

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday 29th. September, 2013
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

1. **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Ray Ward, Denise Baum-Pick, Simon Richardson, Peter Fielding, Reg Bolton, Tony Allen.
2. **Apologies:** David Cheshire, Judith Davison
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** MH highlighted the following, which should read;-
 - 5c) "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 bonsai event at Gardeners World Live in the future".
 - 6d) The area allocated should read '10 metres x 3 metres', not '10ft. x 3ft.', and "the display resulted in a Gold Medal award".
 - 6f) Beech Tree donated by "Frank Mepham" (Wigston).
 - 6g) it will be difficult for RB to attend". "MH would be in Budapest and also unable to attend".
 - 6h) Marc Noelanders (EBA Vice-President) had expressed a wish that MH be co-opted onto the EBA board as a non-voting member".
 - 6i) "A recommendation was made that the 2017 event should be held in Japan".
 - 7a) "MH to investigate possible RHS involvement in selecting judges for bonsai.
 - 8) Monthly '*Bonsai Review*' is also to be forwarded to clubs.
RW proposed minutes a true record, DB-P seconded, voted unanimously.
4. **Matters arising from minutes:** None
5. **Correspondence:** MH has correspondence from "BonTag" offering an identification chipping package for bonsai trees. Letter suggested a UK National Property Register. TA informed committee that the idea of chipping tree was first looked into some years ago by Paul Eslinger. At that time the cost of supplying 3 chips would have been about £20. The idea was that when repotting a tree a hole could be drilled in the base and a chip inserted. The biggest problem however would have been the setting up and maintenance of a data base. After a general discussion it was suggested that the company should perhaps have a stand at a show so that the concept and product could be fully explained and demonstrated to enthusiasts. MH to reply.
DB-P has had a number of emails from a Mr Grant giving a number of contact details where he can be contacted. She suggested that one and no more than two is sufficient, agreed unanimously.
6. **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial report:** DB-P reported she had received £1922.00 from RB re Chelsea. Chelsea having made £182.13 profit.
Finances now stand at £5707.98 and £107.00 petty cash.
Not all societies who join FOBBS take the insurance. DB-P suggested that in future in order to establish the cost of insurance to the societies the premium should be divided by 40 as the norm. This was agreed unanimously.
A discussion ensued re assets. There are at the present 10 trees for the New Talent Competition. TA-FNBC purchased trees separately and MH confirmed that there were 4 trees in hand but these would be regarded assets of FNBC.
It was suggested that the 10 trees held by FOBBS from the point of view of assets should be given a value of £500.00. This was proposed by PF, seconded by SR, carried unanimously.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB No problem, nothing to report.
 - c) **Current membership and society listings:** DB-P, 51 member societies, 1 individual member. 42 societies have taken insurance.
 - d) **Event reports:** RW reported, the Crawley Show had been a success but had made a loss of £500.00. This was due to organisational failures by individuals and some unforeseen expenses including the expenses

of an excellent Japanese cultural demonstrator who previously had not charged. Despite this RW and SR are confident that the show will be a regular event. It was suggested that in future exhibitors pay £5.00 per table.

RW thanked the committee for the use of the screens, 10 of which have been returned to the Midlands and 9 will be going to Capel Manor at a cost of £5.00 per screen. RW suggested that £5.00 per screen should in future be the normal hiring fee. Agreed by all.

RB proposed that FOBBS made a donation of 50% of the Crawley Show losses, seconded by TA. DB-P suggested that this would set a precedent which FOBBS could not afford. A discussion ensued in which RW and SR took no part in. It was accepted that the committee had agreed to financially assist societies to put on a show up to £500.00 per year. Nothing had been paid out or allocated for this year and the Crawley Show was a National Show. TA proposed a vote of the remainder of the committee. 'A sum £250.00 are given to assist with the losses of the Crawley Show.' Carried 3 for, 1 abstention. RW and SR thanked the committee on behalf of the organisers and all involved in the show.

- e) FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** TA reported that he and Vic Yeomans have finished the new staging at BBBG and it looks good. They now have to look at new podiums for the trees. Ray Beddow has suggested using tall fibreglass planters. These have a textured finish and come in various sizes and heights. They can be topped with 2 thin slabs with a turntable sandwiched between. DB-P gave details of a company, Storm King that may be able to assist. Email stormking.co.uk.

Tree identification labels to be replaced using engraved plates as used by the gardens.

MH reported on the trees not on display at BBBG and housed at "The Woodlands". The "Omiya" tree has had major work and now requires wiring to be completed. The Juniper from Ken Haywood will soon be ready to go on display. There are now excess trees housed with MH and a maintenance schedule should be compiled and work on these carried out by FNBC committee members and members of South Staffs.

MH stated that TA will not be standing for re-election as Chairman of FNBC next year as he will be emigrating to Australia in 2014. MH thanked TA for his time as Chairman, this was supported by all present. It was explained that Dave Cheshire has agreed to take over this position if voted by the members at the AGM. DC will be formally proposed and seconded at the appropriate time.

- f) European Bonsai Association:** RB said that he was extremely concerned regarding the convention in Poland. The event was to be held the 2nd – 4th May 2014, this was changed to the 9th – 11th. Neither RB or MH will be available on these dates. The main concern however is finance. No business proposal and costing have been put forward, and there is no signed contract which is in contravention of EBA rules. The Poles wish to produce a commemorative book but the costings are prohibitive. The EBA Board has sanctioned this and will finance it. RB reported that he has had no response to emails sent to the Polish organizers. Marc Noelanders shares his concerns, these are being ignored by other EBA Board members who appear to be sanctioning the Poles to continue, regardless of the financial implications. MH suggested that the situation is such perhaps FOBBS should consider resigning from EBA, but obviously prior to such action he would write a formally expressing FOBBS concerns.

MH reported that the proposal of holding an event at the Hotel Metropole, Birmingham in 2016 has now been withdrawn.

- g) W.B.F.F:** MH reported that the 7th. WBFF Congress in China had its' problems. Early reports state that the main hotel was not completed and delegates had to be bussed to the Convention from other, more distant, hotels. Demonstrators were expected to pay their own expenses and the demonstration trees provided were too big to work on in the time allocated.

The 2017 WBFF Convention is to be held in Saitama, Japan.

7. Amateur New Talent:

PF reported that the three-way final would be made up of the winner at the Crawley Show and two runners up, to be held at Capel Manor on the 13th October. MH informed that the show judging would take place 9.30 to 10.00. The New Talent Competition 10.30 to 13.30.

It was decided after discussion that perhaps only one competition would be required next year to provide a finalist for the next EBA event in September, 2015 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

MH stated more trees would be purchased from Ladders in January 2015.

8. Events for 2014 incl. R.H.S. events:

- a. **Chelsea:** RB reported, Show 19th - 24th May 2014. Set up on the 16th, 17th and 18th. All in hand.
- b. **Gardeners' World Live – June 2014:** MH reported that a show will be put on. Not of the proportions of "Best of British" but a collaboration of Midland Bonsai Societies as previous years have been.
- c. **Others:** Willowbog, March 2014 and Swindon, 23rd. February 2014.

9. Bonsai Instructors' Book/Teachers programme – update: TA reported that he had contacted all speakers and the "Speakers Book" is up to date. When TA stands down from the committee someone will need to take over this task. Teachers Training programme to be formulated by M/KH depending on interest shown and possible costing.

10. Judges – training and accreditation: All agreed the need for judges to have accreditation and all use a standardised criteria of judging. M/KH to look into training and costing.

11. AGM 2013 – date and venue to be confirmed:

- a) **Notification to membership:** AGM Sunday, 16th March 2014 at Birmingham Botanical Gardens after the Bonsai Boot Sale. Start 11.30 hours. Membership to be electronically notified and sent relevant documentation 28 days prior to date.
- b) **Accounts and Reports for year ending 31st. December 2013:** All accounts and reported to be submitted to Chairman by 31st December 2013.
- c) **Nominations for Committee:** All nominations for committee must be made in writing, proposed and seconded by FOBBS member societies or individuals from member societies only, to be submitted to and received by the Secretary no later than 28 days prior to the date of the AGM.
- d) **Agenda items:** Any item submitted for addition to the AGM agenda must be submitted to and received by the Secretary no later than 28 days prior to the date of the AGM.

12. Roll of Honour: Discussed and agreed. To be announced at the AGM.

13. Federation website and publicity: MH, web-site is up to date, and News Letter to be sent to membership.

14. Any Other Business: 2015 EBA event, Lithuania, 4th to 8th September.

15. Date and Venue of next meeting: 10.30am Sunday 12th January 2014 at "The Woodlands", Sutton Coldfield.