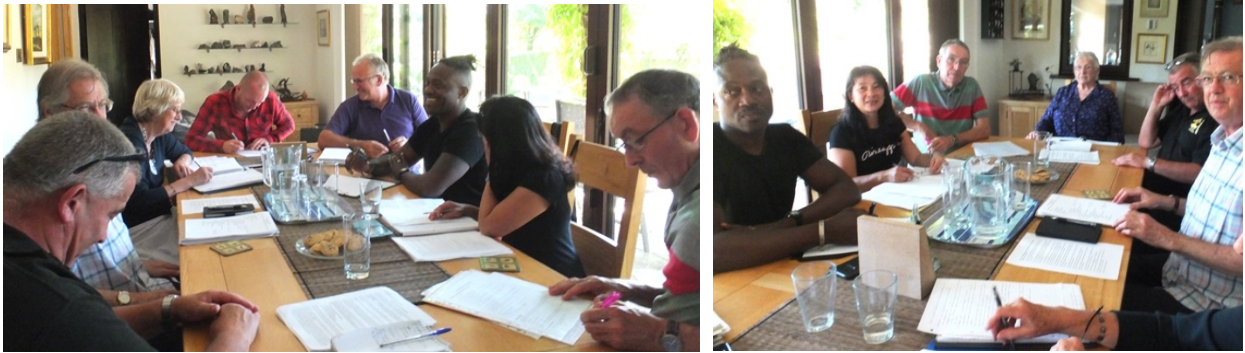


FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES



Your FoBBS Committee at work

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 1st April, 2018, Sutton Coldfield,

- 1) **Present:** David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Barry Walker, Judith Davison, Mark Moreland, Chris Durne (coopted), Malcolm Hughes
- 2) **Apologies:** Reg Bolton, Peter Fielding, Ming Chen Moreland, Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (18th Feb. 2018)
No issues. Acceptance was proposed by MM and seconded by DBP, carried unanimously.
- 4) **Matters arising:**
None.
- 5) **Ratification of the AGM Minutes of 18th March 2018:**
JD pointed out that in item 5b, the figure detailing the funds available at the end of the year had been omitted; this was noted as £7818.02. Acceptance was proposed by BW and seconded by MM, carried unanimously.
- 6) **Correspondence:**
DBP has received a reminder from Companies House about the annual renewal which she already has prepared.
- 7) **Reports:**
 - a) Financial: DB-P reported that all payments are up to date and most of the annual subs have now been received, leaving a total of £10,128.35.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
 - b) Companies House: See item 6, Correspondence.
 - c) Membership: Is now 55, including 3 who are members only (no insurance).
 - d) FNBC & National Bonsai Collection: BW reported that the juniper which was worked on recently by Kevin Willson will be returned to the collection soon and will be used as an educational aid; details are on the website. The hawthorn donated from the David Joyce collection several years ago is now recuperating well in its new Walsall Ceramics pot and will receive a spray of SB Invigorator soon. A suggestion was raised at the AGM about creating a display of indoor bonsai at the Botanical Gardens, DC and BW to investigate.
 - e) European Bonsai Association: MH joined the meeting and reported that he will be attending the next EBA event in Arco, when he hopes to learn more about the current state of both this organization and the Wbff.
 - f) W.B.F.F.: See item 7 e).
- 8) **Amateur New Talent Competition:**
 - a) Bill Hallworth will represent FoBBS at the EBA final in Arco, Italy in May.
 - b) There should be 3 or 4 candidates for the next event, which will be held in Newport (Gwent) on 17th June. Any more applications must be received in time for their credentials to be checked. Lee Verhorevoort has sourced enough trees for the Welsh event.
- 9) **FoBBS related Bonsai Events:**
 - a) R.H.S. Chelsea 2017: CD reported that he is having difficulty in contacting the organisers to clarify some details regarding the layout of the stand and what backdrops will be required. £600 has been spent on trellis and stand construction which will be re-usable; van hire will cost £470 and 21 meters of flame-retardant material will cost £165. The RHS have been more generous with the number of passes available so invitations will be issued through Bonsai News for volunteers to man the stand. Members will also be invited to submit photos of trees for the display.

10) **Role of Honour:**

a) MH proposed that Barry Walker's name should be added to the Role of Honour; seconded by JD. Paul Goff was proposed by DC, seconded by BW; both suggestions carried unanimously. Possible candidates for inclusion next year were John Trott, Corin Tomlinson and Kevin Willson.

b) The committee voted unanimously in favour of a permanent record being published on the website.

11) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:**

A question had been raised at the AGM by Graham Walker (Tees Valley) about the viability of the Speakers' Book due to the fact that many potential speakers are well known and busy enough that they don't feel the need to be listed. It was suggested that FoBBS should be more proactive in trying to get new speakers added. It was decided that DC should contact KW with this aim. BW suggested that a list of traders could be added to the Speakers' Book; no decision was taken.

12) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':**

a) The new website has been well received with hits rising from 50/60 to 2/3 hundred. BW suggested that the FNBC site needs to be more visible with a separate heading. All information regarding UK shows should be sent to MM as early as possible so that he can collate details and forward them to DC for inclusion into Bonsai News. DC and MH to be responsible for informing NW as to which events are UK only and which should be included in the WBFF international Events list.

b) DC has data fed back from the system regarding how many hits it gets plus how many 'delivery failures' there are; these could be 'hard' – address not known, or 'soft' – recipient's in-box is full. He also wants to encourage more traders to join FoBBS and getting them to supply a potted history of their business and current practices.

c) Facebook/Twitter – DC has set up a new FoBBS page to promote future events.

13) **Any other business:**

a) MH raised the question as to whether the name FoBBS deters individuals from joining if they don't belong to a society, also, should an individual member pay a reduced subscription? It was decided that these matters should be discussed fully at the next committee meeting.

b) MM showed the meeting a magnetic pin badge and it was agreed that FoBBS should purchase 250.

c) DBP suggested that travelling expenses to committee should be paid at 10p per mile; seconded by MM and carried unanimously.

d) DBP suggested that the Castle Bromwich Hotel, Water Orton might be a possible venue for future FoBBS events and MH agreed to investigate.

e) DBP pointed out that the Constitution states that people co-opted onto the committee shall not serve more than one term and the number of co-opted members, currently 6, should not exceed one-third the number of full members, currently 6. It was noted that the following are not co-opted, but are honorary members, i.e. MH as EBA & WBFF representative, RB as on the Role of Honour, and KH as Administrator (ex-officio); NW is an ex-officio employee.

f) MM reported that Vendris Garvin from Milton Keynes Bonsai Society had expressed an interest in joining the committee and it was agreed that he might be invited to attend future meetings as an observer.

g) In order to comply with the new data protection laws it was noted that all information being distributed via mailing lists should be sent as bcc (blind carbon copies).

h) DC agreed to promote the accredited judges programme in Bonsai News.

14) **Date and venue of the next meeting:**

The meeting concluded at 16:30. The next meeting will be on the 22nd July 2018.

Thanks were expressed to K & MH for hosting the meeting.