

Minutes of the Technical Committee held on Tuesday 16th October 2018 'The Loft' Grandstand, Stoneleigh.



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1. Apologies:

Adlam, John
Braime, Howard
Lloyd, Luke
MacMillan, Ewan
Opperman, Ollie
Pearson, Simon
Satterthwaite, Jamie

Kitchener, Harry
Lisher, James
Mason, Lyndon
Need, Chris
Richardson, Fay
Shove, Caroline
Smith, Michael
Swain, Jon (FEC)
Woodcock, Russ

Present:

Bragg, Neil
Brough, Wayne (AHDB)
England, Jill (ADAS)
Edwards, Graeme (Meeting Chair)
Fuller, Andrew
Key, Georgina (AHDB)

In attendance
Bartel, Elysia (ADAS)
Collins, Spencer (AHDB)
Davenport, Simon (Sec)

2. Approval of the minutes 7th June 2018 and 3. matters arising: In

addition the apologies noted above Ewan MacMillan on 4th October, sent his resignation from the chairmanship of the committee and the BBPC steering group; Graeme Edwards as deputy steps into the chair for this and subsequent meetings. Martin McPherson wrote to the committee to offer his continuing support in any pathology related enquiry.

- a) SD was unsuccessful in obtaining a report from Phil Davies at STC and NB raised the matter as an obligation on him (Phil) to report to growers on the Lighting Fellowship in which growers had invested. The matter was therefore re-minuted. GK said that she would list the work done to date.
- b) The decision tree on water treatment was re-minuted for the next meeting agenda.
- c) Under the Action point on plastics it was noted that DEFRA is holding a 'waste resources review' and this was an opportunity for BPOA to engage with plastics producers to offer them testing facilities for new technology and the BPOA should publish a statement on waste and recycling on its website and it should be available to all members to use with their clients.

4. Topics of Interest:

- a) **Pest and Disease** HB was not available for this meeting and so sent in some notes: *Its doesn't seem to have been a bad year for Western flower thrip thankfully and certainly not seen any red spider in the Pot Mums. We have seen some red spider in our Rose prop though and we are concentrating predator in there. We have also started to trial spray flipper in the roses as it is a bio control addition. It is quite broad spectrum against aphid whitefly & red spider apparently. No harmful effects on the crop and because it is oily does help give leaves a shine. It did help cover up some Dipel deposit we had on some rose leaves as we have seen a lot of caterpillar attracted into the house this autumn probably by the sodium lamps in the evening. My grower did say that because of the high rate of Flipper he did have an odd nozzle block up on the boom. We will also try in the Pot mums shortly. We have had some black aphid turn up in pot mums which does seem to be an aphid that isn't being killed by predators as it is becoming the*

ACTION

Invite Phil Davies to attend a meeting and speak to the committee. CN
Provide a list of publications emanating from the STC made to date under the original contract. GK

ACTION

Add decision tree proposal to next meeting agenda—EB

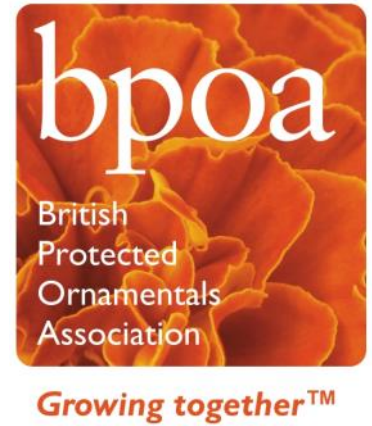
ACTION

Design new waste/ recycling document—SD/CN

(Continued from page 1)

problem aphid in that crop over the last year. I have seen horrendous whitefly on poinsettia in Holland so pulling out of Dummer in this country was definitely the right decision." RW said that the chemical Flipper could cause some damage on poinsettia. WB and LM mentioned the trials on Stocks Downy Mildew and the close to market chemicals were having an effect- it will be important to 'flag up' warnings when there are environmental conditions favouring disease development.

- b) **Shelf life**—Nothing to report at present.
- c) **Automation**— Nothing to report and Simon Pearson unlikely to continue this role. It was recommended that the committee look for another member to take this on.
- d) **Growing Media**— NB noted that he was expecting a new push on banning peat and the BPOA needs a policy document on the peat usage.
- e) **Nutrition**— NB reported that the poinsettia monitoring scheme has been active this season and instrumental in exposing the fact that almost all media were devoid of available Nitrogen. More will be known on the auditing system after 29/10/18. [JE name included in this section in error]
- f) **Grow Save**— JS noted that the meetings have been affected by up to 50% no-show or short term cancellation. The newsletter 'Update' is available on the website. The air movement day was successful and the main conclusion was that conventional wisdom was wrong and that vertical air movement was more effective than lateral movement. It was not possible to establish circulation patterns in the glasshouse.
- g) **Pesticides**— RW commented that Systhane had been re-registered and was still needed for poinsettia powdery mildew prevention. On Aphid control Safari had replaced Chess which was no longer available and there was no systemic chemical available now but Sequoia was not currently available but likely to have an on label permission for ornamentals only. WB said that Elasto was coming in from the poinsettia trials. Stabilan final sales by 1/5/19 and Phenomenal use by date 14/11/19.
- h) **News & Views**— CS had nothing to report.
- i) **PAMS**— FR noted that there was a very regional variation in the incidence of this problem and growers reported:
FR Not seen in Yorkshire
MS Not much
GE Not much
CS Badly affected in early plantings
AF No problems
CN Seen on early transplanted plugs and often 2 weeks after high leaf temperatures noted.
JE presented a proposal for more work on the subject and after some discussion it was agreed to review the circulated document and submit comments.
- j) **Propagation**— MS had nothing to report.
- k) **BPOA Strategy**— GK said that the strategy document needs further review. There are a number of how to videos coming out now and more could be requested with specific subjects. In relation to the strategy document, it would be helpful to have a review of what work/ topics have already been tackled and that would clarify what could be approached in future. GK commented that the PO Panel will consider waste/ recycling. She noted that a vacancy existed for a panel member at present.
- l) **Niche & Novel Crops**— Nothing to report.
- m) **Growth Control**— With Ewan resigning from the committee, this position is open. HK agreed to accept the brief.



ACTION ALL to consider who could take on the Automation topic area.

ACTION ALL cooperate on the production of a peat usage policy document.

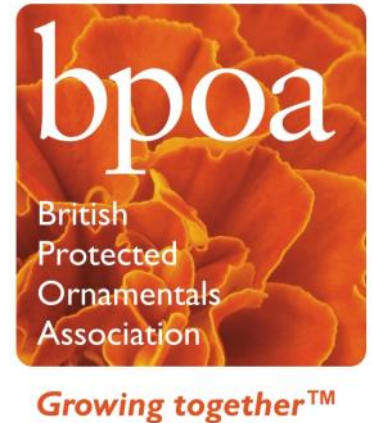
ACTION ALL Review JE proposal and submit comments to her for the next meeting.

ACTION ALL Consider suitable candidates for panel vacancy.

ACTION GK to present a review of strategy goals already achieved.

(Continued from page 2)

- n) **Cut Flower Centre-** Since the last meeting the CFC has had its annual open evening and this went well and attendance was good. The trials programme for the next 5 years was settled and has started.
 - o) **Light-** Nothing to report
 - p) **Poinsettia**—GE commented that the Bemisia stock problem had affected all growers. The poinsettia meeting at Neame Lea to view trails will take place on 27th November. The shelf life review will take place at Holbeach University on 17th January- (after the AGM and Conference). NB noted that there was an residue analysis of leaf material from poinsettia young plants in the current trial and will be another one take at the point of shelf life.
 - **Management Committee report:** SD reported on the last meeting held on 18th September 2018: The AGM agenda will include a number of proposals on subscriptions that were not voted on at the last AGM due to it being inquorate.
A draft budget for the new year has been discussed and will be presented at the AGM- this will include the new rates for the technical secretary, a proposed communications worker and a reduced fee for the executive officer. The committee will consider what the appropriate action will be for the handling of the renewal of the executive officer contract.
The current bank balances of the Association total £26,424.99 at the end of August.
The management committee recommended that SD retain a position on the technical committee. [This was accepted by the Technical Committee proposed MS seconded CN]
The chair, Kersten Catella, has been asked to negotiate a new MOU agreement with the NFU.
It was agreed that SD should survey the membership for attitudes to the AHDB in preparation for a response to the consultation/ review.
6. **Technical secretary-** SD introduced the new Technical Secretary, Chris Need and he in turn explained that he would be asking ADAS to provide the minutes and that would be done by Elysia Bartel. In addition to the secretarial work CN will also be responsible for convening meetings in the regions to obtain more ideas from members on the research work that they require.
7. **Proposal for long term work on poinsettia-** GE explained his idea for a rolling 5 year plan to allow poinsettia research, variety trials, PGR , water deficit trials to be organised in a more orderly form. This would link to long term work on other pot plants.
8. **BPPC Tender 2019 onwards-** WB held a closed - session discussion on the current proposal before the panel.
9. **Poinsettia Study Tour-** HK reported that the tour to Latina was going ahead with approximately 10 members in week 46 (12th-14th November).
10. **Innovative Farmers-** The information supplied in the last meeting and subsequent email exchange was reviewed and it was decided not to go further with this initiative at this time.
11. **Conference 2019-** SD has contacted the speakers on behalf of the sub - committee and a meeting will be arranged to finalise the agenda for the day.
12. **Project Updates & Risk register-** GK discussed the current state of affairs and asked for comments on her risk document to produce a system for the ranking of need for work on pest and disease.
14. **Crop protection Update-** SC gave his report (circulated) on the latest developments.
15. **BPPC Update-** JE gave her reports on the BPPC & Pesticide Updates (circulated)

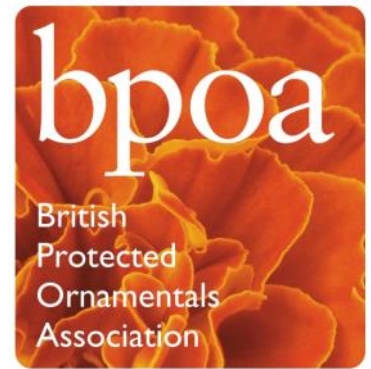


ACTION CN/GE to develop this proposal.

ACTION SD to write to Innovative farmers thanking them for their help so far..

ACTION SD to convene a conference sub-committee meeting.

17. **AHDB Communications-** WB gave his report on communications which was not circulated ahead of the meeting and is included with these minutes. WB noted that the factsheets on Calibrating Dosatrons, Nutrition (Neil Bragg) and Stock Mildew (Lyndon Mason) are now available. Supervising skill workshops are travelling around the country over the coming months.
18. **Management Committee-** HK questioned the need for the management committee and its current function. Could its job be done better by the technical committee? He asked if there was a case for the meetings being brought together on the same day. SD noted that the addition of the two agendas in one day may not be attractive to members of either committee and agreed to put HK's point to the management committee at its next meeting.
SD also advised the committee that any member wishing to table a proposal for the amendment of the rules governing committees of the Association could do so and it would need to be passed by a general meeting of members.
Mindful of the recent staff changes, the committee felt that the NFU should be asked to send a representative to the committee meetings in future.
19. **Dates of Meetings in 2019 at Stoneleigh (unless notified).**
Tuesday 29th January
Tuesday 2nd July
Tuesday 15th October



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ACTION SD to advise management committee of the discussion and discuss a joint committee meeting.

ACTION SD to request an NFU representative at future meetings.