



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



Annual General Meeting for the Year ending December 31st 2016.
BBBG March 12th 2017

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation of British Bonsai Societies, incorporating the Friends of the National Bonsai Collection, will take place on **Sunday, 21st March 2017** 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 13th March, 2016.
4. Matters arising.
5. Reports:
 - a) Chairman's report Malcolm Hughes
 - b) Financial report Denise Baum Pick
 - c) Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:
 - i) Chairman's report Barry Walker
 - ii) Financial report Malcolm Hughes
6. Election of Officers and Committee:
 - a) Federation of British Bonsai Societies committee.
 - b) Friends of the National Bonsai Collection committee.
7. Date and venue next AGM.
8. Informal Business Meeting:
 - a) Reports – EBA and WBF Reg Bolton/ Malcolm Hughes
 - b) New Talent Competition. Peter Fielding,
 - c) Websites Nigel Wright
 - d) Bonsai News UK Kath Hughes
 - e) Speakers Book Keith Wilson
 - f) AOB

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting: 11.00a.m. Sunday 13th March 2016 at the Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

1) Members Present:

Committee members: David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Peter Fielding, Barry Walker, Kim Turton.

Society members: Akamatsu School of Bonsai, Ambion Bonsai Soc., British Shohin Association, Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Middlesex Bonsai Soc., North London Bonsai Group, Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc., Stourbridge Bonsai Soc., Surrey Heath Bonsai Soc., Swindon Bonsai Soc., Tees Valley Bonsai Soc., Wigston Bonsai Soc.

2) Apologies: Kath Hughes (FoBBS Administrator), Nigel Wright (Webmaster), together with the following societies:

Berkshire Bonsai Soc., Cheshire Bonsai Soc., Crawley Bonsai Soc., Derby & District, Eastbourne & Wealden, Glynderi Bonsai Soc., Newbury & District Bonsai Soc., N. Staffs and Stoke Bonsai Soc., South Worcester 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 23.

3) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 15th March 2015: The minutes of the previous years' AGM were read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Mike Koenig 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 the newsletter, *Bonsai News UK*, is receiving more input now but it should be remembered that it is a completely separate publication to the Events Calendar which is issued on behalf of the W.W.B.F. in an attempt to avoid clashing dates.

b) **Financial report:** Denise Baum-Pick presented her report (see attached) and stated that the membership now stands at 57 societies and the Federation remains in profit.

Although the Co-operative bank has stopped paying interest this loss of income is offset by the fact that we no longer have to pay bank charges.

A small no claims bonus had been negotiated and a donation of £100 had been made to Crawley Bonsai Society towards a raffle prize in memory of Ray Ward.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Barry Walker and seconded by Peter Fielding.

c) Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:

i) Barry Walker presented a comprehensive report (see attached).

Malcolm Hughes added that a needle juniper which originally underwent major work at the event held at the ICC in Birmingham in 1991, but which had recovered well, has been removed to The Woodlands as it appears to be suffering from an excess of water last year, however there is now a new gardener at the Gardens who has some knowledge of bonsai care so that problem should not be repeated.

Vic Yeomans offered to provide passes for any members who wish to go to the Gardens on a Sunday to do maintenance.

ii) Malcolm Hughes presented the financial report (see attached), which shows a profit of £300.57, the only income received being from the two boot sales and a £200 donation.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Graham Walker and seconded by Dave Barnsley. Carried unanimously.

6) Election of officers and Committee:

a) FoBBS – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, therefore the meeting agreed that a block vote be taken. Carried unanimously.

b) FNBC – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, a block vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Malcolm Hughes stated that he intends to stand down as chairman at next year's AGM but will be happy to remain as a consultant for the new committee if required. Anyone interested in taking over could be co-opted onto the current committee.

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, and was provisionally set for Sunday March 12th 2017.

8) Informal Business Meeting:

a) FoBBS future activities: Malcolm Hughes reported that the judges training programme would continue soon. This was devised as a way of preventing future criticism such as has been raised at previous events; judges must be able to explain their reasoning and be able to give constructive criticism. The cost of each session is £80, half of which will be paid by FoBBS.

Barry Walker raised the question of whether trees which had won awards at international level should be allowed to compete at local shows as this discourages local talent from competing; there was much discussion regarding this subject and Malcolm Hughes suggested the possibility of having different categories, but that FoBBS has no right to dictate how the competitive element of shows are judged.

Reg Bolton remarked that new judging rules had been introduced at this year's Swindon Winter Image show and reports were displayed afterwards explaining the decisions made; this was commented on favorably. Next year, which will be the 40th anniversary, entrants will have to specify whether they wish their trees to be judged or not; they must also provide a brief history of each tree.

b) Show Reports: Societies were reminded that any backdrops borrowed from FoBBS should only be handled by a dedicated team in order to prevent damage. Also, that they can ask FoBBS for advice, help and support when planning events.

c) EBA and WBFF: Reg Bolton reported that the working group is proving ineffectual, also, that EBA have requested a second contact name be provided for each national organization. Judges at the last final of the New Talent Competition were prevented from voting for their own candidates, which

resulted in a much fairer competition.

The next WBFF event will be held in Saitama, Japan next year and promises to be a very good event thanks to some government funding. There will be 4 top class demonstrators from Japan and they have requested 9 more from other major countries.

d) New Talent Competition: Peter Fielding presented a short report (see attached).

Malcolm Hughes added that FoBBS has decided to open the competition to non-FoBBS members to try to combat the fact that the competition in the rest of Europe is fierce, with some contestants having been professionally trained, however, the number of applicants in the UK has diminished recently.

e) Website: A new section on education is about to be published. Clubs are urged to continue to supply information about meetings and events and reminded that items for *Bonsai NewsUK* must be received by the 3rd week of each month.

Malcolm Hughes then thanked all who attended and wished them a safe journey home.

Meeting Concluded, 13.00 p.m.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Chairman's Annual Report for 2016.

Once again the Federation of British Bonsai Societies (FoBBS) has enjoyed a satisfactory year by participating in and supporting various aspects of bonsai. Membership remains strong with member society numbers now established at the mid-50'. The vast majority taking the very reasonably priced insurance policy offered by the Federation. In addition, the educational charity the Friends of the National Bonsai Collection, as a sub-Committee of FoBBS has made significant moves to improve the standard of maintenance of the Collection trees and site maintenance at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens given in greater detail in the F.N.B.C. Annual Report.

The newsletter, "*Bonsai News U.K.*" is also becoming better established after a rather shaky start. It was set up following the request of members wishing to have a form of newsletter based upon that published by the late Paul Goff. Unlike Paul's publication, "*Bonsai News U.K.*" set out to take it further by including reports of society events as well as providing society programmes. This proved difficult at first with as few reports and images were forthcoming, but now that is improving, with an increasing number of societies contributing material and publicising their achievements. Due to the quiet period during the latter part of the year when few events took place, the newsletter was published bi-monthly in the winter season. We now have ten issues a year. Those wishing to list their programmes, promote events and send in reports please get them in as soon as possible

Shows: FoBBS again achieved a Gold Medal Award at the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show thanks to the efforts of Reg Bolton and his team. Further successes in attaining top awards were achieved by member societies at other major horticultural events including Cheshire Society at R.H.S. Tatton Park and South Staffs and Ambion Bonsai Societies at 'Gardeners' World Live' – congratulations to all concerned.

The Amateur New Talent heat took place at the 2016 Heathrow Bonsai Show with Duncan Heild winning a place in the European final, held in Genk, Belgium and Bill Hallworth came in a very close second. I am delighted to say that, at the time of writing, Duncan, against exceedingly stiff competition, achieved a very credible 4th place out of 14 at the final held at the 2017 E.B.A. Convention, held in conjunction with Noelanders Trophy.

The Committee have expressed concern for those societies who are late in renewing FoBBS membership and insurance renewal. Notification is sent out in November, but in many cases, societies do not renew nor take out insurance until well into the following year. This means that for the months before they renew, these societies have no insurance cover. Clearly we do not wish any society to be confronted with a claim and not have insurance. We would encourage renewal to be done before their insurance expires.

The Treasurer has noticed that some of societies have, when paying membership, only one signatory on their society's cheque. For your own security every organisation should have at least two people with the authority to sign cheques. There has already been one sad case when this did not happen and monies were incorrectly spent and a member society ended up faced with a severe debt.

As an organisation, FoBBS exists to support, promote and assist in broadening people's awareness of the art of bonsai. This is largely achieved through the activities of the member societies, their meetings and their events together with the National Bonsai Collection, an educational charity. Through your efforts and endeavours you, the membership, make a significant contribution, something that is not always recognised, let alone appreciated. Please remember that FoBBS is there to support all those member societies who might wish to promote bonsai by putting on local exhibitions or participating in major national events. Remember FoBBS will support you if you wish to stage larger national events on their behalf. This coming year, one such event, "Bonsai for All" is being run on behalf of FNBC with support from members of the Ambion, Midland and South Staffs Bonsai Societies. This will be a one-day event held on the 21st May with an exhibition of trees from a number of societies that are Midlands-based, a trade fair and with Kevin Willson as the headline demonstrator. It is hoped that many will attend and make this event as successful as have other bonsai events held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens in past years.

In conclusion, my thanks to all those on both the FoBBS and FNBC Committees for their contribution to the running of both organisations over the past year.

Malcolm Hughes,
Chairman, Federation of British Bonsai Societies.

February 2017.

ACCOUNTS of the Federation of British Bonsai Societies Ltd
 Year Ending 31.12.16

2015	INCOME	2016	2015	EXPENDITURE	2016
	Balance Brought fwd	6987.91	2,212.99	NFU Insurance 2014	2,163.97
			137.00	EBA Membership	138.75
1,437.50	Membership	1,387.50	13.00	Company House fee	13.00
2,448.00	Insurance	2,400.00	1,387.00	Chelsea Expenses	1,990.36
65.00	Trees sold NTC etc		68.40	Botanical Gardens AGM	82.08
1,953.00	Chelsea RHS	1,893.10	98.40	NTC heats - entrance etc	
	Bonsai News	75.00	350.00	NTC contestant finalist	324.00
7.07	Interest		557.38	N. Wright Web site	380.13
	Donation	5.00	229.00	Committee expenses	222.00
291.63	Hire of Backdrops		320.00	Exhibition Support	320.00
<u>6,202.20</u>		<u>5760.60</u>	285.97	Repairs to Backdrops	
				Purchase of trees	207.00
				Bank charges re ret. Ch	6.00
			<u>5,659.14</u>		<u>5,847.29</u>
				Balance at Bank	6,893.55
				Petty Cash	7.67
					<u>6,901.22</u>
		<u>£ 12748.51</u>			<u>£ 12,748.51</u>

Loss for period £86.69

D. Baum-Pick - Treasurer

Date

D Baum Pick
12.02.17

M J W Hughes - Chairman

Date

M J W Hughes
12th February 2017

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

Charity Number 1008283



Chairman's Report for 2016

The year 2016 has proved positive for the National Bonsai Collection. The "Bonsai Boot Sale" back in March again saw large numbers attending and resulted in raising the sum of £405.00 towards the running costs of the Collection. Thanks must again go to Kim Turton for his organisation of the event.

We also received the donation of a *Juniperus chinensis* from Mrs Olive Hodges. This was a bonsai she had acquired many years ago but which she was unable to maintain. The tree requires some considerable work being done on it but has the potential in the medium to long term to being an impressive bonsai. Our thanks to her for her generosity.

Although no fund raising event took place this last year, 2017 will see a one-day exhibition and trade fair, "Bonsai for All", taking place at the Botanical Gardens in May with Kevin Willson as the headliner. Our thanks and appreciation to Kath Hughes, FoBBS administrator for taking on the organisation of this event.

The implementation of a new maintenance systems last year was completed and proved successful in keeping the trees in good condition; a problem had been identified with coordinating the different care systems, resulting in the condition of some of the trees suffering. With this in mind a new procedure has been created. Each month two members of the committee visit the Collection with the sole task of doing a detailed check of each tree and the site. Work or problems identified are programmed into the Work Days system. This overall inspection system will ensure any problems are identified and resolved as soon as possible. The work days are proving to be very productive, in fact February `s saw 14 man hours of work completed, involving seven individuals working on nine of the collection trees with an inspection being completed at the same time. Any volunteers wishing to assist on these days are always welcome. Please contact any member of the committee for details.

The large Juniper group was suffering with a lack of light to its rear, due to being sited against the wall. Following consultation with the Gardens it has now been moved to the courtyard on a purpose built stand, creating a very good focal point as you enter the display area. This new site also provides plenty of light to both front and back thus ensuring better health. We are in the process of constructing a suitable feature fence around the display on the request of the Gardens management. The large Magnolia within the collection area has started to become a problem due to its size casting a shadow over the area; this is a matter which we will be dealing with this year along with the Gardens' management.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, adoptees, gardens staff and committee members for their continued support, without whose help the collection would indeed suffer.

Barry Walker, Chairman, FNBC

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION
(Charity No. 1008283)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December, 2016.

NatWest. Current Account:

Income (£)			Expenditure (£)		
Item	2015	2016	Item	2015	2016
Bonsai Boot Sales	480.00	405.00	Admin./ Expenses (postage etc.)	50.00	36.00
Donations	200.00	-	Updating of website	89.00	-
Purchase of A.N.T. tree	-	50.00	Auditor's fee	-	25.00
			Purchase of plant feed /potting material	47.00	-
			Maintenance of Collection site & trees	54.00	-
			Expenses (Open Day)	20.00	-
			Purchase of etched labels	66.50	-
			Purchase of pot / slab manufacture	52.93	20.00
			(Transferred to Savings Acc.)	(800.00)	
Total	680.00	455.00	Total	379.43	81.00

Profit /Deficit for current year 2015: £ +300.57
Profit /Deficit for current year 2016: £ +374.00

Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2015: £ 135.35
Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2016: £ 509.35

NatWest Savings Account:

Income (£)		Outgoings (£)	
Interest	1.68	.Transfer to Current Acc.	-
Transfer from Current Acc.	-		

Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2015: £ 4,308.13
Balance of Account as of 31st November, 2016: £ 4,309.81

Total Funds for the Financial Year 2016: £ 4,819.16

Dr. M. J. W. Hughes,
Treasurer & Trustee, Friends of the National Bonsai Collection, 31st December, 2016.