



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 21st July 2019
British Motor Museum, Banbury Rd., Gaydon, Warwick, CV35 0BJ

1. **Present:** David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Chris Durne, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Rickie McMahon, Amnon Paldi, Ian Homer.
2. **Apologies:** Nigel Wright.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (5th May 2019) CD pointed out that in item 7 i, the budget for advertising should read £5K and not £5.
Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by PF, seconded by CD and carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Correspondence:** DC reported that Tony Tickle will not put on the National Bonsai Show in Bury in 2021 as it would clash with the BIBS event. Seven traders from the EU will not be attending this year's event.
6. **Reports:**
 - i. **Financial:** DB-P reported that there is currently £7312.60 in the bank and petty cash is £36.09. Chelsea expenses were £1241 but there was a profit of £600. An interim payment of £340 was paid to IH. MH stated that there is a need to acknowledge the assets held by FoBBS, e.g. merchandise, back-drops, ATC trees. DBP agreed to create a list.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by JD and seconded by PF.
 - ii. **Companies House:** Nothing new.
 - iii. **Membership:** DB-P reported no change.
 - iv. **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the installation of the automatic watering system is 80% complete with the remainder imminent. MH remarked that the system will need adjusting to control the amount of water given to each species. DC said that a simpler method would be to have 2 nozzles for each tree that requires more water rather than trying to adjust the flow of the spray. Also, when repotting, a more free-draining compost should be used for pines and junipers. There may be times when the system will need to be turned off if the weather is very cold and/or wet.
This will be discussed in detail at the next FNBC meeting.
Some algae has been appearing around the trees, DC to investigate what products are available for its control. Ray Beddows had reported an insect infestation which the gardener would be dealing with.
 - v. **EBA & WBFF:** AP said that the next EBA event, will commence on the 20th September in Kroměříž, Czech Republic. European countries on the periphery such as Russia and Romania will be able to take part but not compete. DC remarked that although the BIBS event in 2020 is purely a FoBBS UK event, if EBA were invited to attend as visitors it would add prestige and create more widespread interest. DBP suggested that the final of the NTC could be held there which would create more publicity for the competition.
 - vi. MH reported nothing new.
7. **BIBS 2021:**
 - i. **Review of subcommittee meeting:** DC reported that arrangements were progressing satisfactorily. AP expressed concern over the duration of the show as he wondered whether many people would want to commit to a 3-day event. DC responded by saying that the Friday would be necessary as a corporate event in order to get more funding from companies such as JLR, from councils e.g. linking to Coventry's status as City of Culture 2021, and the Japanese Olympics. IH added that FNBC, as a registered charity under FoBBS, would also be able to apply for support.
AP asked whether traders could be allowed to attend fewer than 3 days, IH suggested that the Friday should be made so attractive they would want to be there. Incentives could include special offers such as workshops and paying one price for 1, 2 or 3 days.
Minutes of the sub-committee to be circulated to the main committee.
 - ii. **Bank Account set-up:** IH reported that the bank account will be set up within one week. Two signatories from each organisation will be required.

- iii. **Fund raising and promotion:** IH is already working to prepare a prospectus to include other Japanese related subjects, for targeting potential sponsors, which will be ready for the next sub-committee meeting.
AP suggested that it was an opportunity to involve tourist offices and promote the event and encourage Europeans to combine a visit with a holiday. IH stated that the website will include local attractions e.g. sporting events, concerts etc.
 - iv. **Photographic competition:** It was decided that there is not enough time left this year, but it could be run next year in conjunction with BIBS when it could provide an opportunity to raise advertising revenue. All images must be bonsai related.
8. **R.H.S. Chelsea / RHS shows / Hyper-Japan:** CD circulated a show report and referred to various comments posted on social media, which, he said, were mostly positive.
There is a need to get some more up-to-date photos of FoBBS' events on the website and RM offered to set up a folder on Dropbox where people could share their photos.
CD said that applications for next year's RHS shows need to be made soon. Possible venues are Chelsea, Hampton Court, Cardiff, Malvern and Shrewsbury. PF thought that Cardiff is a difficult venue logistically.
BW offered to create a support pack that could be handed out at shows to encourage active participation and DC suggested that if contact details were obtained from potential enthusiasts, these could be passed on to appropriate local clubs who could then invite them to club meetings. RM said that it should be possible to link potential contacts to an online map showing the location of the nearest club.
It was noted that Hyper-Japan had received £200 expenses. UK Bonsai Association had a display at this event and a question was raised regarding insurance as they are not FoBBS members and are therefore not covered for accidents. DC to draft a letter to UKBA to clarify the situation and circulate it to the committee before sending.
9. **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that he has been having communication problems and hasn't received the revised claim sent by Tony Oswin, RM to contact him via Facebook. Mark Moreland has 2 more potential entrants and had asked them to contact PF who said he had received 2 emails which were indecipherable. RM to investigate. The next heat of the NTC will be held at the Heathrow show in October.
10. **Speaker's Guide & Traders list:** RM reported that Peter Chan had asked to be removed from the Speaker's Guide, Steve Tolley would also be removed, and he still has to contact Simon Temblett and John Armitage. Some new traders have been added to the list and others removed; a few responses have yet to be received.
11. **Merchandise and website:** DC still has to arrange for the PayPal account to be set up for the merchandise. It was decided that emails should be sent out in advance of societies shows to encourage people to take photos and write reports of their events for publishing on the website. IH offered to reinstate a monthly newsletter to advertise upcoming events and this was agreed by all. Imminent events include the Bristol annual show, Greenwood Bonsai Bash, the Bury Show, FNBC Boot Sale and the Heathrow Show.
It was proposed that a distribution list be set up on Mailchimp which could be published on the website. Mailchimp manages these lists by deleting addresses if mails are rejected or not opened more than 3 times. NW had requested photos of available merchandise, but these have already been provided.
12. **Any other business:** DC had received a request from Nigel Croome for financial support for an event, however, he proposed that support of a practical nature was always available, such as back-drops etc. but not direct financial support and societies would be responsible for any costs incurred regarding damage. This was seconded by AP and carried unanimously.
13. **Date and venue of the next meeting:** There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 14.40. The next meeting will be on Sunday, 27th October 2019 at The Woodlands.