

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Saturday, 26th April 2014
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Ray Ward, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, Keith Wilson.
- 2) **Apologies:** David Cheshire. Nigel Wright
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (12th January, 2014):** MH referred to item 5,b, which should read Gemma Lake (not Emma). RW proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, seconded by PF.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Ratification of AGM minutes of (16th March, 2014):** Item 8d, - RW pointed out that the talks regarding the event at Earls Court were with Hyper Japan, not the RHS. Item 8e, - The date of the WBFF event in Japan should read 2017 (not 200017). Also it was noted that the nomination of Ray Ward to the Roll of Honour was omitted from the minutes.
DB-P proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, seconded by RW, carried unanimously.
- 6) **Correspondence:** MH has received a letter from John Coward enquiring about the possibility of selling seeds through FoBBS but this was deemed to be impractical.
- 7) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that the bank balance currently stands at £8,418.98 and there is £42.66 in petty cash.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB stated that a return has been completed recognising that DC has been appointed the new director of FoBBS and has also become chairman of FNBC. All accounts have been submitted.
 - c) **Membership:** DB-P reported that there are now 54 society members and 1 individual member.
 - d) **Event reports:** RB stated that the Swindon Winter Image show made a small profit and though not officially a FoBBS event, all the exhibits came from FoBBS members.
 - e) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** The collection is reported to be in good order but it was agreed that no more trees should be accepted unless they are superb specimens. It is intended that the bars protecting the trees should be replaced with high-tensile steel mesh as soon as funds are available.
The boot sale raised £420, which is the best result yet, but parking was a problem as there was another event on the same day, however, the BBG have promised to avoid this situation next year.
 - f) **European Bonsai Association:** RB referred to the ongoing problem within EBA and will be reporting in more detail at the next meeting.
 - g) **W.B.F.F:** MH stated that a Board meeting has been scheduled to coincide with the BCI event in Australia, which he will be attending as representative of the European Region.
8. **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that there are 3 possible entrants for the competition at the 2015 EBA convention in Lithuania. RW offered to hold the UK final at the Sussex event in August 2015, however concern was raised about the timescale as the EBA final is in September.

9. Forthcoming events:

- a. **R.H.S. Chelsea: 20th – 24th May 2014:** RB stated that construction of the stands is nearing completion; there will be BBC coverage of the event again, but the passes have not yet arrived. MH has purchased 2 folding high chairs for use by stewards at a cost of £25 each; the committee unanimously approved payment.
- b. **R.H.S. Gardener's World Live: 11th – 15th June 2014:** MH reported that he had had a meeting with the new liaison officer, Liz Patterson when it was agreed that the stand would be 2 tiers of 74' by 8' for which approximately 38 – 40 trees would be required. RB offered to make some end-pieces similar to those used at Chelsea. Set-up will be on 10th and, if necessary the morning of the 11th, with Public admission beginning on Thursday 12th. Backdrops and stands covered in green hessian are provided and FoBBS has material to cover the tables.
The display will be judged by the RHS on the Wednesday, but the only income we receive will be if we gain a medal.
- c. **'Bonsai for All': 6th July 2014:** This is a regional event on behalf of the FNBC which will incorporate an exhibition in the Terrace Suite, demos and traders in the Garden Suite and Simon Temblett has offered to man an advice centre for visitors. Expenditure is expected to be between £600 and £650 but it is hoped that a profit will be made to boost funds. This may become a bi-annual event.
- d. **'Hyper Japan': 25th – 27th July 2014:** This cultural event has been running in London for 5 years, but this is the first time that bonsai has been included. It is a larger event this year with up to 80,000 visitors expected. The space provided will be 13m by 10m and will include one trader (Ken Leaver). D.B-P proposed that FoBBS subsidise the event to a maximum of £300 to cover van hire etc., this was seconded by MH and carried unanimously. RW to canvass local societies for support.
- e. **Cardiff Central Library:** A small but very successful display was put on last year and PF and KW have been asked to repeat it on 31st May 2014 as part of the Japanese Society's cultural event.

10. Bonsai Instructors' Book/Judges Training Programme/Teachers' Programme: There is no change to the Instructors book. MH and Ken Norman are currently the only RHS accredited bonsai judges, however, 3 people have expressed interest in the scheme. RB and MH suggested inviting interested parties to a pilot meeting to discuss requirements. Candidates to bring a tree for appraisal. It is hope to run a pilot course in early autumn.

11. Website and publicity: MH reported that the website is up-to-date and Nigel will be able to cover Chelsea.

It was debated whether we should continue with the FoBBS' insert to Bonsai Focus, previously supplied by SR, but it was decided that it is of value and RW offered to take responsibility for it. RB reported that BBC, Bristol, has approached him...

ITV have asked MH if he would be interested in participating in a one of a series of TV shows about British gardens celebrating Alan Titchmarsh's 50 years in broadcasting.

12. Any other business: RW reported the need for some additional short end feet for the backdrops, RB to source some materials.

13. Date and venue of the next meeting: The meeting concluded at 15:45. The next meeting will be Sunday 3rd August at 10:30am.