



## **FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES**

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Denise Baum-Pick, Barry Walker, David Cheshire.
- 2) **Apologies:** Peter Fielding, Judith Davison, Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (1<sup>st</sup> May, 2016):** Finance report – should read £10,180.99; otherwise, acceptance was proposed by DB-P and seconded by BW.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Correspondence:** Following a request by Kath Hughes for someone willing to take over the editorship of '*Bonsai News UK*', only one person had responded but on realizing what the work entailed, had withdrawn his offer. There followed some discussion over critical remarks on Facebook made by a small element over FoBBS and EBA, but these had been countered by a large number of positive comments made both on Facebook and by e-mail to members of the FoBBS Committee. The consensus was that those being critical appeared to lack any understanding of the organizational aspects concerning the running of FoBBS and EBA. Many expressing support for the efforts made by those working on behalf of FoBBS, FNBC and EBA considered the critical remarks being made on Facebook by this small minority as being a potential deterrent to those persons seriously interested in bonsai. RB. would prepare a paper for the AGM to address the issues arising from this.
- 6) **Reports:**
  - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that the current balance of funds stands at £10,176.91 and petty cash remains at £7.67. She stated that income on insurance for this year amounted to £2,400.00 as against cost for insurance of £2,212.00. The meeting agreed that insurance costs for 2017 could therefore remain at £48.00 per society and the membership at £25.00.

DB-P suggested that membership renewal forms be sent out by late November of this year to encourage societies to renew earlier. It was also agreed that with the insurance cover note, a statement regarding improper use of an insurance certificate could invalidate a society's policy. Should a society be involved in a bonsai event, they must have insurance, be it FoBBS or another. Acceptance of the report was proposed by MH and seconded by BW.
  - b) **Companies House:** Nothing to report.
  - c) **Membership:** Following renewal of membership by the Northampton Bonsai Soc. there are now 56 members, of whom 6 are members only (no insurance).
  - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW stated some infestation had been noted on three of the Collection trees, but this had been addressed by Wyl Durrant of the B.B.G.G. A tree (Chinese juniper) had also been donated by Olive Hodgetts, but would require some work before being allocated to the Collection. The next project would be to manufacture a stand in the centre of the Collection site for the Bill Horan juniper group. F.N.B.C. funds currently stood at £4,787.07
  - e) **European Bonsai Association:** RB expressed concern as to the failure to obtain information re. the next EBA Congress being held at the Noelanders' event (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017). He had arranged for an order of sufficient New Talent Final trophies to cover the anticipated number of contestants and was hopeful that trees for the final were being sorted by the organisers. At present, unclear whether there were two exhibit sections (Noelanders trees and EBA display)?

RB had also tried to arrange an interim Board meeting for later this year but Board members unable to coordinate a time and place.

The next EBA Newsletter had been further postponed – only the UK and Denmark had information for inclusion.

Re-election of the Board would take place at EBA Noelanders; nominations to be in by early November 2016 and nominees must provide a CV and make a presentation at the AGM. RB would be standing down, having completed his term of office.

Arco (Italy) offered to host the 2018 EBA Congress but no date yet confirmed.

- f) **W.B.F.F.:** As he would be standing down as EBA President, RB would no longer be Regional Director for Europe on the W.B.F.F. Board when the 8<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Congress takes place in Saitama in April 2017. The EBA AGM would have to elect a new Director to serve a 4 year term; Marc Noelanders would represent Europe in Saitama with MH continuing his role as International Consultant.

Suggested that MH make a presentation to the EBA AGM as to what W.B.F.F. represents and the roles of Director and Consultants.

- 7) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** MH reported on behalf of PF that five people had expressed an interest in participating in the British heat, to be held at the Capel Manor event on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. None however, had as yet submitted their application forms; suggested that PF contact them by phone to check on their intentions to participate.

DC suggested that forms be made available at bonsai events and, if necessary, send forms to societies. He would also look into following up the Facebook page and put FoBBS material, including A.N.T. material onto it.

At present there were five A.N.T. trees which PF would be taking on board. DC would look out for replacement material on a regular basis, looking to buying 6 trees per annum.

It was pointed out that both FoBBS, and EBA in particular, put substantial funds in the New Talent contests, so it would be essential that those competing indicated a high level of competence in order to participate. Those seriously wishing to participate, but clearly requiring more practice would be advised and guided by FoBBS at future heats based on new rules.

The meeting agreed that trees not used in the New Talent could be styled and sold either for raffle prizes or at the annual F.N.B.C. Boot Sale.

- 8) **Bonsai judges training programme:**

MH reported that at the present time, there were not sufficient numbers to run the next course.

RB also felt it was important for societies to understand how best to put on bonsai displays and the importance of selecting trees; he offered to compile criteria for societies to go on the website.

- 9) **FoBBS Bonsai Events, 2016:**

- a) **R.H.S. Chelsea:** RB reported on another successful event with FoBBS gaining a Gold Medal Award. The event went smoothly in spite of slight difficulties with help. There was a slight financial loss this year (£97.26) due to unforeseen circumstances.

A good working group was now being established to assist with set-up and breakdown. Main expenses would continue to be for van hire and fuel.

- b) **Hyper-Japan 2016:** Peter Leiss had submitted a report and photos for the website. The event had again proved successful, the bonsai display drawing considerable attention from the public and new members for societies. Expenses amounted to £320.00. MH to write letter of thanks to Peter and his team when sending cheque.

- 10) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** DC to send KW update on his change of details

- 11) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':** Website being continually updated; however not so easy to acquire material from societies for 'Bonsai News UK'. Agreed that during the bonsai show season there would be a monthly issue; thereafter, one issue every two/three months (winter period).

DC willing to take 'Bonsai News UK' material and place on FoBBS Facebook and twitter pages.

- 12) **Any other business:** For next years' R.H.S. Chelsea event, extra tickets could be made available to purchase at members rates so partners can attend should they wish. Considered a nice gesture to those who help with the event. Proposed RB, seconded MH.

- 13) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 15.05. The next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.