



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 7th May, 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.
- 2) **Apologies:** Keith Wilson, Peter Fielding, Nigel Wright, Mark and Ming Moreland.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (12th Feb 2017) RB pointed out that in item 6a, the balance should read £9,962.55; also in item 6e, the Vice-presidents elected to the EBA Board were 1. – Pierre Bedes and 2. – Vaclav Novak. Changes noted. Acceptance was proposed by RB and seconded by DB-P.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Ratification of the AGM minutes:** MH successfully asked the committee to ratify the minutes of the AGM, and acceptance was proposed by BW and seconded by MH.
- 6) **Committee Roles for 2017:** Committee roles remain unchanged from 2016, with the exception of RB who declared that he would withdraw from the committee after the show at Chelsea; also, the two new members, Mark & Ming Moreland were appointed as FoBBS’ representatives for the South/Southeast region.
- 7) **Correspondence:** MH reported on his communications with the Botanical Gardens regarding the cancellation of the “Bonsai for All” event due to the complete lack of parking facilities.
DB-P reported that she had received a letter from the NFU inviting FoBBS to attend their AGM on 22nd June at the National Conference Centre in Solihull.
MH had circulated an email from M&MM expressing their regret in being unable to attend the meeting due to their prior commitment to represent FoBBS at the Wessex annual show.
MH had also received a report from NW regarding the website, (see attached and item 12).
An email had been received from Tony McKenzie suggesting that FoBBS stage an annual event at the K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley; this possibility will be investigated (see item 13 AOB).
- 8) **Final Reports of 2016 Committee:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P presented copies of the accounts which showed a current balance of funds standing at £10,295.05 with petty cash standing at £17.89.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB reported that he had visited Companies House in London where a discussion took place regarding auditing the accounts, a procedure that has not been carried out previously. MH proposed that they should be audited in the future in order to pre-empt questions being raised by members. This was seconded by JD and carried unanimously.
 - c) **Membership:** Stands at 57, 4 of whom are members only, the latest club to join is Fenland Bonsai Society.
 - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the needle juniper he had been concerned about was now dead; this was suspected to be due to excess watering during a period last summer. However, the hawthorn has now been repotted into a deeper tray and appears to be recovering well but will need a more suitable container for the future.
Seven trees have been recently re-potted.
A new fence is to be erected soon around the large juniper group.
MH reported that all monies received from traders in anticipation of the “Bonsai for All” show have now been refunded; however Kevin Willson will still hold his workshop on Saturday 20th and extend it into the Sunday.
The National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas has been suggested as a possible new venue for a future national event; this is to be investigated.
FNBC funds stand at £4,300.00

- e) **European Bonsai Association:** MH said that there was little to report other than that the next EBA newsletter had been put on hold due to the lack of any new information.
- f) **W.B.F.F.:** MH said that the recent event was very successful with around 4,500 visitors attending. The website will be aligned with that of FoBBS with M&KH supplying the information to NW. The next event will be held in Perth, Australia in 2021.
- 9) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF has distributed fliers promoting the competition but has had no responses as yet. As an incentive, it was suggested that in future, the winner should be given his tree and the opportunity to take part in educational workshops. Also, winning contestants should not be automatically expected to compete in the EBA final; they would be invited to do so, only if deemed good enough, and acceptance would be entirely voluntary.
The winning tree from the last heat is to be displayed at Chelsea after the main judging is over.
A sub-group is to be formed in order to discuss further ways of promoting the competition such as producing posters to be circulated to Societies and Nurseries for display.
- 10) **FoBBS related Bonsai Events, 2017:**
- a) **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** RB had encountered some problems with getting suitable photos for the exhibitors' passes. Estimated expenses would be in the region of £1,450.00, including £982.00 for van hire and £466.00 for new fire-proof cloth, which could possibly result in a loss.
- b) **"Bonsai for All 2017":** Cancelled due to influx of dinosaurs. A re-scheduled exhibition of dinosaurs meant that there would be no access for vehicles during the period of the bonsai event.
- 11) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** Nothing to report.
- 12) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':** Both websites are being regularly updated. A suggestion had been made by David Wilson (Yorkshire) that society members should be allowed to edit their own contact details on the website; however, general opinion was not in favour. It would involve expensive changes to allow it and it was generally thought that most users would be either unable or unwilling to make such changes themselves. (See report by NW)
A suggestion was made that FoBBS should hold a photographic competition consisting of bonsai related subjects, e.g. trees, accents, Tokonomas and fine detail. Photos submitted would need to be high resolution and jpg format. To be investigated.
Items for inclusion in *Bonsai News UK* are still in short supply.
- 13) **Any other business:**
- a) Some discussion took place regarding the correspondence from Tony McKenzie and his suggestion that FoBBS could stage an annual national event at the K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley. Should this come about, it would be desirable to store some of the FoBBS' backdrop locally but this would require a secure storage area and a responsible person to ensure adequate care?
It was assumed that such an event would have the support of all the local clubs but that logistics might cause problems.
BW proposed that FoBBS should support the idea in principle subject to receipt of a viable business plan detailing proposals and possible funding. This was seconded by RB and carried unanimously.
MH to liaise with Tony McKenzie.
- 14) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 15:10. The next meeting will be on the 6th August, 2017. Thanks were expressed to K & MH for hosting the meeting.