



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 22nd July, 2018
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** David Cheshire (part-time), Denise Baum-Pick, Barry Walker, Judith Davison, Mark Moreland, Ming Chen Moreland, Chris Durne (co-opted), Malcolm Hughes, Vendrice Garvin (part-time), Kath Hughes (part time).
N.B. MH assumed the chair temporarily due to DC's indisposition.
- 2) **Apologies:** Reg Bolton, Peter Fielding, Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (1st April, 2018) DBP pointed out that in item 7c, the 55 current members *included* the 3 who have no insurance. Also, that in item 13e, the number of co-opted members should not exceed one third of the committee. Acceptance was proposed by JD, seconded by BW and carried unanimously.
- 4) **Matters arising:** MH proposed that discussion of the potential name change of the Federation, as detailed in item 13a, should be deferred till the next meeting; unanimously agreed.
- 5) **Correspondence:** Reg Bolton submitted a document (see copy attached), detailing a few points of law and in which he confirmed that he would no longer be a member of the committee.
It was proposed that a letter should be sent to him, to acknowledge and thank him for all the work he has done for the Federation and EBA. Also, that a retirement gift, such as a plaque be purchased, which could be presented to him at the Swindon Winter Image Show next year. This was agreed unanimously. MH to investigate prices etc.
- 6) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that Chelsea costs amounted to £1347.27, leaving a total of £8549.02, with petty cash standing at £42.89.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
 - b) **Companies House:** Nothing to report.
 - c) **Membership:** Is now 56, including 4 who are members only (no insurance). North West Bonsai Society has expressed a wish to join and it was agreed that they should pay for the 6 remaining months, i.e. £12.50.
Proposed by BW and seconded by MCM.
 - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the juniper and hawthorn have now been returned to the collection. The elm, which has been suffering from a severe attack by gall mites, is being treated at The Woodlands and is now recovering well.
As there is no longer an official member of the Garden's staff looking after the trees, the working party are having to make more frequent visits.
KH joined the meeting and presented her views on the future of the collection, the housing of which is getting very dilapidated (see copy attached). Rather than replacement of the existing structures, it could offer the opportunity for a total redesign of the whole area, either way will require serious fund-raising, however, a decision will have to be made as to what needs doing and full plans drawn up before applying for grants (also see item 13). James Wheeler of the Botanical Gardens is willing to help raise funds and applications could be submitted by both FNBC (a charity) and FoBBS (not a charity).
DC suggested that it could be advantageous to employ an experienced fund-raiser that he knows, which would incur a cost of 10% of whatever monies are allocated.
Martin Unwin, trading as Bon-Tag, has made an offer to tag each tree in the collection in return for free advertising. This would enable the removal of the cages and the possibility of enlarging the Japanese garden so that the trees could be displayed on podiums therein.
 - e) **European Bonsai Association:** MH presented his report from Arco (copy attached). A discussion then followed regarding the possibility of holding an EBA conference in the UK in 2022; one suggested venue was a university, possibly Bristol, which could offer student accommodation out of term time. DC suggested that combining it with a WBFF event would attract a more diverse and larger attendance than a pure EBA event. The first date available for this would be 2025. To be further reviewed at the next meeting.
 - f) **W.B.F.F.:** MH had nothing to report other than that the next event will be in Australia in 2021.
- 7) **Amateur New Talent Competition:**
 - a) PF had submitted a report on the Cardiff event. MM said that there had been some controversy regarding the judging because the judges knew which tree belonged to which contestant, therefore could not be

considered impartial. It was agreed that PF would need more help to police the contests in future.

It was agreed that there should be an information pack prepared that could be given to both contestants and judges when taking part in an EBA event. The pack should include photos of both the raw material and finished trees.

- b) DC suggested that the word 'New' be dropped from the competition title as it might put people off who have been into bonsai for a long time. This was addressed some time ago by the FoBBS Committee and had already been agreed but not fully implemented. This committee agreed this should be done in future.

8) **FoBBS related Bonsai Events:**

- a) **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** On behalf of the committee MH congratulated the team on winning another Gold Medal. CD presented a show report (copy attached) and suggested that the stand be redesigned next year to provide a change.

9) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':** The two websites have now been amalgamated and are up to date.

MM commented that Bonsai News UK was late being published which made having a cut-off date for entries irrelevant. DC replied that it can take a long time to get show reports submitted and suggested that a proforma be designed so that if a FoBBS' representative visited a show, they could use it to submit comments and photos, using approved format and layout which would facilitate easier transfer to the website and newsletter. All reports must be vetted by the newsletter editors before publication.

10) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** DC raised the question of the viability of the Speaker's book in its present form and suggested that it should be published online, with the caveat that it would have to be available only to members, otherwise there would be less incentive to join.

11) **Committee Roles:**

- a) **Data Compliance Manager:** There is a need to appoint a Data Compliance Manager with responsibility for the security of members' information held online, in order to comply with new legislation. Deferred until the next meeting.
- b) **Committee Profiles:** Committee members were asked to provide a brief resumé of their experience in bonsai before the next meeting, which will then be published on the website.

12) **Exhibition Signs:** MM produced some examples of roll-up banners and smaller, rigid signs that can be loaned to societies to help advertise shows and point people in the right direction. BW proposed that another set be purchased which could be kept with the backdrops; this was agreed.

13) **Fund raising and Promotion:**

- a) **Merchandise:** KH to forward a list of items that have been sold previously for fund raising, so that members can offer their views. Items chosen could then be sold at shows, both in the UK and abroad, this would not only raise funds for the FNBC, but also promote FoBBS and bonsai generally.
- b) **Raffles:** An annual raffle was suggested, which could be drawn at an event; 3 to 4 main prizes which would need possibly need collecting, and a variety of smaller items which could be posted to winners not in attendance. A license would be required which cost £40 per annum.
- c) KH also offered to circulate more ideas for the committee to discuss at the next meeting.

14) **Any other business:**

- a) CD said that there had been no media coverage of the stand at Chelsea and suggested that in future, some information could be supplied to the media, which might generate more interest. MH added that although John Trott's stand at Gardener's World Live Show received a platinum award, and was awarded 'Best in Show', the media totally ignored it.
- b) DC reported that PF had queried whether mileage expenses would be paid to the judges attending New Talent competitions; it was agreed that FoBBS should offer reimbursement.

15) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 16:30. The next meeting will be on Saturday, 8th September 2018.