

Minutes of the Technical Committee
at Whittlebury Hall, Towcester
held on Wednesday 18th January 2017 16:00



1. Apologies:

John Adlam
Luke Lloyd
Ewan MacMillan
Simon Pearson
Fay Richardson
Jon Swain

Present

Lyndon Mason (Chair)
Neil Bragg- Bulrush Horticulture
Howard Braime- Double H Nurseries
Wayne Brough (AHDB)
Pablo Canales-Prati- Hortifeeds Ltd
Graeme Edwards- Woodlark Nurseries
Jill England (ADAS)
Amy Gray (NFU)
Georgina Key (AHDB)
Harry Kitchener- Consultant
James Lisher- Cobbins Nurseries (co-opted)
Martin McPherson- Stockbridge Tech Centre
Chris Need- Consultant
Jamie Satterthwaite- Pentland Plants
Caroline Shove- **Bryant's Nurseries Ltd**
Michael Smith- WD Smith & Son
Russ Woodcock- Bordon Hill Nurseries

Simon Davenport (Sec)

(The chairman welcomed all to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves as there were a number of new attendees to the meeting.)

2. Minutes.

There were no amendments.

3. Matters arising

The only matter arising from the minutes was the action to contact Mike Mann and this will now be done by the incoming chair, Lyndon.

4. Topics of Interest (discussion limited to members reporting at this meeting)

- a. P&D-HB noted that they currently have a a problem with WFT in pot rose propagation @ 23°C, which they had not expected during the winter time. They had tried various chemicals and Amblyseius cucumeris. Botanigard has not been used but he felt could be effective with the addition of ADDIT.
- b. PGR—WB No movement with Stablan use and EAMU being sought.
- c. Growing Media- NB was concerned at the inaction on media and worried that the fixed targets for cessation of peat usage may be revived.

ACTION
LM to contact
Mike Mann re-
garding his state-
ment to the pre-
vious meeting.

ACTION
NB to convene
meeting with AG
to discuss ap-
proach to DEFRA.



- d. Nutrition- NB quoted that the recommendation from US was to use drenches over 10 weeks of Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt 0-0-3(7.8% Si), the cost of which would be very high. This summer, Greenmount College performed a trial on poinsettia and showed growers the results on 23rd November. There appeared to be very little difference in the treatments. Leaf tissue analysis has been done and shelf life has been scored very recently. NB has costed the recommended treatment at 14p/pot
- e. Growing media initiative- HB noted that the report is due shortly and there are still some problems e.g. considering the question of the best **physical standard where peat is regarded as the starting point. "Work is going on"**
- f. Energy- JS asked if the topic could be used during the Baginton BPPC open day in June. Some opinions were expressed on the suitability and timing for this evening event.
- g. Pesticides- RW again raised his concern over the loss of Systhane in particular as the preventative of American Downy Mildew on poinsettia. Signum has been used for this purpose but has caused scorching. Luna being used in Holland but not yet available in the UK. There is still a problem in the rules over the disposal of green waste from Bonzi treatment. Some suggestion were made on the possible composting on-site of affect green waste material. A new spraying rig has been delivered and will be re-conformed to nursery conditions. WB asked if the committee would support further work on drone use for spraying (electrostatic); the practicality of wet spraying as described during the seminar was questioned.
- h. News & Views- CS asked if the committee could support connection with education and training groups and invite students to meetings and seminars. It was proposed that a new Topic of Interest area be created to develop links with education institutions.
- i. Pansy Mottle- no news on this item and JE reported that she had made no progress with Will in the US on possible trials in high light & temperature environment. JE will distribute a note on progress to 14 respondents to the survey and the committee.
- j. Strategy- GK said that the document was now updated and crop protection and growing media added to the document. Work on Fusarium has been extended to the CFC and LM was able to confirm that there was a tunnel made available for the trials. BPOA feedback was previously covered by Nigel Crosby and CN agreed to take over this Topic.
- k. Cut Flower Centre- LM reported that this contract was due for renewal and he is working on a new financial package for the next five years with AHDB (GK).
- l. Industry Statistics- Sd reported no new activity on this Topic. The question of the continuation of the work was raised as SD is now secretary to the committee and James Lisher was asked to consider the possibility of adopting part of the brief. JE mentioned that ADAS were being commissioned to make the survey of growers before March this year by DEFRA and SD asked if a copy of the blank survey could be supplied for study. JE said that this would not be possible. Some members were willing to submit they returns on the basis of anonymity. These could be emailed to simon.davenport@homegrownplants.org.uk . JE has issued the following statement on behalf of ADAS in order to clarify the matter:
'In collecting industry data for Defra, ADAS is contracted such that it will not use or reuse the data in any form for any other purpose, either internally within ADAS, for any other project, or with any other business. Business data is collected by ADAS on the understanding that it will be treated in strict confidence'.
- m. Poinsettia- GE mentioned the Stars for Europe programme and also discussed a trial in the US which asked growers to select their favourite

ACTION
NB will circulate a report on the Silicon trial.

ACTION
All to consider new Topic of Interest area.

ACTION
JE to distribute note on Pansy mottle trials to respondents.

ACTION
CN to cover BPOA Feedback and ALL are to consider new items for the inclusion as agenda items.

ACTION
SD to inform JL on progress to date and JL to consider adopting industry stats. brief.

ACTION
ALL to consider if they are able to supply details of their returns to the secretary, ANONYMOUSLY.

varieties. In this poll the new variety Ferrara (Dümmen Orange) was the winner. HK noted that the variety had not performed as well as Infinity in the shelf life trials.

5. Management feedback. SD gave a report on the management committee meeting from 8th November convened at GroSouth Show and hosted by Hill Brothers in Chichester. A number of the items related directly to the AGM and conference which has just been held.
6. Research budget 2017- HK raised the matter of the research budget for 2017 in order to facilitate forward planning. GK has already issued a statement on behalf of AHDB that the discussion of finance was held at the PO panel meeting and that the information can come to the committee via members who sit on the panel. (There are still 2 vacant places for growers on this panel). It was confirmed by LM that he had adequate information on behalf of the cut flower growers. NB made the point that the flow of information needs to be improved and panel members should communicate with growers. It was noted that proposals for work need to be improved to ensure that growers receive adequate technical support from the R&D programme. It was suggested that Mike Mann, as head of the panel, should be invited to attend the committee.
7. Study Tours- **HK gave a brief resumé of the proposed 'Diffuse Light' tour** of the Netherlands for March. This is now advertised on the AHDB website: <https://horticulture.ahdb.org.uk/event/ahdbbppc-study-tour-%E2%80%98-benefits-diffuse-light-protected-ornamental-plant-production%E2%80%99-Q> . MS confirmed that the US study tour would be leaving in February. HK said that a tour of Ontario, Canada was planned for the autumn which will include visits to growers, Vineland research and the Canadian growers conference. Details are being published.
8. MOPS update-JE reported to the meeting that this programme is currently subject to re-tendering. JE also noted that the revised proposal for poinsettia work will be managed via the BPPC contract. NB questioned why the work could not be done at Greenmount College. JE said that the costs of managing it would be uneconomic. NB explained that the proposal would be before the panel meeting in April and linked to the BPPC meeting. It was suggested that the variety list should be rationalised or treatments limited to certain varieties. The committee supported a full application of the work being considered at the panel meeting. (This item was not discussed under the closed session on the agenda.)
9. Bedding & Pot Plant centre update- JE noted that the current report, issued for this meeting, and the talk given earlier in the afternoon covered the planned activity.
10. Pesticide Update- This paper was not issued before the meeting and has been supplied to members subsequently.
11. AHDB communication and crop protection update- WB commented on his already circulated papers, Crop Protection update prepared by Bolette Palle Neve and the Communications Update covering activity during 2016. He asked for any proposals for study tours to be advised as soon as possible.
12. AHDB Strategy review- LM noted that the cut flower growers had made a response as had the BPOA; NB had made a personal response and NFU had **responded on behalf of horticulture. West Sussex Growers' Association had** made a response including ornamentals. It was proposed that the various documents be made available with the minutes to committee members.
13. AOB—None raised.
14. Closed Session- This did not occur on this occasion as the matter had already been considered under point 8 (meeting closed at 18.15).
15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 8th June 2017, Stoneleigh



ACTION
LM to invite Mike Mann to attend the committee to advise on this matter.

ACTION
SD to check if we can share the WSGA response.