

## **FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES**

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017  
“The Woodlands”, New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

1. **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Denise Baum-Pick, Barry Walker, David Cheshire, Judith Davison, Mark Moreland, Ming Chen Moreland.
2. **Apologies:** Keith Wilson, Peter Fielding, Nigel Wright.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (7<sup>th</sup> May 2017) No issues. Acceptance was proposed by DC and seconded by RB; carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Correspondence:** MH reported that he had received various items for discussion further down the agenda.
6. **Reports:**
  - a. **Financial:** DB-P reported a current balance of £8999.79, with petty cash remaining at £17.89. Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
  - b. **Companies House:** Nothing to report.
  - c. **Membership:** Stands at 58, 4 of whom are members only.
  - d. **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the new fence has now been fitted round the juniper group and pictures of it are on the website.  
A group of 8 or 9 people spent a day recently doing routine maintenance on the collection. New pots will be required for the Omiya tree and the hawthorn that is currently recuperating at The Woodlands.  
Mark M asked about the history of the FNBC and its' financial situation and MH gave a brief summary of the collection and how it came to be at the Botanical Gardens.
  - e. **European Bonsai Association:** MH said that Nigel Wright, the EBA webmaster, had received a request from an agent acting on behalf of a Chinese businessman, that EBA should relinquish all claim to any and all domain names pertaining to EBA as he, the businessman, wished to use them for himself. This request was rejected.  
BW proposed that FoBBS should send a letter to EBA expressing dissatisfaction with the current lack of information/support that is received from most member countries. MH agreed to draft a letter of concern.
  - f. **W.B.F.F.:** Mark M reported that when he and Ming visited the last event in Saitama, they found that the board depicting EBA was incorrect in that both the UK and Switzerland were missing, but Venezuela had been included. MH said that information regarding member countries had been sent via NW but had obviously been ignored. The question was again raised about the value of remaining in EBA.  
  
A suggestion was made that more could be done to promote British bonsai abroad by offering branded goods such as polo shirts, badges and/or mugs etc. RB agreed to investigate costs, and the matter will be discussed at the next committee meeting.  
The new website is now available at [wbffbonsai.com](http://wbffbonsai.com). The next WBFF event will take place in Australia in 2021.
7. **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF had nothing new to report.
8. **FoBBS related Bonsai Events, 2017:**
  - a. **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** RB reported that the FoBBS' stand won another Gold medal, to make a new total of 17 Gold and one Silver-gilt.  
RB had encountered some problems with getting helpers to supply him with adequate information/photos for the exhibitors' passes. This will need better control next year. He also expressed his willingness to

manage the event again next year if he gets sufficient back up.

Total expenses were £2,091.00 and expected revenue should be £1,956.00, which will result in the anticipated small loss. On behalf of the committee, MH expressed thanks for all RB's hard work.

- b. **Hyper-Japan:** MH reported that this was again, a very successful event and thanked everyone concerned.
  - c. **Possible events for 2018:** An email has been received from Tony McKenzie about the possibility of putting on an annual, national event at the K2 Crawley, and asking whether FoBBS would be able to give some financial support. It was thought that FoBBS could offer an interim loan of £500, to be paid back if the show made a profit. Various different options and venues are under consideration, so a final decision was deferred until the next meeting, due to insufficient detailed information. MH asked M&MM to liaise with their local societies regarding future collaboration.  
MH suggested that if a suitable location could be found, half the FoBBS' backdrops could be stored in the SE region, which would solve the eternal problem of transportation.
9. **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** Existing speakers are to be asked if they wish to update any details for next year.
10. **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites & 'Bonsai News UK':** Both websites are being regularly updated.

A suggestion was made that the FNBC and FoBBS websites be merged under the FoBBS' banner as the FNBC site gets very few hits and the license expires next February anyway. It was also suggested that more use could be made of social media sites and DC offered to investigate the possibility of linking the Facebook and Twitter accounts. This was proposed by DB-P and seconded by RB; motion carried.

MH reported a situation whereby a Society complained that their details had not been updated on the website, however, it was found that this was due to the fact that the e-mail containing the information had never been received.

MH has also received a complaint regarding Bonsai News UK, to the effect that it becomes virtually illegible when printed in black & white due to the background photo. In light of the work involved in its' production and distribution, M & KH wish to step back from producing it. DC offered to take on the editorship as of this date.

It was suggested that dedicated e-mail addresses be set up, one for each of the officers of the committee and one for items for the newsletter, e.g. chairman@fobbs, newsletter@fobbs etc. this would ease the transition for future changes of officers. This was proposed by RB and seconded by JD, carried unanimously.

MH said that he and KH would still continue to edit and distribute the Events calendar, which is a WBFF production. After some discussion, it was decided that information sent out should be divided into two separate editions, one for international events (WBFF Calendar) and one for UK events (Bonsai News UK). Major British events would appear in both.

11. **Any other business:**

- a. A suggestion had been received from Surrey Heath Bonsai Society that societies could club together to produce generic materials such as banners, tree labels, direction signs etc. that could be made available to any society putting on a show. This was deemed to be a good idea, but questions were raised regarding as to where these items would be stored, how best distributed/returned, and whether a deposit should be paid in advance to ensure their timely return. JD suggested that FoBBS could commission a single roll-up banner for each society; RB said that each club should pay for its banner, as they would value them more. MH reminded the committee that there is a considerable amount of fabric held at 'The Woodlands' that could be offered to any member society that wants it.
- b. It was remarked that many societies, when staging a show, were unaware of the need to ensure that any traders attending should be properly insured by obtaining a copy of the relevant documents. MH, KH and DC agreed to meet in order to draft a document that can be put on the website detailing a society's responsibilities regarding insurance.

- c. MH formally announced his intention of standing down as Chairman at the next AGM, but that he would be willing to offer the new chairman any help that may be needed and would also continue to host future committee meetings if requested.
  - d. Mark M suggested that the date of the first committee meeting to be held after each AGM should not be decided until the AGM itself so that any new committee members could have a say. The motion was proposed by Ming M, seconded by DC and carried unanimously.
12. **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 16:05. The next meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Thanks were expressed to K & MH for hosting the meeting.