

Olives New Zealand
Executive Meeting Minutes Synopsis
Thursday 20th June 2019
Teleconference 7.05pm – 8.56pm

1. Present

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer), Geoff Crawford, John Dunlop, Andrew Priddle, Gayle Sheridan

Craig welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to Geoff for his first meeting.

2. Apologies

Andrew Priddle (for lateness), Tricia Noble-Beasley, Niall Holland

3. Financial

Charles spoke to the financial reports which had been circulated.

Certification submissions are a little slower than anticipated and this is reflected in the associated income and expenditure. Customer overpayments will be cleared by credit notes to be used against subsequent transactions by these members. Travel and Meeting costs will remain over budget for some months to clear the Field Day travel costs.

4. Executive Officer Report

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Financial

The company that store the retained certification samples, has been charging \$46.93 montly for the two part pallets. However they have introduced a monthly minimum charge of \$150. They have been advised this is not acceptable and suggested that they invoice Olives NZ quarterly or six-monthly in advance. This has not been resolved but another Cold Store has been approached and can provide the same service at the current rate.

Membership

New members continued to join but were now paying half fees as we are half way through the financial year. Many of these had been motivated by the need to register a National Programme.

Focus Grove Project

Some 20 members, who had attended Field Days but not contributed towards the project, had been invited to now contribute. Three had responded with a total of \$600.

Sustainable Food and Fibres Futures Application

Significant time had been spent on various versions of the EOI and the briefing paper.

It was that the way forward should be to arrange a meeting with the SF&FF Advisor to request clarification on what additional information was required in the new application.

2019 Certification

14 samples have now been submitted to the Oil Testing Service and some results already received.

DPI has advised that they now require 500ml per submission following a review of the Panel's operations. They have agreed that this can be implemented by Olives NZ for 2020. This will incur additional courier costs so the Certification fee will need to increase by \$10. To avoid confusion this would not be promoted to members until 2020.

2019 NZ EVOO Awards

The proposed judging panel for 2019 was approved.

The support of Rural News Hub was noted.

Marketing

Noted that two brands had participated in the Wellington Food Show.

Merchandise sales slowly picking up and an order for a new supply of bags has been placed.

Research Paper on Frying with NZ EVOO

It was noted that this had now been published.

5. 2019 Executive Priorities

Productivity – see Executive Officer Report

Processing – Seminar 2020

Marketing – see Executive Officer Report

Industry Sustainability – it was agreed this be left until after harvest had been completed for a full understanding of the issues.

6. General Business

Branch Updates

Wairarapa - In Andrew's absence Craig was able to advise he had spoken with Mark Bunny and they both had similar issues with birds, especially with Frantoio. Some varieties were also not coming off so would be left for a week or so to ripen further.

Charles noted there had been reduced harvest volumes for processing, often 300-400kg at a time compared with tonnes previously. He had bookings out for another two weeks but Pressing Engagements were looking to close maybe next week.

Canterbury - A report on Canterbury had been received from Niall. Noted that there is an issue with birds having decimated several groves. The support from Bill Hey had been very successful.

Nelson - John said that Nelson was also experiencing problems with birds and this had pushed the early harvesting of the Focus Grove trial block. He said that the low temperatures affected fruit weight but the oil return was similar to higher weights. Andrew Taylor had commented to him of the opposite effect in Northland, where fruit had a high water content. John said the only reliable figure was oil recovery.

The only effective bird control was multiple scarers and for these to be regularly moved, coupled with shooting the birds. Leccino and Minerva seemed less affected by birds. Craig agreed that noise on its own was not effective and there was a need for shooting as well. John said he had spoken with Roger Armstrong, the other major processor, and he said it was an on-year for those not following the spray programme. Drought has had an impact on fruit but with oil recovery of 20% fairly common.

Andrew Priddle joined the meeting.

He said that harvesting in Wairarapa is behind schedule because of equipment problems. Some groves are being affected with birds cleaning out the tops of the trees, especially Frantoio and Pendolino.

Andrew said Kapiti was still underway and at least one grove has started hand harvesting.

Hawke's Bay – Geoff said there is a similar issue with birds in the region. Especially in the top of Frantoio and Koroneiki, perhaps as much as 1/3 of the crop load. Oil yields had been low, 12-16%. Two harvesters had been operating, one from Auckland doing the independent growers and the Village Press doing Mohaka and their contracted growers.

Other Business

Craig commented that harvesting acted as a good pointer as to pruning requirements.

John said there had been a good interview with Steven Gundry about what you should/should not eat and he was very positive about EVOO.

There being no further business, Craig thanked all for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 7.56pm

New Members:

Jenni Lean, Wairarapa

Carol and Geoff Reed, Wairarapa

Stephen Davies Howard, Wairarapa

Maree & Martin Sheffield, Kapiti

Benjamin Newby, Nelson

Hezy Natan, Waiheke Island

Sam Stevens and Christine Price, Northland

Re-joined: Burleigh Memorial Grove, Marlborough, Ross & Margie Legh, Auckland

2019 Meeting Dates

15 August

21 November