

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES & FRIENDS OF THE
NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION



Annual General Meeting for the Year ending 31st December 2018.

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation of British Bonsai Societies, incorporating the Friends of the National Bonsai Collection, will take place on **Sunday, 17th March 2019** at 11.30, to be held in the **Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR.**

Tea and coffee will be available for those attending from 11.00 a.m.

Agenda

1. Members present
2. Apologies
3. Report on the Annual General Meeting of the 21st March, 2018.
4. Matters arising.
5. Reports:

Federation of British Bonsai Societies

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| a) | Chairman's report | David Cheshire |
| b) | Financial report/Companies House | Denise Baum Pick |

Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:

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|-----|-------------------|----------------|
| i) | Chairman's report | Barry Walker |
| ii) | Financial report | Malcolm Hughes |

6. Election of Officers and Committee:

Federation of British Bonsai Societies committee.

Friends of the National Bonsai Collection committee.

7. Date and venue next AGM.

8. Informal Business Meeting:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. | FoBBS' activities in the future. | David Cheshire |
| b. | Show report | Chris Durne |
| c. | Reports – EBA and WBFF | Malcolm Hughes |
| d. | New Talent Competition. | Peter Fielding, |
| e. | Websites | Malcolm Hughes |

**FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES &
FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year ending the 31st December 2017, held
at the Loudon Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham. March 18th 2018.**

- 1. Members present: Committee members** – Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Denise Baum-Pick, David Cheshire, Kim Turton, Peter Fielding, Vic Yeomans.
Societies: Ambion, Midland Bonsai Soc., Milton Keynes, South Staffs,
- 2. Apologies: Committee members** – Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, Kath Hughes, Mark & Ming Chen Moreland, Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright. **Due to serious snow conditions.**

Malcolm Hughes to take minutes due to absence of the Secretary, Judith Davison

Societies: Akamatsu, Bedfordshire, Crawley, Fenland, Glynderi, Heart of England, Leicestershire, Midland, Middlesex, Norfolk, Redditch, S. Worcester, S. Yorkshire, Southend, Stourbridge, Sussex, Swindon, Warminster.

Of the 18 societies who sent their apologies, 16 sent votes by proxy/e-mail approving of the Accounts & Reports for 2017 together with voting on the new Committee for 2018.

- 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 21st March 2017.**
The minutes of the previous AGM were approved – Proposed: P. Fielding, Seconded; B. Walker.

- 4. Matters arising:** there were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Reports & Accounts:

Federation of British Bonsai Societies:

a) Chairman's Report: M. Hughes presented what would be his final report prior to his standing down as Chairman of the Federation. He emphasised the fact that, as of the end of May this year, new regulations governing Protection of Data Act would be coming into effect and that all member societies would need to be aware of this. Communication still proved a problem with some societies failing to inform the FoBBS administration of any changes re. e-mail addresses during the course of the year. Report accepted. Proposed – V. Yeomans, Seconded – D. Cheshire.

P. Fielding proposed a vote of thanks to the M. Hughes for his work as Chairman over the last eight years.

b) Treasurer's Report: D. Baum-Pick commented on the FoBBS accounts for the year ending in December 2017. The finances had, at the end of the year, resulted in a small profit; the only loss was with the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show due to having to purchase new material. Funds for the year ending 31st December 2017 stood at

The meeting approved the Financial Report. Proposed – B.Walker, Seconded – D. Cheshire.

Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:

c) **Chairman's Report:** B. Walker presented his report in which he highlighted the positive changes that had taken effect during the previous year regarding the maintenance of the Collection. Report accepted. Proposed –Vic Yeomans, Seconded P. Fielding.

d) **Treasurer's Report:** M. Hughes gave a summary of the FNBC Accounts which were duly approved. Funds currently stand at £4,878.00. Proposed – D. Baum-Pick, Seconded - D. Cheshire.

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2018 / 2019.

At this stage of proceedings, the meeting agreed that the Chairman, M. Hughes, remain in the chair for the election.

The names of those nominated for the Committees of FoBBS and FNBC were read out. The meeting agreed that both groups of nominees be voted en-bloc. All were elected unanimously. The FoBBS Committee elected were D. Cheshire (Chairman), D. Baum-Pick, J. Davison, P. Fielding, Mark Moreland and Ming Chen Moreland. M. Hughes as liaison with E.B.A. Chris Durne (RHS Chelsea co-ordinator)

The FNBC Committee re-elected were B. Walker (Chairman), K. Turton, M. Hughes, D. Cheshire and V. Yeomans

7. **Date and venue of the next A.G.M.:** the proposed date for next years' AGM would be **Sunday, 17th March 2019**, subject to confirmation.

This concluded the formal part of the meeting.

Informal Business Meeting:

i) **FoBBS activities and Show Reports:** M. Hughes reported on FoBBS' activities over the past year. Once again, members from some of the southern bonsai societies had put on a display at Hyper-Japan and the organisation had again been successful in achieving a Gold Medal Award at the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show. Thanks were expressed to all concerned. Both the above events would be taking place again this year but with a new team taking over the organisation of the FoBBS Chelsea exhibit, Reg Bolton having now stepped down as co-ordinator of the event after some 20 years.

ii) **European Bonsai Association and World Bonsai Friendship Federation:** a brief report was given on the current status of the EBA and WBFF. M. Hughes informed the meeting that the next EBA Congress would be held in Arco, N. Italy this coming May and that he would be attending as representative on behalf of the U.K. The WBFF had a successful Convention in Saitama, Japan this last year; the next event would take place in Perth, Australia in 2021.

iii) **New Talent Competition:** P. Fielding provided an update on the current status of the Amateur New Talent Competition. Bill Hallworth of the North London Bonsai group would

be representing the U.K. in this years' final being held in Arco. At the previous final held in Belgium in 2017, Duncan Hield styled his tree well and had a very creditable result despite strong competition.

This year the Cardiff Bonsai Society and friends have come up with a number of candidates and therefore there will be a New Talent Competition heat at the South Wales Show at the River Front Centre in Newport on June the 17th. The winner will have the opportunity of representing the U.K. at next years' European Final in France.

- iv) **Website:** The website had been re-structured and appeared to be proving more popular than ever. Rather than having two separate websites, the FNBC website was now integrated as a link within the FoBBS website with both being regularly updated. Thanks were expressed to Nigel Wright (webmaster) for all his efforts.

- v) **"Bonsai News UK":** After some two years since it was first issued M. and K. Hughes had recently handed over the editing of "Bonsai News U.K." to David Cheshire. Rather than attempting to produce a monthly issue, it was preferable to produce it every two months. The Chairman also clarified to the meeting that all British bonsai society events were now being listed in "Bonsai News U.K."; however those more significant British events held at regional or international level would also be included in the monthly WBFF Calendar of Bonsai Events, compiled by K. Hughes.

- vi) **Other matters:** Prior to the conclusion of the meeting Vendrice Garvin of the Milton Keynes Bonsai Society asked it would be permissible to acknowledge the society's association with FoBBS by including the FoBBS logo on their promotional flyer for a forthcoming event? The meeting agreed that this would be acceptable. He also raised the question as to whether the Birmingham Botanical Gardens would be amenable to having an area in their glasshouses to accommodate sub-tropical bonsai as part of the National Bonsai Collection? The FNBC Chairman agreed to consider this proposal further.

Géraldine Perrier-Latour (Milton Keynes & Bedfordshire Bonsai Societies) commented on the lack of young people involved with bonsai societies. This led to a discussion over the issues often faced by youngsters keen on bonsai, with many having to put the hobby aside due to having to focus on further education and their careers. Hopefully many would return to the hobby in later years.

There being no other informal business, the meeting concluded at 12.30. As retiring Chairman, M. Hughes thanked all those who had managed to attend the AGM despite the adverse weather conditions and wished them a safe journey home.

Federation of British Bonsai Societies Chairman's Report for 2018

Taking on the position of Chairman in March, has given me a very enjoyable year. The Federation of British Bonsai Societies has had a very successful year in many ways. My period as Chairman coincided with the retirement of Reg Bolton from the FoBBS Committee. He had served the Federation for many, many years, both as an active Committee member and as Chairman for some eight years. He had also been responsible for the repeated successes of the FoBBS displays at the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show. During the years he organised these displays, he obtained seventeen Gold Medal awards which did much to enhance the reputation of FoBBS as well as providing a welcome source of additional funding during a time when the organisation was going through a difficult period. Many, many thanks and a happy retirement to Reg.

Chris Durne and Tony McKenzie, stepping in to take on organising the Chelsea Flower Show, had a hard role to follow. After the success of Reg Bolton, they aimed to achieve another Gold Medal for FoBBS from the RHS at this event. They succeeded making this the 18th Gold medal be won at Chelsea by FoBBS. Chris and Tony are now putting plans together for this year's Chelsea Flower Show. I want to offer thanks from all of our members to those volunteers who put in so many long hours organising this display; they started many months before the actual show - a special thanks must go to Chris and Tony.

We need also to thank all the volunteers who put in a lot of work to stage a display at the 'Hyper-Japan Exhibition' in London; they also put on a great display helping to promote bonsai in the U.K.

Being a committee member or an officer of the organisation can feel like a thankless task. However without all the hard work put in by all the voluntary committee members and officers, the Federation could not exist. It is a credit to those who put in many hours to help support the committee in achieving so much for the bonsai community. Most societies will recognise the difficulties in getting people to volunteer to join committees in order to keep those societies going. This is exactly the same for FoBBS. We are constantly encouraging the involvement of people from all member societies to get involved, either as a volunteer working on the periphery of the organisation or taking on rolls within the committee. Please remember that it is open to anyone who is a member of a FoBBS member society; we are constantly looking for new volunteers.

FoBBS Bonsai News become a very difficult undertaking for myself and had to be put on the back burner for a while. At this time the information put on the website increased, with show reports appearing on the front pages as well as adding a page listing all U.K. Events. The FNBC website was also merged with the FoBBS site making it a much more comprehensive and more regularly updated site. It has now become the main source of information for FoBBS with reminders to officers and links placed in all outgoing circulatory e-mails. Please keep sending us information and we will guarantee it very quickly appears on the website. We hope with time to have bonsai educational information induced there as well providing a facility to purchase our merchandise. A selection of merchandise including Polo shirts and fleeces, new FoBBS pin badges and stylus pens will all be purchasable through the FoBBS website.

The committee has many plans in the pipeline that will help to enhance the information on the website, including a photographic competition with the winning images being made available as a 2020 Calendar.

In recent years it has proved very difficult to find suitable venues for a national event to be staged by FoBBS and the member societies. The increasing cost means that in order for us to successfully stage an event in the U.K, we need to approach it in a more professional manner with a more commercial mind, to provide finance and make such an event possible.

The U.K. is in need of a bonsai event of an International level, in a venue that is spacious and can be repeated regularly every two or three years. A lot of work has already been put in to trying making this possible and we will be releasing information on plans very soon. It has been a driving force to make us look at ways in which we can raise the funds to stage such an event, the sales of merchandise is one, and we are also looking at other sources of funding including grants and sponsorship.

FoBBS' main aim is to help promote the art that is bonsai and we would like thank all of our member societies and individual members for the support they continue to give.

I would like to finish by asking you to watch this space as we feel that bonsai in the U.K is on the cusp of some big developments.

David Cheshire,

Chairman, Federation of British Bonsai Societies

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION
Chairman's Report for the Year 2018

FNBC made a good start this year, mainly due to the increase in numbers involved in the work groups. A lot of work being completed by this dedicated group, the trees benefitting from the greater frequency of the care. BBBG have employed a new head gardener, Giulio Veronese; he has a very positive attitude with a keen interest in the collection and the Japanese garden area. With his assistance we have gained permission to fit a sprinkler system this year, which will be used as an insurance policy only, it will be used if there are problems due mainly to the reduced number of staff.

This year's boot sales had differing fortunes,

- the spring sale went well, although numbers were down a little on last year due to the atrocious weather conditions, a heavy fall of snow the night before
- the autumn sale was sadly a something of a wash out, with heavy rain most of the day, however a total of £410 was raised by the two events.

They remain our main source of funds, so we hope for better luck with the weather this year

The work on the structure of the area continues, the outside octagon fence now has a small access gate, it was difficult to reach the top of the display without climbing. The fascia boards below the shelving in the octagon are in the process of being replaced. It is also intended to try and find a solution to the staining on the walls within the same area.

The work groups, now a total of eleven people are involved, with the rota being organised by myself. A report is published and sent to all members each time any work is done, this has proven to be an asset, keeping people informed and up to date with any problems and work needed. Giulio is in the link with this and has on several occasions contacted us with concerns, it is a much more workable situation than that which we had previously.

The collection is looking more cared all the time as a result of this new work system being employed. We must ensure this enthusiasm is maintained. This can only happen with your support, so please anyone interested in joining this group of dedicated helpers please contact me. b.walker2lr@btinternet.com

The hawthorn has now been potted into its new larger pot and is growing on well; it is now in the display. The zelkova broom is currently out of the collection as it required a heavy prune due to its over wide shape, it should be back within the next season. The Juniper donated from the 1991 convention is out of the Collection at present having been restyled due to many years of extended growth, it now requires repotting and will soon return, The large Scott's pine has undergone a lot of work and is similarly awaiting repotting before it returns. Many of the trees requiring repotting this season will be worked on in situ when the weather conditions are appropriate.

Barry Walker, Chairman FNBC.

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION
(Charity No. 1008283)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING, 31st December, 2018.

NatWest Current Account:

Income (£)		Expenditure (£)			
Item	2017	2018	Item	2017	2018
Bonsai Boot Sales	600.00	410.00*	Admin./ Expenses (postage etc.)	49.12	
Sale of F.N.B.C. trees	245.00	-	Updating of website	-	92.88
Donation	8.00	-	Auditor's fee	-	25.00
"Bonsai for All" traders' fee	1,160.00	-	Purchase of plant feed /potting material	62.00	40.00
			Maintenance of Collection site & trees	224.83	190.35
			Refund of traders' fee	1,160.00	-
			Purchase of pot / slab manufacture	300.00	170.00
			Styling of donated tree	-	200.00
Total	2,173.00	410.00	Total	1,795.95	538.17

Profit /Deficit for current year 2017: + £ 377.05
 Profit /Deficit for current year 2018: - £ 150.17

Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2017: £ 886.40 ✓
 Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2018: £ 538.17 ✓

NatWest Savings Account:

Income (£)		Outgoings (£)	
Interest	1.07	.Transfer to Current Acc.	-
Transfer from Current Acc.	-		

• £40.00 allocated to petty cash ✓

Petty Cash: Travel expenses of working groups: £18.00

Petty cash remaining: £22.00

Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2017: £ 4,310.81
 Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2018: £ 4,311.88 4,312.96

Total Funds for the Financial Year 2018: ~~£ 4,872.05~~ 4,873.13

Dr. M.J. W. Hughes,
 Treasurer & Trustee, Friends of the National Bonsai Collection, 31st December, 2018.

Glynn AAT
 10/1/19

Federation of British Bonsai Societies Committee members nominated for election for 2019

Present Committee position	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	David Cheshire Ambion Bonsai Club	Ambion Bonsai Club	Redditch Bonsai Society
Vice-chairman	Peter Fielding Ambion Bonsai Club	Ambion Bonsai Club	Midland Bonsai Society
General Secretary	Judith Davison Midland BS	Midland Bonsai Society	Redditch Bonsai Society
Treasurer and company secretary	Denise Baum-Pick Ambion BC	Ambion Bonsai Club	Midland Bonsai Society
	Malcolm Hughes South Staffs	South Staffs Bonsai Society	Redditch Bonsai Society
	Chris Durne Bonsai Kai	Bonsai Kai	South Staffs Bonsai Society
	Amnon Paldi Chilter Bonsai Society	Chiltern Society	South Staffs Bonsai Society
	Rickie McMahon Ambion Bonsai Club	Ambion Bonsai Club	Midland Bonsai Society

Friends of the National Bonsai Collection Committee members nominated for election for 2019.

Committee position	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	Barry Walker South Staffs	South Staffs Bonsai Society	Redditch Bonsai Society
Secretary	Kim Turton South Staffs	South Staffs Bonsai Society	Redditch Bonsai Society
Treasurer	Malcolm Hughes South Staffs	South Staffs Bonsai Society	Redditch Bonsai Society
	David Cheshire Ambion	Ambion Bonsai Club	Redditch Bonsai Society
	Vic Yeomans Midland	Midland Bonsai Society	Redditch Bonsai Society

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