



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 6th November, 2017

“The Woodlands”, New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Denise Baum-Pick, Barry Walker, David Cheshire, Judith Davison, Mark Moreland, Ming Chen Moreland, Peter Fielding.
- 2) **Apologies:** Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (6th August 2017) No issues. Acceptance was proposed by DC and seconded by BW, carried unanimously.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Correspondence:** MH had received an email from Anthony Moore of Blackmore Vale, enquiring about the viability of FoBBS setting up and running training courses. After discussion, the committee's opinion was that it would be very expensive for the attendees and difficult to organise as most of the suitable tutors run schools of their own. For more detail, see the attached document.
DB-P suggested that FoBBS could do more to publicise existing courses and MH added that Kevin Willson will be holding a 2 day workshop at The Woodlands on the second weekend in March 2018, which will cost £95 for one day or £160 for two days.
PF has been asked about the disposal of trees after their owner is no longer able or willing to look after them, and asked if it would be feasible for FoBBS to collect and care for them until they could be sold. DB-P suggested that FoBBS could hold an auction, possibly at the Botanical Gardens. It would need careful planning with estimated prices agreed in advance, photos and plenty of advance publicity. The committee was reminded that the Wessex society held a similar auction which raised a lot of money. JD asked if there should be a minimum value on each lot, perhaps £50. Mark M said that there is always a market for poorer quality trees that are suitable for beginners to train on and that sometimes, the pots the trees are in can be worth more than the trees. Other bonsai related items could be included in the sale. MH agreed to investigate.
DC had received a request for more information regarding FoBBS membership from the chairman and treasurer of the York Bonsai Society
- 6) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported a current balance of £9772.65 despite Chelsea incurring a small loss of £175.40 due to the purchase of new materials. Petty cash remains at £17.89.
Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
 - b) **Companies House:** Nothing to report.
 - c) **Membership:** Remains at 58, 4 of whom are members only.
 - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW reported that the Omiya tree has now been repotted into a new Tokoname pot and is looking very healthy although one branch requires extra care. The hawthorn has been put in a temporary, deeper pot and is recovering well; a new pot has been commissioned from Walsall Ceramics. The large pine has been moved to The Woodlands and is recovering nicely. The beech group has a very congested root mass and will have to be repotted soon.
Winter preparation is planned to take place on Wed. 22nd November.
Some volunteers have dropped out recently so new ones are required, DC to put an item in the next newsletter. He also asked for the FNBC's charity number so that he can publicise the collection and he will include a potted history of FNBC and FoBBS.
BW also reported that there is to be a new plaque commemorating Bill Horan, founder of FoBBS, which will be fitted to the fence round the juniper group.
Funds are £5036.58.
PF asked if the monthly open days by local clubs were still being held at the BBG; this was confirmed.

- e) **European Bonsai Association:** MH said that the next EBA event is to be in Arco, Italy, next May and that France has expressed interest in holding the 2019 event near Toulouse.
- f) **W.B.F.F.:** MH reported that a book has been published to commemorate the event in Saitama. He also reported that the new chairman, Lindsey Bebb, is trying to improve the organization and to revise the byelaws.
- 7) **FoBBS promotional items:** MH had priced out the provision of roll-up banners (£60-£70 each) and flags (£30-£40 each) which would cost between £3 & £4K to supply all members. This was deemed to be not cost-effective given that roll-up banners are prone to breaking and flags only remain viable for 3-4 uses. MM suggested that FoBBS purchase a few FoBBS generic banners/flags that could be lent out to clubs holding events. RB said that there should be a refundable deposit paid to ensure their return, or clubs could buy them. It was decided that 5 roll-ups should be designed (DC) and purchased as an experiment. DC also agreed to investigate the cost of canvas banners which are more robust.
RB agreed to investigate whether either if the 2 FoBBS logos previously commissioned are still available. DC offered to get costs for supplying polo shirts (in various sizes) and metal badges that FoBBS could sell at events.
RB showed the meeting 2 small plaques made by Mark Jones and 2 certificates of merit that could be awarded at shows by a FoBBS accredited judge to trees deemed to be worthy of recognition and it was agreed that he should buy 10 initially.
MCM asked whether a tree would be eligible to win such an award at more than one show running, but it was agreed that there should be a gap. The technicalities will be discussed further at the next meeting.
RB showed a FoBBS handbook, published in 1996, and a discussion took place as to whether it should be revised. It was agreed that DC should distill some of the historical information and publish it in Bonsai News.
- 8) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** PF reported that he had had no new interest and the possibility of ending the competition was discussed. It was decided that it should continue to run as a UK event and given more publicity through '*Bonsai News UK*' in order to get to more individuals rather than relying on club officials. There should also be a more desirable prize such as a workshop with an expert. The winner could be invited to compete in Europe (if considered good enough) but it would be at their own expense.
- 9) **FoBBS related Bonsai Events:**
- a) **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** RB reported that the RHS have said that in order to be considered for Chelsea, exhibitors must apply for at least one other RHS show. He stated that given the new restriction and the uncertainty of getting enough passes to cover the volunteers, plus all the work involved, before, during and after, he is unwilling to commit to next year's event, he therefore proposed that FoBBS should concentrate instead on supporting purely bonsai events next year. The motion was seconded by JD and carried unanimously. RB was thanked by all for his hard work in previous years.
- b) **Possible events for 2018:** The AGM will be held on 18th March 2018 after the FNBC boot sale.
- 10) **Notification of AGM/nominations + deadline dates:**
- a) **Notification + request for nominations – to be sent out late November:** The procedure for nominations will be clarified and published in the next '*Bonsai News UK*', i.e. there is no time limit for general members but officers are limited to 3 year tenure. BW proposed that an amendment should be made to the constitution to the effect that the out-going chairman should always be succeeded by the vice chairman; this was seconded by RB. RB and MH to draft the amendment.
- b) **Nominations to be with Secretary by Saturday, 3rd Feb. 2018.** Existing members must be nominated and seconded by 2 separate societies
- c) **Accounts & Reports – to send out no later than Saturday, 24th Feb. 2018:** DB-P stated that the accounts will be ready by mid-January.
- 11) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** Existing speakers been asked if they wish to update any details for next year and a few have responded. It was suggested that FoBBS could encourage people to view speakers' own websites for details but it was noted that not all speakers have their own sites. DC offered to consolidate pages into one document that could be sent out to societies but concern was raised that it could be passed on to non-members. MH said

that he would ask KW to forward any amendments to DC for him to update. RB suggested that a welcome pack be prepared to be issued to members after the next AGM.

- 12) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':** NW provided statistics regarding the number of hits and is in the process of revising the website; the new version will be ready soon. An email has been received from Oscar Jonker of Bonsai Empire requesting a reciprocal link be set up between FoBBS and Bonsai Empire; this was agreed. MH expressed his thanks to DC for taking over the publication of 'Bonsai News UK'. DC will send each issue to the FoBBS committee a week before general publication so that any mistakes can be rectified and was asked to add a caveat to the effect that FoBBS is not responsible for data content. DC has consolidated the original list of circa 900 email addresses to a more reasonable 300 and suggested that there should be a facility set up on the website to enable people to request addition to the mailing list. It was also suggested that we could offer to post hard copies to people who have no email; this would have to be by subscription to cover the cost with the money being paid either by cheques or Paypal. DC will set costs next year.
- 13) **Any other business:** DB-P stated that there should be no need to increase insurance or membership fees in the coming year as the current membership covers costs.
- 14) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 16:05. The next meeting will be on the 18th February 2018. Thanks were expressed to K & MH for hosting the meeting.