

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018:

11.30a.m. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the

Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

## 1) Members Present:

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

Society members: Akamatsu School of Bonsai, Ambion Bonsai Soc., Bonsai Kai, Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Chiltern Bonsai Soc., Crawley Bonsai Soc., Glynderi Bonsai Soc., Heart of England Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc., South Worcester Bonsai Soc., South Yorkshire Bonsai Soc., Stourbridge Bonsai Soc., Surrey Heath Bonsai Soc., Sutton Bonsai Soc., Tees Valley Bonsai Soc.

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

Leicestershire 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 17.

## 3) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018: The minutes of the previous years' AGM were read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Chris Durne proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Vic Yeomans. Carried unanimously.

## 4) Matters arising: None.

## 5) Reports:

a) **Chairman's report:** David Cheshire gave a quick précis of his report on the year's activities that had been circulated prior to the meeting (see attached).

b) **Financial report:** Denise Baum-Pick presented her report (see attached) and stated that although the Federation made an operating loss of £2283.21, this was due to the purchase of various merchandise goods which, when sold, will be recouped.

A profit was made at Chelsea, and the Federation's finances remain in a very healthy condition, therefore there is no need to increase the insurance premiums which will remain at £40 p.a.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Vic Yeomans and seconded by Graham Walker. Carried unanimously.

## c) Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:

i) Chairman's report - Barry Walker presented his report (see attached) and added that it is hoped that more people will opt to join the working group that is doing such good work in maintaining the health of the trees in the collection. He added that the committee intend to get some much better signage installed to encourage more visitors to the collection.

ii) Treasurer's report – David Cheshire presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Malcolm Hughes (see attached) and asked if there were any questions. None were raised. 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 Graham Walker proposed that a block vote be taken; this was seconded by Graham Morris and carried unanimously.
  - b) FNBC – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, Graham Morris proposed a block vote be taken, seconded by Junior Parris 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 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- 8) **Informal Business Meeting:**
- a) Future activities: David Cheshire distributed copies of a first draft press release concerning the proposed International Bonsai event planned for 2021 and introduced Ian Homer who has volunteered his services to help plan the event and to secure the funding/sponsorship that will be necessary to ensure a successful outcome. It is possible that some income might be derived from sales of the proposed photographic competition calendars.
  - b) Show report: Chris Durne reported that the display at Chelsea last year secured another gold medal but he is concerned that most of the trees came from the south-east region and stated that he would like a more representative selection from around the UK in future.
  - c) EBA & WBFF: Due to the absence of Malcolm Hughes, there were no reports available.
  - d) New Talent Competition: Peter Fielding stated that there were 6 contestants at the heat last June and the winner was Tony Oswin who would represent FoBBS at the EBA event in Arco, France. 2 contestants have applied to enter the next heat which will probably be held at the next show at Heathrow. He pointed out that in order to get the best national representation, entrants need not be members of FoBBS.  
A question was raised regarding the species of trees used in the competition, and their cost. Peter stated that the trees supplied are restricted by the need for them to be of similar size/potential as those used at the EBA event.
  - e) Website: David Cheshire reported that the FoBBS and FNBC sites have now been successfully amalgamated. It is still a challenge to keep details of changes to society committees up to date as the information is not always received in a timely fashion.
  - f) A.O.B.: Tony McKenzie asked why there is so little UK representation at EBA events. David Cheshire replied that it is difficult to get volunteers to go due to the distances and expenses involved, but it may be possible to get funding or grants for future events. There followed a discussion on the possibility of using social media to promote bonsai events at home and abroad and it was suggested that ideally, each society should have a social media site and someone to manage it.

David Cheshire then thanked all who attended and wished them a safe journey home.

Meeting Concluded, 13.00 p.m.