



## **FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES**

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m. Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016  
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Denise Baum-Pick, Peter Fielding, Barry Walker, David Cheshire, Judith Davison.
- 2) **Apologies:** Reg Bolton, Keith Wilson, Nigel Wright.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting:** (24<sup>th</sup> July, 2016): One correction was noted re Item 9a Chelsea report – the loss was £97.26; otherwise, acceptance was proposed by DC and seconded by PF.
- 4) **Matters arising:** Item 7, PF reported that he still has one of the trees from the ANT left. It was agreed that BW should refine it and sell it at the Boot Sale next March.
- 5) **Correspondence:** None.
- 6) **Reports:**
  - a) **Financial:** DB-P reported that the current balance of funds stands at £9,308.52 after paying out a cheque for web maintenance for £380.13. Petty cash remains at £7.67.  
Acceptance of the report was proposed by MH and seconded by BW.
  - b) **Companies House:** Nothing to report.
  - c) **Membership:** Remains at 56.
  - d) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** BW stated that the Chinese juniper donated by Olive Hodgetts would require considerable work before being allocated to the Collection.  
Work is due to start imminently on the stand in the courtyard for the Bill Horan juniper group.  
The hawthorn needs repotting in a larger container and will be taken to 'Woodlands' for a season of recuperation.  
In future, new labels will be supplied by the Botanic gardens at no extra expense.  
The needle juniper has died and the cause is believed to be over-watering due largely to an exceedingly wet summer period in 2015; therefore, MH has been asked to give a talk to the staff about the watering regime.  
FNBC funds currently stand at £4,768.61.
  - e) **European Bonsai Association:** There continues to be a total lack of communication between RB and other members of EBA who consistently fail to reply to his emails.  
Only the UK and Denmark have sent information for inclusion the next EBA Newsletter.  
Re-election of the Board will take place at the EBA AGM at Noelanders (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017).  
All documentation will need to be circulated by 5<sup>th</sup> November including nominations for the committee.  
RB is due to stand down as President; however, only one proposal has as yet been received for the post – from a Polish candidate who appears to have limited English.  
KW has expressed a wish to attend the AGM and will accompany MH, the UK Delegate.  
The Noelanders organizers have requested that each member country should supply 5 trees for display which would need to be in place before the opening ceremony on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ideally, some co-operation would be needed between individuals wishing to take trees and FoBBS and/or FNBC entries in order to keep costs down. The question was raised as to whether FoBBS should fund UK entries for travel expenses but no decision was reached.  
DC to investigate the cost of hiring a van.  
The 2018 EBA conference is to be held in Arco, in northeast Italy, possibly in May.
  - f) **W.B.F.F.** Marc Noelanders will represent EBA at the event in Saitama next April with MH also attending in his role as International Consultant.
- 7) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** Although 4 possible entries had been identified, only one application form has been received from Duncan Heild, sponsored by John Hanby. A trial under competition conditions was arranged at the Capel Manor event on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, but he had to cancel and another contestant, Bill Holdsworth, took his place. Both will compete at the Heathrow Show with the winner going on to the final at the

EBA Congress being hosted by the Belgium Bonsai Association in conjunction with the Noelanders event in February.

DC would look out for replacement material on a regular basis, and liaise with PF regarding purchase as it was agreed that trees not used in the competition should not be kept but should be styled and sold either for raffle prizes or at the annual FNBC Boot Sale.

8) **A.G.M. 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017:**

- a) **Reports and Accounts:** It was confirmed that these and requests for committee nominations should be circulated by e-mail to members no later than February 12<sup>th</sup> 2017.
- b) **Nominations for Committee:** All current committee members present at this meeting attested their willingness to continue their roles if re-elected. MH recognized that KW would have to be approached as to whether he wished to continue as Vice-Chairman. If he felt unable to continue this role, it was proposed that DC replace him as Vice Chairman, (proposed by BW, seconded by DB-P). It was assumed that KW would still continue to update the Speaker's book.

Jeanette Thurston was suggested as a possible new recruit to the committee.

- 9) **Bonsai judges training programme:** 3 applications had been received from the Ipswich area but had to defer due to one of them having health issues. Various suggestions were made to encourage new applicants for a possible new course next March. PF suggested a one-day refresher with Corin Tomlinson or John Pitt being invited to appreciate the FoBBS' standard criteria. It was also noted that better geographical coverage is needed, MH to compile a list of possibilities.

10) **FoBBS Bonsai Events, 2017:**

- a) **"Bonsai for All 2017":** The possibility of holding another event at the B'ham Botanical Gardens was discussed with an exhibition in the Terrace Suite and traders in the Garden Suite. MH to check availability of the rooms for either a 1 or 2 day period, also, on the availability of getting a European headliner such as Salvatore Liporace.  
The Gardens provide 50 tables free of charge but more will be needed; KH to investigate the cost of private hire.  
It was agreed that it should be a joint event between FoBBS and FNBC with advance ticket sales, a raffle and tombola.  
PF offered to co-ordinate the selection of trees.  
It was also suggested that Redditch Bonsai Society could be asked to put on a small display about bonsai development.
- b) **R.H.S. Chelsea 2017:** It was noted that RB has confirmed FoBBS' presence again next year.

- 11) **Bonsai Speakers' Book:** DC has updated his details and KW to circulate all changes by email. The book is not to be published on the website as it is a privilege of membership.

- 12) **Current state of FoBBS and FNBC websites and 'Bonsai News UK':** Both websites are up-to-date with the exception of the latest events diary, due to a technical problem. Some items have been received for inclusion into the November 'Bonsai News UK'. It was agreed that during the bonsai show season there would be a monthly issue; thereafter, one issue every two/three months would be sufficient.  
DC suggested that the community organization that he is involved with may be able to help in supplying news items by sending some of the disadvantaged people that they work with to bonsai events and then asking them to write about their experiences for 'Bonsai News UK'.

- 13) **Any other business:** PF expressed an interest in joining the FNBC work party; BW confirmed that there would be a session in late November or early December for pre-winter maintenance.

- 14) **Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 14:30. The next meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. Thanks were expressed to K & MH for hosting the meeting.