



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 1st February 2015
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Judith Davison, David Cheshire, Keith Wilson, Andy Dolman.
- 2) **Apologies:** Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (2nd November 2014):** DC proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, seconded by PF.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Correspondence:**
 - a) MH had received a questionnaire from Japan asking him to assess the likelihood of people in the UK wishing to participate in various training programmes that they intend setting up. He has filled it in and returned it and copies were circulated for information.
 - b) MH reported that he had received an invitation for FoBBS' members to attend an event in Arco, Italy in May but it was thought unlikely that anyone would be interested in going.
- 6) **Changes re. FoBBS Committee:** DC has decided to stand down as Chairman of FNBC, but will remain on the committee. Barry Walker will be acting Chairman until the next AGM. MH gave thanks to DC for all his hard work.
MH proposed that KW be appointed Vice Chairman and this was seconded by RB. Approved by all.
- 7) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P presented the end of year accounts, which show a healthy balance of £955.93. Acceptance was proposed by DC and seconded by RB.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB will send in the accounts after approval is received at the AGM.
 - c) **Membership:** There have been 42 renewals so far, including 1 for insurance only. Taunton and Somerset have opted out and Bontag Security have expressed an interest but haven't yet joined.
 - d) **Event reports:** There have been no major events to report on since the last meeting.
 - e) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** MH has ordered some etched metal labels with the FoBBS' logo and both Latin and English names.
It was suggested that FoBBS should compile a list of proper common names with their approved Latin equivalent and the accepted conventions for displaying text, all of which could be made available on the website.
 - f) **European Bonsai Association:** RB informed the meeting that, following requests by Belgium, Denmark and Poland over issues regarding EBA, and Extraordinary General meeting would be held on Sunday 15th February at the Noelanders' Trophy. He continued to express serious concerns over the lack of communication from EBA delegates to requests for information, this going back to August of last year. It was hoped that issues could be resolved at the EGM.
 - g) **W.B.F.F:** MH reported that there was no further information to add to that presented at the last Committee meeting.
- 8) **Annual General Meeting, 15th March:** MH is to confirm which room will be used. It was also confirmed that all current committee members were willing to stand again, but would need a proposer and seconder from their Society. All notifications to be sent out by mid-February.

9) **Forthcoming events involving FoBBS:**

- a) Preparations for **Chelsea 2015** are progressing, the position is good and the size is the same as last year. No information has been received yet about passes, but 30 – 35 tickets will be available to purchase.
- b) **Gardener's World Live** set-up will be on Tuesday 9th June. A decision was taken to make it a much smaller event than last year with any Society wishing to take part, putting on an individual display. MH will meet the RHS on February 19th when more information about their requirements will become available.
- c) **"Bonsai World"**, if held, will be 8th to 9th August. There is some doubt about the financial viability; however, FoBBS could help fund the event on receipt of details of past accounts, e.g. costings, profit/loss etc. Kevin Willson and Paul Finch have volunteered to do demonstrations free of charge.

10) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that the new rules of the competition have now been published on the FoBBS website, also, that José Redondo has expressed a wish to be named on the website. RB suggested that the method of judging be revised to ensure that the results are completely impartial and it was agreed that the matter will be raised at the FoBBS' AGM in March.

11) **Current tasks:**

- a) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** About 8 changes are required, including the addition of David Cheshire and Marcus Watts. Details must be sent to KW as soon as possible and the revised list will then be sent to Society secretaries electronically.
- b) **Judges' Training Programme/Teachers' Programme:** The Judges Training Programme trial will begin with one day in March and one in April (dates to be confirmed) with 4 candidates. The Teacher's programme is to be advertised to existing Speakers and also on the website. It was also suggested that Facebook and/or Twitter accounts could be beneficial. It was agreed that K & MH would write something that could then be set up by DC and AD. This would initially be for a trial period and monitored regularly. Acceptance was proposed by DC and seconded by RB.

12) **Website and publicity:** It was reported that the FNBC website was temporarily unavailable and also needs updating.

13) **Any other business:** RB requested that an up to date list of committee members of both FoBBS and FNBC be issued with all contact details. KH to organize on receipt of data.

14) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 15.00. Date and time of the next meeting will be agreed upon on the occasion of the AGM, being held on Sunday, 15th March at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.