

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES
FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31st December 2022:

**11.00 a.m. Sunday 2nd April 2023 at the
Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.**

1) Members Present:

Committee members: Peter Fielding (Chair), Barry Walker, Denise Baum-Pick, Malcolm Hughes.

Society members: Ambion Bonsai Soc., Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Leicestershire Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc.

2) Apologies:

Kim Turton, Nigel Wright (Webmaster) together with the following societies:
Akamatsu, S. Yorkshire, Sussex, Tees Valley and S. Devon.

Of those societies who sent their apologies, all had requested the Chair to carry their proxy votes. By virtue of a ruling passed at the previous AGM, unless requested otherwise, member societies would allow the Chair of the meeting to carry their votes. Therefore, as no such requests had been received, the meeting was deemed to be fully quorate.

3) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 20th March 2022:

Item 5a: In the minutes of the previous AGM, it was stated that Denise Baum-Pick would be stepping down as treasurer and company secretary. This subsequently turned out not to be the case as no nomination for treasurer was forthcoming; thereby she continued in both roles for the financial year ending 31st December 2022.

The minutes of the previous years' AGM were then read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Denise Baum-Pick proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by D. Barnsley (SSBS) Carried unanimously.

4) Matters arising: None.

5) Reports:

a) **Chairman's report:** Peter Fielding presented his report commenting on the BBC filming a short promotion of bonsai prior to last years' FoBBS display at RHS Chelsea. The filming took place at the home of Malcolm and Kath Hughes and at the National Bonsai Collection site at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. As a result of it being broadcast, there was a noticeable increase in interest at the FoBBS stand during the event. Thanks were expressed to Chris Dearn and Tony Mackensie for their efforts in putting on the stand.

A further FoBBS display was exhibited at RHS Hampton Court and the Federation was promoted at the 'Bonsai Show Live' at Telford.

The winner of the FoBBS Amateur Talent Competition, Miroslav Kolar would be representing the U.K. at the EBA Final, being held in the Czech Republic in April. In addition, FoBBS would be sponsoring the 'Bonsai South-West' event at RHS Rosemoor, Devon, in May. This would be shortly followed by another display at RHS Chelsea, mounted by Nick Payne, Russ Wheeler and Tim Black (the Bonsai Boys) on behalf of FoBBS. Members were encouraged to submit photos of suitable trees for exhibit from which a selection for the FoBBS stand could be made.

b) **FoBBS Financial report:** Denise Baum-Pick presented her report (see attached). The finances remain healthy with funds totaling £7,423.56. There had been a good income as a result of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show but only a modest profit from the Hampton Court event. Again this year, it was possible to keep the society insurance at a low level. Membership had increased to 58 societies. A separate account had been set up for the forthcoming Rosemoor event; in addition, some expenditure went on the acquisition of new table coverings.

It was suggested that, in the light of the current funds, further support be given to societies putting on events. This would be further discussed at subsequent Committee meetings.

The accounts were accepted. Proposed: Malcolm Hughes; Seconded: Barry Walker.

c) **Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:** Barry Walker presented his report which focused largely on the significant changes proposed to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, site of the National Bonsai Collection. The planned changes originally put forward by FNBC would now be placed on hold as an entire re-structuring of buildings in the Gardens site was now likely to occur over the next four years. This would include a complete relocation of the National Collection and Japanese Garden.

The current trees in the Collection would continue to be maintained with the prospect of further bonsai being added, with a possible total of 28 to 30 trees. The FNBC Committee would be liaising closely with the new administrative and planning teams over this period of redevelopment.

d) **FNBC Financial Report:** Malcolm Hughes presented the report, highlighting the fact that the Bonsai Boot Sale continued to be the principle source of income. This year however a sum of £500.00 had been bequeathed to the charity, and, with only modest expenditure, gave a total sum of £6,493.78 in funds. The majority of these funds were intended for major refurbishing of the current Collection site which was unchanged structurally since first established in 1991. In light of the new proposals (see FNBC Chairmans' Report), such funds would be reassigned for work on the new Collection area envisaged for the Botanical Gardens development.

The accounts were formally accepted and approved unanimously. Proposed: D. Baum-Pick; Seconded Annette Thompson (Ambion B.S)

6)

Election of officers and Committee:

FoBBS/FNBC Committee – All members of the committee were willing to stand again with the exception of Denise Baum-Pick who formally stood down at this meeting. Peter Fielding expressed his thanks and appreciation for all the work she had done as both Treasurer and Company Secretary over the last 13 years, acknowledged by all present. Her name would also be added to the Federation Role of Honour, awarded to those who have given meritorious service to the Federation and bonsai in general within the U.K.

Annette Thompson (Ambion B.S.) was proposed as the new treasurer – Proposed South Staffs B.S.; Seconded Midlands B.S. Vote 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 and was provisionally set for Sunday, March 24th, 2024.

8) **Informal Business Meeting:** There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.