

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of  
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE  
ASSOCIATION held in the LOVAT HOTEL,  
GLASGOW ROAD, PERTH at 2.00 p.m. on  
Thursday, 4 May, 2006.

PRESENT: R. Haynes, H. Hughes, A. D. Lamont, V. Lumb, A. B. Pullar, A. J. B. Redpath, D. S M. Scott and A. Skea along with H. B. Edmond, the Secretary.

The Association President, Mr A. J. B. Redpath, occupied the Chair and welcomed those present at the meeting. He intimated that this would be the last meeting of Council of SPTA before the start of BPTA although SPTA would continue as a dormant body to administer any matters concerning our Conditions.

- (1) APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of R. J. S. Doig, T. Halliwell, D. J. Harley, C. J. Herron, A. Melrose, J. L. Milne, P. Peebles and D. Y. Stewart.
- (2) MINUTES: The Minute of the Meeting of Council of 9 March 2006 was taken as read approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (3) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Entertainment Matters: Arising from Item (3)(a) – Curling, the Secretary had received an application form for ice for next season from Perth Ice Rink. It was agreed the Secretary should apply for the same ice as in past years for Friday 2 March 2007. Members were also asked to note that Haymarket Ice Rink had allocated ice for the first round for Tuesday 21 November 2006 as in previous seasons. A. B. Pullar, Entertainments Convener, said that arrangements for the annual golf outing at Pitlochry Golf Course were confirmed for Friday 26 May 2006. The entry forms were already out to the membership and he anticipated a good turnout. Annual Dinner and Dance, he also confirmed that the Carnoustie Golf Hotel had been booked for the Annual Dinner and Dance on Friday 10 November 2006. The format would be similar to the previous year's successful event. At this point the future of the cups and trophies for the golf and curling events was discussed. It was agreed that these should pass over and be played for in the new body, as the original donors were no longer with us. These included:

GOLF

1. Beeson Trophy – First played for in 1987. A. D. Lamont agreed this should continue to be a golf award.
2. Deuchar Quaich – First played for in 1996. Donated by John Deuchar who is now dead.

CURLING

3. Paul & Weir Cup – Presented to the Potato Trade Curlers in April 1937 by Wm Weir Paul to be played for between the North & South. Paul & Weir no longer exist.

The curling cup is currently insured but it was felt that as these trophies were irreplaceable and of historic significance having them valued would cost money and be a worthless exercise, as they could not be replaced. SPTA have a separate Entertainment Fund, which is not part of the General Funds of the Association with each event being run to at least clear its costs. There is a marginal surplus in this fund at present and it was agreed that the account should remain in place in the new body as the Dinner & Dance, Golf and Curling would continue.

(b) Safe Havens: Arising from the last paragraph of Item (7) an update was given to the Members of progress with the scheme. It was considered that registration was going well. Up to 24 April there had been 82 applications, which was estimated as 20% of the seed industry. To date 36 of these had been audited and of which 17 had passed and 19 were pending.

(c) English once grown Dutch Seed: Arising from Item (11)(e) the President commented that a reference had been made in the last Members Letter on the danger to the Scottish Seed Industry of bringing English once grown seed produced from Dutch seed into Scotland.

All other matters were on the agenda.

(4) SEED SECTORAL GROUP: The Minute of the meeting of the Seed Sectoral Group held on 23 February 2006 was issued with the agenda. R. J. S. Doig had already given a report on the meeting at the last Council meeting. There were no additional comments or questions.

(5) BRITISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION: The President gave an update on progress with the formation of the British Potato Trade Association. He indicated that everything was on schedule for the new body to be up and going at the intended date of 1 July 2006. Nominations had closed for 6 Members of Council from NASPM and SPTA and as there was 8 from both ballot papers had been sent out to select 6 from these. One company had nominated a person from Council of both Associations. If these were both successful the company would have to withdraw one. When the 12 were elected they would use co-option to correct any imbalance on representation on Council. It was commented that co-opting should not be used simply to make numbers up to 15. It was preferred to have fewer provided all sectors of the industry were represented. The Secretary had drafted a design for a logo for the new organisation. This had already been supported by the Secretary of NASPM and was met with the endorsement of those present.

(6) EXPORTERS' MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2006 AND OTHER EXPORT MATTERS: A copy of the report of the Exporters' Meeting of 16 March was issued with the agenda. Vincent Lumb gave a report on the meeting. He said that the main subject had been the lack of co-operation between exporters and the detrimental effects of competing on prices for exports especially in respect of Desiree markets. There had been 3 or 4 meetings so far but there had been no progress. They were currently looking at the Desiree trade and it appeared there was a willingness to talk by the exporters. The general feeling was that it was too early as yet to throw in the towel. He asked exporters to co-operate and put in their figures to Iain Dykes. Under Item (2) in the report on the meeting where it was reported on the problems being experienced by exporters to Algeria there was a comment that the required conditions stated, was not correct. It appears that the Algerians require tuber numbers to fall between 700 and 800 tubers per 50kg not 600 to 700 as was stated at that meeting. They also have a requirement that two thirds by weight of 30 x 55mm stock should be between 35 x 45mm.

The Secretary had been notified that the 'End of Season Exporters' Meeting was to take place on Wednesday 31 May 2006. He had emailed all exporters for items for the agenda but the response had been very poor. A discussion on the subject resulted in the under noted items being suggested for the agenda.

1. Consistency of inspection, especially in relation to exports to Turkey.
2. Issue of Phyto-Certs - Improvements.

3. Update on Pieter van de Graaf's work since taking up his post.
4. PCN consignment soil testing of exports to Israel in relation to 10month field soil test requirement.
5. As all Scottish grades meet UNECE standards should this be put on reverse of the official label?

It was also arranged that in addition to V. Lumb, R. Haynes G. Prentice and possibly D. Scott would attend. Every effort would be made to encourage more exporters to attend.

(7) CONSULTATIVE PANEL SUB-COMMITTEE: The first meeting of the Consultative Panel Sub-Committee met on Thursday 20 April 2006. Vincent Lumb who gave a brief report on the meeting represented the Association. He said the idea of the Sub-Committee was to have open informal discussion on subjects concerning the industry and take these forward to the main Consultative Panel meeting in November. They anticipated having meetings in May and October. The aim was to have a small sub-committee where they would have continuity of personnel, at least one representative the same person (not necessarily the President). There was discussion on Common Scab and derogation. There was a proposal for a fall grade (class A), which would meet EU tolerances. Iain Dykes was concerned that this might reduce the general quality and reputation of Scottish seed. The general opinion was that it would depend on the customer wanting this standard and there would need to be consultation on the proposal. The amendments to the Seed Potatoes Regulations 2005 were discussed. Some of the original proposals had not yet been implemented. In particular the PCN testing for farm saved seed. This is a EU requirement, which was being left to individual states to implement. In other words anything planted back should have been tested. Also discussed was the UNECE standard and whether it should be put on the back of labels. All Scottish grades meet this standard. This is a EU Directive, which other Member States include on their labels. It has to be considered if Scotland should do the same. As noted earlier this subject would be on the agenda for the End of Season Exporters' Meeting.

(8) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION: An application by Nene Potatoes Ltd of Long Sutton, Spalding, Lincolnshire for membership of the Association was presented to Council. They were proposed by Pseedco Ltd and seconded by Branston Ltd. Council unanimously agreed that this company should be granted membership. The Secretary was instructed to write the usual letter of welcome and notify them of the subscription rates.

At this point Council also agreed to the membership of MBM being transferred to MBMG and of Robertson of Perth Ltd being transferred to Yoolow Potatoes Ltd.

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

Letters from the Scottish Office headed:

- (a) "Derogation for Common Scab".
- (b) "Derogation for Common Scab".

(Acknowledgement of our response on above).

- (c) "SEERAD Generic Contingency Plan for Plant Health Incidents".

(Acknowledgement of our response).

- (d) "The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000.

Letter from SASA headed

- (a) "Calling Meeting to Form Consultative Panel Sub-Committee)". (by email).  
(b) "From Pieter van de Graaf calling the 'End of Seasons Exporters' Meeting)". (by email).  
(c) "Seed Growers Explanatory Memorandum" (Available on SASA website)

Letters from the British Potato Council

- (a) "Euro-Potato" (March Edition – by email).  
(b) "Potato Blight Control – New Advice".  
(c) "BPC Retail Report" (March Edition – by email)  
(d) "BPC Update". (March Edition)  
(e) "Press Information: Provisional GB Stocks for End of March 2006". (by email)  
(f) "Report on Meeting of The Seed Sectoral Group of 23 February 2006".  
(g) "Euro-Potato" (April Edition – by email).  
(h) "Potato Newsletter" (March Edition).  
(i) "BPC Retail Report" (April Edition – by email).

Letters from Food Standards Agency.

- (a) "Public Consultation – The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2006".  
(b) "Food Standards Agency News – March Issue".  
(c) "Food Standards Agency Priorities for Local Authority Law Enforcement".  
(d) "Food Standards Agency News – April Issue".  
(e) "Public Written Consultation – The Draft Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Regulations 2006".  
(f) "Commission Decisions on Various Matters".

Letter from AgriMedia

- (a) "Detailing their Services".

Letter from Produce News

- (a) "Complimentary copy of their Publication".

Letter from Perth Ice Rink

- (a) "Ice Booking Form".

Letter from Vibes of Scotland

- (a) "Vision in Business for the Environment Scotland Awards (VIBES)"

Letter from MBMG

- (a) "Notifying change of Trading Title".

Letter from CLIC Sargent

- (a) "Letter of Thanks for Donation from Annual Dance Charity Draw".

Letter from Drake Scotland Music Project

(a) "Letter of Thanks for Donation from Annual Dance Charity Draw".

Most matters in the correspondence had been dealt with under Items on the agenda with the exception of (d) in letters from SEERAD. The Secretary was to include the usual reminder of Regulation 6 of The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000 in the next Members' Letter

And: the letter from 'Vibes of Scotland'. This letter gave details of this year's 'VIBES Awards' – Scotland's leading business and environment competition. After studying the leaflet Council found the aims of the award very favourable and felt that the membership should be encouraged to participate, as it was a matter for individual companies rather than the Association. The Secretary was instructed to highlight it in the Members' Letter.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for 6 July but as a high percentage of those present could not attend an alternative date was considered. As the next meeting would be the last Council meeting of SPTA it was proposed that Past Presidents and Arbitors should be invited to come along and join the present Council for Lunch. This was agreed and the Secretary was instructed to organise the event. There was a discussion on date and venue and it was agreed that the event should take place on Tuesday 4 July and that the venue should be the Lovat Hotel. This has now been confirmed.

(11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Subscriptions: The Secretary indicated that 11 Members still had not paid their subscription. The Secretary had sent reminders without a response. Council Members agreed to contact the members concerned.

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

Alastair D. Stewart  
4th July 2006.