

enc. 5/4/77

GROUP * * * * *
PRODUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING

4 SEP 1977

F.H.

- 4 AUG 1977

Wednesday 3rd August, 1977

Members Present: Messrs. O'Brien, Ashurst, Hughes, Procter, Thompson
McDowell, Ford, Stevens.

1. Gas Phase League Tables.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned that Mr. Sheehy had asked for a case history on the Dutch situation in relation to gas phase league tables to be prepared for the MPDC. Copies of this, together with Dr. Haslam's covering letter were passed to PAs. It was agreed the project leader for ventilated cigarette manufacture would endeavour to ensure there is no communication failure by regular liaison with the Product Development Adviser, Millbank.

2. Ventilated Tipping

Mr. McDowell tabled the draft circular on the subject of ventilated tipping. This has now been circulated to PAs and their comments are being incorporated into the note.

Mr. Hughes queried whether the minutes of the 20th May meeting should be sent out at the same time as this circular letter and this was agreed. The next meeting on this subject will take place in October and will probably be in Geneva.

3. Cigarette Ripping Machines

Mr. Procter advised the meeting that Hambro have now designed a small plant, 1200 lbs/hr, which could well be of interest. One will be completed in October and BAT have been offered this for test purposes. Mr. Dennis has been to see the plant and ran cigarettes through it at Hambro's works. Mr. Procter suggested it would be good to get this machine into trial and agreed to contact R. & D. again to try to persuade them to do this.

4. Sigma

Mr. Procter mentioned that he has had an approach from Sasib with regard to the testing of the Sigma. He advised the Committee that he has confirmed BATs interest and is now looking at location possibilities. The machine will be available about September/October set up for Mary Long. Mr. Ashurst agreed to approach Geneva to see if they are able to undertake this evaluation. Sasib have stated that they would like the machine to run at 4000.

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9. Mr. O'Brien will be on leave from 5th to 22nd August inclusive.
Mr. Procter will be on leave from 9th to 19th August inclusive.
Mr. Ashurst will be on leave from 15th to 29th August inclusive.
10. Mr. J.C. Cordy - Sierra Leone will be visiting Millbank on 4th August.
Mr. P. Quittenbaum - Germany will be visiting Millbank on 4th August.
11. Mr. Hughes mentioned he has a requirement for a Factory Manager for Liberia should any Adviser know of any retired production people who may be interested.

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5. 5000s Prototype

Mr. O'Brien asked for the latest position regarding the 5000s prototype and queried our commitment to it. Mr. Procter advised that Molins have offered this machine to Geneva for sale approx. September next year but stated that this is the first issue of Molins design efforts of noise control at 5000 and is being offered without a noise guarantee. Mr. Procter is seeking to clarify with Molins the question of when they will be in a position to offer such machines with noise guarantees.

6. Mark 9N at 5000

Mr. O'Brien asked when we would be in a position to advise Associates that the Mark 9N was suitable for production at speeds of up to 5000 cigarettes/minute. Mr. Ashurst pointed out that we are in such a position now subject to any noise limitations and link-up problems which might impose themselves, and he pointed out that an opportune time to communicate this would be with the distribution of the 5000s trials report. Mr. Stevens said that it would be possible to include a preliminary note in the September issue of the Q.M.B.

7. Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene

Mr. O'Brien tabled Mr. Foster's note on Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene recommending this as a substitute for P.T.F.E. This is being used in the tobacco industry to relieve frictional problems where high temperature is not a requirement. R. & D. have enough material for one H.L. Packer and this is being offered to Southampton through BAT (U.K. and Export). Mr. O'Brien asked whether any other Associates might be interested.

8. Ends Stability Testing.

Mr. McDowell tabled Mr. Gannaway's note on Ends Stability Testing giving details of the Turbula Shaker Type T2C. This is cheaper than the Borgwaldt and takes lower quantities of cigarettes. Mr. O'Brien said it is important we should have a standard instrument for Ends Stability Testing and therefore unless R. & D. wish to make a firm recommendation that this Turbula tester should replace the Borgwaldts as standard then no reference should be included in the Q.M.B. Mr. Ashurst said that when purchasing this sort of equipment the cost factor should not be of prime consideration.

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