

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE NZLGA HELD BY SKYPE TELECONFERENCE
30 April 2017

PRESENT. Peter (in the chair), Charlotte, Mike, Russell, Pauline, Blake, Myra

APOLOGIES: None

1. MINUTES. Peter moved the acceptance of the previous meetings minutes – agreed no matters arising.
2. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT is tabled in a separate document. Discussion in reply to the Chairpersons report, as follows: Myra asked if the GC Subsidy was per member for this year and after clarification she said it was a really good idea. Mike said that a GC Test subsidy was not important unless the recipient got an explanatory report along with the results – Peter explained that this is planned, and Noel Porter is putting together a paper on how we can all learn how to interpret the Gas Chromatograph Results for ourselves and adjust our oils quality if at all possible. Russell also mentioned that there has been no documents produced on recommended storage of oils after distillation, however it was explained to Russell that Noel Porter has produced some material on this, which is available from the library. **Perhaps we should pursue ‘Oil Contamination’ as a future research topic – suggested Peter**. The meeting then got slightly off topic and Pauline brought us back to GC Testing suggesting that \$10 was too cheap and \$15 was a good figure. Mike asked if we had sufficient funds to subsidise this, and Peter replied based on 20 members submitting oils for testing yes it would be possible and probably sustainable for subsequent years. We would re-evaluate on a year by year basis. Myra suggested that the first sample at half price would be seen by members as a bargain. Blake thought that \$48.30 for subsequent samples was a good deal.
3. **A Motion was then put to committee by Peter: that the first GC sample entered from any member will be at \$15 and subsequent samples be at full price limited to 2017- seconded by Mike all agreed – Carried**
4. **Peter then suggested that he would like to see a similar subsidy for the oil awards competition fees. He asked that the Oil Award Committee give serious consideration to this for this year’s competition.** After some discussion from all including asking Keith Brown to comment on the percentage of our members who entered last year, which he said was about 30% of membership, Russell said they would discuss, and arrive at a fee structure for the current award competition, and send out revised entry forms. No entries have been received so far, therefore this would be possible. After more discussion it was decided to **leave this with the Oil Committee and Charlotte would report back later on the outcome.**
5. At about this point Peter realised he had missed out the membership report from Margaret.
6. PROGRESS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS Margaret **reports that we have one new member who has purchased what used to be Margaret Chandlers farm**, they have been sent the booklet and also have their own still which has produced 7 litres of oil mainly from Grosso, - **Peter will arrange a visit to them and Mike is in contact with them.**
7. TREASURERS REPORT Myra started by apologising to the meeting for not carrying out her treasury duties as she had planned, she said she feels that she has let everyone down but has been overwhelmed by Kaikoura and the Earthquake fallout and then **asked that she resign as Treasurer. This was accepted by the committee and we appointed Mike Alspach as a temporary treasurer until the end of the financial year. This was accepted by Mike and the committee then authorised Mike as Treasurer by Moving that Mike Alspach will take over the treasury of all NZLGA accounts and be appointed as a signatory – Seconded Charlotte all agreed – Carried.** Accounts for payment: EDIY for yearly hosting and Pauline Livesey for library book expenses and Eleanor for past honorarium, **Myra will send signed cheques to**

Peter for these asap. Also will box up the treasury equipment/books etc. and post to Mike Alspach as soon as she can.

8. REGIONAL REPORTS AS FOLLOWS: **Mike Northern Region**, has been unbelievably wet with probably 20% loss of plants. Peter confirmed this for his region also, Myra mentioned that she had met and spoken to the owners of Te Awamutu Lavender and Mike has also spoken to them, they said they will join the association but haven't as yet, they are also potentially another distillery for the region, but no commitment to this as yet either. **Charlotte/Myra northern South Island Region** Kaikoura has also been wet, and there is less crop than last year. North/Central Canterbury has had a good year, with no late frosts, plenty of sunshine too, so harvest was early January, with a large crop and very long stalks with big flower heads, half as much oil again as last year was harvested, and it seemed to be a promising season. **Russell Lower South Island Region** – also wet with very little sunshine, yields were down on previous years.
9. PUBLICITY REPORT: Charlotte reported that she is keeping a folder of newspaper and publicity events as she is informed about them. This time there has been articles from **Myra at Kaikoura – a very upbeat article which Myra is yet to see, Charlotte will email a copy through to her soon. Wanaka Lavender Farm** have had a large article in the lifestyle magazine and other publications – it is very up-beat mainly on the venue and surrounds and philosophy of its two owners. They report that they are getting frost every season, and have had to buy in oil from members to meet demand for product making and sales. **Penmar Lavender have been mentioned in Central Rural Life – re their success at the Oil Awards** and Peter reports that they have now put their farm up for sale on the Association Website as they wish to retire to Kaikoura in the near future once its sold. **Rob Martin of Limestone Valley Lavender has also held a very successful lavender festival and theatrical performance on his recently constructed outdoor stage- with over 1,000 in attendance.**
10. LIBRARY REPORT: Pauline said that she has had quite a lot of books borrowed recently, with waiting lists for some, she has also **purchased 6 copies of the Lyndoch Lavender Farm Cookbook – suggested by Charlotte via a TALGA email.** Three of which have been sold at \$33 per copy, 1 for the library and 2 still for sale. Reviews so far are very favourable from those that have purchased and tried some of recipes. Lovely book and Pauline has invoiced the Association for the total as she has paid for them herself. She is also invoicing the sold ones to the purchaser and suggesting payment go directly to the Association.
11. DOMESTIC MARKET RESEARCH REPORT: – Russell's brief has become a bit vague, so the meeting clarified it for him – **to research how much lavender oil is being imported, and by whom, what quality and if possible what prices.** Russell then reported he could gain access to some statistical data and would report on that but at the moment much of this info was hearsay and from his experience, we need to have our **available oil for sale at an even standard and sustainable quantities**, much impact into the domestic market is highly unlikely to occur unless we become a marketing arm. He currently is acting as a broker for oil stockpiles, selling 50 litres at a time, this is into Australia, to make dog mats which are now possibly going to be manufactured in NZ, shortly. **Russell will put all this in a report, once it is completed. Peter thanked Russell and said this was the first steps in an ongoing process work is very valuable for the future.**
12. OIL COMPETITION REPORT: At this point we appeared to have lost Peter from the skype call, so Charlotte took the chair in his absence and asked Russell to continue with his report, while she tried to get Peter back on the call. **The Oil competition committee is currently handling significant changes, they require at Noels request 2 possibly 3 more trainee judges and a trainee selection day is planned for June 10th with 6 attendees, from this Noel will identify 2 hopefully 3 apprentice judges and will spend extra time with them prior to the judging weekend if they feel they need it.** While reliability increases the more judges we have, so do the costs, Blake asked who wasn't available this year, **Noel is stepping down**

from oil assessment, but will continue as mentor and Virginia has health issues that preclude her from attending. Russell mentioned if there are increased entries this year, he doubts that we will be able to handle them timewise. At this point Peter returned to the meeting, stating he could hear but not participate while we thought he was absent. **Mike mentioned that Marion was also interested in the June 10th assessment day, but the timing didn't fit with her unfortunately.**

13. GENERAL BUSINESS: **Planning for the AGM – Proposed venue Wellington with Sept 2nd pencilled in. Charlotte will look into booking for 20 plus people, NZLGA will fund Morning Tea and possibly lunch.** A call for remits etc. will be arranged shortly.
14. HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE: Mike has looked into arranging a generic H&S form for all members, this isn't possible or advisable, and each farm should do their own. Jason Delamore has recently completed one, also Myra has written her first draught of her H&S form and when typed and relevant forms attached, she is happy to make it available for members to reference from.
15. Meeting ended at 9pm – next meeting not scheduled yet.

Approved:

Secretary: 

Chairperson: 