

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting: 11.00a.m. Sunday 16th March 2014 at the Garden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

1) **Members Present:**

Committee members: David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Peter Fielding, Ray Ward, Reg Bolton, Simon Richardson.

Society members: Aka Matsu Bonsai School, Ambion Bonsai Soc., Bonsai Kai, British Shohin Association, Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Crawley Bonsai Soc., Glynderi Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc., South Worcester Bonsai Soc., Sussex Bonsai Group, Swindon Bonsai Soc., Tees Side Bonsai Soc., Wigston Bonsai Soc.

2) **Apologies:** Kath Hughes (FoBBS Administrator), Nigel Wright (Webmaster), Tony Allen (FNBC), Kim Turton (FNBC) together with the following societies:

Bridgend Bonsai Soc., Heart of England Bonsai Soc., The Bonsai Group, N.W.Kent Bonsai Soc., Dai-Ichi Bonsai Soc., New Dawn Bonsai Soc., Eastbourne & Wealden Bonsai Soc.

Of those societies who sent their apologies, all had individuals in attendance to carry their proxy votes. Therefore, the total number of votes possible was 22.

3) **Report on the Annual General Meeting of the 10th February 2013:** The minutes of the previous years' AGM were read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Mike Konig proposed acceptance of the minutes seconded by Vic Yeomans. Carried unanimously.

4) **Matters arising:** None.

5) **Reports:**

a) **Chairman's report:** Malcolm Hughes presented his report on the year's activities (see attached). He added that he was pleased to report that the stand at Chelsea last year had again won the Holford Medal for the best amateur stand as well as achieving a Gold Medal Award.

b) **Financial report:** Denise Baum-Pick presented her report (see attached) and stated that the Federation made a profit of £406.71, which leaves it in a better position to help club events. Acceptance of the Accounts: proposed - David Cheshire; seconded - Barry Walker. Carried unanimously.

c) **Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:**

i) In the absence of Tony Allen and Kim Turton, Malcolm Hughes presented the Chairman's report to the meeting (see attached).

ii) Malcolm Hughes presented the financial report (see attached), which shows an overall balance of £3696.76.

Acceptance of the Accounts: proposed - Peter Fielding; seconded - Graham Walker.

6) **Election of officers and Committee:**

a) FoBBS - David Cheshire and Simon Richardson resigned from the committee. A new member, Keith Wilson from Glynderi Bonsai Society, was proposed by Cardiff Bonsai Society, seconded by Sussex Bonsai Society and voted in unanimously. As all other members of the committee are willing to stand again the meeting agreed that a block vote was taken. Carried unanimously.

b) FNBC - David Cheshire was proposed as the new Chairman and was voted in unanimously. As all other members of the committee were willing to stand, including Andy Dolman, who was previously a co-opted member; a block vote was taken and carried unanimously.

- 7) **Date and venue for the next AGM:** It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on the same day as the FNBC Boot sale, Sunday March 15th 2015.
- 8) **Informal Business Meeting:**
- a) FoBBS future activities: Malcolm Hughes stated that preparations for the display at Chelsea are well underway and 35 tickets are available for the preview days, anyone interested should contact Reg Bolton. There will be another event at the 'Gardener's World Live' Show at the NEC in June, which will be a joint collaboration by local regional societies. 'Bonsai for All' will be a one-day event at Birmingham Botanical Gardens on July 6th, to be held on behalf of the National Bonsai Collection.
 - b) Publicity – Bonsai Focus: Simon Richardson was thanked for all his work in this area. Malcolm Hughes reminded the meeting that details of future events are published on the website, also that if societies submit items for the Events List, full details must be provided to include the society name, venue, event title, date and contact details. Flyers for society events can also be circulated.
 - c) New Talent Competition: Peter Fielding reported that he has had one entry for 2014 and two possible entries for 2015. Due to timing issues there will be no heats in 2014, just the final in Wroclaw, Poland. The next UK heats will be in early 2015.
 - d) Show report – 'Bonsai World' 2014: Ray Ward reported that this event had been such a success that they had had to turn traders away and thanked everyone who had attended. He also thanked Kath & Malcolm Hughes and Simon Richardson for their help in publicizing the event. Malcolm Hughes proposed a vote of thanks to him for all his sterling work regarding this and other matters.

Ray Ward reported that he was in talks with the RHS regarding their invitation to FoBBS to put on a display at a Japanese themed event to be held at Earls Court, London.

Refurbishment of the National Bonsai Collection staging: Vic Yeomans reported that this was nearing completion and is a big improvement, however, new weatherproof labels are needed and the possibility of acquiring new podiums is being investigated. When all the work is finished, there should be no need for further expense for many years. Barry Walker proposed a vote of thanks to Vic and Tony Allen for all their hard work.
 - e) Reports – EBA and WBFF: Reg Bolton reported that the next EBA event is in Wroclaw, Poland in May, however, the prohibitive cost of travelling there, coupled with the change of date means that he will probably be unable to attend as he will be too involved in preparations for Chelsea. He is currently negotiating with Marc Noelanders to stand in for him. Kath & Malcolm Hughes are also unable to attend and it is unlikely that all the New Talent competitors will be able to go. The date of the next event in Lithuania has not been confirmed yet. Malcolm Hughes stated that the offer to hold the 2016 event at the Metropole Hotel in Birmingham has been withdrawn as EBA failed to confirm before the hotel's deadline expired. WBFF: Malcolm Hughes stated that although China had tried to get agreement to host the 20017 event, it had been decided to hold it in Japan.
 - f) Website: Societies were reminded that any material for publication should be sent to Kath Hughes. Ed. Brown suggested that there could be a more user-friendly way to enable visitors to locate their nearest society and pointed out that some of the membership forms need updating. Malcolm Hughes to investigate.

Meeting Concluded, 1.00p.m.