



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 2nd November 2014
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, David Cheshire, Keith Wilson, Andy Dolman.
- 2) **Apologies:** Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Recent devastating news:** MH called for a few moments silence in which to reflect on the sad loss of Ray Ward who, in addition to being Vice Chairman of FoBBS, was regional director for the southeast area and an invaluable helper at Chelsea.
- 4) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (3rd August 2014):** MH pointed out that in item 10, last paragraph, Simon Temblett's sale would be at Dragon Bonsai, not in Manchester. DC proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, seconded by PF.
- 5) **Matters arising:** RB provided a sample polo shirt, which would cost circa £14 - £18 and it was agreed that he should make further enquiries.
- 6) **Correspondence:**
 - a) DB-P had received letters from the Bank and Companies House about DC's new status and the need to make him a signatory, but as TA was not a signatory, it was agreed that there would be no need to make DC one.
 - b) MH reported that he had received correspondence from China and Europe conveying sympathy over Ray Ward's death.
- 7) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that she has issued two cheques, one for website maintenance and a £100 donation to charity in memory of Ray Ward. There is £8,707 in the bank and £42 in petty cash. It was agreed that there would be no need to raise membership fees this year. PF proposed acceptance of the report and DC seconded it.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB stated that there was nothing to report.
 - c) **Membership:** MH reported that all details for Wessex Bonsai and Ashfield Bonsai have now been updated so any issues over lack of communication should now be resolved.
 - d) **Event reports:** There have been no major events to report on since the last meeting.
 - e) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** DC reported that renovation of the podiums is continuing. MH stated that the collection now contains 19 trees and new metal labels are being prepared with the FoBBS' logo and both Latin and English names. Also, a new stand is being created for the centre of the garden, on which will be displayed a large beech group that has been donated. Each tree has now been adopted by someone, and a review of all trees and their condition is imminent. Enquiries are being made into the cost of replacing the metal cage bars with high tensile steel mesh to allow better viewing whilst maintaining security.
 - f) **European Bonsai Association:** RB provided an updated report, this included notification that an Extraordinary General Meeting would be held at the Noelanders' Trophy event this next February.
 - g) **W.B.F.F:** MH attended a BCI event in Australia recently and reported that a WBFF board meeting took place there, at which the new President, Mr. Fukuda had taken charge. There were reports on the WBFF event in China in September 2013 and the initial planning of the next event, to be held in Saitama, Japan in 2017. South Africa had offered to host an interim Board meeting next October in Cape Town.
- 8) **Implications and interim arrangements following from Item 3:** MH said that as RW will be sorely missed as Vice Chairman of FoBBS and RB's right hand man at Chelsea, Andy Dolman, who is already very much involved with

the FNBC, has volunteered to help out. Denise Baum-Pick proposed that he be co-opted onto the committee; RB seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

9) **Forthcoming events involving FoBBS:**

- a) Chelsea 2015 will be open from 19th to 23rd May, with setup starting on Friday 15th. The paperwork has been completed but no details are yet available as to the space allocated.
- b) Gardener's World Live will be from 10th to 14th June. It isn't known yet what space will be available but it was thought that it should be smaller than in previous years and it was suggested that either FNBC or individual Midland societies could put on a display. DC to investigate.
- c) "Bonsai World", if held, will be 8th to 9th August, but a meeting of the Sussex Bonsai Group involved in organizing the event will be held soon to discuss whether or not to go ahead.

10) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that José Redondo would be the UK representative at the EBA event in Vilnius, Lithuania, Sept 2015.

Two more candidates for next year's heat have been identified, David Fairbanks and Anthony Davis. The Eastbourne & Wealden Society has offered to host the competition in May but it was thought that this would be too soon, as only one heat will be held.

It was agreed that plaques should be produced for the winners and runners up. RB to investigate.

A list of competent judges is needed.

RB suggested that the entry rules might be changed so that winners need not compete in the EBA final unless they wanted to, due to the long distances involved. PF and RB to rewrite the rules in time for the AGM in March. Denise Baum-Pick proposed acceptance, seconded by DC.

11) **Bonsai Speakers' Book/Judges' Training Programme/Teachers' Programme:** KW has contacted all existing speakers and has had replies from all except Craig Cousins and Steve Tolley.

The Judges training programme will start sometime after the New Year; dates yet to be decided. DC, PF and AD will be the first candidates.

12) **Website and publicity:** MH reported that the website is up-to-date and that the Events Calendar is being regularly circulated.

KW suggested that FoBBS should be more actively promoted as most clubs have little idea what FoBBS does. It was agreed that leaflets should be included whenever paper communications are sent out and DC suggested that an item could be included in 'Bonsai Review' to publicize what FoBBS has achieved this year. MH, KW, RB, and DC to put an article together. This could be put on the website and renewed each year. DC suggested that there should be a place on the website for members to give feedback. Member Societies are reminded that they may use the website to publicize any planned event or to post reports/photos of past events.

13) **Any other business:**

MH has received a request from Mark and Ming Moreland for a Suiseki Society to become a member of FoBBS. As suiseki was a subject related closely to bonsai, the meeting therefore saw no reason why this new society, once established, could not join as a FoBBS member. MH to inform Mark and Ming accordingly.

14) MH said that some of the FoBBS' backdrops are being stored in a garage in Sussex and it was agreed that they should be brought back to the Midlands. DC offered the use of his van and MH will organize their collection.

15) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 15.20. The next meeting will be Sunday 1st February at 10:30am (or 8th if the weather is bad).