

REPORT of a LIAISON MEETING with  
the PMB LICENSING COMMITTEE on  
Monday 15th JUNE, 1992 at Hans  
Crescent, LONDON.

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The meeting was opened by the Chairman, John Heading, introducing the various people attending.

I would then have liked to go through the previous report to ascertain whether there had been any change of view and clarify some points but the Chairman let the Retail Fruit Trades members rabbit on about the variety not being marked on the bag and on the multi-choice bag it was not always ticked against the proper variety.

The Chairman then went on to explain that he would like some way of establishing the financial standing of Merchants other than the auditing methods being used at present by the Board. This was being asked for by some Producers in view of the large sums of money that had been involved in the collapse of two large companies during the last 9 months and they were fearful of the knock-on effect.

There was prolonged discussion around the table mainly regarding the fact that it is the Merchants who take the brunt of these bankruptcies and to make them put up certain guarantees or make available financial ratings like Dun Bradstreet would be unpractical.

I asked if there was any figures regarding the amount of money lost by the Producers during the last two years due to bankruptcies by Merchants but it is not a sum that is recorded.

The meeting then closed with a summing-up by the Chairman who thanked us for our time and opinions but did not reach any conclusions.

Deryk Smith.