



**MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ONLINE AT 11AM ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2020**

Committee in attendance:

Dan Silverston, Soho Sandwich Company (Producer)– Chair
Martin Beaver, RAP (Supplier)
Robert Potts, Greencore (Producer)
Jim Winship, BSA Director
Sandra Bennett, BSA Membership Manager
Caron Parry, BSA Events Manager

Apologies

Ben Newby, Freshfayre (Supplier)
Samantha Brett, Waitrose (Retail)
Peter Mayley, La Baguetterie (Independent)
David Winter, Street Eats (Producer)
Andy Hawthorne, Subway (Sandwich Bar Chain)

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were approved.

Chair/Vice Chair

Robert Potts agreed to accept the role of Vice Chair

Coronavirus

Jim Winship reported that the Association had, this week, issued a survey to suppliers/manufacturers with the aim of assessing those that are in serious difficulty having had no direct financial support from Government since the start of the first lockdown. Subject to the results of the survey, which is being done in conjunction with other associations, the intention is to submit a case to the Treasury for additional support.

Concerns have subsequently been raised about the refusal of underwriting debt insurers to cover payments outstanding from some leading names in the High Street. The Association is investigating this with the Food & Drink Federation.

NHS

The Association is continuing to work with the Hospital Food Review panel and the NHS to ensure that new standards for the supply of higher risk chilled foods are followed through the entire delivery chain. To this end, the Association has consulted with the NHS auditors, STS, about their new audit standards and has been liaising with the NHS Supply Chain about standards of supply. There are particular concerns that there are still factories supplying into the healthcare sector that currently do not have the appropriate audit approvals, and there may be more.

A meeting is taking place on 5th November to brief members on the new standards and to discuss the recently published Hospital Food Review report. This will be followed with meetings between the Association, Review chair and the NHS to discuss how to ensure that all Trust procurement systems come within the scope of the new standards.

BSA Accreditation

After consulting with sandwich manufacturing members and the Committee, the Association has reached agreement that it will in future accept both STS and BRCGS AA audit grades for membership. It has also reached agreement with STS to work more closely with them in future and to provide advice and help to smaller businesses in meeting with the standards. Neither organisation has been able to do this up to now due to conflicts with auditing.

Waste Strategy

Following a meeting with members in October, the Association is planning to set up a project to review ways in which retailers might collaborate to offer a return scheme for used sandwich packaging, thus enabling it to be delivered to the recycling plants able to handle these packs. Waste collectors First Mile have agreed to work with the Association on this and the intention is to bring together some retailers and packaging experts to research how such a scheme might work. There is already a similar scheme for disposable coffee cups.

Obesity Proposals

The new obesity targets published by Public Health England were briefly discussed. The consensus was that these were largely achievable.

BSA Awards

Jim Winship informed the meeting that the Association is planning to run the awards without the dinner for the moment due to the uncertainties over whether such events will be allowed. However, the Association will organise a dinner or luncheon event as soon as such events are given the go-ahead to take place and it is feasible to get people together.

Caron Parry also told the meeting that the awards will be launched shortly and are being planned on the basis that judging will take place, wherever possible, via video conferencing which will help to make the judging process more open.

TV Programmes

Jim Winship reported that the Association had made a complaint about the bias of the recent Channel 4 programme on sandwiches but had, to date, not received a response. It was particularly concerned about the way the programme had sought to focus on the food safety risks and had ignored much of the information it had been given which would have given a more balanced view.

The Association is not intending to respond in relation to a subsequent programme – Food Unwrapped – which focused on listeria, although this again ignored what the industry has been doing to address the issues.

It is understood that a third programme is being planned around the history of the sandwich but details are not yet available about this.

Member Meetings Online

Jim Winship reported that the Association is now organising regular member meetings using video conferencing facilities, which are proving popular with between 45 and 67 members attending each time. There are plans to continue these and a new schedule will be issued shortly, including one focusing on Brexit in early December.

AGM

The meeting agreed that the Association AGM would be held as part of the next Management Committee meeting in January.

Next Meeting

The next online Management Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, 13th January 2020 at 11am. A calendar invitation will be sent shortly.