

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.**

- 1. Members present: Committee members** – Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Denise Baum-Pick, David Cheshire, Kim Turton, Peter Fielding, Vic Yeomans.
Societies: Ambion, Milton Keynes, South Staffs.

- 2. Apologies: Committee members** – Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, Kath Hughes, Mark & Ming Chen Moreland, Nigel Wright.
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 as he would not be re-standing for Committee.

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 was asked to be co-opted to the Committee in an advisory capacity. Kath Hughes (Administrator), Keith Wilson (Editor, Speakers Book), Nigel Wright (Webmaster), Chris Durne (RHS Chelsea co-ordinator) and Reg Bolton remained as co-opted Committee members.

The FNBC Committee re-elected were B. Walker (Chairman), K. Turton, M. Hughes, D. Cheshire and V. Yeomans. Nigel Hopes from the Birmingham Botanical Gardens was a co-opted member of the Committee.

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.