



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 10th November 2019
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

1. **Present:** David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Rickie McMahon, Ian Homer.
2. **Apologies:** Chris Durne, Amnon Paldi, Nigel Wright.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (21st July 2019) Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by BW, seconded by MH and carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Correspondence:** RM reported that he had received an email from Ken Norman to say he would like to be included in the Speaker's book again and that he is proud of what FoBBS is doing.
MH raised a query regarding possible new speakers listed in the UK Bonsai association newsletter. DC said that it is important that such information disseminated by FoBBS should be accurate. RM to investigate.
6. **Reports:**
 - i. **Financial:** DB-P reported that there is currently £7311.24 in the bank and petty cash is £45.59. £1999.70 has been paid out to BiBS. RM reported that a PayPal account for FoBBS has been set up and will be active very soon. Currently, money for BiBS can be managed through the FoBBS account but separate PayPal and bank accounts will be needed for BiBS.
DC has received 2 trade stand bookings already and handed the deposits to DBP together with £33.50 for the sale of merchandise.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by JD and seconded by PF.
 - ii. **Companies House:** Nothing new.
 - iii. **Membership:** DB-P reported 1 new member society raising the total to 54 members.
 - iv. **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the Omiya juniper needs attention and will have to be repotted soon.
It has been decided that the cage doors on either side will be removed and replaced by guard rails to facilitate a better viewing experience for visitors and that the doors to the Octagon will remain in place but be opened each morning and locked at night. The alarm will still be active. Now that all the trees are owned by the FNBC there would be no possibility of expensive claims should any tree get damaged. It was noted that the Satsuki azalea originally belonged to the Satsuki Azalea Society, which no longer exists.
IH suggested that CCTV be installed as a further deterrent; BW to investigate costs.
MH reported that KT has noticed that there is no mention of the National Collection on the website of the Botanical Gardens, just an obscure reference to the "Japanese and bonsai garden", also, that there are very few directional signs to the Collection. This needs to be rectified to encourage more people to visit.
DC stated that he is planning to donate a large Juniper which was owned by the late Mike Sadler, it was agreed that it should be taken to The Woodlands for repotting and refinement.
 - v. **EBA:** Nothing to report.
 - vi. **WBFF:** MH reported nothing new.
7. **BIBS 2021:**
 - i. **Review of progress:** IH showed the meeting a preview of the website which has had to be altered to full width to enable viewing on tablets and rotating images but the main core on a PC is centered. There will be information regarding all activities and it will be launched in mid December.
IH has sufficient material for 2/3 issues of a new FoBBS newsletter which he is planning to launch in the New Year and will ask prospective demonstrators to supply articles for future inclusion.
There will be a buffet provided on the Friday evening with a celebrity to host the opening ceremony and a dinner on the Saturday evening (with entertainment) at a probable cost of £40 for the buffet and £50 for the dinner.
The 40 FoBBS backdrops available will not be enough. Tony Tickle has offered some more but it was not thought to be practical as it would be cheaper and simpler to build new ones. Tables will be hired.
120 top quality trees will be needed and there will be space for Societies to exhibit.

- ii. **Photographic competition:** Entries will be chosen for both a FoBBS and an FNBC calendar for 2021 and should be of studio quality and must be submitted by 1st August 2020. There should be a maximum of 3 entries per person; other terms and conditions T.B.A.
 - iii. **Bank Account set-up:** See item 6 i.
 - iv. **Application forms / Contracts:** DC said that 50/60 volunteers will be needed and ideally should belong to member societies; application forms would be required. BW suggested that they should pay a nominal charge to prevent free-loaders; this will be decided by the sub-committee. Contracts for demonstrators will be drawn up.
 - v. **Targeted traders:** Traders will be invited to apply for space but there will need to be a restriction on the number of tree sellers. The show will include other Japanese and gardening related subjects such as alpines, koi carp etc.
8. **RHS shows:** MH reported on behalf of CD who will attend a briefing next week at Wisley. He is hoping to put on displays at both Chelsea and Hampton Court, and would like to display trees from the National Collection in order to promote FNBC.
RM asked whether these events should be put on Facebook, with a request for members to offer trees for display. It was noted that it would be the responsibility of the individual to arrange transport either to a collection point or to Chelsea.
DC suggested creating small kits to include a starter tree, a pot, scissors etc. for sale at future events, but it was noted that investigation would be required regarding rules governing sales tables.
9. **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that the Heathrow Show went well and Miraslav created a nice tree. PF to ascertain whether he will require further training and determine the most suitable venue. He will then be invited to compete in the Czech Republic next year.
DC is happy to take any surplus trees to sell on at no cost to FoBBS.
10. **Speaker's Guide & Traders list:** RM reported that of 124 recipients emailed on 27th Sept., 28 had not opened their mail and had had the mail resent. Ken Norman will be relisted as a speaker and 2 new traders have been added. Tony Tickle has been asked to update his information. IH asked to be added to the distribution list.
11. **FoBBS assets register:** MH agreed to compile a list of assets such as the archives, backdrops, posters, signs, trophies and medals etc. and DC will list all the merchandise currently held. BW suggested that the archives could be digitized and it was agreed that this should be investigated.
12. **FoBBS and the future:** NW had expressed concern over the possible impact made by the UK Bonsai Association, however, DC thought that they were offering quantity over quality and FoBBS is always more accurate. NW had also suggested that the FoBBS minutes should only be available to members but this was not agreed as they have always been public.
13. **Any other business:** DC said that a question had been raised regarding availability of FoBBS merchandise on the website; RM has provided the information to NW.
BW suggested that the presentation of Role of Honour awards should be a formalized procedure and this was agreed. BW also asked about various awards such as Best Tree in Show, how and where they were given out; DC to investigate.
MH said that Northampton Bonsai Society had requested that the training course on competition judging be re-run so this will take place next year. DC asked whether accredited judges should be listed in the speaker's book but it was pointed out that they are listed on the website. It was noted that Ken Norman and Reg Bolton are recognized RHS judges but have not done the course.
It was noted that the next AGM and boot sale will take place on March 15th 2020. Renewal notices will be sent out in late November and nominations for committee must be in at least 21 days before the meeting.
14. **Date and venue of the next meeting:** There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 15.15. The next meeting will be on Sunday, 26th January 2020 at The Woodlands.