



## FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019:

11.30a.m. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 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: Ambion Bonsai Soc., Bonsai Kai, Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Chiltern Bonsai Soc., Leicestershire Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc., South Yorkshire Bonsai Soc.

2) **Apologies:** Malcolm Hughes, Nigel Wright (Webmaster), Dave Barnsley, and Malcolm Styles 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 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019:** The minutes of the previous years' AGM were read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Peter Fielding proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Amnon Paldi. 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 £618.00 and membership was down by 2, another profit was made at Chelsea, and the Federation's finances remain in a very healthy condition. However, she asked that any society requiring payments should endeavor to supply sufficient information to enable her to make payment without having to chase the payee for more detail.

Money spent on BIBS will be recouped over the next 12 months.

She gave then thanks to Chris Durne and his team for ensuring the ongoing success of Chelsea.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Rickie McMahon, seconded by Chris Durne and carried unanimously.

c) **Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:**

i) Chairman's report - Barry Walker summarised his comprehensive report (see attached) and added that although the 2 boot sales held last year generated a profit of £760, the second sale was much less successful and therefore it has been decided to hold just the one March event this year. He then thanked all members of the work group for their hard work.

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 Peter Fielding and seconded by Graham Morris.

Carried unanimously.

6) **Election of officers and Committee:**

- a) FoBBS – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, although Denise Baum-Pick announced her intention of standing down as treasurer in 2021. Matthew Griffiths proposed that a block vote be taken including 14 proxy votes; this was seconded by Paul Olsen and carried unanimously.
- b) FNBC – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, Rickie McMahon proposed a block vote be taken, this was seconded by Paul Olsen 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

8) **Informal Business Meeting:**

- a) Future activities: David Cheshire said that although BIBS was originally planned as a biennial event, the amount of work involved made it clear that it would be more realistic to hold it every 4 years but, of course, this would depend on the first one being a success. Invitations will be sent out to all societies to exhibit and application forms will be available on the website for both societies and individuals. The question was raised as to whether non-FoBBS members would be eligible to exhibit and this was confirmed as although it is sponsored by FoBBS, the aim of BIBS is to promote bonsai to as wide an audience as possible. Individual entries will go through a selection process to ensure that only good quality trees are displayed whereas society displays will be aimed at promoting themselves. Guidelines will be drawn up and displayed on the website.
- b) EBA report: Amnon Paldi had nothing to report.
- c) WBFF: Due to the absence of Malcolm Hughes, there were no reports available.
- d) New Talent Competition: Peter Fielding stated that the last event went well and there were 5 contestants, and the winner was Miraslav who would represent FoBBS at the next EBA event after receiving some training from Kevin Willson.  
2 contestants have so far applied to enter the next heat. He pointed out that in order to get the best national representation, entrants need not be members of FoBBS and it would be helpful if societies could recommend anyone who might be interested.

9) **A.O.B.:**

- a) Ian Homer stated his intention of re-instating the FoBBS newsletter, however, Barry Walker pointed out that it is hard to get societies to send in show reports for inclusion. Rickie McMahon requested that societies send him notice of upcoming events for him to promote on social media.
- b) Chris Durne reported that the Heathrow Expo has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic however, the BTA event at Coventry has not yet been cancelled.
- c) Denise Baum-Pick suggested that FoBBS could encourage members to go on the judges training course with a view to learning what the judges are looking for in order to be able to improve their trees rather than aiming to become judges themselves. The cost is £80, half to be funded by FoBBS and the other half by the participant's society.
- d) Rickie McMahon invited members to make suggestions for new additions to the Speaker's book adding that they need not be purely about bonsai but could be on other related horticultural topics.

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

Meeting Concluded, 12.15 p.m.