

Olives New Zealand
Executive Meeting Minutes Synopsis
Thursday 16th February 2017
Teleconference 7pm – 8.25pm

1. Present

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

2. Financial Report

Craig spoke to the 2017 Draft Budget which had been circulated. He said this reflected a conservative approach with a nominal surplus. He said that the financial out-turn was directly linked to the harvest year and that was why a conservative approach had been taken following on from the boom harvest and larger surplus in 2016.

Craig added that the 2016 Financial Statements received from the Auditor, which has been circulated, showed a surplus of \$26,492 compared to the loss incurred in 2015.

The 2017 Draft Budget was approved.

3. Executive Officer Report

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Financial

Statements had been sent to the 70+ members who had yet to pay their 2017 subs. This had resulted in another four resignations. This was a normal situation and the loss in membership should be turned around during the course of the year with new members.

AGM

The 2016 AGM Minutes and Financial Statements were available on the website. Friday 17th February was the final date for any remits.

Craig was looking at potential for a Guest Speaker to talk about National Programme requirements by the local council however it appeared that they were unaware/unclear about these. John said this was a similar situation in Nelson.

Focus Grove Project

The date for the Northland Field Day has been moved to 30 March.

The Interim Project Status Report had been completed and circulated to the Executive. It was also available on the website. There was some feedback that 2017 crops may be less than 2016 although this could change depending on weather.

Grove Census

The 2016 Grove Census had been completed by 67% of members and it was pleasing to see that the average crop load had lifted to 11.67kg per tree from less than 10kg in 2015.

2017 Processing Practices Course

There were only three people interested in this so the course was cancelled. Hopefully there would be better interest in 2018.

Marketing

The 2016 Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show oils have been received in New York.

The domain olivesnz.co.nz now belongs to Olives New Zealand and is linked to the website.

Facebook continues to attract god hits and followers with many of the posts being shared.

Food Safety Act

The National Programme 1 template document for growers has been completed and is now ready for sale to members. It was agreed that this would sell at the price of the previous Food Safety Manual - \$250 inclusive of GST.

Processors would require a National Programme 3. Gayle said she emailed all processors about their requirement and to ask for interest in a template document. Only three processors had expressed interest at this stage. It was agreed that the National Programme 3 template not be proceeded at this point until/if there was a greater level of interest by processors.

Certification

The Oil Testing Service has notified an increase in their fees of AUD6.96 per sample. It was agreed that as Olives New Zealand had retained the certification fee at the same price for five years, it was appropriate that this fee increase be passed on. The certification fee would therefore increase from \$242 to \$250 inclusive of GST for 2017.

2017 Awards/Conference/Awards Dinner

Arrangements are being discussed with the proposed Head Judge from Italy regarding the timetable for his visit. The recommendations for the full judging panel will be ready for the April meeting.

The Executive had previously discussed not having a Conference in 2017 but having the Head Judge visit the regions as part of the Focus Grove Field Days.

It was agreed that the 2017 Awards Dinner and Organoleptic Seminar be held at the James Cook Hotel, Wellington.

Sandy Black had suggested that the next Conference and Awards Dinner be held in Cromwell and Queenstown respectively. It was agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for discussion at the AGM.

Polyphenol Data

The request from Ross Vintiner to reconsider the previous decision to provide summary data only for Polyphenols was discussed. The consensus was that the decision would be upheld.

Research Project

The proposed MBIE research application was supported in principle provided there was no expectation that Olives New Zealand would contribute any funding.

4. General Business

Branch Updates

Kapiti – Tricia said that their AGM had been held and the quorum met. She said they had difficulty getting the Committee together for meetings because of people being otherwise

occupied. There would be a consortium of five members having a stall at the Feilding Field Days in March, over the three days. The Manawatu Standard newspaper would be doing an article on them as first time stall holders. There was an issue with food safety fee payable which would be managed by Tricia taking responsibility but needing to be present each day. They would be using the Olives NZ pull-up banners so needed to arrange collection of these from TOP.

Hawke's Bay – Bob noted that it had been extremely dry over the past few months but rain was predicted. It appears to be an off year with some groves reporting no crop. Aquiferra appears to have a reasonable crop despite no irrigation. Andrew added that rain may see an improvement in crop loads.

Bob said that the main contract grove of 23,000 trees in Hastings had been sold and the trees would be pulled out. Another large grove of approx. 6,000 trees was also looking to be pulled.

The Branch AGM had been held and Dan Tussell from Village Press has joined the committee. Jeanine Corke had stood down as Secretary and the position would be covered in the interim by Paul Corke with assistance from Dan Tussell until an appointment was made.

There is now a regular tasting group operating.

Nelson – John said biennial bearing is affecting those groves who have not been following the recommended programme for spraying and pruning. John said that there had been frequent rain in the region which was requiring extra spraying. Fruit size was looking good and it may be an on year. He said that 2016 had a slow growing period but late rain resulted in higher yields.

There was a group doing tastings and the Branch AGM was coming up.

There was a sub-committee working with NMIT on a regional website.

Canterbury – Niall said that no groves had been affected by the fires. The main issue continues to be the commissioning of the new processing plant and power. He noted there were reports of a lighter crop load which could be water related.

Wairarapa – Craig said rainfall was down but more was due. Crops had been looking a little light but were now coming on. He said the investment in pruning, spraying and irrigating was bring good results, including addressing biennial bearing.

Craig said there was an issue with the main processing facility and the demands on the available resources.

The branch AGM was coming up.

Other Business

John said that there was an issue in buying olive trees for a new grove.

Andrew asked if the regional groups would think about the activities they would like to have when hosting the Head Judge and his partner.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.25pm

**NEXT MEETING
20 April - Teleconference**