



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

Joint meeting to be held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at  
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX  
Also held online.

**MINUTES**

1. In attendance. Peter Fielding, Barry Walker, Nigel Wright, Malcolm Hughes, Chris Durne, Denise Baum-Pick, Kim Turton.
2. Not in attendance. James Thornton and Nick Payne.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting. Were accepted as an accurate record. PF and MH.
4. Matters arising.

Item 7. Possible FOBBS display at Gardeners world Live 2024. NW asked if there was progress on this. PF had asked clubs in the midland area and there was insufficient support for the idea. MH reminded the meeting that South Staffs and BW were already involved in their own stands and as such KT, BW and MH as well as SSBS members would not be able to contribute to a FOBBS stand. As a result of the discussion, it was agreed that the idea of a FOBBS stand at Gardeners World 2024 should be dropped.

Item 9. NW asked if there had been any response to the letter inviting people to volunteer their time to help steward the RHS Chelsea FOBBS display and or submit candidate trees for the display. See item in correspondence below.

5. Correspondence.
  - a. PF sent a letter to Simon Tremblet thanking him for his submission of a tree for the FOBBS Chelsea stand, but he felt that it's strikingly different nature would not fit in with the rest of the trees on display. PF accepted his offer to help on the FOBBS stand and asked if he would consider offering another tree, perhaps his Boulevard Cypress.
6. Reports.
  - a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC)

FOBBS. MH explained that there has been some complications regarding access to the account since he has been acting as treasurer. He is addressing the issue. He reported that after two recent transactions current funds were £8334.69. Several suitable individuals have been approached to fill the treasurers' post without success. BW and PF

FNBC. Current funds £6939.23. Due to the impending redevelopment at the Botanical Gardens most expenditure was on hold.

- b. Companies House. DBP asked about registering the change of treasurer at Companies House.
- c. Membership. NW informed the meeting that a newly established society in Ayrshire will be taking up membership from Jan 2024. MH to send out new FOBBS forms out. Membership will remain at £25 and £15 for insurance unless NFU premium goes up considerably.
- d. FNBC Working group and state of collection. BW reported that the collection was looking good. His aim is to involve staff of the Botanical Gardens where possible. He informed the meeting that he and MH would be merging two Zelkova group plantings and that MH had recently provided training for some new staff who received a certificate of attendance.
- e. EBA & WBBF. MH received an invoice for 218 Euro membership.

7. Chelsea 2024. CD reported that he was still waiting for news about acceptance and that the Bonsai Boys have a basic plan in place. CD to circulate committee when RHS accept FOBBS application.

11. OB.

Item 1. NW recommended a candidate for the New Talent competition. MH to ask about the final to be held in Spain on 27<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October in 2024. It was agreed to offer all four candidates the opportunity to take part in a qualification event.

Item 2. MH raised the issue of the need for “new blood” on the committee as well as filling the vacant post of treasurer, although MH was willing to do it if nobody comes forward. PF informed the meeting that Andy Cleall was willing to put himself forward.

12. Date and venue for the next meeting. 10.30am on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Woodlands