

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting: 11.00a.m. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

1) **Members Present:**

Committee members: Reg Bolton, David Cheshire, Denise Baum-Pick, Judith Davison, Malcolm Hughes, Peter Fielding, Barry Walker, Kim Turton.

Society members: Akamatsu School of Bonsai, Ambion Bonsai Soc., Glynderi Bonsai Soc., Leicestershire Bonsai Soc., Middlesex Bonsai Soc., Midland Bonsai Soc., Newbury & District Bonsai Soc., Redditch Bonsai Soc., South Staffs Bonsai Soc., South Worcester Bonsai Soc., South Yorkshire Bonsai Soc., Stourbridge Bonsai Soc., Surrey Heath Bonsai Soc., Swindon Bonsai Soc., Tees Valley Bonsai Soc., Warminster Bonsai Soc.

2) **Apologies:** Kath Hughes (FoBBS Administrator), Nigel Wright (Webmaster), together with the following societies:

Cardiff Bonsai Soc., Cheshire Bonsai Soc., Crawley Bonsai Soc., Derby & District, Eastbourne & Wealden, North West Kent Bonsai Soc., Southend Bonsai Soc., Sussex Bonsai Soc.

Of those societies who sent their apologies, all had individuals in attendance to carry their proxy votes. Therefore, the total number of votes possible was 24.

3) **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016:** The minutes of the previous years' AGM were read and acknowledged as a true and accurate record. Mike Konig proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Graham Walker. Carried unanimously.

4) **Matters arising:** None.

5) **Reports:**

a) **Chairman's report:** Malcolm Hughes presented his report on the year's activities (see attached).

He then sought to clarify the situation regarding the insurance cover provided by NFU by stating that although pot breakages would be covered, damage to trees would not, due to the impossibility of assessing an accurate valuation. Mark Moreland questioned whether societies, traders, demonstrators and individuals attending events would need their own policies, and was told that, yes, though as long as they were members of FoBBS they would be covered.

RB stated that the RHS recommend NFU insurance cover for all their events.

b) **Financial report:** Denise Baum-Pick presented her report (see attached) and stated that the membership now stands at 56 societies and the Federation made a small operating loss of £86.

A small loss was made at Chelsea due to RHS rule changes and the cost of acquiring some new materials; however, the Federation's finances remain in a very healthy condition.

She then raised a concern over a number of cheques she had received bearing only one signature. The recommendation is that each society should have three signatories to avoid problems encountered when the one signatory becomes unavailable for any reason. In response, Gil Murray pointed out that the process of getting signatories added or changed can be extremely difficult and time-consuming. MH queried whether there had been any costs relating to the Speaker's book but was told that there had been neither income nor expenditure.

MH also reminded societies of the importance of getting a contract signed by potential speakers to ensure that the total amount is agreed in advance, thus avoiding any unforeseen costs.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Barry Walker and seconded by Vic Yeomans. Carried unanimously.

**c) Friends of the National Bonsai Collection:**

- i) Chairman's report - Barry Walker presented his report (see attached).
- ii) Treasurer's report - Malcolm Hughes presented the financial report (see attached).  
Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Graham Walker and seconded by Dave Barnsley.  
Carried unanimously.

**6) Election of officers and Committee:**

- a) FoBBS – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, and in addition, Mark and Ming Chen Moreland were proposed as new members of the committee. The meeting agreed that a block vote be taken. Carried unanimously.
- b) FNBC – All members of the committee were willing to stand again, a block vote was taken and carried unanimously.

**7) Date and venue for the next AGM:** It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on the same day as the FNBC Boot sale, and was provisionally set for Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**8) Informal Business Meeting:**

- a) MH wished to publicly recognize the work that RB had put in during his 14 years as EBA President.
- b) EBA: Reg Bolton expressed his dissatisfaction with the voting system used at the EBA Amateur New Talent competition, as, despite efforts to prevent tactical voting, some countries are still voting either for themselves or their neighbours.
- c) WBFF: The next WBFF event will be held in Saitama, Japan in April. A new website is to be created and linked to the FoBBS' website. Australia, America and Taiwan are the possible venues for the next event in 2021.
- d) New Talent Competition: Peter Fielding stated that there are two very credible candidates for the next heat, which will be held at the Heathrow show later this year, but more competitors would be needed for future heats. A suggestion was put forward that we stop sending the winners to compete at the EBA finals and use the money saved to increase the UK prize money. No decision was taken.
- e) Website: NW had supplied information to the effect that the number of hits on the site had increased significantly over recent years.
- f) Bonsai News: KH had reported that reports about club meetings and events are now coming more frequently than before but clubs are urged to continue to supply information by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month. Mike Konig suggested that a reminder of the deadline should be included in each issue.
- g) MH reported that a meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February to discuss issues regarding the FoBBS constitution where it had been decided to remove it temporarily from the website in order to change the title from 'Constitution' to 'Byelaws and Articles' and to clarify the date by which nominations for committee need to be received (changed from 28 to 42 days prior to the AGM) and also the fact that the nominating society must be different to that of the society seconding the nomination. A vote was taken to accept the changes, which was carried by majority with one dissention.
- h) MM pointed out that the minutes of the committee meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> Oct were not on the website, MH undertook to get the situation remedied.  
Malcolm Hughes then thanked all who attended and wished them a safe journey home.

Meeting Concluded, 13.00 p.m.