



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

Joint meeting held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 10th June, 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, James Thornton, Malcolm Hughes
Chris Durne, Nick Payne, Kim Turton.
2. Apologies. Annette Thompson.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record. PF and MH.
4. Matters arising. None.
5. Correspondence.
 - a. PF informed the meeting that Amnon Paldi has resigned from FOBBS with immediate effect. PF to compose a reply and have it agreed before sending.
 - b. The webmaster of UK Bonsai Association has verbally given permission for the FOBBS website to include a link to the UKBA diary of events. It was agreed that this was a good idea provided this was confirmed in writing. NW to follow this up and report back.
 - c. An email has been received from Madge Elis expressing concern over the way in which the FOBBS Chelsea exhibit was identified. PF will respond.
6. Reports.
 - a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC).

FOBBS. Balance is £10478.00. PF raised the issue of expenses for Chelsea and that we need to look at costings. Item for August meeting.

FNBC. £796.39. MH reported that a large Zelkova group has been purchased from a retiring SSBS member for the nominal sum of £100.
 - b. Companies House. No report.
 - c. Membership. Stands at 59 with the recent addition of Glasgow.
 - d. FNBC Working group and state of collection

BW reported that issues with the watering system had been rectified and that the experimental Box group planting in the middle of the Bonsai Yard had been destroyed due to a terminal infestation of the Box tree moth. This was reported to RHS in order to contribute to their understanding of the spread of this pest.

The large Chinese Elm in the yard is to be moved into another part of the Gardens so that it can receive more regular care.

e. EBA & WBBF

MH has recently spoken to Marc Noelanders regarding the EBA event for 2024. Spain have agreed to host the event but there is no date or venue at the moment.

WBBF. MH informed the meeting that communications continue to be difficult and that the 2026 event in Kuala Lumpur is on the calendar.

7. FNBC Bonsai Boot sale 2024. KT asked NW to modify the poster to reflect the different parking system.

9. South West Bonsai report. NW. PF thanked NW for organizing the event and informed the meeting that it was a very successful with over 1500 visitors attending. A report of the event is appended to these minutes.

NW suggested that a similar event could be held in another SW venue in a couple of years.

MH suggested that similar events in RHS venues might be possible in the future.

PF will write to Cheshire Bonsai Society about a two day FOBBS event in their area.

10. Chelsea 2023 report. The exhibit was awarded a Gold Medal. Nick Payne thanked CD for his help in the preparations for the show. He informed the meeting that he had underestimated the actual level of work involved and reported that there were only a few minor issues. The display was very well received by visitors and there was some media interest during the week.

BW asked about a complaint raised by Bonsai Kai regarding the relative size of the signs used to indicate the name of the exhibitor. This is because there were separate signs for FOBBS and Bonsai Boys, and because they were in different areas of the stand it was easy to miss the fact that it was a "joint" effort. It was proposed by MH and agreed that in future years this could easily be corrected by including the names of contributing clubs on the same sign as FOBBS.

MH was able to offer feedback from the RHS that there was a small issue with the capitalization used on the labelling

CD remarked that he would like to see a wider involvement from FOBBS member clubs in future years. There were 8 or 9 involved this year and MH confirmed that the judges like this aspect of the FOBBS display.

CD informed the meeting that there were no flyers available due to an unfortunate mix-up. PF apologized for this.

After a discussion regarding participation in 2024 it was agreed that FOBBS make a provisional application.

11. OB

MH said that the listing of Society meeting places on the FOBBS website needs updating as does the list of traders.

NW asked if FOBBS should be more active on social media. JT offered to work with NW on this.

12. Date and venue for the next meeting.

10.30 am on 26th August 202 at Woodlands. Date modified after the meeting.

SW Bonsai report by PF

This was the first such Show sponsored by FoBBS in an area which had no FoBBS input in the past. The general opinion of the public and the bonsai fraternity was that the show was an excellent success. About 1,500 people came through the doors over the two days Nigel Wright our Administrator/Webmaster was the driving force and organizer. RHS Rosemoor is such a beautiful venue and we owe a big thank you to Sally Smith the Rosemoor Visitor Events Manager for her cooperation and marvelous help – always with a smile. My wife and I had a good couple of days with lovely people and trees in such great surroundings. Eight clubs and societies put on displays from as far afield as South Wales, Devon and Somerset. There were nine traders, who went home very happy at the end; Roy Hutchinson demonstrating on two massive Scots pines showing how to refine and improve them; a world class Suiseki display; and a Tokonoma containing a magnificent acer. FoBBS provided a trophy for the best club display, judged and presented by John Trott to Brian MacKichan the Chairman the Exeter Club.