

## **SBA Board meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2013**

Present: Mr S Henderson (Chairman), Mr D Barron, Mr J Bell, Mr P Lambert, Mr D Mitchell, Mr N McCorkindale, Mr G McFadzean, Mr J Stewart, Mr A Wright.

In Attendance: Mr U Morton (QMS), Ms S Kinniburgh (QMS), Mr D Todd.

Apologies were received from Mr M Gibson, Mrs J Hutchison, Mr C Mallon.

A brief summary of the issues discussed, information reported, decisions taken and points raised are as follows: -

### **Minute**

- The minute of the previous meeting was approved.

### **Presentation from QMS**

- A presentation was given by Mr Uel Morton of QMS. The main areas covered by Mr Morton were: -
  - The QMS Corporate Plan.
  - Marketing.
  - Industry Development.
  - Communications.
- A discussion followed with with several pints explained and clarified.

### **Market Report**

- It was reported that the price of beef had continued to rise.
- A discussion took place on the future direction of the beef industry in Scotland.
- There was concern expressed about the decreasing number of cattle being kept.
- It was agreed that measures to maintain cattle numbers needed to be investigated.
- The SBA message was that they were working on behalf of their members to achieve the best outcome they can.

### **Finance & Membership**

- The membership of the SBA continued to increase.
- An update was given on the current financial position of the SBA.
- A discussion took place on the financial relationship between the SBA and the NBA. It was agreed that the issue needed to be discussed with the NBA.

### **Website**

- Development of the website was considered to be a priority issue.

### **Events**

- The stand at the Highland Show had been organised. A prize draw was to be held at the show with a prize of a gallon of whisky.
- Details of the farm walks had still to be finalised.

### **Stakeholder Groups**

- The CAP Stakeholder group was concentrating on "Greening" issues.
- In Scotland 12 case of bovine TB had been reported in 2012.
- It was noted that there had been 7 cases of Schmallenberg virus reported in Scotland. A discussion followed on how the issue should be tackled.

- A new strain of BVD had been discovered and vaccination was only partially effective.
- The severity of liver fluke damage in the current year was discussed. A fact sheet was to be compiled and sent to members.
- The UK was not compliant with the animal transport regulation and a solution was being discussed with the help from the Scottish Government.
- The next meeting was to include a discussion on a range of issues with the aim of producing a coherent policy on each issue.

**Any Other Business**

- The discussion at the CAP Reform organised by the SBA meetings had been good.
- The Chairman asked each Board member to contact him to give their views on the SRDP consultation.
- Douglas Bell of SRUC was to be asked to attend the next meeting to have an input into the policy discussion that was planned.