



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. Saturday, 8th Sept, 2018
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Judith Davison, Nigel Wright, Chris Durne (co-opted), Malcolm Hughes, Kath Hughes (part time).
- 2) **Apologies:** Barry Walker, Keith Wilson. A resignation letter has been received from Mark and Ming Chen Moreland.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (22nd July, 2018) PF stated that in item 7a, the second sentence regarding controversy was inaccurate and asked for it to be deleted. This was agreed. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by PF, seconded by MH and carried unanimously.
- 4) **Matters arising:** MH showed the meeting a plaque which BW had created for presentation to Reg Bolton, as was agreed at the previous committee meeting.
- 5) **Correspondence:** None.
- 6) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that she had received an email from Peter Liess regarding non-payment of £399 for the Hyper-Japan event, however, she had not received the original request. Also, the RHS payment of £1953.49 for Chelsea had mistakenly been sent to Reg Bolton. Profit from the event amounted to £605.22, leaving a total in the bank of £1093.71, with petty cash standing at £42.89. Acceptance of the report was proposed by DC and seconded by BW.
 - b) **Companies House:** Nothing to report.
 - c) **Membership:** The Bonsai Boys have requested that they be removed from the list of members as they do not wish to recruit new members.
 - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** MH reported on behalf of BW that, as there is no longer an official member of the Garden's staff looking after the trees, the working party are having to make more frequent visits. Also, that it has been agreed that the FNBC should take over responsibility for regular maintenance of the Japanese garden from the Japanese Garden Society.
 - e) **European Bonsai Association and W.B.F.F.:** MH said there was nothing new to report.
- 7) **Potential name change for FoBBS:** DB-P proposed that the name should not be changed. This was seconded by MH and carried unanimously.
- 8) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** There was a discussion about the need to promote the benefits of membership of FoBBS to encourage individuals to join and participate in the Competition. One suggestion was to create more educational information on the web site (availability to be restricted to members). MH proposed that a strategy be developed through FoBBS and FNBC to attract more individuals into the art of bonsai. This was seconded by DB-P and carried unanimously. NW suggested that FoBBS and FNBC, which is a charity, could apply for grants. Another suggestion was to create 15 second advertising videos to be placed on Facebook. This is however, a long term project to be discussed further at the next meeting. This was agreed. The next EBA event will be in Albi, France on the second weekend in May, 2019 and an enquiry has been received as to how many people are likely to attend. DC and DB-P are possible and there may be another ANT contestant. DC still has 2 un-styled trees available for the next heat.
- 9) **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** CD has applied to exhibit at Chelsea and Hampton Court 2019. MH presented the meeting with 2 new possible formats for new flyers, DB-P to investigate prices.
- 10) **'Bonsai News UK':** DC reported that he is finding it difficult to devote enough time to editing the newsletter but a suggestion that each club could have a space on the web site to promote activities/shows was deemed to be impractical. Another possibility would be to post news in a blog with a message being emailed to members highlighting new items and containing an active link to the site. NW to investigate.

- 11) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** It was agreed that this should be published on the web site with availability restricted to members only.
- 12) **Committee Roles:**
- a) **Data Compliance Manager:** DC explained the role's responsibilities, i.e. data must be held securely on a computer together with a back-up. MH agreed to take on the role and DB-P also has a list of all contacts.
 - b) **Committee Profiles:** DC asked if everyone was happy with the roles assigned to them, pointing out that they were only guidelines and a certain amount of flexibility was possible. All agreed.
MH suggested that prospective nominees should be asked to submit a short profile detailing their level of experience and what their contribution to FoBBS would be, maximum of 100 words.
DB-P requested that the date of the next AGM should be added to the application form.
- 13) **Exhibition Signs:** A decision was taken not to proceed with this proposal.
- 14) **Fund raising and Promotion:**
- a) **Merchandise:** MH has researched the cost of the various items previously agreed on. Clothing would be black with the logo embroidered in gold and red; t-shirts could retail at £15 and sweatshirts at £20 and there will be a two week turn around for manufacture. It was agreed to order 50 of each in various sizes initially. Also the meeting agreed to order 500 lapel badges once a price has been established. It is hoped that these items can be marketed at the Swindon Winter Image show next February. NW to set up web site advertising.
- 15) **Any other business:**
- a) MH said that the BCI run an annual photographic competition and suggested that FoBBS do something similar. He agreed to draft some rules for discussion at the next meeting. DC agreed to approach some traders who might supply prizes.
 - b) JD suggested that FoBBS could produce a calendar with photos of the National Collection and/or the BoBB show; no decision was taken.
 - c) NW reported that he is investigating various companies with a view to securing insurance for members' individual trees.
 - d) JD reported that she had received several enquiries from people wanting to find their nearest bonsai club and suggested that this would be a lot easier if the location was added to the list of members on the web site. This was agreed.
 - e) NW has been in contact with a TV company who might be interested in producing a short series on bonsai. It was agreed that this would be beneficial, given the total lack of media coverage at the RHS shows.
 - f) NW asked whether FoBBS should provide training courses which could provide students with a qualification. This would have to be recognized by an accredited organization such as the FNBC. To be investigated.
- 16) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 20.45. The next meeting will be on Sunday, 25th November 2018.