



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES
AND FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

Held at 10.30 am, Wednesday, 9th February, 2022
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

MINUTES

1. In attendance. Peter Fielding, Denise Baum-Pick, Malcolm Hughes, Nigel Wright, Chris Durne, Barry Walker, Vic Yeomans, Amnon Paldi and Kim Turton.
2. Apologies. None
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as being accurate. PF and BW.
4. Matters arising.
 - 4 i. AGM. In order to legitimate the AGM, PF and NW sent out letters to all member societies seeking permission to ratify the proceedings and as there were no objections the 2021 FOBBS AGM is now deemed as official.
 - 6 c. Insurance. DBP explained that shortly after the previous meeting she had a conversation with the insurer who had reviewed our policy, and we are now deemed as "low risk". This means that the cost of insurance to member societies will be £15 plus the £25 membership fee. It was agreed that this reduction in the cost made membership look even more attractive. At this point AP asked if anything was being done to attract more members. NW informed the meeting that he had recently sent out 80 letters explaining the advantages of membership.
 - 6 f ii. Chelsea. PF circulated the membership asking for display trees for Chelsea. One submission has been received and passed to CD who said that he needed a full description of the size of trees as well as a good quality photograph.
 - 7 ii. The New Talent Competition final is confirmed as taking place at the European event in the Augsburg EBA event this June. PF has informed Mirislav Color who is keen to represent FOBBS.
 - 7 ii. KT circulated the proposed new format for the next FOBBS New Talent Competition which will be dealt with at a later meeting.
5. Correspondence.
 - i. BW received a letter from the family of the late Peter Mells (South Staffs member) including a donation to the collection of £500. Peter has been a volunteer in the collection. BW wrote to thank the family for the donation explaining that the money would be used towards the new developments planned for the National Bonsai Collection. NW was asked to include an obituary for Peter in the next communication to member societies mentioning the bequest. BW to supply NW with the details to include.

ii. DBP was able to confirm that no action is needed as far as the Information Commissioners Office

iii. KT sent several emails to the Botanical Gardens regarding the Bonsai Boot Sale and asking the Head Gardener for his report on the collection. No replies were received. After the meeting it was discovered that James Wheeler, the CEO and Curator of the Botanical Gardens recently left.

6. Reports.

a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC)

i. FOBBS. DBP reported £8338 in the bank with £8 in petty cash.

ii. FNBC. MH reported just over £5000 in the bank. There has been little expenditure and he reminded the meeting that the Bonsai Boot Sale is the only regular source of income.

b. Companies House. DBP had nothing to report.

c. Membership. DBP. Currently 47 members, 2 of them have not taken out insurance.

d. FNBC.

i. No report from the head gardener was submitted despite a timely request by KT.

ii. Due to the time of year there has not been much activity in the collection. BW said that there was to be a visit of the working group on 15th February to swap back in the triple Larch and take out the Elm group for re-potting. BW continued by saying that the main target for this year was to push through the planned changes and he would work with the Gardens in order to do this.

iii. The donation of up to three major trees by a renowned collector is ongoing. Personal circumstances make the exact timing difficult to predict but MH said that he would need to hire a vehicle in order to transport the trees from their current location.

iv. NW asked BW for more information on the Collection Trees in order to complete the FOBBS website.

v. The new sign explaining the developmental nature of the Box raft in the open is in progress. BW is intending to start a contemporaneous record of the development of the tree on the website.

e. EBA & WBBF.

EBA event in Augsburg 17th – 19th June 2022. AP handed out the convention handbook and NW informed the meeting that he has added a link to a digital version on the FOBBS website. AP reported that he has not received anything from EBA regarding FOBBS membership and he went on to say that there has been no mention of the New Talent Competition. AP will contact EBA to ask about the plans for the NTC.

WBBF. The event in Australia is going ahead virtually. AP reported that there are plans for demonstrations to be recorded by the individuals who would then submit the edited presentations to the event organizers. It is understood that these recordings would be available online for interested parties to buy. NW shared his screen showing the current web content for the virtual event.

It was felt that financing the production of the recorded demonstrations has the potential to be an expensive proposition. AP proposed that FOBBS refuse any request by WBBF for financial assistance with the event in Australia. Seconded by MH and agreed unanimously.

MH concluded this item by informing the meeting that it was his understanding that the current financial standing of WBBF is unclear.

f. RHS Shows.

Hampton Court. Sutton Bonsai Society is managing the event on behalf of FOBBS. Andy Jordan is in charge. CD reminded the meeting that it would be desirable to cover the cost of the table space by selling merchandise. PF will check the stock and CD will speak to RHS to clarify if there are restrictions about what can be sold.

g. FNBC Boot Sale. NW to update information on FOBBS website saying that trading space is full. KT explained that he is working with the new event coordinator at the Gardens regarding the parking system, overflow parking and timings of the event. Everything is in hand.

7. Chelsea Flower Show 2022. Possible media interest in "FoBBS our story". CD

i. FOBBS has been asked by the BBC if they could create a short film to show as a "backstory". After a discussion, it was agreed to focus on the National Collection Hemlock and its rescue from the landfill site on the edge of Cannock Chase. PF to coordinate with the BBC representative Camila Bassett-Smith. Permission had already been sought to film the recording at Woodlands and it was agreed that MH would represent FOBBS in the piece. DC/PF/NW to agree a response to the BBC accepting their request and suggesting that the Hemlock be featured.

ii. CD informed the meeting that he was due to have a meeting to begin the detailed planning for the event and asked if any committee member would like to be involved in stewarding.

iii. MH asked about the possibilities of having a wider range of trees available from the middle of the country and reminded the meeting that in the past RHS has covered expenses in connection with making the stand and transporting trees.

8. Possible FoBBS involvement in The Bonsai Show Live at Telford International Centre 1st and 2nd October 2022. PF started by saying that having looked into the possibilities there is no real chance of putting on a substantial FOBBS event this year. PF has investigated the above event

and thinks that FOBBS should have a stand there. It was agreed by all that it should prove to be a good opportunity to publicize FOBBS. With this in mind it was agreed that NW resurrect a fold up leaflet that he suggested several years ago, update it, have 500 printed to be made available for the Bonsai Show Live.

i. KT informed the group that South Staffs used QR codes giving details of Bonsai Societies and traders very successfully at Gardeners World Live in 2021. It was proposed by AP and agreed by all that NW create a PDF (or similar) which could be used at society shows containing QR codes linked to the society page of the website as well as Traders and events.

9 OB.

i. NW reminded the meeting that before the Pandemic there had been discussion about the possibility of holding a large Bonsai event in the south west supported by FOBBS. This would be the first large scale Bonsai event to be held in the area. NW has spoken to a representative of RHS and informed the meeting that he felt it very likely that the event would be at RHS Rosemore in May 2023. NW proposed that FOBBS consider the event, seconded by PF and agreed by all. NW to follow up and report at the next meeting.

ii. PF informed the meeting that content of the next circular for member societies include, The event at Telford, Chelsea and the BBC request, and the proposed event at RHS Rosemore. To be sent out after Feb 16th. PF thanked NW for his invaluable help with facilitation the circular.

iii. MH. Mailing paperwork for the AGM. Documents to NW by 20th Feb sent out to members by 25th. Nominations for committee to KT.

10. Date and venue of the next meeting

Confirmed post AGM meeting is 7th April