

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday 12th. January, 2014
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

1. **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Ray Ward, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Reg Bolton, David Cheshire, Judith Davison (arrived at 12.00)
2. **Apologies:** Simon Richardson, Tony Allen.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting (29th September 2013):**
PF proposed minutes a true record, DB-P seconded, voted unanimously.
4. **Matters arising from minutes:** None

5. **Correspondence:**

a) MH has correspondence from M. Malawski re. demos at EBA in Poland. M. Malawski is suggesting that each member country should provide a demonstrator, but that demonstrator would be expected to fully fund their own costs (although they would get 'free admission'). Chrissie Leigh-Walker had recommended Paul Finch, although Paul was not in a position to fund all his expenses (travel; hotel etc.). MH felt this could set a precedent for all future shows/conventions and that is not a route that we could support. MH will be discussing the matter with others during his trip to the Noelanders Show in Belgium on 18/19th January and report back.

b) MH has correspondence from Emma Lake (RHS) re presence at Gardeners World Live on 12-15th June. The FoBBS suggestion is that it would not be as big as BoBB but a Midland Regional show co-ordinated by Dave Cheshire (using his experiences of past organisation of this event). There is a choice of locations and set-up days, some being more practical than others. DC would like to see the highest possible standard of trees on display. It seems that the exhibit may not be included in the RHS judging and, therefore, not eligible for any financial prize. DC pointed out that most of the required materials are available from last show. Tree transport could be the only major cost. DC will consider the best options and report back.

6. **Reports:**

a) **Financial report:** DB-P reported that 2013 had produced a profit of £406-71. It was agreed that FoBBS should not be funding demonstrators for major worldwide shows. DP-B reported that FoBBS present funds stood at £6,498-66.

a) **Companies House:** RB stated that as TA was moving abroad a new director of FoBBS would be required. After discussion it was agreed that DC would become the new director and also become chair of FNBC.

b) **Current membership and society listings:** DB-P reported that 24 societies had so far renewed their membership for 2014. DC questions as to whether the Insurance policy would cover a business holding an event (even though the individuals were FoBBS members through their societies). It was felt that the policy is designed for non-profit societies and not for a profit making business.

Event reports: MH reported that he and RB had been the judges at the Capel Manor show. By having 'approved' judges it was felt that the results were more acceptable to the participants and visitors. RW reported on the Heathrow show. It was a good show, well organised, and well supported by societies.

FNBC & National Bonsai Collection: In TA's absence MH reported that FNBC had a current balance of £3,700. The Bonsai boot sale is the main source of income. The raffle held (drawn at Bonsai World) made a profit of approx. £900. MH reported that FNBC now have more trees than display space available at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, with one additional tree being purchased in 2013. MH/KH are organising an event at the BBG on 6th July 2014 (called Bonsai for All). The collection is being

well maintained using local members. New podiums for the trees have still to be made and new identification labels are also being produced. DC asked what happens when limit of number of FNBC trees is reached. MH responded by stating that should further trees be offered for the collection then they could, with donor's agreement, be sold with proceeds going to FNBC funds for ongoing maintenance.

- c) **European Bonsai Association:** RB said that he is still extremely concerned regarding the convention in Poland. The event is on the 9th – 11th May. RB has still not seen a proper Business Plan for the event. RB stated that the planning for the 2015 EBA convention in Lithuania is still confusing and he is feeling anxious about the event. MH reported that he has sent a FoBBS report for the EBA newsletter but that he is one of only three counties that have so far sent in articles for their associations

W.B.F.F: RB reported that the 2017 WBFF Congress will be held in Japan. MH has been recommended as Europe's representative. MH expressed concern at the 2013 WBFF photo competition. No results have been published or books issued (all accepted photo owners were promised a copy). RB again expressed his concerns over the Chinese Presidency of 2013.

7. Amateur New Talent:

PF reported that, so far, he has received interest from two potential participants for the competition to find a representative at the 2014/5 EBA convention in Lithuania. Mark Kennerley (from Wirral BS) will be representing UK at the convention in Poland in May 2014. As sufficient trees are currently held in stock no further trees need to be purchased in 2014.

8. Events for 2014 incl. R.H.S. events:

- a. **Chelsea:** RB reported, Show 19th - 24th May 2014. Set up on the 16th, 17th and 18th. All in hand. RB is pleased with site offered. RB is pleased with planning and progress. Additional show tickets can be purchased in advance at RHS member rates. RB explained the preparation procedures prior to the show.
- b. **Gardeners' World Live – June 2014:** MH reported that a show will be put on in limited space, possibly in the "Seeds of Knowledge" area. An alternative area could be within the floral marquee. Good quality trees would be required and a selection process would be used. After discussion it was agreed that we should opt for space in Hall 6 for a Midland Regional Societies display with an internal competition. DC/MH will organise and control.
- c. **Others:** MH/KH will be organising **Bonsai for All** on July 6th at the BBG. There will be tree displays for both societies and individuals; traders and demonstrations. Societies will be offered 3-tables each. So far, applications have been received from 7-societies; 6-individuals and 7-traders. Mark Noelanders has agreed to be the main demonstrator. MH pointed out that the BBG now has a car number plate recognition scheme in place and people should be aware of this. Tickets are available for advance booking. Set-up will be 08.00 to 10.30. Show will be open from 11.00 to 17.00. Details will be added to FoBBS website.
- d. **"Hyper Japan":** MH reported that FoBBS have been invited to put on a display at this exhibition being held at Earls Court (London) on 25/27 July 2014.

9. **Bonsai Instructors' Book/Teachers programme – update:** MH reported that he and Ken Norman will be attending an RHS Judges Day. This should be of benefit to others that MH and KN help with advancing judging knowledge to standardise the level of judging at shows. KH is writing a judges course (in three parts) for BCI. The FoBBS instructor's book may need updating for 2014.

10. **AGM:** The AGM is on 16th March at 11.30 (following the Bonsai Boot Fair at BBG).

- a) **Notification:** to be sent out to societies by end of January.
- b) **Reports:** Chairman; Accounts; FNBC; New Talent Competition; Questions for each report.
- c) **Nominations:** All present are willing to stand for a further term in present positions. Thanks were given to MH & KH for all their work and support on FoBBS behalf. DC will stand as Chair of FNBC (as TA is standing down and emigrating). This could allow for an additional committee member.
- d) **Agenda Items:** (in addition to reports and accounts) – Judging.
- e) **Roll of Honour:** Previously discussed and agreed

11. Federation website and publicity: MH has thanked Nigel Wright for his work on the website which is regularly updated. SR writes the articles for Bonsai Review. If any show organiser wants coverage in Bonsai Review they should get information to SR.

12. Any Other Business: DC referred to proposed show at Nuneaton in 2015 – would FoBBS be willing to be involved? It was agreed that FoBBS would welcome some involvement. A date has yet to be decided. PF stated that Wales have two marquees that could be offered if required. RB stated that FoBBS subscription to EBA has been paid for 2014.

13. Date and Venue of next meeting: 10.30 am Sunday 13th April 2014* at “The Woodlands”, Sutton Coldfield.

Meeting closed at 15.25

- Date subsequently changed to Saturday, 26th April.