

Olives New Zealand
Synopsis of Minutes of Executive Meeting
Thursday 15th November 2018
Teleconference
7.06pm – 8.11pm

1. Present

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer), John Dunlop, Gayle Sheridan

2. Financial

Charles spoke to the financial reports which had been circulated. The Profit and Loss as at 14 November looks like a good surplus to date and the Balance Sheet is up to date. There is a new report of Income and Expenditure by activities – Business as Usual, Conference & Awards, Certification, Field Day, Processing Course and Focus Grove Project. This report will enable a focus to be kept on how to improve the overall position. There is an opportunity to distribute overheads across projects.

The current reports have enabled the drafting of the 2019 Budget with a conservative surplus of \$4,835 and to track as the year progresses. It was noted that the draft Budget assumed that membership fees would remain the same and these had not changed since 2016. Charles said that the intention would be to continue the growth in members rather than an increase in fees.

3. Executive Officer Report

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Membership

Membership numbers continue to grow, with the main growth being in Hobby and Small Groves.

Focus Grove Project

Gayle noted thanks to John Dunlop, Niall Holland, Jan Whyte and Linda Smith for their assistance in compiling the October Focus Groves Field Days Report. All milestones due in October have been submitted and payment received from MPI. The reports are all available on the website.

The Anthracnose recommendation has been updated and will be flagged in the November newsletter.

Conference and Awards Dinner

Conference and Awards had good attendance and very good feedback. There was good media coverage, particularly Stuff and regional media.

The backlog of Gold medals orders was cleared within 2 weeks but is an unacceptable situation. This will be managed in the future to avoid a recurrence. There is now a good supply of surplus medals available for members.

Sponsors

The Olive Centre (Australia) has still not confirmed if they wish to consider sponsorship.

There have been discussions with Alfa Laval about potential sponsorship.

Harvest Data Report

The 2018 Harvest Data Report has been completed and sent out to all participants along with their updated grove report.

Marketing

The presentation at Conference on the consumer surveys and marketing company recommendations had drawn a lot of discussion and had mainly been supportive. Gayle suggested to get regional representatives on to the Marketing Subcommittee to progress this, that expressions of interest be called for in the newsletter. The intention would be to provide consultation with and feedback to the wider membership in order to develop a paper for the AGM.

Food Safety Act

A number of growers have successfully registered their National Programmes, both 1 and 3. At least two processors had advised their customers that they must be at least NP1 registered for them to continue using their services. This has resulted in a few more sales of the template and may also see a few new or re-joined members. However, incredibly, enquiries are being received from members who seem to have only just heard of the requirement to be registered.

Tricia said that at the workshop held in Kapiti, the verifier had said there was a 12 month period in which people could have their verification completed.

John said that there had been no problem with updating the previous Food Safety Plan to meet NP3 requirements but noted there was a wide range in fees being charged for verification.

Gayle said there would be a need to review and update of the templates at some point but this needed to be done, if possible, to avoid causing NP1 growers to have to through an update and re- verification process.

2019 AGM

Unfortunately the Copthorne Solway Park was unable to accommodate the 2019 AGM so this has been booked at the Carterton Events Centre, where it was held in 2015 and 2016.

IOC

Information had been provided to MPI to enable a briefing paper to be developed ahead of the NZ Embassy in Madrid attending the IOC meeting, on behalf of Olives NZ.

CODEX

The role of CODEX is to protect the health of the consumer, to ensure fair trade practices in the food trade and to promote the co-ordination of local standards. The proposed changes to the CODEX 'Draft revision to the Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils' appeared for EVOO to bring this into line with the IOC standard. The IOC was an observer on CODEX, which is primarily an inter-governmental group.

The information received from MPI would be promoted to members in the November newsletter to give them an opportunity for feedback and it was probably appropriate that Olives NZ should indicate support for the draft revision as it applied to EVOO.

4. 2018 Executive Priorities

Productivity – 2019-2021 Focus Grove Project submitted
Processing – Seminar run 9-10 April and due again in 2020
Marketing – see Executive Officer Report

5. General Business

Branch Updates

Kapiti – Tricia reported that the presentation by the verifier at the local Branch meeting had been agreed to be funded from Branch funds however there was an issue with how this had been recorded in the minutes. Subsequently one member insisted that this should be user-pays.

While the majority of branch members said they supported doing regional marketing, no one, apart from Noble Estate, is actually prepared to attend events. This follows on from a lack of support for the Manawatu Field Days and the lack of support needs to be borne in mind with the marketing project.

Charles commented it would be good to collate what works and what doesn't work in this regards.

Tricia concluded with pruning was underway and the next Branch activity would be their AGM.

Nelson – John said the visit by the Head Judge and Focus Grove Consultants was very successful. Inviting non-members to attend has been successful in attracting new members as they see big benefits. However, he noted these were one-off invitations.

The Nelson Christmas function is usually very successful and this year will coincide with a new wine release. The Branch were also looking at activities for 2019.

There being no further business, Craig thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.11pm.

New Members:

Seamus and Erika Barden, Waiheke Island
Ngair Sharp, Northland
Re-joined - Jocelyn and David Hendry, Wairarapa

2019 Proposed Meeting Dates

21 February
23 March (AGM)
17 April (Wednesday)
20 June
15 August
12 October (Awards Dinner weekend)
21 November