



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 13.00, Tuesday, 12 January 2021

Meeting held on-line via Zoom

1. **Present:** David Cheshire, Peter Fielding, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Amnon Paldi, Chris Durne, Nigel Wright.
2. **Apologies:** Rickie McMahon, Denise Baum-Pick.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (20th Aug 2020) Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by CD, seconded by PF and carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Correspondence:** None.
6. **Reports:**
 - i. **Financial:** This report was deferred until the next meeting.
 - ii. **Companies House:** Nothing new.
 - iii. **Membership:** This report was deferred until the next meeting.
 - iv. **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the collection is being tended by the skeleton staff at the Gardens due to the strict Covid restrictions but there have been no issues reported. The Japanese garden is looking good.
 - v. **EBA:** AP has had no new information but MH reported that Marc Noelanders has said that he is still unsure as to whether or not the Czech event will go ahead this autumn.
 - vi. **WBFF:** MH reported that this year's show in Perth has now been cancelled. It may possibly be rescheduled for October next year.
7. **RHS Shows:** CD reported that both Cardiff and Chatsworth have been cancelled but, as yet, Chelsea, Hampton Court and Tatton Park are still going ahead.
8. **Amateur Talent Competition:** PF reported that he has 4 potential candidates for the next event. Miroslav Kolar will compete at the next EBA event. MH said that if the Czech event does go ahead the final could be held there.
9. **FoBBS and the Future:**
 - i. **Website proposal** – BW suggested that we need the ability to sell merchandise through the website and/or FaceBook and that we would need an e-commerce facility but it would need a link between the FoBBS website and FaceBook. NW said that this facility would cost £20 per month and that he could easily create a link, however, it would need someone to commit to managing the e-commerce side.
 - ii. **Proposal to combine FNBC & FoBBS committees** – It was suggested that rather than combine them, meetings could be held together and MH suggested that the FoBBS committee did not need to be as large as it is.
10. **AGM:** DC said that it is entirely possible that this may have to be held online this year.

11. **Any other business:** JD said that there have been a lot of questions asked by club members about what FoBBS has done recently and AP said that FoBBS needs to re-evaluate itself. There was a long discussion regarding what FoBBS could be doing in the future and how to do it. MH agreed and said that FoBBS has developed very gradually over the years but the advent of the internet has changed requirements radically and the current main benefit to societies is the insurance.

One suggestion was that FoBBS could host smaller annual shows at the Botanical Gardens which would be financially viable.

Another suggestion was to host regular online meetings such as some societies are already doing, inviting bonsai experts to give talks and/or demonstrations. FoBBS could pay for the professional version of Zoom which would enable sessions to be offered to a much wider audience with the possibility of charging non-members a small fee. AP and BW were asked to investigate the possibilities and help set it up.

DC is to send an email setting out the proposals and costings to the committee.

PF will get information regarding insurance from DB-P before the next meeting.

As there would need to be further investigation preceding more discussion regarding these proposals, it was decided to hold another meeting very soon.

12. **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 3pm. The date of the next meeting was set for 2.30pm, Tuesday 19th January.