

Olives New Zealand
Executive Meeting Minutes Synopsis
Thursday August 17th 2017
Teleconference
7pm – 8.10pm

1. Present

Craig Leaf-Wright (Vice President/Treasurer), Tricia Noble – Beasley, Bob Marshall, John Dunlop, Niall Holland, Gayle Sheridan

2. Apologies

Andrew Taylor (in Andrew's absence Craig acted as Chair)

3. Financial Report

Craig spoke to the report which had been circulated. He noted that Certification income was continuing to come in with a lag of the associated expenditure. Certification generated a small margin. In June a loss was recorded but this was offset by a surplus in July. Sponsorship had been received from Complete Packaging and there was approximately \$4,000 in Debtors due, mainly Certification payments but also a couple of Focus Grove pledges. Apart from that, nothing else to report

4. Executive Officer Report

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Membership

Continuing to see new members join from across the country.

Focus Grove Project

MPI/SFF had pushed out the milestone date for the Mid Project Report because their template was still being drafted. The Harvest Data for the Focus Groves was significantly down and needed to be put into perspective with other regional and national figures.

There was substantial discussion that this year has impacted on the project and whether reliable conclusions would be able to be drawn when the project was due to end in September 2018. The consensus was the project needed to continue for another two years (to 2020) and Gayle was to discuss with MPI the best way to approach this, look at how to fund and submit the appropriate application to meet the 2018 SFF deadline.

It was agreed that the scope be kept the same because adding additional facets now would confuse any outcomes. The point was made that groves should be proactively doing things like soil testing as a matter of course and not expect the Focus Grove Project to be directing these.

2017 Awards

The draft budget showed that the 2017 Awards would break even with 75 entries and contributions from the Focus Grove Project and Sensory Assessment Seminar for using the two Italian judges.

There were now two new trophies; Reserve Best in Show donated by The Grove Supply Co and Reserve Best Boutique donated by VITIS.

The review of Best Processor had been concluded and the Awards information updated accordingly, including the new Awards. It was noted that the recommendation of requiring processors to have a registered Food Safety Programme be implemented in 2018 because currently only 8 out of 24 processor members complied with this.

The Awards entry packs had been sent out to members who had certified oil and already a dozen entries had been received. Entry packs would also be sent out to member who had submitted oil but had yet to receive their results, in anticipation and conditional that these were EVOO.

Sensory Assessment Seminar

This seminar needed to be well supported and, as in 2016, Gayle would endeavour to include oils from those participating.

Sponsorship

Complete Packaging had confirmed their Gold sponsorship.

Marketing

There has been great media interest in the olive oil shortages/ price increases in imported oil from Europe and the 2017 New Zealand harvest issues.

Facebook and merchandise sales continue to tick along.

Japan Export Pilot

A potential imported had been hosted on a visit to Central Otago and Hawke's Bay.

Certification

Submissions now totalled 112 and it was anticipated that the total number of oils would be greater than 2015 and already the volume was greater. The range in oil submitted was from 16 litres to 25,500 litres with a fairly even split between Boutique and Commercial.

Polyphenols were similar to previous year with almost an even split between Mild, Medium and Intense although there had been no really high Intense at this point.

OliveMark Term

Gayle had raised an issue with 2016 certified oil that had been stored in plastic pallets that was no longer EVOO. John said Rob McGavin had said Boundary Bend had been doing work on this and it would be useful to have access to this.

Food Safety Act

Still waiting on advice from MPI as to whether they will allow an 'opting down' to NP1 for those licenced to use the OliveMark that package their own oil. However in the meantime a number of members had expressed their concerns with the NP process and cost.

International Olive Oil Council

It was agreed that Andrew and Gayle should meet with the IOOC representative if they visited New Zealand.

5. 2017 Executive Priorities

These had been covered during discussion of the Executive Officer Report.

6. General Business

Branch Updates

Wairarapa – Craig said that while harvest had been down there was notably more fruit left on the trees than previous years. He said that TOP had brought in an international processing specialist from California who had used lower temperature in processing on the basis that this produced a higher quality oil.

Tricia said their crop processed at TOP had been 13.6-15% yield and they were pleased with the oil produced although it still had to clear.

John said his yield had not been affected by temperature but the oil had to be filtered.

Niall said that they intended to operate at a lower temperature to get better flavoured oil in the future.

The other regions had covered off in prior discussions and there was nothing further to add.

There being no further business Craig thanked everyone for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

NEXT MEETING

14 October (James Cook Hotel, Wellington - afternoon of Awards Dinner)

Remaining 2017 Meeting Date: 16 November