



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30, Wednesday, 28th July, 2021
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

1. **Present:** David Cheshire, Peter Fielding, Denise Baum-Pick, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Chris Durne (via Zoom).
2. **Apologies:** Rickie McMahon, Amnon Paldi, Nigel Wright.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (2nd Feb, 2021) Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by MH, seconded by DB-P and carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising:** PF stated that a date for the AGM should be set as soon as possible and suggested the 12th September. JD had sent an email to the Botanical Gardens asking if the Loudon Suite would be available on that date but had received no reply as yet.
5. **Correspondence:** MH has received a query from Bonsai Kai regarding the lack of updates to the FoBBS website. DB-P has sent all society forms that she has received to RMcM but DC believes that they haven't been received. DB-P undertook to send the information out again. DB-P reported that she has received a letter from the Information Commissioner's Office stating that FoBBS needs to pay a data protection registration fee but it was generally thought that it might be a scam. DC offered to investigate.
6. **Forthcoming Committee Vacancies:** MH asked PF if he would be willing to continue as acting chairman for the coming year if no-one came forward to take on the role and PF agreed. DB-P agreed to stay as treasurer for another year. MH stated that NW might be able to take on some of the administrative tasks as a separate role which would tie in with his role as web-master.
7. **Reports:**
 - i. **Financial:** DB-P reported that there is £6987.84 in the bank and petty cash is £12.84.
 - ii. **Companies House:** DB-P reported that there seems to be no value in leaving and as it would cost £49 to leave, everything has been registered. The accounts have to be submitted by the end of September.
 - iii. **Membership:** There are currently 40 member societies. DB-P suggested that societies should be reminded that they all need their own public liability insurance for meetings and that they would not be covered by the insurance held by their venue. If an incident occurred, then all members would be responsible.
 - iv. **FNBC & the National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that there is a rota covering regular attendance and that most of the trees are in good health with the exception of the Bill Horan group which has suffered during the recent hot spell. MH said that there had been an occasion when the watering system had been turned off and the acer had shed all its leaves but was expected to recover.
 - v. **EBA & WBBF:** MH said on behalf of AP that there was nothing to report from EBA and the next board meeting will be held in Arco, Italy at their next annual event. MH reported that the next WBBF event in Perth has been postponed until next year.

- vi. **RHS Shows:** CD said that he was willing to apply for next year's show and he would be assisted by Tony McKenzie.
MH said that there should be centralised collection points and that a van should be hired to transport trees from outlying areas. Photographs would be needed to aid selection.
 - vii. **Amateur Talent Competition:** PF said there was nothing to report, but the future of the competition will be dependent on what decision is made regarding our involvement with EBA.
MH said that of the 19 members of EBA only 14 entries had been received so he would ask Marc Noelanders what he perceived the future of the competition in Europe would be.
It was noted that it would be very expensive to hold the competition without Europe. It was suggested that the format could be changed so that it would be judged on the quality of the entrants' own trees.
8. **The Future of FoBBS:** There was a discussion regarding the future structure of FoBBS and FNBC and the naming of FoBBS. One suggestion was to rename it as the Federation of British Bonsai and Suiseki, as this would keep the existing acronym.
PF offered to research the existence of suiseki clubs and whether they would be willing to join FoBBS.
BW said we need to decide what format FoBBS will take before deciding. He also suggested that FoBBS should endeavour to hold one show at the Botanical gardens each year for the benefit of all members. It was agreed that FoBBS should continue to put on a display at Chelsea each year.
 9. **Any Other Business:** PF suggested that FoBBS should request a table at club shows to enable the sale of the FoBBS merchandise that is being held by DC.
MH has between 30-40 small plaques which could be used as merit awards.
DB-P said she was planning to apply for a reduction of the insurance price due to the lack of meetings being held over the last year.
MH suggested that all clubs should be contacted to encourage renewal and PF said he would draft a letter outlining the benefits of membership, the main one being the insurance which is much cheaper than any that a single club could obtain.
 10. **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 9th at 10:30 at The Woodlands.
Availability of the Loudon Suite on Sunday, 12th September for the AGM was confirmed before the meeting ended.