

Olives New Zealand
Executive Meeting Minutes Synopsis
Thursday 21st November 2019
Teleconference 7pm – 8.50pm

1. Present

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

2. Financial

November Financial Reports

Charles spoke to the reports that had been circulated. He noted that the P&L shows the organisation is on track for potentially a greater profit than budgeted. He pointed out that the Awards income is greater than budget but so is expenditure. The same situation applies with Certification income and expenditure. Both of these are because of a higher number of oils certified and then entered in the Awards than budget. Sponsorship is also higher than budget. Merchandise sales are under budget.

Charles said the Balance Sheet is also looking good and pointed out the term deposit of \$40,000.

2020 Draft Budget

Charles spoke to the 2020 Draft Budget which had been circulated. He said that this would be finalised after the 2019 audit. The main increase in the draft budget is Membership Fees to cover off the industry contribution for the new Focus Grove Project.

Charles said that two courses have been budgeted for April 2020 with the breakeven point of 22 registrations at \$500 each for the Processing Practices and 20 registrations at \$150 each for Judging EVOO and Flavoured Oils.

3. Executive Officer Report

Gale spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Membership

With one new member and another previous member re-joined, membership is 200.

Focus Grove Projects

The original Sustainable Farming Fund Project is now complete and the final payment has been received from MPI. The final report is on the website. MPI will promote the success of the project further and had asked if they could “de-emphasise the chemical spraying part a little”. Stuart Tustin’s response was “Actually I don’t think we should diminish the benefits that disease control has had on the success of the project. It is probable that the greatest advances by the project are the responses to disease control which does necessitate spraying. All food production worldwide relies on control of diseases and most is by spray technology. Olives are part of that and in the end sustainable production relies on managing all dimensions of the crop culture, including organic production systems.”
Sage advice for all of us!

The new Sustainable Food & Fibres Future Project is now underway with the first round of Focus Grove visits and Field Days completed. The relevant Milestone One Report has been

submitted to MPI along with the first invoice for payment. The Report has been circulated to members with good feedback and is also on the website.

The intention is to release an Organics Approach Fact Sheet as soon as the recommended regime is confirmed. It may be that several of the self-nominated organic groves may find the regime too challenging and will opt out.

A number of members had offered at the Field Days to renew their Focus Grove contributions and had obviously not seen the mention in the newsletter that the industry contribution would be covered by an increase in membership. This would be repeated in the November newsletter.

Harvest Data Report

The 2019 Harvest Data Report has been completed and emailed to participants. It is also on the website. While the Focus Groves are typically harvesting twice their regional average, the national average is still less than 10kg per tree.

Charles suggested that Branch Chairs raise the importance of contributing to the annual Harvest Data Survey at the next round of Field Days.

2019 NZ EVOO Awards

The regional tour went very well except there were poor attendances in Northland and Hawke's Bay. This may be because of standalone activities rather than coinciding with Field Days.

The Awards Dinner was well attended and a great night.

The following recommendations were confirmed:

- i. The volume for commercial of 250 litres is determined by the volume pressed
- ii. When entries exceed 100 the judging panel will be increased from six to eight judges with preference being to bring in more New Zealand judges
- iii. Any entry that is not fully labelled will not be eligible for Best Label judging,

There had been a suggestion from a member about whether table olives should be added to the Awards. Only 7 groves produce more than 50kg and not all of these enter the Awards. It was noted that Royal Easter has a table olives category. It was agreed the number of table olive producers did not indicate the need for another award at present but it was worth noting for the future.

Best in Show Criteria

Tricia raised that Best in Show should be awarded to the highest scoring oil regardless of the volume and not limited to the commercial category. Craig said this decision had been made by a previous Executive to ensure that the public could have access to the top winning oil.

After much discussion and no consensus, it was agreed to park the discussion until the next meeting and this would allow time for the Branch Chairs to discuss wider with their regions support for changing Best in Show to being the best of Best Boutique and Best Commercial as determined by the judging panel members. Note this would require a new trophy for Best Commercial.

2019 Certification

The summary of oils submitted for Certification had been distributed. There was one late submission due this week.

It was noted that there are three major supermarket brands using imported oils and this was typically not clear from their labelling. It was agreed that Olives NZ should seek clarification from those brands.

It was also agreed to look at any legal implication around the inference that something is not what it might appear to be.

DPI Oil Testing Service and IOC Recognition

It was noted that DPI Sensory Panel had not regained IOC recognition for 2020. IOC has agreed to supply the Panel with samples of European oils to assist in improving their knowledge. It has taken DPI longer than expected to recruit a new Panel Leader and recruitment for additional Panel Members was still underway.

However the Sensory Panel has been re-accredited by the American Oil Chemists Society and was judged as third equal out of all Panels accredited.

Given that moving to another IOC Panel would add \$117.50 to the cost of each submission and the DPI process appeared to still be sound, it was agreed to continue using DPI for 2020.

2020 AGM

The request to have the 2020 AGM in Nelson was discussed. The reason for the AGM being held in Wairarapa was because that is the biggest region for members and was accessible for members from Kapiti and Hawke's Bay.

Unfortunately there were not sufficient active members in Nelson for a quorum.

It was agreed that the 2020 AGM would be held in Wairarapa. The date will be Saturday 21 March and will follow on from the Wairarapa Field Day on the Friday.

2020 Processing Practices Course

This has been confirmed with Pablo Canamasas for 14/15 April. A "Judging EVOO and Flavoured Oils" course would be offered on the afternoon of the second day. Both courses are subject to sufficient registrations to break even.

Olives NZ Database

The management database used to run Olives NZ is critical to the various activities but is not owned by Olives NZ.

It was agreed that a subcommittee look at the database and come back with a recommendation.

4. 2019 Executive Priorities

Productivity – see Executive Officer Report

Processing – Seminar 2020

Marketing – see Executive Officer Report

Gayle raised the issue of industry viability with two super groves on the market, three supermarket brands using imported oils, unresolved issues around harvesting and processing capability and the poor production on average across the country.

After discussion it was agreed the Executive need to have further discussion around the issues affecting the industry and determining which can be addressed, for example harvesting capacity and imported oils.

5. General Business

Branch Updates

Wairarapa – Andrew said they had a very successful regional tour and a good turnout for the evening with the Head Judge. The tour included visits to several groves and tastings.

The Field Day was well attended at both groves.

It is looking to be a good season with good volumes of buds apparent. This was evident especially on groves following the Focus Grove recommendations.

Kapiti – Tricia noted the region was well represented in Certification and the Awards.

Flowering is looking good with buds now opening, which is earlier than usual.

The branch is looking at forthcoming activities including their AGM. Tricia noted the unexpected passing of Bryan Upshon and that operation of that grove would not continue.

Canterbury – Niall said Bruce Chapman had hosted the Head Judge and arranged very good activities. Bruce had also hosted the Field Day, which was well supported, and he had good ideas on hands-on activity for the next one.

There is early flowering apparent on Banks Peninsula.

Nelson – Niall said he had visited Kakariki last week and the trees were looking really good with great budding. He said that the Leccino on the trees made for good eating.

John subsequently advised that the branch was looking at forthcoming activities which would include a visit to the grove on Jacket Island.

Hawke's Bay – Geoff said flowering was underway and was on track for a regular season. It was starting to dry out and irrigation would be needed soon.

There had been very good attendance at the Field Day with great discussions on pruning, spraying and nutrition. There was no organic grove in the region. While the Field Days continue to draw very good attendances, there is still poor uptake as many of the attendees do not follow the Focus Grove practices.

Executive Officer Role 2021

Gayle has flagged she wants to return to the UK for six months in February 2021 and there was an in committee discussion, with Gayle excused, about how the Executive wanted to manage this. Gayle had said her preference was for the Executive to recruit a new Executive Officer.

The end result was that the Executive preferred to make a fixed term appointment to cover the period that Gayle would be away with Gayle taking up the role again on her return. If Gaye did not want to return to the role then the Executive would decide where to then. Expressions of interest in the fixed term position to be called for in the New Year.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

New Members:

Steven & Margie Cosgrove, Canterbury

Jamie & Diana Reid, Wairarapa

2020 Meeting and Other Key Dates

Executive

February 20th

April 16th

June 18th

August 20th

Masterton)

November 19th

Other

March 21st AGM (Wairarapa)

October 10th – Conference, Awards Dinner (Copthorne Solway Park,