

SCTA News – Autumn 2013

Welcome to the sixth newsletter from SCTA – November 2013

MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT



Congratulations to Keith Golesworthy on being elected President of The Scottish Corn Trade Association.

Keith is one of the traders in GrainCo's operations in Scotland based in Rosehall, Turriff, Aberdeenshire.

2014 Diary Dates

29th January – Burns Supper, Alloway

8th May – Annual Dinner, George Hotel, Edinburgh

21/22 May – Trade Awareness Course

25th June – AGM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BASC, TROCHRY, DUNKELD ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 2013

1. ATTENDING

Keith Golesworthy, Gordon Smith, Andrew Lindsay, John Calder, Allan Macaulay, Alex Kellett, Nigel Cook, Drew Cochran

2. APOLOGIES

Andrew Mackay, Mike Packer, Toby Parker, Steve McHarg, Tim Davies, Blane Paterson, Allan Bain, Billy Davidson.

In the absence of the President Mr Andrew Mackay, Keith Golesworthy took the chair.

3. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2012

The minutes of the 2012 AGM had been previously circulated to all Directors and as there were no matters arising other than a correction to Gordon Smith's name, the minutes were approved by Gordon Smith and seconded by Keith Golesworthy.

4. ANDREW MACKAY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My apologies for not being with you today as I have to attend a meeting of our new company in Germany.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Association for entrusting me with the honour of being your President over the last two years. I have enjoyed representing you at our sister association dinners and at the European Bourse. I am also pleased that Keith Goldsworthy of Grainco is taking over from me and I am sure the association is in good hands with him.

The Association has continued to develop.

- Membership has grown by 66% since 2010

- Numbers at the dinner are also well up with 220 attending in May 2013
 - We have been involved in the following events.
 - o The trade awareness courses have proved to be very successful, introducing people to different aspects of Scottish Agribusiness. They have been well attended and we have had excellent feed-back from the participants. We have also seen interest from people from all over the UK and beyond who are interested in coming to see the sector in Scotland and we will be looking at how we can accommodate them.
 - o We livened up the AGM by preceding it with a very fascinating/interesting tour of Quaker Oats facility in Cupar. After the AGM we had a lunch followed by a bit of fun shooting clays.
 - o We have maintained contact with the Scottish Parliament and with the Minister for Agriculture - Richard Lochhead and the minister for the environment Paul Wheelhouse. As well as participating with them in the Scottish Food Initiatives.
 - o This year we held the Burns Supper in the Famous Grouse Centre where the addition of a few more lasses added to the atmosphere and a superb night of culture and spirits had!
 - Our communications continue with a regular newsletter now and the website – scotcorn.co.uk. If anyone has ideas for items please feel free to contact Drew.
 - The European Bourse last October was a great success. The Gala dinner in the National Museum with the red hot chilli pipers was a fantastic setting and Edinburgh enchanted many of the participants. I have had several
 - people comment to me that it was the best
 - bourse that they had ever attended.
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 - The benevolent fund has been added to substantially over the period and we are very grateful for all the contributions people have made to it at the last Dinner and the Burns Supper. You were also (how shall I put it) very generous/ sadistic in sponsoring me and other members of the association to tackle the Glasgow – Edinburgh cycle race – which believe it or not I did manage to complete – more or less in tact!
 - Several members of the association are intending to participate again this year, with some looking to even attempt the longer tougher route- watch out Bradley Wiggins!. Anyone who would like to join in or sponsor participants please contact Paul Mooney.
 - We are in the process of passing the money on to some charities. We paid £1530 to Marie Currie, we are looking into the charity Farm Education and Drew is working with the Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET) to try and make this possible, we are also making a contribution to the Ag Benevolent Society.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drew Cochran for all the work and effort he has put into the Associations activities.
- We have made positive strides in the SCTA over the last two years and I sincerely hope that we can continue to grow and prosper and that member companies continue to support the various events.
- Keith Golesworthy thanked Andrew for his leadership and support on behalf of the Association.

5. ACCOUNTS

The accounts for year ending 31st December 2012 showed an increase in Turnover from £17,130 to £22,523 and profit more than doubling from £1,014 to £2,449. This was mainly due to the income from the Annual Dinner which rose from £8,300 to £12,000.

With the income from the 2013 Dinner likely to be more than 2012 and no significant rise in costs the Directors felt that the annual subscription remain at £200.00 + VAT.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Keith Golesworthy and seconded by Allan Macaulay.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership had increased by 15% over the year with two companies still to pay their subscriptions. Gordon Smith and Keith Golesworthy volunteered to contact the companies concerned.

Galloway & Macleod and Openfield were two companies that were thought to be potential members and the secretary asked to contact them.

7. CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2014

Burns Supper in January 2014.

It was agreed that the Burns Supper should be continued at least for another year although support was not great in 2013. It was agreed that mid week was more favourable and to look at venues in Ayrshire. Wednesday 29th January was discussed as the optimum date with the fall back to 22nd January.

Annual Dinner

The food at the George Hotel was fantastic and several Directors thought that it was the best meal they had enjoyed at any large function. The George Hotel is a good venue well liked by those attending although let down by poor bar service prior to the dinner. It is unlikely that we will see significant rise in the numbers now attending even if we have to cap the numbers in line with the capacity of the room in the George.

The cost of an overnight stay had been mentioned by one member attending but the meeting felt that this was one of the downsides to moving the dinner to May when Edinburgh Hotels are busy. It was also agreed that alternative cheaper accommodation was readily available within a short walk of the George.

It was agreed that the 2014 Annual Dinner would be in the George Hotel on Thursday 8th May .

Guests speakers were briefly discussed and the secretary asked to contact Andrew Cotter as a potential speaker for the night. It was agreed that speaker fees should be no more than a maximum of £1500.

Trade Awareness Course

The courses were well received by members and the feed-back from those attending was very positive. Keith Golesworthy wished to thank Simpsons and Andy Hindhaugh for helping out at the last minute when the trip scheduled to Quaker Oats in Cupar was cancelled due to them having an audit from Asda.

It was agreed that the current format should continue in May based on the central belt which allowed companies from England to send staff. The course should be circulated to all the Trade Associations in the country as we have unique venues within the Scotch Whisky Industry.

Bike Ride

The bike ride continues to be well supported by a few members and has raised significant sums for charity. The September date will be circulated to all members.

8. DIRECTORS

Allan Macaulay retires after more than twenty years service and his place to be taken by Andrew Ainslie of Frontier Agriculture, proposed by Allan Macaulay and seconded by Alex Kellett.

Andrew Lindsay retires and his place to be taken by Andrew Stephen of W.N. Lindsay based in Keith, proposed by Keith Golesworthy and seconded by Gordon Smith.

Keith Golesworthy as new President was proposed by Andrew Lindsay and seconded by Alex Kellett.

9. BENEVOLENT FUND

The fund currently stands at £7,500 with little money going out.

It was agreed that we should be looking to give out at least £2,000 on an annual basis and support for The Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET) should be explored further.

Andrew Lindsay brought up the situation of Stuart Milne, a haulier in Turriff who is now paralysed from the neck down after a road accident. The meeting agreed that Andrew should investigate.

10. AOCB

Members were asked to look at potential venues for the AGM in 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.30.

2013 Trade Awareness Course

This year's course was fully subscribed and followed the same structure of the previous successful courses. We were fortunate to start the course with a visit to Cefetra just as a large ship was docking at KGV.



The ship had sailed from New Orleans and had discharged part of her cargo in the Azores and Belfast before arriving with distillers pellets in Glasgow.

The group had the opportunity to see the tugs getting the ship manoeuvred onto the dock ready for discharge.

It was the off to the office for a presentation on commodity markets and trading in general.



It was the off to Davidson Brothers feed mill in Shotts where the group were given an introduction to the manufacturing process, formulas and rations.

After enjoying a pleasant lunch the group were taken on a tour of mill which is one of the most advanced in the UK. The group were amazed that the whole mill was controlled by three or four people due to the massive investment in computerised process controls.



Following the feed trail it was the off to Edinburgh University's dairy farm, Langhill, near Roslin on the south side of Edinburgh. The farm now works mainly with veterianian students and the animals are well used to seeing groups going round.

We were met by Wim Bosma, the young, enthusiastic farm manager who would be our host for the tour. Wim outlined the purpose of the farm and while it provided a teaching facility it was still run on a commercial basis.

Wim first took us to the calf rearing shed and explained their breeding policy and how the calves were rearing on a computerised machine.



We then headed to the young stock rearing sheds for a look at the older animals and again Wim explained his nutritional policy and the live weight gains he was hoping to achieve.



Our last inside stop was to the milking parlour where milking was in progress and many of the group had their first opportunity to see this operation in progress.



After a tour of the silage pits and feed storage facilities Wim gave a summary of his grazing and forage plans for the year and answered any questions from the group.

It was then back to the Westerwood Hotel for a quick change and down for dinner and a chat on grain trading from John Calder.



The opportunity to network with other people in the trade is an important part of the course and one of the reasons for making it residential. The group was joined by two of our directors, Billy Davidson and Gordon Smith.

Day 2

A 7.00am start took the group off to visit Simpsons Malt in Berwick on Tweed where we were met by Andy Hindhaugh who gave a short presentation on how the company was structured and the markets they were involved in. The party was then split into two groups and toured the facilities which are now one of the largest malt producing sites in Europe. The tour included the drum maltings producing green malt for North British Distillery, our next port of call.



It was then off to Edinburgh and a visit to North British Distillery. We were met by David Rae the M.D. who gave the group a little of the history of North British and the site with its current and planned expansion. The distillery now processes 250,000 tonnes of maize annually, producing 65 M litres of grain whisky for Diageo and The Edrington Group who jointly own the distillery.

The expansion plans include a third distillation column which would come on stream in the summer of 2013. Following the introduction the party was split into two groups and toured the distillery.



After a very pleasant sandwich lunch laid on by the distillery the group set off for William Grant's head office and bottling facility at Strathclyde Business Park. We had a presentation in the board room before a tour of the very modern facility where we saw whisky being delivered by tanker into large blending vats before heading down the very impressive bottling lines.



Back in the board room the group were presented with a "goodie bag" with miniatures of William Grant's products which was very well received. This marked the end of the course and the group headed back to the hotel to collect their cars.

Following the last two years successful Burns Suppers the board felt it appropriate to have the next Burns Supper in Ayrshire and where better than The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.



Bring your wives, partners and guests for a great evening of fun and entertainment in the wonderful setting of The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4PQ

As tickets are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets priced at £40.00 + VAT available from:

The Secretary

The Scottish Corn Trade Association

Milleur House

11 Strathearn Road

North Berwick

EH39 5BZ

E-mail: info@scotcorn.co.uk

Annual Dinner 2014

The Annual Dinner will be held in The George Hotel, Edinburgh on Thursday 8th May 2014.

As we are virtually at capacity in the George Hotel it was felt prudent to give members the date of the Dinner in 2014. More information and ticket application forms will be sent to members in February.