

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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year ending the 31st December 2021, held
at the Garden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
20 March 2022.**

- 1. Members present: Committee members** – Peter Fielding, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker,
Denise Baum-Pick, Amnon Paldi.

Societies: Ambion B. S., Midland Bonsai Soc., Redditch B.S., South Staffs, Chiltern B. S.

Malcolm Hughes took the minutes due to absence of the Secretary, Kim Turton

- 2. Apologies: Committee members** – Chris Durne, Kim Turton, Nigel Wright.

Societies: Leicestershire B.S., S. Yorkshire B.S., Sussex B.G.

Of the societies who sent their apologies, all had nominated the Chairman to carry their proxy.
As the meeting was not quorate, reports and accounts could be presented but not voted on.

- 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 12th September 2021**

The minutes of the previous AGM were presented but not voted for approval as the meeting was not quorate.

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

- 5. Reports & Accounts:**

Federation of British Bonsai Societies:

- a) **Chairman's Report:** Peter Fielding presented his report to the meeting, commenting on how, with the restriction on Covid being lifted, plans to raise FoBBS' profile were envisaged. It had been accepted to put on exhibits both at R.H.S. Chelsea and R.H.S. Hampton Court Flower Shows as well as being approached by the B.B.C. to promote bonsai ahead of the Chelsea event. Filming would include the National Bonsai Collection.

Plans were also underway to have a major bonsai event at R.H.S. Rosemoor in North Devon to showcase many of the superb trees owned by members of the regional bonsai societies. This would take place in May 2023. FoBBS would also have a presence at the "Bonsai Show Live" at Telford later this year. Miroslav Kolar would also be representing the organisation as British representative at this years' EBA New Talent Final in Augsburg, Germany in June.

As had been the case for many years, FoBBS continues to offer society insurance at a very competitive price and this year, the premium had been reduced by 68% as the organisation was viewed as very low risk. The revised premium would now be £15.00.

In conclusion, the Chairman expressed his thanks to Denise Baum-Pick who would be standing down as treasurer at the end of the meeting, following some eleven years in the post. For her years of service, Denise's name would now be added to the FoBBS Role of Honour.

- b) **Treasurer's Report:** D. Baum-Pick commented on the FoBBS accounts for the year ending in December 2021. The finances had been very healthy, there being little expenditure due to the pandemic, resulting in a profit.

Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:

- c) **Chairman's Report:** B. Walker presented his report in which he highlighted the positive changes that continued to take effect regarding the maintenance of the Collection. Plans to extend the Collection display had to be deferred due to changes to the senior management team at the Gardens. Other tasks conducted during the year were focused on specific trees within the Collection, including some which required restyling.

Thanks were expressed to all those volunteers who had helped in maintaining the Collection during the course of the year as well as to Giulio Veronese, assistant head gardener at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

- d) **Treasurer's Report:** M. Hughes gave a summary of the FNBC Accounts which remain financially stable. Most expenditure had been in maintaining the website and setting up an automatic watering system. The Bonsai Boot sale remained the main source of income for the charity.

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

As there was no quorum, it was agreed that the current committee, combining FoBBS and FNBC members, would remain in place for the time being.

7. Date and venue of the next A.G.M.: the proposed date for next years' AGM would be **Sunday, 19th March 2023**, subject to confirmation.

Informal Business Meeting:

- i) The meeting was informed that there still remained issues over information sent to societies. It was therefore felt appropriate that there should be two points of contact for each society in preference to only one.
- ii) There had been a very poor response from societies regarding attendance and apologies for non-attendance at this years' AGM. A suggestion was put forward that, for those societies not responding, their vote be automatically transferred as a proxy votes to the Chairman. A further suggestion was to make more of Skype or Zoom as a means of gaining more societies to participate in future AGM's. To be discussed further at Committee.

There being no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 12.15.