**Minutes of the Executive Committee held by Teleconference  
on Tuesday 11 September 2007 at 7.45pm**

**Present:**  
Mike Armour, Helen Meehan, Mark Heard, Ian Manson, Alastair Bridge, Margaret Edwards, Tony Casey, Graham Keen  
  
**Apologies:**  
Helen Meehan, David Pearson  
  
**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**  
Ian moved that they were a true and accurate record  
Seconded: Margaret CARRIED  
  
**Matters arising:**None

**Financial report.**

* Balances : in David’s absence Alastair reported account balances of:   
  Main account c$71,754; IOP account c$12,509; Conference account c$24,073;   
  Term Deposit c$53,007
* Ian questioned who the “food safety programme” payment had  
  been made to in April and Margaret asked if HortReaserch had been  
  paid for 2006 Certification costs. Alastair undertook to find out and  
  report back.

**2007 Conference & Awards**

* Margaret reported that entries were now closed with a total of 103 entries
* Alastair reported that everything was in hand re Conference : 61 registered for Conference, 81 for the dinner and Awards presentations. To date budget is showing a surplus of 550.65 without taking in to account $9,600 in sponsorship and the $7,600 from ARGMARDT

**Commodity Levy**

* Ian asked other Executive members if they had ascertained from their regions if there is support for a levy
* The consensus was that there is support out there so long as the income is spent on “something useful” eg. Research and sensory purposes.
* Alastair said he believed that the levy had to be approved to help guarantee the future of Olives N Z – the administrators of the industry has to be paid properly or else there will be no more volunteers coming forward for Executive positions

**Research**

* Mike spoke to the FoRST bid led by HortResearch. Our contribution will be a small cash contribution from SFF income with most coming in-kind contributions
* Ian questioned the validity of the research when the information is available elsewhere. Margaret disagreed and explained why NZspecific research was necessary.
* Mike reported that Marlene Jaspers may be interested in a FoRST bid on diseases that would stop the industry reaching it’s goals.

**2007-8 Executive nominations:**

* President : Mike Armour
* Treasurer : Graham Keen
* Member : David Huggins
* Member : Steve Clark
* Member : Andrew Taylor  
    
  Mike subsequently advised that he would be withdrawing his nomination. As such a call will be put out for nominations and if more than one is received a postal vote will be held in mid-November.

**General Business:**

* Margaret asked if she could approach the Vegetable Forum for Foodwriters on 15 October to see if they are prepared to use EVOO for use with vegetables. Approved.
* Ian asked what the progress was with the SFF bid and Mike replied that documents are due to be signed shortly.
* Ian asked if any media dates had been arranged for Roberto Zecca with Margaret replying that it hadn’t but Ian is at liberty to arrange something if he wishes.
* Margaret reported that the brochures were being printed and will be ready for Conference.