

Olives New Zealand  
Minutes of Executive Meeting  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
7pm Zoom

**Present**

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer), Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Geoff Crawford, Chris Moore, Hamilton McConachy, Neil Smith, Emma Glover

Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies

**2. Previous Meeting Minutes**

Matters Arising:

- Auditors – Charles has had a discussion with them, followed on with a received email acknowledging the timeliness of their audit. He is happy with the outcome to recommend we appoint Parkers as the Olives New Zealand auditor for our 2023 accounts. Executive agree to go ahead unanimously.

**3. Financials – June 23**

Charles recommended reporting financials part way through month (just prior to Exec meeting) to provide the Exec with the most up to date account. Xero pro rata's budget figures to number of days in the month. This allows the Exec can be more reactive to current financial situation as income and expenses are seasonal and by doing reports to end of month, you are looking at the past instead of going forward. Current the reports are 17 days out, so not a working budget.

- The Executive request that the reports are done to the end of the previous month, not part way through a month. Next meeting if the end of September, but will consider holding me meetings earlier in the month.

Financial Reports:

The year to date budget variance shows in Income, the Certification fees are down on budget, with certification costs being up, both certification fees and costs should be down on budget, with less oils submitted for certification, this as a timing in the cost allocation in the budget.

As reported in previous meetings the Membership fee income is down on budget, due to dwindling membership numbers.

Other variances on budget are Olive Mark increased expenses for purchasing unbudgeted OliveMark stickers to sell. Awards Costs are currently down on budget, this will rectify as move closer to the Awards.

The Balance sheets needs a comparison of 2022 End of Financial Year to discuss changes.

**4. Executive Officer Report**

Emma spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Financial systems – Executive agreed to write-off credits sitting in Xero since 2017 since an effort has been made to contact recipients.

Membership – this had increased by one members since the previous meeting. Next meeting we will discuss options to restructure the membership.

Certification – Numbers are looking to be 30% down on 2022, to date only 139 oils have been sent for certification, with 104 results returned, 4 have failed. Only 5 oils have tested to be Intense flavoured. It costs about \$80 to send 2 oils to Australia or \$120 for 12 oils, therefore after the 31<sup>st</sup> August any late oils for certification will included an additional freight charge.

Grove Census – only about 20 responses at this stage. A reminder will be sent with the newsletter.

#### Marketing:

**HRWP** – 200 bottles of oil have been supplied for the participants goodie bags.

**Website Upgrade** – Caddie have responded with the DIY package to build a couple of pages and help with going live for \$3500. ONZ will park until October when Emma revisits the website upgrade.

**Radio Interviews** – RNZ and Rural Exchange have both interviewed wanting to understand the impacts of the wet weather on the olive season.

Sponsorship – CPack have confirmed they with renewal their sponsorship of \$1,000 of another year.

Productivity and Polyphenols Project – No further work has been done.

#### NZ EVOO Awards:

**Awards Entries & Judging** – Entries are coming in slow. Budget had been set for 120 full paying entries, down on 152 last year. Worried that we may not get 80. It is early with the season being later for many regions a reminder is due to go out in the newsletter.

**Awards Sponsorship & Grants** – The Agmardt grant is not available to contribute to the costs of bring the head judge to NZ, they have restructured their grants. KiwiLabels have agreed to come on board again this year and sponsor the medal stickers. Arthur Holmes are sponsoring the certificates and frames.

**Awards Evening** – Venues and accommodation are confirmed. Budget is done on 65 paying attendees, again it is slow coming in.

**Weekend Excursions** – details are confirmed. Unfortunately Stuart Tustin is unavailable to attend the Field Day, there has been no response from Garry Burlace.

#### Course and Field Days:

**Renis Tasting Course** – Comments are that it is expensive at \$60 pp, however last years online tasting with Soumi was \$175. Agreed to offer groups outside of ONZ a cost of \$80 when 4 or more come.

**Pruning Field Days** – Mangawhai has been cancelled due to lack of interest, however the reset are to go ahead with Andrew Priddle and Neil Smith covering most regions in the country.

## 5. **Grove Management – Spray program communication**

Reinforce how essential it is to spray before and during flowering as per the Project Grove - Grove Management Spray program. However, so not to isolate members that do not want to use Manzate and Protec acknowledge what methods our organic and biodynamic grove use.

## 6. **General Business**

a. Succession planning - The current Exec coming to end of term want to all stand down. Continue discussion at the September meeting.

b. Branch Updates

Wairarapa – Harvesting finished as a region, crop was mixed, some up some down, yield down, a lot of single digits. Had branch new season olive oil tasting 14 people attended. The group had a go at blending oils, nothing was spectacular, 2 Koroneiki, 2 Leccino, 50/50 of both, blend improved both oils. Lots of Anthracnose, trees showing long term signs of peacock spot. More people looking to get pruning services, from smaller groves. Issues groves are too wet to get tractors and sprayers into them.

New growth from last year's pruning is getting dead tips from too much rain.

Kapiti – On the 17<sup>th</sup> Sept having tasting, pot luck lunch and pruning demo. All down in fruit yield and volume yield. Rata's new growth looking good as grove on pit metal.

Canterbury – down in production 40% due to early frost beginning of June which wiped tonnage out of good crops. General yield is down, but some good. Pruning field day, at David & Yvonne's, example of frost workshop pre harvest, but got badly frosted, with low tonnage. 14 people tended pruning field day, Neil run. People new to pruning need the confidence to make the cut or do what is needed.

Hawke's Bay – Wet & Cold. New growth getting frosted, might be related to water content in leaves. No branch activities, not many members left in HB.

Meeting closed 8.53pm