

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

Charity No. 1008283

Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 31st December 2014.

Following a two year spell during which F.N.B.C. had incurred major expense in refurbishing part of the National Bonsai Collection site, which resulted in a loss each year, it is with a sense of satisfaction that I can report that this years' finances for the organisation are now once again in profit. The profit of £415.23 was due largely to major work on the site having now been completed together with a one-day event, "Bonsai for All" being held in July at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens as a fund raising exercise.

Interestingly, expenditure for 2014 was virtually the same as that for 2013, amounting to £1,824.77, a large part of this resulting from costs incurred with putting on the "Bonsai for All" event. The event brought in income amounting to £1,320.00 from the sale of trade space with overall income for the year amounting to £2,240.00. What this does highlight is the costs involved in putting on an event of this nature at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Whereas in past years, the Gardens had been willing to cover the costs of table hire fully or in part, this is now no longer the case. Furthermore, for a one day event, there was no income from the door, so in future years it may prove necessary to consider how best such an event is planned.

Again this year, the Bonsai Boot Sale proved a success, resulting in income of £420.00, the highest amount yet. Without an event or raffle, this still remains the one guaranteed source of income for the Collection. Interestingly when breaking down the expenditure for 2014, and discounting the costs involved with putting on the July event, the running costs virtually equate with this years' boot sale income.

Where F.N.B.C. is very fortunate is in having a group of volunteers who are prepared to give of their time in helping to maintain the trees in the Collection. In the beginning, the Collection was highly dependent on professional bonsai artists to carry out such work and were paid employees. This was due, in part, to the large number of loaned trees which constituted the bulk of the Collection at the time. Now, all the trees are owned by the Collection and with more individuals having developed their skills in the art of bonsai and volunteering their services, care of the trees now rests effectively in their hands.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who have assisted with the Collection over the past year as well as to Nigel Hopes, who as one of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens' hard working staff, has also helped maintain the Collection with the task of regular watering and application of the appropriate feeding regimes.

Dr. Malcolm Hughes,
Treasurer & Trustee, Friends of the National Bonsai Collection

February, 2015.