

TUCO Welsh Regional Meeting Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 2:00 pm via MS Teams

MINUTES

Attendees:	Jeremy Mabbutt	Aberystwyth
	Jason Edwards	South Wales
	Jane Eve	TUCO
	Adriana Garaba	Trinity St David
	Vanessa Heritage-Smith	Wrexham Council
	Judith Hoyle	TUCO
	Annabel Hurst	Cardiff
	Mandy Johnston	TUCO
	Samantha Jones	Trinity St David
	Ian Kemp	Denbighshire
	Andrew Phelps	Cardiff Met
	Dafydd Williams	Conwy Council
Sue Williams	Wrexham Council	
Apologies:	Angela Church	Bangor
	Romano Provini	NHS Wales
	Phil Rees-Jones	Cardiff
	Clare Winfield	South Wales

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Apologies as listed above. Jeremy welcomed all members.

2. Presentation by Darren Bradshaw of Selecta

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were taken as agreed.

4. Frameworks Update (Jane)

Jane is currently working on the White Label TUCO Delivery App which will be run as a competitive dialogue over 6 to 9 years. Innovative Waste will be extended until October when we will look to add another Lot for the measurement of food waste, which will align with current legislation. Mandy has just awarded the EPOS system DPS. The Access Group were not successful so will be re-submitting their bid in the hope of gaining future entry. Vending is also a DPS so that we can add further suppliers at any time and we currently have two more suppliers waiting to go on. Temporary Structures is also waiting for more suppliers to be added, we are just awaiting the signed agreements to the Terms and Conditions.

Regarding the Catering Innovation and Concept Solutions (CICS) – Starbucks’ Legal Team are looking at the documents and we are hoping that they will be on by August. Category Manager Hannah is also working with Costa. Both Delice de France and King Asia are currently not on there but are both re-submitting their applications. We are looking at strategy documents for both Milk and Bread and Meat and Poultry which we anticipate will be ready by August. On the DipChem agreement, Catering 24 have issued a price increase which came into effect in May. Soft Drinks has also seen some price increases from Brakes and Bidfood. Grocery, Frozen and Chilled – contract review meetings have taken place and there has been a review of prices. The biggest issue is that suppliers are facing a driver shortage which is a problem for the distributors. Going forward, Café Direct will be using Brakes and Bidfood for their distribution so will no longer be on the framework. Contract review meetings have been held for the Vegan and Vegetarian framework. The Category Team have undergone further training on Net Positive which will give them access to more meetings.

The Welsh College of Drama have become new Associate Members.

Category Manager Kim Ashley is looking for volunteers to join her new Focus Group which will be looking at new product development and there will be sampling of products newly introduced to the market.

We are hoping that Ben Robinson, new Account Manager for Premier Foods, will be joining us to present at a future meeting. Jeremy asked about the new White Label Delivery App and Jane replied that this is work in progress. Jane also advised members that Urban Eat are no longer on the sandwich framework.

5. Training Academy Update

The first quarter of this financial year has been busy for the Academy. 4 webinars took place and are averaging between 70-80 views. We had 15 courses with 149 attendees, with an average of 10 but we have had classes of up to 20. We hosted 2 online events – Plastics Day in May with 40-120 views on each of the 8 sessions and Innovation Day in June with 30-60 views so far on 18 sessions.

Regional courses we offer

- Level 4 refresher course
- Level 2 & 3 Food Safety
- Level 2 Customer Services
- Level 2 Healthy Foods and Special Diets (Nutrition)
- Level 2&3 Allergens
- Level 2 HACCP
- Change Management
- Leadership

The ones beginning with a level can be delivered as qualifications.

After July we can also offer:

- Level 1 award in Awareness of First Aid for Mental Health (RQF)
- Level 2 award in First Aid for Mental Health (RQF)

- Level 2 award in First Aid for Youth Mental Health (RQF)
- Level 3 award in Supervising First Aid for Mental Health (RQF)

We are looking to have 4 webinars over the next quarter or so, one on Calorie Labelling and 3 from The Food People on Food Trends.

We are also looking to expand the curriculum offer with further courses potentially including menu engineering, mastering your motivation, presentation skills and mentoring. Phil also suggested running a course along the lines of getting furloughed staff back into work after the pandemic.

The main event of the year though is the Summer Conference – taking place online this year on Wednesday 28th July. This year's theme is Build Back Better, focusing on post-pandemic recovery. The Agenda includes sessions on The Gut Stuff, Menus for Change and The Technological Road to Recovery. Our keynote speaker will be Andy Cope from The Art of Brilliance to talk about Mental Wellbeing. There will be a social event with the TUCyO Olympics in the evening.

6. Board Update

There is little to update as the Board are due to meet the following day (Thursday 17th). However, on the financial side the year end accounts have now been finalised, with the losses a little lower than originally forecast but still quite heavy at £712,000.

7. Updates from Members

Aberystwyth

Their licence agreement is due to finish this coming Friday (18th) and they are now planning for the return of the international students. They will be allowed to reside in the same flat if they all arrived on the same flight. The Freshers Plan is back for the first week but as yet they are not sure whether this will be inside or out.

University of South Wales Jason has been working alongside the Welsh College of Drama and putting them in contact with suppliers on the TUCO frameworks. They have launched their circular economy this week so they will not be offering any disposable cups on campus. Click and Collect is finally in and making an impact. They are currently finalizing their September plans to see if they will be opening all outlets or consolidate the ones that they have.

Conwy Council

They are approaching the end of the school term so they have some kitchen work planned to be done over summer. There has been an upsurge in the number of infections in the area due to the Delta variant so they are now awaiting Welsh government guidelines as to how to proceed.

Cardiff Met

Andrew announced that he has taken over the SU Catering arrangement at Llandaff campus and has refurbished and updated the back kitchen. Starbucks has also been moved. They have inherited the SU catering facility which has not been refurbished for years. They have a new café coming in which is linked to the new School of Technology. They are looking towards September and trying to do some menu development.

The majority of staff are still on furlough but will be back in before September. Although the students are due to finish on Friday 18th June there are still around 200 on site. However, there is still a question mark as to whether they will be on full service come September. SU staff are in the process of being TUPE'd over.

Denbighshire

They are now coming to the end of the academic year and are looking at new menus for the coming one. Labelling and Allergens are high on their agenda. Some refurbishments are being carried out within the schools. COVID cases seem to be spiking again with one school closed the previous day due to the high number of new cases.

Trinity St David

Sam reported that they have now completed most of their Allergen work and are now planning for September. They have no summer business – everything has been cancelled. All the staff which are left are now back from furlough.

Cardiff

Isolating students are now returning from amber countries. They are delivering food to students within a 2-mile radius. Annabel revealed that they have a 'Catering Way Forward' business plan and are implementing TUCO Online for the start of October. The university is undertaking a big project around changing ways of working with staff working from home. As a result the university is looking at reducing their estates so that there will be more 'Hot Desking' areas. They are also reviewing all their hours of operation to see how long places need to be open. There is some hospitality coming in over the next few weeks. There has been a 200% uptake on hospitality and they are doing some summer 'End of Year' events. They have a new building being built in Park Place with a new kitchen being installed during July. This means that several different events can be run at the same time. 60% of the catering team have been temporarily redeployed throughout the campus.

Wrexham Council

Sue reported that they are still on a temporary menu in the primary and high schools however they are looking to re-introduce a full menu in September. Cases are rising in the area at the moment. Vanessa has been very busy with implementing Parent Pay and SciPad in the schools as well as Kitchen Manager, which will remove their paper-based systems.

8. Ideas for Future Presentations

The supplier poll will be circulated to decide who members would like to see present. Annabel suggested one of the suppliers from the Ambient/Chilled/Frozen framework. She would like to hear more about what they are doing in the current pandemic and plans for the new academic year.

9. Sustainability

TUCO Sustainability Manager Sue Lightfoot has now retired but we are looking at different sustainability projects, such as Plastics, Zero Carbon and UN 18 – this is one of Cardiff's 12 points for the way forward and their Sustainability Goals as Cardiff have to show evidence that they are supporting at least 8 of them. They are struggling with measuring their carbon emissions from their food. There are some discrepancies as the carbon needed to make a disposable cup is much much less than that needed for a re-usable china cup.

10. Any Other Business

There was no further business so the meeting was duly closed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

This will take place some time in early September – exact date to be confirmed.