



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

Joint meeting held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 26th August, 2023 at
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX
Also held online.

MINUTES

1. **In attendance.** Peter Fielding, Nigel Wright, Malcolm Hughes, Chris Durne, Annette Thompson, Denise Baum-Pick, Kim Turton.
2. **Apologies.** James Thornton, Barry Walker and Nick Payne.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** Three inaccuracies were identified.
 - a. In financial reports, funds for FNBC should read £7121.39
 - b. Item 6c should read 59 members.
 - c. Item 9. NW suggested that a similar event might be held at Rosemoor.

After corrections, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. MH, PF.

4. **Matters arising.**
 - a. In light of the success of SW Bonsai it was hoped that a similar venue might be available at other RHS gardens for a FOBBS event, unfortunately it has been determined that there are none.
 - b. PF has written to Amnon Paldi addressing the concerns raised in his resignation letter.
5. **Correspondence.**
 - a. PF has written to Vic Yeomans whose advancing years and poor health have meant that he is no longer able to continue his work with the National Collection. PF thanked VY for his valued contribution with maintaining the collection over many years.
 - b. PF replied to Mrs. Ellis addressing her concerns regarding the signs identifying the FOBBS exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show earlier this year.
6. **Reports.**
 - a. **Financial** (FoBBS and FNBC).
FOBBS. A profit of £322.23 from Chelsea has left the funds at £12,980.00. AT explained that changes to her personal circumstances have made it difficult for her to continue as treasurer and as a result, with apologies, she submitted her

resignation, effective immediately. PF thanked AT for her work as treasurer. MH is willing to take on the post until the AGM or sooner if the position can be filled with a suitable alternative.

FNBC. Current funds are £7,134. Collection maintenance volunteer visits have been increased to weekly during the growing season and as the HMRC accepted level of fuel expenses are being paid, funds will reduce accordingly. Expenses to be paid quarterly.

- b. **Companies House** need to be informed that AT is no longer treasurer. AT suggested that because FOBBS are limited by Guarantee, it should be possible to claim VAT refunds on expenses.
- c. **Membership** stands at 60. AT to liaise with NW on the latest changes.
- d. **FNBC Working group and state of collection.** In the absence of BW, MH reported that an observation made by Ray Beddow, who took part in the May Open Day, provided evidence that more frequent maintenance of the collection was needed. It was agreed by BW, MH and KT at the time that weekly maintenance visits (Thursday) should take place for the rest of the growing season. It was also felt that more volunteers would enable FNBC to share the workload and as a result a list of willing individuals was compiled.
- e. **EBA & WBBF.** Nothing to report.

7. **Possible events for 2024.** PF. After a discussion regarding possible venues it was recognized that there were no suitable RHS venues other than at Rosemoor. PF asked about the possibility of FOBBS putting on a display at Gardeners World Live. MH, BW and KT have long standing commitments at the event so would not be able to contribute to a FOBBS stand. PF is to contact other Midland FOBBS clubs to see if there was any interest from them. PF to contact River street asking for exhibition space at Gardeners World Live 2024.

NW asked if he could start planning a SW Bonsai event for 2025. Agreed.

9. **Chelsea 2024 including costings.** PF. Nick Payne will submit an expression of interest in putting on a display; we should hear in early December if we have been accepted. CD informed the meeting that The Bonsai Boys may agree to take responsibility for the FOBBS display, but if not there was another option open to us.

There was a discussion regarding how FOBBS could include trees from members in other parts of the country. It was agreed that KT compose a letter, to be agreed and signed by PF, to be sent out to FOBBS members asking for images of suitable trees to be submitted for consideration as well as for volunteers to help staff the stand during the week. Transportation of selected trees from around the country was discussed and it was agreed that it was possible for FOBBS to take responsibility in moving selected trees to and from Chelsea from one or more central locations.

10. Continuity of the FOBBS committee. MH. It was agreed that the FOBBS/FNBC committee needs new members. Experience has shown that a personal approach to individuals asking them to take on a specific task has worked best in the past. Several individuals were identified as possible new members. NW and PF to approach a couple of individuals each.

11. OB. None

12. Date and venue for the next meeting. Sat 4th November 2023.