



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 12th Feb, 2017
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Barry Walker, David Cheshire, Judith Davison.
- 2) **Apologies:** Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (4th Dec, 2016) Acceptance was proposed by PF and seconded by BW.
- 4) **Matters arising:** DB-P asked PF to send her the personal details of all entrants to the Amateur New Talent competition.
- 5) **Correspondence:** A letter has been received from Duncan Heild expressing his gratitude for all the help and support that he had during the A.N.T. competition. BW suggested that it be published on the website and this was agreed.
A letter has been received from Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group enquiring about the need for risk assessment for events. RB has a standard document on this subject which MH has agreed to forward to the Group and it was pointed out that there is more information published on the website – gov.co.uk/risk assessment. It was pointed out that FoBBS should not directly advise clubs on this subject as they may be held responsible for any problems that might occur.
- 6) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P presented copies of the accounts which showed a current balance of funds standing at £12748.51.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
 - b) **Companies House:** Due to the concerns previously expressed regarding FoBBS' legal documents i.e. the constitution, MH proposed that a meeting be held to revise the document to tighten up matters such as rotation of committee officers (to avoid more than one change in any one year), the amount of money that may be spent by the treasurer and/or chairman without reference to the committee, the procedure for calling an Extraordinary General Meeting, and also, to include a proper process for the dismissal of a committee member in the event of any malpractice. The new document should be retitled 'FoBBS By-laws and Articles' and all previous documents should be formally rescinded. These proposals to be circulated with the accounts and reports prior to the AGM in March.
 - c) **Membership:** Stands at 50, 4 of whom are members only.
 - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the regular inspections being carried out on all trees have resulted in a list being compiled detailing the work required for each tree.
The Bill Horan juniper group in the centre of the garden is to have a barrier erected soon for protection. The pine which was taken to 'Woodlands' has received some intensive remedial work and is now looking much improved.
DC reported that he has been told that the collection is looking better with the trees in good condition.
 - e) **European Bonsai Association:** MH reported on the AGM in Belgium where he received thanks for all his hard work. RB said that the new board was elected with Marc Noelanders as the new EBA president with MH as vice president. There was much discussion regarding the future of the EBA newsletter as the only contributors in recent years have been RB, MH and the EBA secretary. He also stated that there is no insurance to cover misdemeanors.
The next event will be held in Arco, Italy next May and they would like to have a demonstrator from each member country, each of whom will receive free accommodation and entry to the exhibition. There have been no offers as yet from countries willing to host the 2018 event.
DC suggested that Crowd Funding through Facebook could be a possible way of raising money to help cover the costs of future events

- f) **W.B.F.F.:** MH has suggested to the Board that the current situation whereby management of the WBFF website changes with changes to the organization, is very inefficient and has offered to create and manage a new permanent site with the aid of KH and NW.
- 7) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** MH reported that the final of the competition was well attended with 14 of the possible 19 countries sending candidates. Italy came first with the UK entry coming a very creditable 4th. PF reported that the 2 prospective candidates from the south east for the heat at Capel Manor next year had submitted photos of their work but these were deemed to be not up to standard, therefore Bill Hallworth will be invited to compete at the next final in Arco.
PF is to produce fliers promoting the competition ready for distribution at the Swindon Winter Image show.
- 8) **A.G.M. 12th March 2017:**
- a) **Reports, Accounts and Nominations:** Paperwork relating to the AGM will be distributed to all members by the end of next week.
Mark and Ming Chen Moreland have been suggested as possible new committee members.
DB-P raised a concern over some cheques that she has received which have only one signatory. It is recommended that each society have at least two signatories and preferably three, and none of these should belong to the same household/family. MH to raise the issue at the AGM.
MH said that KW has agreed to continue as a co-opted member with responsibility for the Speaker's book.
- b) **FoBBS constitution:** See item 6b.
- c) **Items for Agenda item 8 – Informal Business Meeting:** RB has undertaken to prepare a report of FoBBS' accounting from 2000-2010 to refute accusations of malpractice, also to counter criticisms being leveled at FoBBS on Facebook regarding the quality of the trees exhibited at Chelsea.
- 9) **FoBBS related Bonsai Events, 2017:**
- a) **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** RB confirmed the stewards' rota is complete, passes have been received, tickets are available, new quality trees have been sourced and the new fabric is on order.
- b) **"Bonsai for All 2017":** MH reported that this will be a one day event on 21st May. Several traders are already signed up and Kevin Wilson is booked to hold a workshop at The Woodlands on Saturday 20th. Local Societies will be putting on displays. Advance tickets will be available to include entrance to the Gardens/Show and to the demonstrations.
- 10) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** KW has investigated the price of posting hard copies of the book to members but found that the cost would be prohibitive.
- 11) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':** Both websites are being regularly updated. A suggestion was made that circulation of *Bonsai News UK* should be to FoBBS' members only, however, it was generally thought that it should get the widest distribution possible.
- 12) **Any other business:**
- a) Further to the questions previously raised regarding the FoBBS insurance schedule, DB-P reported that FoBBS is only covered for public and product liability, there is no need for an itemized schedule and all relevant information is detailed in the policy which is on the FoBBS website (pages 16-23). Over time, FoBBS has negotiated a reduction of the premium from £78 to £48 which is considerably less than can be obtained anywhere else. Societies holding events are reminded that they should ensure that any traders have adequate insurance.
- b) BW said that the remaining 5 trees from the ANT competition have been refined and will be offered for sale at the car boot sale on 12th March.
- 13) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 14:40. The next meeting will be on the 12th May, 2017. Thanks were expressed to K & MH for hosting the meeting.