

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Sunday 29th April, 2012 at
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX

- 1) **Present:** Malcolm Hughes, Reg Bolton, Judith Davison, Peter Fielding, Ray Ward, David Cheshire, Tony Allen, Denise Baum-Pick, Simon Richardson.
- 2) **Apologies:** None.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (26th February, 2012):** Item 4 - it was pointed out that the one heat of the ANTC mentioned, would be in 2012 and not 2013, which is when Sussex will host an event. Also, Item 8 e, the Heathrow Show 2011 was hosted by Middlesex and Sussex and not Kent. Three groups in Kent will put on a show in Maidstone later this year.
- 4) **Matters arising:** Item 6.v – RB reported that he had visited Surrey Heath and Mark Morland had broached the subject of backdrops and show organization.
RW said that PF had expressed an interest in getting Ken Norman's Kiohime Maple for display at Bonsai in Wales and Ken has agreed.
Item 11 – RW asked if it would be possible to have 'before and after' photos of the NBC refurbishment put on the website. This will be investigated.
- 5) **Correspondence:** None.
- 6) **Reports:**
 - i) **Financial:** EBA costs were £799 and £200 has been paid to Carl Couch for his ANTC expenses, leaving a balance of £6705.45 with £33 petty cash.
 - ii) **Companies House:** RB has submitted accounts for the second time. There is no formal inventory of assets but current estimate is £250. A proper stock/asset list is required including backdrops and trees being held for the New Talent Competition etc. FNBC trees should not be included as, although FNBC is a subdivision of FoBBS, the trees are completely separate from FoBBS' assets.
 - iii) **Membership:** There have been 44 subscription renewals, of which 6 are for membership only. There are no Trade or Individual members. PF said that he has had an enquiry from someone who is not a club member who wishes to enter the ANTC. The candidate has been told that he must join a member Society.
 - iv) **Recent Events:** SR reported on another successful show by the British Shohin Association at Willowbog. The BTA show at Coventry was much better attended this year and Corin Tomlinson has said that he would like to host an event for the ANTC in 2013.
 - v) **Regional Updates:** RW said that Mark Morland had requested that any information relating to regional events in the southeast should be collated and disseminated. JD suggested that member clubs be invited to submit details of forthcoming shows to be included in Kath Hughes' Events list and Bonsai Review. Another suggestion was that Regional organisers could co-ordinate local clubs' programmes and circulate within the region. RW will pilot the scheme in the S.E.
 - vi) **Amateur New Talent Competition:** A heat was held at The Woodlands with three contestants competing for a place in the 2012 final in Ljubljana, the winner was Carl Couch from Glynderi. RW proposed a vote of thanks to K & M Hughes for hosting the event. PF purchased the winning tree and reported himself very happy with it now it has been transferred into a lotus pot.
The Cardiff Society wish to hold a heat during the May bank holiday.
PF has the names of two potential entrants from Wales and will contact them to invite them to compete at the Gardener's World Live show in June. A heat will take place during the Bonsai in Wales event on August 27th. Tony Tickle has a potential entrant for one of this year's heats, possibly at the Wirral Show in September. The BTA show at Sheffield is another potential venue, also in September. MH has spoken to Joy Savage from Capel Manor, Enfield about the possibility of holding an event in the S.E. in October, which would probably be the final.
MH to promote the competition to member societies, including photos of winning trees to set the standard. It must be made clear that the National winner must be prepared to represent the UK at the next EBA event, funding from FoBBS is available and there is the possibility of help from the contestant's local club. They will also receive free registration and dinner.

DPB suggested that heats should be restricted to no more than three per year as, with the final, (with 4 entrants for each event) this would incur costs of around £650 just for purchase of the trees.

RB pointed out that previously, contestants had been required to supply a photo of a tree they had styled, however, it was agreed that this was neither viable, nor desirable; it could potentially put people off entering the competition.

There are currently 18 trees available for the next heat. FNBC has purchased 10 trees and will contribute 4 trees for each of the Finals in 2012 and 2013. MH will source any extra trees required as before.

- vii) **FNBC and the National Collection:** TA reported that CT has photographed most of the trees but that he will need MH's photos. One tree is with Steve Tolley and one small Satsuki is with Ray Beddow and these still need to be photographed. The photos will be used for evaluation purposes but this has to be a pure 'like for like' evaluation, excluding provenance.

The materials needed for the refurbishment of the Collection stands have been ordered but won't arrive till mid/late May, which is the busiest time of year for garden visitors. A decision must be taken whether to do it bit by bit, or whether to wait till the autumn/winter. A risk assessment will be required.

The big chamaecyparis has been repotted into a new pot requiring 3 bags of akadama. The old Brian Albright pot was slightly damaged but a deal was struck with CT and £260 paid to FoBBS for it.

- viii) **European Bonsai Association:** The latest EBA newsletter has now been sent out.

RB is trying to ensure that the prizes for ANTC winners are handed out on the day of the event.

The EBA logo is due for an update and RB has designed a few versions for discussion. Three countries are currently competing to hold the events in 2014 and 2015. The possibility of the UK hosting a future event was discussed but it was generally thought that the prohibitive cost of suitable venues would be a severe deterrent. DC has a contact who sources grants for such things and offered to investigate the possibility of getting such a grant. MH will investigate possible venues.

- ix) **W.B.F.F.:** There will be a Board meeting on Sept 20th 2012 at Crespi Bonsai, Milan, with the main event being held in China in 2013. The WBFF photographic competition is being actively promoted, but entries from the UK must be in by the end of July. Details are on the FoBBS website.

- 7) **Information package for new or re-joining societies:** Contents should include – Information about the role of FoBBS and details of support available, the Speakers book, the Amateur New Talent Competition details, and the FNBC. RB has an old booklet, which he agreed to update as soon as possible. DC suggested that members should be supplied with some form of membership card, which could be displayed at shows etc. RB undertook to produce one.

8) **Forthcoming events involving FoBBS:**

- i) **Chelsea** – Preparations are running smoothly though no tickets have yet been received. RB has negotiated a better insurance deal than that from the RHS (£3M), namely, £110 from Hiscocks. He has also hired a van and purchased some new wood (circa £110). The expected income will be slightly reduced due to the smaller space available but should be around £1500 if we win a gold medal again. The stewards' rota is complete and the stand number is GPE19.

- ii) **Gardener's World Live:** This year will be a regional event involving several local societies, however the Japanese Garden Society has not responded to DC's overtures and therefore has not been allocated any tickets. DC reported that he has been told that access to the hall will not be available until noon on Sunday 10th, and then only to allow materials to be brought in, with construction only allowed to begin on Monday morning. It was agreed that it would not be possible to complete all the work necessary in only one day, therefore DC agreed to try to negotiate with the organisers, if they can't allow enough time to set up properly, then we would have to pull out.

MH and TA are continuing to plan the Japanese garden, which will feature the Omiya tree surrounded by ferns, ornaments and the zen garden. MH will source the materials, i.e. blue slate which will have to be bagged into small, manageable bags for transportation but which will be re-used at the Woodlands after the show. RB has a Japanese lantern, which might be used. DC to contact Dunelm Mill with a view to receiving either sponsorship or a discount price on material.

It was agreed that another planning meeting should be held on 16th May.

- iii) **Bonsai In Wales:** In order to comply with lottery funding regulations, the posters for this event need a Welsh translation, which MH has agreed to do; the opening address must also be in Welsh. PF reported that preparations were mostly going to plan, however, due to the National Trust's imminent takeover of Tredegar House, there has been a change of administrative staff and there is a meeting scheduled for the 2nd May. £200 has been paid on the understanding that entrance to the gardens will be free, enabling BIW to charge £3 entrance fee to the show.

Approximately 60 trees will be needed but only 22 pictures have so far been submitted, however, several promises have been made. MH offered to tailor the trees that he would bring to redress any shortfall. Mark and Ritta Cooper will be doing the selection. Kevin Willson will be the headline demonstrator.

- 9) Publicity, including FoBBS and FNBC websites:** The FoBBS website is being kept up-to-date. PF was asked to provide a report on the Cardiff show at the end of May. SR was asked to provide MH with the cut-off date for submissions to Bonsai Focus.
- 10) Any other business:** MH reported that there are 6 boxes of FoBBS' archive material at The Woodlands. It was agreed that the contents should be sorted out and only important documents be kept, the rest should be shredded. SR is to source a stamp/seal that can be used on official documents.
- 11) Date and venue of the next meeting:** The meeting concluded at 15:05. The next meeting will be on Sunday July 29th, 2012 at 10.30 a.m., at The Woodlands. The minutes of today's meeting to be available the first week in June.