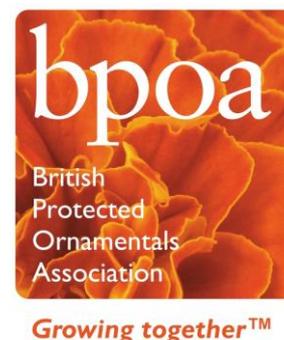


BPOA Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

NFU, Stoneleigh

13 October 2016



Present: Wayne Brough (AHDB), Harry Kitchener, Lyndon Mason, Caroline Shove, Simon Davenport, Fay Richardson, Russ Woodcock, Ollie Opperman, Graeme Edwards, Howard Braime, Amy Gray (NFU), Simon Pearson, Mike Smith (Chair), Jamie Satterthwaite and Jill England (ADAS, Secretary).

1. **Apologies** Ewan MacMillan, Luke Lloyd, Nigel Crosby, Neil Bragg, Georgina Key, Pablo Canales-Prati, Martin McPherson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

A letter of thanks had been forwarded to Tim O'Neill, with an invitation for him to join the Committee at the annual dinner as guest of honour.

Defra valuations for the bedding and pot plant sectors

A meeting with the Defra statistical department had been organised to discuss the needs of the industry. S. Davenport reported that the AHDB was looking into the use of their collected data as requested by the BPOA, but were finding this difficult due to data protection law. S. Davenport proposed a BPOA analysis of the AHDB horticultural data if Association members were prepared to forward a copy of their returns to the BPOA secretariat or an independent assessor. A. Gray offered to set up an online survey with prizes awarded for completion via the NFU. ADAS and Defra were in discussion with regard to 2016 data collection. J. England had circulated the Reading University Farm Business survey with the minutes.

AGM 2016 (19 January)

Pablo Canales-Prati had agreed to attend the Technical Committee meetings, but unfortunately had had to send his apologies on this occasion.

Topics of interest

- **Shelf-life** – J. England was discussing the effect of growing medium on shelf life with A. Fuller.
- **Shelf-life (PaMS)**. J. England had started to look into the use of silicon and calcium applications to reduce PaMS symptoms and had received numerous reports of PaMS from growers, particularly following the hot weather in late August / early September. J. England had contact with Will Healy and they would be having further discussions. A conference call would be arranged with the steering group for the autumn to discuss the way forward.
- **GrowSave**. J. Satterthwaite agreed to act as the GrowSave representative for the Committee. He also agreed to provide a talk on his experiences during his US internship at the forthcoming Technical Seminar.
- **Pesticides**. R. Woodcock had not written to CRD with a letter of support for Bonzi (also signed by other Committee members), but agreed to coordinate this if Bolette Palle-Neve believed it would be helpful.

Action: R. Woodcock to follow up the need for a letter of support for Bonzi with Bolette Palle-Neve

- **PGRs.** There had been reports that weekly applications of B-nine on mature plants successfully delayed flowering. J. England had included discussion of primrose scheduling at the BPPC summer open day, with a request for feedback.
- **Industry statistics.** J. England had raised the issue of industry data collection at the BPPC open evening, with a prompt for growers respond to S. Davenport's request for information.
- **Technical seminar.** Art van Wingerden had agreed to speak at the 2017 technical seminar. J. England had circulated ideas for presentations and speakers. This was discussed further later in the meeting.

AHDB Update (Mike Mann).

S. Davenport queried if there had been any further comments from M. Mann following his undertaking to raise the Committee's anxieties with AHDB. No feedback had been received and the subject would be raised at the next AHDB PO panel meeting (post-meeting comment from M. Smith).

Action: M. Smith to feed any comments back at the January meeting.

Study tour - Diffused light (BPPC).

This was discussed later in the meeting.

Bedding and Pot Plant Centre (BPPC) proposal

WP6. Plug nutrition. N. Bragg had forwarded details of previous work to J. England for consideration.

AHDB crop protection update - residue testing of ornamentals.

Committee members reported that residue testing of ornamentals had not yet been raised with them by clients, but that they could foresee that it may become an issue.

AHDB research update

J. England had included AMBER in the technical seminar agenda.

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 9 June 2016.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Topics of interest

Pests and diseases (H. Braime)

The season had been good overall. Double H Nurseries had been trialling nematodes vs Botanigard, but the early season has been cool for thrips and population levels were low so that the trial was inconclusive. Fast breeding Aphids had been a serious problem on roses. Double H had been able to use Dimethoate temporarily.

Xylella had been confirmed on Oleander in a German nursery. It was proposed that an update on Xylella precautions would be a worthwhile topic for the technical seminar.

Automation (S. Pearson)

Lincoln University had applied for ERDF money to install an agri-robotics centre with 4 permanent staff at Lincoln. They hoped to have the go ahead from the November 23rd autumn statement and to be in action by March 2018.

S. Pearson had had discussions with Matthew Howard at Kings College about collaborative work on automation.

Growing media

H. Braime quoted from the June AHDB Grower article on project CP138 '*Transition to responsibly sourced growing media use within UK horticulture*', which detailed progress to date. Two workshops were planned for November at Vitacress (Chichester) and Wyevale (Hereford), which would provide opportunities to learn more about the work.

Energy/Grow Save (J. Satterthwaite)

J. Satterthwaite agreed to speak at the Technical Seminar on his US internship.

Pesticides (R. Woodcock)

The loss of approval for Systhane 20EW (final use date 31 July 2017) was a concern, particularly against powdery mildew on Poinsettia crops.

Bordon Hill Nursery was installing a new pedestrian spray boom to reduce pesticide wastage, compared with using a Ripa spray gun. However, a combination of the two would be necessary to cope with various crop situations on the nursery. There were concerns regarding the practicalities of using the boom due to its height and manageability for staff.

PaMS (F. Richardson)

There had been some problems with PaMS this year, and C&T had found that cultural practices to reduce stress had a large effect in reducing incidence. The results of trials with added calcium and silicon were awaited.

Propagation (M. Smith)

M. Smith raised the issue of poor germination and development of Primrose this season. It was noted that stock had been limited this year, and this may have affected the quality and age of the available stock.

Niche/novel crops (O. Opperman)

Although there was little to report on this topic, the recent study tour (BPPC South Coast Study Tour) for younger growers which focussed on technology was very useful and should be repeated.

Cut Flower Centre (CFC) (Lyndon Mason)

There had been good attendance at the CFC Open Day in August, where growers viewed a number of new products including grasses, Scabious, and Gomphrena. Channel 4 had produced a programme on the retail flower business which included commentary by L. Mason on cut flower production in the UK (<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-billion-pound-flower-market/on-demand/64138-001>). The CFC had trialled Dianthus in various forms with promising results, however the farm gate price was currently too low for profitable production.

LED/ Spectral filters (Simon Pearson)

A new PhD student (engineer) had been engaged by Lincoln University to work on an LED studentship, in cooperation with Phil Davies (STC). H. Braime commented that Double H was installing HPS lighting in preference to LEDs for rose production due to the cost differential – however it was predicted that the development of white LEDs would start to reduce the cost by the end of 2017. J. Satterthwaite reported that US growers had claimed that large cost savings had been made through Begonia production under LEDs.

Poinsettia (G. Edwards)

A briefing paper from Stars for Europe on the 2016 programme was distributed. There were plans for a Garden Centre marketing initiative in addition to the promotion with florists, and coverage in the Sun newspaper and on social media that had been available in recent years. Syngenta were advertising Poinsettia open days in De Lier, Holland, and other breeders would be holding similar events in early November.

5. AHDB research update and proposals

Genetic, moisture and plant growth regulator effects on poinsettia production and shelf life.

- For the cycocel trial, it was unlikely that the current EAMU application would be approved for use at the rates requested, therefore it may be worth carrying out this trial with the lowest dose rate, perhaps including other products.
- The BPPC had already included the use of other PGRs on Poinsettias in their current work programme.
- N. Bragg was carrying out work on silicon on Poinsettias at Greenmount College, applied as drench applications.
- Mark Else had carried out Defra funded work on the irrigation of Poinsettias at East Malling Research, which may feed into this work.
- It was agreed that this proposal should be reworked and submitted under the BPPC banner for the AHDB PO panel meeting in February 2016.

6. Management committee feedback

S. Davenport provided Management Committee meeting feedback:

- The HTA had produced a sponsorship document for the Seminars in January. The HTA would collect all sponsorship money and then return around 10% to the BPOA.
- Peter Eastwood Plants had been awarded the BPOA Home Grown Grower of the Year 2016 award at the FourOaks trade show.
- The Technical Secretary contract had been put out to tender.
- The US study tour had been discussed. The bursary money provided by Cole Mangum in 2016 for a young person (under 30) to take part in the study tour had been publicised but had not yet been taken up. It would be re-publicised.
- Financial report. The BPOA was still collecting late subscriptions, but was currently financially fluid. The NFU had proposed that a portion of the memorandum of understanding funds from the NFU should be used to fund a project to understand what the BPOA should be doing for its members, what members would like them to do, and to put measures in place.
- A floral tribute had been sent on behalf of the BPOA in respect of Lionel Mill's funeral.

7. AGM 2017

- Lyndon Mason – Technical Committee Chair for 1 year from January 2017.
- Ewan MacMillan – Technical Committee Deputy Chair from January 2017, and then Chair for 1 year.
- The Committee agreed to invite Chris Need to sit on the Committee.
- Pablo Canales-Prati would be formally elected to the Committee.

Action: M. Smith to invite C. Need to join the Committee. M. Smith to confirm with E. MacMillan that he would hold the Deputy Chair and Chair posts.

8. Technical seminar 2017

The following changes were suggested for the agenda:

- J. Satterthwaite give a talk on his 3 months' grower experience in the US.

- S. Pearson to talk on the Robotics project that would be starting at Lincoln University.
- Art van Wingerden to speak on focussed marketing during the first session, and then environment/automation (30 min slots).
- The focus of the technical updates should be practical aspects applicable to growers, in preference to full details of trials.
- Remove the grower response to GrowSave slot.
- Jon Swain to speak on diffused glass and its effect on the environment and consistent plant quality.
- Include an update on Xylella, delivered by Ed Birchall (Fera). This should include biosecurity threats, but also practical aspects of managing biosecurity on nurseries (best practice), quarantine and traceability.
- Invite Neil Hellyer to speak about biocontrols from a commercial point of view during the afternoon.

Action: A. Gray to invite Ed Birchall (Fera) to provide an update on Xylella at the Technical Seminar

9. Study tours

- **US study tour 2017.** Once a few more growers had signed up there would be confidence that there would be enough attendees. The study tour was due to be promoted in HortWeek.
- **BPPC Diffused light study tour.** The study tour would probably take place during the 3rd week in March. It would include visits to two diffused glass manufacturers, the shade screen manufacturer Ludwig Svensson and Mardenkro, the glass coatings products manufacturer. There was also the possibility to include a visit to Wageningen University, but this was still to be confirmed. The tour would cover the Westland area of the Netherlands. It would be a two day tour, but with attendees travelling to the area during the previous day. H. Kitchener was currently exploring areas of interest with the prospective hosts and was hoping to complete the organisation within the month.
- **Poinsettia study tour (Canada) 2017.** H. Kitchener was organising this study tour, and was investigating the potential to include a visit to a Poinsettia conference in Carolina or Guelph, Ontario to look at their work on robotics. It would also include visit to several Canadian poinsettia growers. Several growers had registered an interest in this study tour. It was suggested that this study tour should be organised under the BPPC project.
- **Review of BPPC South Coast Study Tour.** Good feedback had been received from growers that had attended this study tour and tours to other areas such as the North West, North East and Spalding were proposed for future alternate years.

10. MOPS update

J. England presented an update on the trials currently underway. Trials of AQ10 against powdery mildew on Aster were underway at STC, and ADAS was carrying out a laboratory bioassay of biopesticides against WFT adults and larvae, and a glasshouse trial of treatments as supplements to *Neoseiulus cucumeris* against WFT.

11. Bedding and pot plant centre (BPPC) update

J. England presented an update on the BPPC work currently underway and work planned for 2017. It was agreed to include Moddus / Cutaway in the PGR trial. A video had been produced which gave an introduction to the work of the BPPC: <https://youtu.be/91xyRa6nXQs>.

12. Pesticide update

J. England presented the pesticide update that had been circulated before the meeting.

13. AHDB communications and crop protection updates

Crop protection:

- **Aphox.** Use of all pirimicarb products in ornamentals had been refused at re-registration, with a final use date of July 2017. The AHDB was trying to obtain an EAMU under mutual recognition, based on the Dutch approval.
- **Stabilan 750.** An EAMU application had been submitted, but it was likely that any EAMU issued would have a low dose/use rate. The AHDB was awaiting feedback from CRD.
- **Lunar Sensation.** This fungicide with activity against powdery mildew and rust had produced good results in MOPS trials and had been authorised for use on protected strawberries. An EAMU for use on ornamentals was being sought.
- EAMUS were being sought for several plant growth regulators including **Configure, Terpal** and **Pirouette** (drench application).

Communications:

- **CFC factsheets** on field grown woody cut foliage crops and Delphinium would soon be published.
- **BPPC.** There would not be an autumn open day. The results of the Hellebore trial that was currently in progress would be presented at the Technical Seminar. An additional open day would be programmed for spring 2017.
- The **AMBER** team would be making a technical presentation on biopesticide use at GroSouth.
- **Growing media** workshops would take place in November.
- An **ornamentals conference** was being planned for February 2017.

A paper prepared by Georgina Key summarising projects submitted for the 2016 AHDB studentship call was circulated for growers to complete.

Phil Davis (STC) had prepared a summary paper on the findings from the **LED project CP 125**. An ornamentals open day was planned for 1st December at STC. Grower feedback was requested on ideas for future work presented in the paper. There would be further opportunity for this at the November event. Any feedback should be directed to Phil Davis (phillip.davis@stc-nyorks.co.uk).

14. BPOA Technical Secretary

The BPOA Technical Secretary role had been awarded to Simon Davenport following a tendering process, commencing 1 November 2016. J. England would complete organisation of the 2017 technical seminar. M. Smith and members of the Committee thanked J. England for her work on behalf of the Committee over the years.

15. Dates and venues of future meetings

- 18th January - [Whittlebury Hall](#), 4 pm (following the technical seminar and to include a meal).
- 8 June – NFU, Stoneleigh
- 12 October - Neame Lea, Spalding

16. AOB

- The AHDB had organised an event: ***‘Integrated pest management for pest and disease control in ornamental crops’*** which would take place on 8 November 2016 at Brinsbury College Campus and Chichester Park Hotel.
- W. Brough circulated a printout of the AHDB Grower Magazine feedback sheet for growers to complete.
- S. Davenport confirmed that approved minutes were being uploaded to the NFU website, and requested that other meeting papers could be similarly uploaded *en bloc*. Some of these papers had been produced for internal use rather than publication. Research proposals were circulated ‘In Confidence’ and should not be uploaded, and the ADAS Pesticide Update should not be uploaded and made freely available. The rule of thumb was to approach authors for their permission prior to uploading any documents or presentations.