gave a report on Knowledge Transfer. He explained that the campaign approach reflected the importance of communicating levy funded R&D projects to the industry on a sustained basis. It was a cyclical process, linked to the BPC's corporate and business plans, focusing on agreed priorities, and encompassing science reviews as well as stakeholder involvement and feedback. The value of working with agronomists and other technical contacts was exemplified by the blight campaign 'super-scouts', who had helped to develop more challenging protocols and improve knowledge and understanding at all levels. Dr Clayton said that another challenge was that of brand-dilution. There were many reasons why the BPC was not always acknowledged as the source of information. A progress report was given on the Grower Panel system of collecting crop information. The Council had agreed, at its previous meeting, to carry out a full feasibility study of this concept, which had been under discussion for some time. Members were pleased to note that the project was now in progress. A fully structured sample of 650 growers (500 ware and 150 seed) had been selected. Messrs Hirst, Nichols and Hudson of the NFU had been invited to the meeting and following discussions it was hoped that there would be improved mutual understanding and the beginning of a new phase of co-operation between the two organisations. A financial report to the end of April 2005 was given. With expenditure exceeding income there had to be a draw on reserves but since the last meeting all budget holders had reviewed their expenditure. Overall, the forecast expenditure now stood at £6,054K, and projected income was £5,906K. Investment income was greater than expected, due to higher interest rates and the reduction in expenditure. As a result of this, the draw from general reserves was

forecast at £10K, nearly £600K less than the original budget. The meeting was updated on the progress with British Potato 2005. This would be the big event of the year and there was a good uptake of stands and sponsorship. It would be held on 30 November and 1 December 2005. The event would comprise BPC conventions for processing, fresh and seed, as well as a trade show and seminars on various topics. The BPC would have a stand featuring a wide range of activities and services. An industry dinner would be held on the evening of 30 November.

- (6) END OF SEASON EXPORTERS' MEETING AND EXPORT MATTERS: The Minute on the End of Season Exporters' meeting held on 7 June 2005 was not yet to hand. Vincent Lumb Convener of the Exporters' Sub-committee said he would report on the meeting when the report arrived but indicated that the lack of communication and understanding within the system was the greatest concern to the industry. They were currently interviewing for a member of staff at SASA to do this work. As regards the problem with Thailand he felt that SEERAD had not talked to the Thai authorities early enough. Dr Carnegie and Iain Dykes had visited Thailand and progress had been made with virus tolerances but powdery scab was a more difficult problem. As regards the difficulty with Turkey he said the condition set by SEERAD was not a condition required by Turkey. He then went on to inform Council that a meeting of the Sub-Committee the previous day had discussed SASA's policy on dealing with virus levels in stocks of Desiree and the lack of consultation with industry before deciding on action. John Kerr had been invited to attend. SASA's intended policy was to post harvest all stocks of Desiree (SE2 and lower) where virus had been seen at field inspection. Vincent Lumb had written to SASA on behalf of the Committee on the subject as it was felt the action would virtually end the Desiree export trade. 120 crops were subject to testing. This was estimated to be about 50% of the crop. The results of the tests would not be known until at least November and the Members of the committee felt that this would result in circumstances, which would cause commercial disaster to the Desiree export trade. Sales to Israel are conducted in September with loading in November. There was the possibility of stocks being earmarked and sold but at the last minute having to be withdrawn. This would give the wrong message to customers especially in Israel where virus in stocks had never been a problem. The Committee argued strongly for the testing to be done as a survey. Since the meeting SASA have acceded to the request and will be carrying out the testing as a survey.
- (7) EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO REPLACE CURRENT PCN CONTROL DIRECTIVE (69/456/EEC): The full consultation paper on the subject was rather lengthy and the majority of members had not looked at in depth. D. Y. Stewart agreed he would look at in consultation with D. J. Harley and if it was felt a response was necessary he would contact the Secretary.
- (8) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP: Proseed International Ltd, Ingraston Farm, Dolphinton, Peebleshire had applied for Membership. They are proposed by Saltire Seed Ltd and seconded by Wm Fraser Potato Merchants & Growers. The Council unanimously agreed that this company should be granted membership. The Secretary was instructed to write the usual letter of welcome.

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

Letters from the Scottish Office headed:

- (a) "Safe Havens and Measures to Protect against Ring Rot".  
(Sent to Council Members with June Letter).
- (b) "European Commission Proposal to Replace the Current Potato Cyst Nematodes (PCN) Control Directive (69/465/EEC)".
- (c) "Details of SEERAD change of Policy branch 'Agricultural Pests, Pollution and Pesticides (APPP) to Export, Potatoes, Horticulture, Agricultural Pests and Seeds (EPHAS)".

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Area Entered for Classification in Scotland in 2005".  
(Issued to all Members)

Letters from the British Potato Council

- (a) "BPC Retail Report". (March edition)
- (b) "Potato Newsletter" (June edition)
- (c) "BPC Retail Report". (June edition)
- (d) "Minute of the British Potato Council Meeting of 7 June 2005".
- (e) "BPC World Service".
- (f) "First Estimates of Total Plantings in GB in 2005"
- (g) "Potatoes in Practice". (Leaflets on Event)
- (h) "BPC Update" (August edition)
- (i) "Copy of BPC's Submission to the Levy Board Review".

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Food Standards Agency – News". (April/May 2005 Edition)
- (b) "The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Scotland) Regulations 2005".
- (c) "Draft Food Labelling Amendment (No 2) (Scotland) Regulations 2005".
- (d) "The Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2005".
- (e) "Food Standards Agency – News". (June 2005 Edition)
- (f) "Mycotoxins – EC Permitted Levels".
- (g) "Food Standards Agency – News". (July/Aug 2005 Edition)
- (h) "Update on Developments Regarding Nitrate".
- (i) "Update on Acrylamide".
- (j) "The Draft Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2005".
- (k) "Working Party on Materials and Articles in Contact with Food or Drink".
- (l) "Draft Food Labelling Amendment (Scotland) (No 2) Regulations 2004".
- (m) "Mycotoxins – EC Permitted Levels".
- (n) "Updating of Science Branch Database"

Email from Rosemary Radcliffe

- (a) "Summary of Meeting between SPTA and VTSC representatives and herself on Review of Levy Boards"

Letter from Pesticides Safety Directorate

- (a) "The Sustainable use of Plant Protection Products – Draft national Strategy".

Letter from Perth Ice Rink

- (a) "Ice Booking Confirmation".

Email from Editions AD HOC

- (a) "Request for entry update in 'Who and What': Yearbook of Potato Network"

Letter from Clark Thomson Insurance Brokers Ltd

- (a) "All risks Policy Renewal Request"

- (10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the October meeting of Council would be held on Thursday 6 October 2005. As agreed at the start of this Council term this meeting would take place in Perth at 10.00a.m. finishing with lunch at 1.00p.m.

- (11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) 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 2005:- R. J. S. Doig, T. Halliwell, H. Hughes, V. Lumb, R. KcKay and A. Melrose. The Constitution stipulates that Council should consist of 16 elected members in addition to the President, Vice-President, Deputy Vice-President so there is a vacancy for one further member. The Secretary was instructed to make the usual arrangements for Council Elections to fill these seven vacancies.

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

