

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2013 at  
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, Ray Ward, David Cheshire, Tony Allen, Denise Baum-Pick, Simon Richardson, Peter Fielding.
- 2) **Apologies:** None.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (10<sup>th</sup> March 2013):** It was noted that item 9 should read as follows: ...The question was raised at an RHS Judges training day attended by MH, which focused on assessment criteria. There was now to be a process whereby potential judges should demonstrate their ability to assess plant quality, health, overall appearance of the display plus the level of endeavor applied e.g. comparing a plant that the owner/exhibitor has tended over a period leading up to the exhibition vs. one purchased 'ready made'. MH was asked by the RHS whether FoBBS had a training program for judging bonsai and if they could put forward recommendations to the RHS of people FoBBS considered suitable to judge at that level? A suggestion was put forward that a circular could be submitted to member clubs inviting people to apply as judges. With this exception, as there were no further amendments, it was proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record by DC, seconded by RW, and carried unanimously.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Correspondence:**
  - a) MH has received an email from Alison Saunders of the Swalcliffe & Tadmerton Horticultural Society requesting a speaker either in November 2014 or February 2015. It was agreed that the matter should be deferred until nearer the time.
  - b) MH has received an email from Capel Manor offering to hold an NTC heat but suggesting that judges need to be more objective. MH agreed to find a panel.
  - c) MH had arranged to take a Japanese delegation from Saitama to visit the RHS event at Hampton Court. The RHS had also expressed interest in liaising with those involved with the recent 'Best of British Bonsai' display at Gardeners World Live in considering holding a national bonsai event in the future.
  - d) PF has received an email from a lady having difficulty getting information about the NTC. RW believes the best results are got by personal contact. PF is to circulate the schedule to all members.
  - e) A letter of thanks has been received from the RHS re. the BoBB. Around 100,000 visitors attended the show.
- 6) **Reports:**
  - a) **Financial:** DBP reported that the BoBB event made a profit of £350 and after paying cheques to MH (£657.04) and RB (£1739.87) the FoBBS account currently stands at £3863. She now has a debit card. There was discussion about insurance cover for non-member societies e.g. the Failand Shohin event, which was supported by FoBBS. It was agreed that they must be members to get support in future. Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by TA.
  - b) **Companies House:** RB said that there is nothing to report.
  - c) **Membership:** Redditch Bonsai Society has now joined FoBBS.
  - d) **Event reports:** The Shohin exhibition at Failand was very successful and it is planned to make it a biennial event. The organizers received £150 from FoBBS.  
RB reported that Chelsea again went well, receiving another Gold Medal and also television coverage from the BBC at last. Next year's show will be week commencing May 19<sup>th</sup> and it is planned to change the shape of the display. The area allocated is 10ft by 3ft but it is increasingly difficult to source suitable trees from non-professional members.  
The BoBB event at Gardener's World was successful, in spite of the issues regarding the Sunday set-up; the display resulted in a Gold Medal award and many compliments. The display was also shortlisted for the Holford Medal. MH offered thanks all round to those involved. The RHS want another display next year and DC suggested another regional show like 2012, smaller than 2013 but of a similar quality. In 2015 there could be another biennial event, possibly called 'Bonsai in Britain'.

- e) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that he has had two enquiries and RW has also got two possible entrants. DC suggested asking people who run training courses to put forward possible candidates and encourage their students to enter in future years. PF to compile a list of future dates. Heats will be held at Wirral, Crawley and Capel Manor but no dates have been fixed for 2014 yet. The European final should be in Poland the first weekend in May, details required by the end of March. The UK final could possibly be held at 'The Woodlands' before the end of this year.
- f) **FNBC and the National Collection:** TA reported that work has been completed on the staging in the octagon and work will start soon on the side enclosures. This should not take too long if the bearers are sound. Whitefly has been found on the Satsuki but this is being treated. TA and VY are soon to collect a beech donated by Frank Mephram (Wigston). The raffle sales are going well and several good prizes have been received. Nathan Williams has apologized for the delay in organizing fund-raising but has already met with MH, TA and DC for preliminary discussions.
- g) **European Bonsai Association:** RB reported that he has been unable to get any information regarding the event in Poland and has now had his requests translated into Polish and given them a deadline for answers. Dates have yet to be confirmed, either the first or second weekend in May but if it is the second, it will be difficult for RB to attend as it will be too close to Chelsea. MH would be in Budapest at the time and also unable to attend. No information is available yet on the 2015 event in Lithuania. A commemorative book was suggested for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but was vetoed, as there is not enough time to get it prepared. A proposal has been put forward to hold the 2016 event at the Hotel Metropole in Birmingham, which is an excellent venue though concerns have been raised about costs and the likelihood of people being willing to travel to the UK from eastern Europe. There are no other firm offers as yet.
- h) Marc Noelanders (EBA Vice-president) had expressed a wish the MH be co-opted onto the EBA board as a non-voting member.
- i) **W.B.F.F.:** This year's event is in China in September and although there is a colourful web site, there is little useful information on it. RB and MH are unable to attend so Lindsey Bebb will represent EBA. A recommendation was made that the 2017 event should be held in Japan.

7) **Forthcoming events:**

- a) **"Bonsai World" Sussex, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013:** RW reported that arrangements are virtually all in place and the event is expected to make a small profit. There will be more traders than anticipated, and a new events manager has ensured that catering and parking facilities have been improved, and there will be more tables at less cost. Peter Chan will sponsor the event by supplying 40 starter larches for people new to bonsai, with care instructions included. MH to take trees for the NTC but no judges have yet been appointed. MH to investigate possible RHS involvement. ??? More sponsors are required for awards. MH would say a few closing words on the Sunday.

- 8) **Federation website and Publicity:** The website is now receiving regular updates; these have cost £380 to date. Flyers have been printed and will be distributed to all members and the monthly Bonsai Review is also to be forwarded to clubs.

The minutes of FoBBS' committee meetings are to be published on the web site.

- 9) **Any other business:** PF believes that some clubs are reluctant to take out membership and proposed that the insurance cover details be published on the web site. DC suggested that some succession planning is required for the organization of Chelsea and RB undertook to write up the requirements for the next meeting. MH reiterated the need for a training program for potential bonsai judges at both club and national level as he has been asked to submit names to the RHS.

- 10) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 4 pm. The next meeting will be 29<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 a.m. at The Woodlands.