

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 3rd August 2014
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Ray Ward, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, David Cheshire, Keith Wilson.
- 2) **Apologies:** None.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (26th April 2014):** MH pointed out that in item 8d, Ken Leaver's name had been spelt incorrectly. RW proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, seconded by PF.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Correspondence:**
 - a) MH has received a letter from the RHS thanking us warmly for our contribution to the Gardener's World Live show. DC confirmed that £525 had been received in recognition of the Gold medal.
 - b) MH reported an issue, which has arisen over his proposed visit to Wessex Bonsai Society, as they have established a maximum of £225 per demonstrator which, although it would cover his normal fees and travel, would not cover overnight accommodation. Although not a FoBBS issue, he would address this, but there could be consequences for speakers travelling long distances.
- 6) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that she has received £1,952.16 from Chelsea and £525 from the RHS giving a bank balance of £10,833.94; there was £42 in petty cash. Expenditure of £43.98 has been incurred for repairing backdrops. RW reported that the Hyper Japan event incurred £308.01 costs, but he received a tree and £100 will be donated to FoBBS.
DC proposed acceptance of the report and KW seconded it.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB stated that there was nothing to report.
 - c) **Membership:** DB-P reported that Chichester Bonsai Society is now a member, so there are now 46 full society members, 9 members without insurance and 1 individual member.
 - d) **Event reports:**
 - i. **Chelsea:** RB stated that this year's Chelsea event was the best ever. Van hire cost less than £1,000 and expenditure on materials was minimal. A profit of £638.72 was made – a slight increase on last year. MH gave thanks to RB & RW for all their hard work.
Next year's event will be from 19th to 23rd May. An issue has been raised over some criticism which has been leveled at some of the tree labels with regard to names and fonts etc. and in the absence of any formal guidelines, MH will try to clarify the rules with the RHS and if successful, will publish the results on the FoBBS' website.
 - ii. **Gardener's World Live:** DC reported that the event went well, reaping another Gold medal and there is the possibility of another Holford medal. No expenses were incurred this year but the fabric used was discarded and will need replacing next year.
 - iii. **'Bonsai For All':** This event on behalf of the FNBC raised £1,320 from traders and netted a profit of £365 after expenses.
 - iv. **Hyper Japan:** RW said that the event was successful and enjoyable and MH thanked him for organizing it.
 - e) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** DC took up his position as Chairman at a recent meeting, where it was decided that a small group be set up to visit 3 or 4 times a year to do necessary maintenance. It was decided that the podiums should be renovated rather than replaced, as it would be a cheaper option. A regular feeding regime for the trees is now in place. Funds now stand at £4,260.67.
 - f) **European Bonsai Association:** RB provided an updated report in which he expressed his continued concern over the poor levels of communication within the organization, both at Board level as well as from delegates. It was hoped that a meeting of the EBA Board might take place at the German Bonsai Deutschland Convention, being held in Mannheim, Germany in October, followed by a delegates meeting at the Noelanders' Trophy

next February at which issues could be addressed.

- g) **W.B.F.F:** RB stated that annual subscription fees (£100 p.a.) has not been collected since China assumed responsibility for administration in 2008/9, therefore EBA owe £600. A suggestion has been made that the arrears should be waived, but no decision has yet been made. MH would be representing the European Region at the forthcoming WBFF Board meeting in Australia later this month.
The next WBFF Convention will be in Saitama, Japan in 2017 and a proposal to hold the following event in Belgium in 2021 will be put to the EBA Board.

- 7) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF has received a letter from the FNBC regarding the future of the competition, suggesting that just one annual heat should be held and that contestants should be asked to demonstrate their abilities in advance to avoid wastage of time and materials. Five trees @ £65 and two @ £45 are currently held giving total assets of £415.

Mark Kennerley, this year's finalist, reported to PF that he didn't enjoy the experience in Poland very much as he was not made to feel welcome and the quality of the trees supplied was not very good.

It was suggested that José Redondo might be the UK representative in Vilnius, Lithuania, Sept 2015 and his air fare could be booked well in advance, thus saving money; he would also have plenty of time to prepare. There followed a discussion about the merits of aiding competitors by coaching them in, for example, competition conditions. The next heat will be held in 2015 for the final in 2016.

- 8) **Bonsai Speakers' Book/Judges' Training Programme/Teachers' Programme:** MH asked KW to take over responsibility for the upkeep of the Speakers' book and suggested that Marcus Watts could be a possible new addition. KH to e-mail KW a copy of the book.

K & MH are to formulate the criteria for the Judges training programme.

It is hoped to run a pilot course for the Teacher training programme this autumn.

- 9) **Website and publicity:** MH reported that the website is up-to-date and that the Events calendar is being regularly circulated. Member Societies are reminded that they may use this facility to publicise any event they have planned.

- 10) **Any other business:** RW reported that the British Shohin Association want to hold an event in Failand next March, but the planned date clashes with the Boot Sale/FoBBS AGM. They also want FoBBS' support but they would need to become members in order to become eligible. KH suggested that they could hold it at the Botanical Gardens for free.

MH has arranged for a producer from ITV to visit 'The Woodlands' with reference to the planned series of programmes celebrating Alan Titchmarsh's 50 years in gardening.

JD enquired about the possibility of getting some FoBBS polo shirts, RB is to investigate.

RW said that two of the backdrops taken to Earl's Court couldn't be used, as they need repairing before use at Heathrow in October. If he can't repair them he will bring them back to 'The Woodlands'.

DBP asked for the membership renewal form to be updated with more contact details, such as Chairman, Secretary and email addresses; also, the updated cost of insurance.

KW informed the meeting that Simon Temblett is planning to sell some trees, possibly at the boot sale in Manchester on 7th Sept.

- 11) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 16:00. The next meeting will be Sunday 2nd November at 10:30am.