



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



**Annual General Meeting for the Year ending
31st December 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, 18th March 2018** 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 21 March, 2017.
4. Matters arising.
5. Reports:
 - a) Chairman's report Malcolm Hughes
 - b) Financial report/Companies House 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) FoBBS' activities in the future. Malcolm Hughes
 - b) Show reports Malcolm Hughes /Reg Bolton
 - c) Reports – EBA and WBFF Malcolm Hughes
 - d) New Talent Competition. Peter Fielding,
 - e) Websites Malcolm Hughes
 - f) Bonsai News UK David Cheshire

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting: 11.00a.m. Sunday 12th March 2017 at the Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

1) **Members Present:**

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

Society members: Akamatsu School of Bonsai, Ambion Bonsai Soc., Glynderi Bonsai Soc., Leicestershire Bonsai Soc., Middlesex Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Newbury & District Bonsai Soc., Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc., South Worcester Bonsai Soc., South Yorkshire Bonsai Soc., Stourbridge Bonsai Soc., Surrey Heath Bonsai Soc., Swindon Bonsai Soc., Tees Valley Bonsai Soc., Warminster Bonsai Soc.

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

Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Cheshire Bonsai Soc., Crawley Bonsai Soc., Derby & District, Eastbourne & Wealden, North West Kent Bonsai Soc., Southend Bonsai Soc., Sussex 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 24.

3) **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 13th March 2016:** The minutes of the previous years' AGM were read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Mike Konig proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Graham Walker. Carried unanimously.

4) **Matters arising:** None.

5) **Reports:**

a) **Chairman's report:** Malcolm Hughes presented his report on the year's activities

He then sought to clarify the situation regarding the insurance cover provided by NFU by stating that although pot breakages would be covered, damage to trees would not, due to the impossibility of assessing an accurate valuation. Mark Moreland questioned whether societies, traders, demonstrators and individuals attending events would need their own policies, and was told that, yes, though as long as they were members of FoBBS they would be covered.

RB stated that the RHS recommend NFU insurance cover for all their events.

b) **Financial report:** Denise Baum-Pick presented her report and stated that the membership now stands at 56 societies and the Federation made a small operating loss of £86.

A small loss was made at Chelsea due to RHS rule changes and the cost of acquiring some new materials; however, the Federation's finances remain in a very healthy condition.

She raised concern over a number of cheques she had received bearing only one signature. The recommendation is that each society should have three signatories to avoid problems encountered when the one signatory becomes unavailable for any reason. In response, Gil Murray pointed out that the process of getting signatories added or changed can be extremely difficult and time-consuming. MH queried whether there had been any costs relating to the Speaker's book but was told that there had been neither income nor expenditure. MH also reminded societies of the importance of getting a contract signed by potential speakers to ensure that the total amount is agreed in advance, avoiding any unforeseen cost. Acceptance of the Accounts proposed by Barry Walker and seconded by Vic Yeomans. Carried unanimously.

c) Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:

- i) Chairman's report - Barry Walker presented his report ().
- ii) Treasurer's report - Malcolm Hughes presented the financial report
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, and in addition, Mark and Ming Chen Moreland were proposed as new members of the committee. 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.

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 18th 2018.

8) Informal Business Meeting:

- a) MH wished to publicly recognize the work that RB had put in during his 14 years as EBA President.
- b) EBA: Reg Bolton expressed his dissatisfaction with the voting system used at the EBA Amateur New Talent competition, as, despite efforts to prevent tactical voting, some countries are still voting either for themselves or their neighbours.
- c) WBFF: The next WBFF event will be held in Saitama, Japan in April. A new website is to be created and linked to the FoBBS' website. Australia, America and Taiwan are the possible venues for the next event in 2021.
- d) New Talent Competition: Peter Fielding stated that there are two very credible candidates for the next heat, which will be held at the Heathrow show later this year, but more competitors would be needed for future heats. A suggestion was put forward that we stop sending the winners to compete at the EBA finals and use the money saved to increase the UK prize money. No decision was taken.
- e) Website: NW had supplied information to the effect that the number of hits on the site had increased significantly over recent years.
- f) Bonsai News: KH had reported that reports about club meetings and events are now coming more frequently than before but clubs are urged to supply information by the 3rd week of each month. Mike Konig suggested that a reminder of the deadline should be included in each issue.
- g) MH reported that a meeting was held on 28th February to discuss issues regarding the FoBBS constitution where it had been decided to remove it temporarily from the website in order to change the title from 'Constitution' to 'Byelaws and Articles' and to clarify the date by which nominations for committee need to be received (changed from 28 to 42 days prior to the AGM) and also the fact that the nominating society must be different to that of the society seconding the nomination. A vote was taken to accept the changes, carried by majority, one dissention.
- h) MM pointed out that the minutes of the committee meeting of 16th Oct were not on the website, MH undertook to get the situation remedied. Malcolm Hughes then thanked all who attended and wished them a safe journey home. Meeting Concluded, 13.00 p.m.

FOBBS Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st December 2017.

This year's Annual General Meeting finds me writing what will be my last Chairman's Report prior to my standing down in this role. Having been Chairman of this organisation between 1989 and 1992, the last thing I had expected was to find myself unintentionally back in the same role eighteen years later. Unexpected circumstances do occur and contrary to my belief that my Chairmanship would be short term, I was to maintain this position for seven years. This term would have been much shorter had it not been for the sudden and unexpected death of the then Vice-Chairman Ray Ward who would have been succeeding me in 2014.

As for this last year, FoBBS has continued in its role of supporting its member societies. Over the period since 2019/2010 when a new Committee was established, the membership increased from 47 societies to a current total of 58, and increase of 19%. Of these, all but four have taken advantage of the insurance scheme provided by FoBBS, the costs of which are highly favourable compared to other such schemes.

Earlier in the year, FoBBS supported a team from some of the southern bonsai societies who put on a display at the annual 'Hyper-Japan Exhibition' in London as well as others who assisted in putting on another Gold Medal winning display at the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show. Sincere thanks go to all those involved in the planning and implementing of these events. Particular thanks must go to Reg Bolton who, after some eighteen years, is stepping down as the architect of the FoBBS exhibits put on at Chelsea; during that time, he has helped FoBBS achieve 17 Gold Medal awards and one Silver Gilt award, an exceptional achievement.

In terms of passing on information to societies, a fundamental role of this organisation, every attempt is made to use all possible means of communication. During recent years, this has increasingly moved towards electronic methods, e-mails, the FoBBS website, and the newsletter "*Bonsai News U.K.*". In order to progress with the times, there is now a move to make use of social media as an additional platform of communication. It is perhaps significant in referring to social media; in recent times this has been a medium whereby those critical of FoBBS have tended to express their views. It is a very valuable tool, but unfortunately it is also a means of allowing the free passing on of misinformation. There are unfortunately a small group of self-appointed critics, and it is small, who clearly know little, if anything about FoBBS, its aims, objectives and history. The Federation has existed for 36 years and during that time has achieved a great deal, clearly without their help!

Over those years, bonsai in the U.K. has changed dramatically. Initially, when FoBBS was first established in 1982, it had fifteen member societies. When I concluded my first period as Chairman in 1992, that number had increased to 90 societies with some of those societies having a membership numbers in excess of 100. Since then times have changed; this does not mean there is less interest in the hobby. It just means that many people are accessing the hobby in different ways. Society numbers have diminished; in fact, some of those earlier societies no longer exist. Some might venture to say that younger people view clubs and societies as the venue of the "oldies", entrenched in their ways and perhaps even fearing change! Thus that younger generation learn their bonsai from other sources such as websites or by attending schools of bonsai established by our national teachers and experts.

None of this is bad for bonsai – in many ways it is beneficial as it provides a means for some to gain their appreciation of bonsai and the skills that go with it without the need to find a society; clearly this is beneficial for bonsai because it is available to all. It is not necessarily good from the standpoint of the societies and thereby FoBBS itself. Many of those societies were established in the 1970's and 80's, and those members who have remained in those societies

are that much older. The last 40 years have seen a transformation on the British bonsai scene, both in terms of the approaches to teaching bonsai and the improved quality of the trees. In order to maintain such progress there is a need to encourage a younger generation to come on board; by that means, clubs and societies would be better able to move forward as we progress further into the 21st Century. Regardless of peoples' views, the bonsai societies will always have their place.

The matter of insurance is significant to all societies and therefore I would urge all society officers to familiarise themselves with the contents of the Policy Document (see FoBBS website: www.fobbsbonsai.co.uk). A classic example related to societies who invite a demonstrator using power tools; FoBBS insurance does not cover this – it is a case of the society checking that the demonstrator themselves have the appropriate public liability insurance cover when using power tools in a public place.

ACCOUNTS of the Federation of British Bonsai Societies Ltd
 Year Ending 31.12.17

2016	INCOME	2017	2016	EXPENDITURE	2017
	Balance Brought fwd	6901.22	2,163.97	NFU Insurance	1,962.52
			138.75	EBA Membership	156.00
1,387.50	Membership	1,475.00	13.00	Company House fee	13.00
2,400.00	Insurance	2,592.00	1,990.36	Chelsea Expenses	2,131.98
	Trees sold NTC etc		82.08	Botanical Gardens AGM	
1,893.10	Chelsea RHS	1,956.58		NTC heats - entrance etc	
75.00	Bonsai News	12.50	324.00	NTC contestant finalist	316.00
	Interest		380.13	N. Wright Web site	
5.00	Donation		222.00	Committee expenses	189.78
	Hire of Backdrops		320.00	Exhibition Support	350.00
<u>5,760.60</u>		<u>6036.08</u>	207.00	Repairs to Backdrops	
			6.00	Purchase of trees	
				Bank charges re ret. Ch	
			<u>5,847.29</u>		<u>5,119.28</u>
				Balance at Bank	7,800.13
				Petty Cash	17.89
					<u>7,818.02</u>
		<u>£ 12937.30</u>			<u>£ 12,937.30</u>

Profit for period £916.80

D. Baum-Pick - Treasurer

 Date 18.02.18.

G. Morris Auditor 
 Date 24/1/18

FNBC Chairman's report 2017

This year has been one of mixed fortunes;

The Spring Boot Sale was as popular as ever and raised £600.00 whilst unfortunately the Autumn Boot Sale had to be cancelled; it proved to be on the same date as a major National cycle race, a factor that was not known at the time of booking and no other date proved available. A Lesson has been learned and we shall double check to avoid any such clashes for future events.

I offer many thanks to all involved in keeping the collection in good condition, in particular to the maintenance volunteers who work hard keep the site clean and tidy, reporting any concerns they may have about the condition of the trees; they are indeed our eyes and ears. The trees within the Collection continue to improve overall, mainly due to the efforts of the working group system now in use, with better programmed care occurring along with a more detailed log book for the trees care.

It is intended to more work on the podiums this year, they are looking untidy and need replacing; the years take their toll. The Bill Horan juniper planting is now displayed within the courtyard and has a newly constructed fence around it. This new location will help the display receive a higher quality of light coverage, resolving the problem of it being in deep shade against the wall inside the octagon; the group was too large to enable us to keep rotating it.



The Omiya juniper tree was starting to look a little weak in some areas, We placed it into the care of Mark Bentley for some months, starting first with it being repotted into a new slightly larger pot. Following his care during these months we can report that it is looking much better, it is to be returned to the collection this coming spring.

Due to staff changes and communication issues at the Gardens, a few problems had arisen with the general watering and care at the end of summer; long term harm was avoided fortunately. The resulting staff changes now mean that Nigel Hopes, (senior gardener) is now once again responsible for the overall care of the collection. Malcolm Hughes and I will be conducting a staff training day in March to ensure that the new staff members are more able to identify problems and have a better understanding of the Collections' needs.

Concerns were raised following these problems with some questioning the suitability of the site. Many years were spent deciding upon this site and its suitability over others. It was eventually not a difficult decision; without a great deal of money (many, many thousands being made available) there were no alternatives. Look on the website if you query this, it outlines the complete history of the Collection. Having looked again at alternatives and taking an overall look at the situation, the Botanical Gardens still remains the only venue available. We have a free and secure site, with horticultural staff covering daily needs, along with the benefit of free display rooms for Bonsai events, a very large foot fall of non-bonsai enthusiasts and thousands of school children visiting. No alternative site could come close to these benefits. We have also been assured the communications problems have improved.

One significant issue that needs to be addressed this year is the need for more people to assist with the general maintenance work each week or month. If you feel you could give a little time please contact me; it is not arduous and is very rewarding.

The monthly Open Days continue as ever, and are greatly appreciated by the visiting public who are always there in great numbers showing interest and asking questions. For those new to the hobby, these Open Days are arranged on the third Sunday of all months in the growing season, (April to September) when a local society visits for the day, the cages are all opened and people can, in a supervised manner, get in close and admire the trees. It is a worthwhile exercise and much appreciated by the public. If you think your society would like to do one of these Sundays do please get in touch with me. We must also give our grateful thanks to Vic Yeomans of The Midland Society who takes responsibility for arranging these days.

I will close by offering my thanks to all involved in helping us keep the Collection alive and well, it is a credit to all and the pride of us in the Midlands

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION
(Charity No. 1008283)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING, 31st December, 2017.

NatWest Current Account:

Income (£)			Expenditure (£)		
Item	2016	2017	Item	2016	2017
Bonsai Boot Sales	405.00	600.00	Admin/Expenses (postage etc.)	36.00	49.12
			Updating of website	-	-
Purchase of A.N.T. tree	50.00	-	Auditor's fee	25.00	-
Sale of F.N.B.C. trees	-	245.00	Purchase of plant feed /potting material	-	62.00
Donation	-	8.00	Maintenance of Collection site & trees	-	224.83
"Bonsai for All" traders' fee	-	1,160.00	Refund of traders' fee	-	1,160.00
			Purchase of pot / slab manufacture	20.00	300.00
			(Transferred to Savings Acc.)	-	-
Total	455.00	2,173.00	Total	81.00	1,795.95

Profit /~~Deficit~~ for year 2016: + £ 374.00
 Profit /~~Deficit~~ for current year 2017: + £ 377.05

Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2016: £ 509.35
 Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2017: £ 886.40

NatWest Savings Account:

Income (£)		Outgoings (£)	
Interest	0.48	.Transfer to Current Acc.	-
Transfer from Current Acc.	-		



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

Balance of Account as of 31st November, 2016: £ 4,309.81
 Balance of Account as of 31st December, 2017: £ 4,310.29

Total Funds for the Financial Year 2017: £ 5,196.58

G. Morris: Auditor

G. Morris 9.12.18

