



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

Meeting held at 10.30 am, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 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 accepted as accurate. PF and AP.
4. Matters arising.

Item 5. iii. Meeting between FNBC and Botanical Gardens regarding unexpected managerial changes at the Gardens. KT reported that the trustees were apologetic for the way in which FNBC found out about the departure of the CEO. FNBC were reassured that the National Bonsai Collection was seen as a valuable part of the Botanical Gardens and a plan to expand the collection into the Japanese Garden was agreed.

5. Correspondence. None.

6. Reports.

- a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC)

FOBBS. £8673.18 in the bank with £13.38 in petty cash.

FNBC. £6857.36 in the bank. The increase was due to the recent bequest and £720 income from the Boot Sale. In light of the recent increase in fuel prices MH proposed that all visits to the gardens be paid expenses at the accepted rate of 40p per mile. KT asked individuals concerned to give him the return mileage from home to the Gardens.

NW informed MH that he would submit an invoice for website fees.

- b. Companies House.

DBP to make the Companies House declaration within a few days of the meeting.

- c. Membership.

DBP reported that there are 53 paid up members. She informed the meeting that she has had individuals requesting to join FOBBS. After a discussion it was proposed by AP that individuals could become associate members for £10 and should receive all benefits except a share of the funds held should FOBBS cease to exist. Agreed by all.

- d. FNBC

- i) BW and MH visited the collection on April 12<sup>th</sup> to find the watering system not functioning properly. The head gardener explained that he had been watering manually to that point.

ii) At the time of their visit it was evident that the painting which was to be done in preparation for the BBC filming had not been completed. PF agreed to visit the collection a few days after the meeting to check that the walls had been painted.

iii) BW explained that he was trying to avoid communication problems with the Gardens. In support of this MH added that he hoped that the recent changes in trustees would result in clearer lines of communication. MH added that is a possibility that he would become a trustee of the Gardens.

iv) A new pot is being sought for the very large Chamaecyparis.

e. EBA & WBBF

i) EBA. AP informed the meeting that communications have been problematic recently and that as yet he has not been asked for a membership fee.

ii) EBA. The UK candidate for the New Talent competition has written to PF asking what expenses he could claim. It was agreed that reasonable living expenses will be covered and PF said that he will continue to coordinate with Mirislav on this matter.

iii) WBBF. No changes to report from the previous meeting.

f. RHS Shows

i) Hampton Court. CD raised the issue of selling FOBBS merchandise at the show. It was felt that there wasn't sufficient products available and PF decided that for various reasons FOBBS merchandise would not be sold at the show. It was agreed that the society responsible for Hampton Court stand should be allowed to sell members trees provided that 10% of the money taken be given to FOBBS.

ii) NW asked if helpers at Hampton Court could be given FOBBS tee shirts. This was agreed by all. PF to follow up.

g. FNBC Boot Sale. KT informed the meeting that the next FNBC Boot Sale would be Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in 2023. This date needs to be agreed by the Gardens. KT to send flyer to NW when confirmed.

7. South West Show. NW reported that after a number of productive meetings the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 had been agreed for the event.

a. Funding budget. NW asked that £500 be made available and explained to the meeting that one of the benefits of using Rosemoor is that there is no fee to pay for its use, he added that the event would have a fee advert in Garden Magazine and would also benefit from the association with the RHS. MH proposed that £500 be made available. Agreed by all.

b. Admission of non-FoBBS members and individuals. NW informed the meeting that only one of the "local" 22 societies is a member of FOBBS. After a discussion it was agreed to send an invitation to put on a display to all FOBBS members as well as the nearest 22 none members. Display space is to be allocated to FOBBS members initially, then local none FOBBS members and finally individuals. All none FOBBS members would need to prove that they have sufficient current insurance cover before being accepted.

c. Trader's fee of £30 a table.

d. Use and transport of backdrops, table covers and tree dividers. The backdrops are available at Woodlands, as is the table fabric, however the latter is showing its age and should be replaced.

e. Assistance and help. NW asked for help with setup. This would normally be done locally from within the societies taking part.

f. Insurance. DBP confirmed that the entire event is covered by the insurance policy held by FOBBS.

8. AGM. The 2023 AGM will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. After a discussion about the low numbers attending the recent AGM, PF proposed an amendment to the wording used on the invitation so that it reads . . . “In the event of a none response to this invitation your vote automatically defers to the chair as proxy”.

9. Chelsea Flower Show 2022. i) CD informed the meeting that everything was on target in preparation for the show and there are sufficient volunteers to staff the event. He said that not many people had submitted trees from the regions, but that he had plenty from the south east. CD to send out a reminder to all FOBBS member for tree submissions, KT to pass on the invitation to Mark Bentley for one of his Junipers.

ii) The filming dates for the BBC feature have been set, but it is not very clear exactly what was planned in the way of a storyline.

10. Information flyer for Telford event. Several alterations were discussed. NW to amend as agreed and have 1,000 printed.

11. OB.

i) NW reminded the meeting that the bi-monthly flyer was due. PF to coordinate with him on this.

ii) MH reminded the meeting that the 2022 AGM needs to be ratified. Item for next meeting.

11. Date of the next meeting. To be held at Woodlands on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30.