



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 26th January 2020
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

1. **Present:** David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Rickie McMahon, Ian Homer.
2. **Apologies:** Chris Durne, Amnon Paldi, Nigel Wright.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (10th Nov 2019) No issues raised. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by MH, seconded by BW and carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Correspondence:** None.
6. **Reports:**
 - i. **Financial:** DB-P reported that there is currently £7783.46 in the bank and petty cash is £4.50.
 - ii. **Companies House:** Nothing new.
 - iii. **Membership:** DB-P reported that so far there are 41 paid-up members including 2 without insurance. Acceptance of the reports was proposed by PF and seconded by MH.
 - iv. **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the formal upright hemlock from the collection had been offered and accepted for exhibition at Chelsea in May.
There has been a positive reaction from the Botanical Gardens to the removal of the cage doors on either side and the introduction of guard rails. The Satsuki azalea will be placed on the back shelf of the octagon and replaced by the yew which will be less liable to damage as it is less brittle. Three trees are to be moved as they are suffering slightly from lack of light, the juniper will be moved into the Japanese garden and two larches will be taken by Kim Turton to be nursed back to health. The beech group is currently at The Woodlands and needs a new pot, two of the trees in the group are dead and will be removed. Work is in progress to create a digital history of the collection including records and photographs. This will ultimately be published on the FoBBS website.
 - v. **EBA:** Nothing to report.
 - vi. **WBFF:** MH reported that the next meeting will be held in Perth, Australia in October 2021. Speakers will have their expenses paid but will not get a fee.
 - vii. **Amateur Talent Competition:** PF reported that he has been in touch with Kevin Willson regarding possible training for Miroslav Kolar. DC proposed that FoBBS should pay for a one-day workshop (£150) which could be photographed and used on social media to promote FoBBS. This was seconded by RM and agreed unanimously.
7. **FoBBS AGM 2020:** All the committee are willing to stand again, however, DB-P said that she would not be willing to manage the BIBS money. DC will speak to his accountant.
Minutes of the last AGM have been circulated and FNBC and FoBBS chairmen's reports are required.
8. **BIBS 2021:**
 - i. **Review of progress on website:** IH reported that the website is ready to publish and asked that the committee check it out first to decide what gets included. There are many proposed events which are not yet confirmed and it is important that we don't offer things that aren't certain. 3 versions of the website are necessary to enable browsing on tablets and phones as well as desk-top computers. A stripped-down version will also be required for an App.
All legalities such as terms and conditions and cookies etc. have been covered.
4 speakers have been confirmed and it was proposed that a half-page advert promoting the show be placed in Bonsai Focus magazine. IH suggested that an auction (with a limited number of lots) could be held during either one or both of the evening events.
DC suggested that FNBC have a display with information and photos.
MH asked about hotel accommodation; a list will be available with details of the number of rooms available and a booking page.

- ii. **Photographic competition:** 24 entries will be chosen for the calendar and offered on social media for the public to choose the final 12. Prizes could possibly be free entry tickets to the show.
 - iii. **EBA 2021 Update:** DC reported that he has had positive feedback regarding the possibility of BIBS hosting the 2021 conference and is hoping for confirmation before the AGM. A presentation will be required to go to the 2020 event in September. €170 will be available for the purchase of NTC trees.
MH reported that Marc Noelanders had suggested that the next WBFF event in 2025 be held in Europe and could possibly be combined with a BIBS event.
9. **FoBBS merchandise:** DC said that sales of the merchandise should be managed through the BIBBS website as this is already set up with payment options which would be difficult and costly to set up on the FoBBS website. Goods would be displayed on the FoBBS website with a link to BIBS.
10. **Any other business:** MH reported that another Judging course will be held in the Spring with one session covering theory and one practical; so far there are three possible participants. DC suggested that it should be promoted on social media to help answer the query of 'what does FoBBS do?'
MH said that it had been noted that some information on the website is out of date. RM said that he is actively researching events listed on Bonsai UK which he will then send to NW for inclusion.
RM has received one proxy vote for the AGM from the Sussex Bonsai Group.
It was noted that the last date for nominations for committee is 21st February
11. **Date and venue of the next meeting:** There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 13.00. The date of the next meeting will be decided after the AGM.