

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Sunday 26th February, 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, Kim Turton (part time).
- 2) **Apologies:** Denise Baum-Pick, Simon Richardson.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous meeting, (16th October, 2011):** it was noted that in item 8, Amateur New Talent Competition, the date of the EBA final in France 2013 omitted the month which is March. Otherwise proposed as a true record by RW and seconded by DC.
- 4) **Matters arising from the minutes:** Item 6.e. – RW asked if Graham Walker had been contacted and MH said that he had spoken to Graham who is unable to help as yet due to other commitments. Item 8 – there will be only one heat of the ANTC in 2013. Sussex have said that they will be happy to host either a heat or the final.
- 5) **Report & acceptance of electronic voting for the Annual General Meeting, 2011:** As the meeting had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, Reports, Accounts and Nominees for both FoBBS and FNBC were sent out to all members and 22 acknowledgments, 5 proxy votes and no objections had been received giving a favourable majority of 55%. MH has produced a report.

There was much discussion regarding the allocation of the funds available to member societies wishing to stage shows and it was agreed that FoBBS needs to see a proper detailed business plan for each proposal, detailing expenditure and projected income etc.

RW stated that he didn't foresee the need to request financial support for Bonsai World 2013. DBP & SR would be asked to produce a leaflet explaining the system, which could then be issued to all members.

- 6) **FoBBS Roll of Honour:** MH announced that he was delighted to add the names of both Tony Allen and Kim Turton to the FoBBS Roll of Honour for their services to bonsai. He proposed a vote of thanks and appreciation for all they had done. They have both been granted honorary life membership of FoBBS. Both recipients were rendered momentarily speechless. Details will be posted on the FoBBS website.
- 7) **Correspondence:** None.
- 8) **Reports:**
 - a) **Financial report:** DBP has submitted a report up to and the end of December 2011 showing a deficit of £3,601.94 but this is in part due to 2 years' insurance being incorporated into 1 year's accounts. RB stated that the true deficit is £1948.22. Cheques have been received amounting to £210 and petty cash stands at £33.59. MH stated that as at 21st February the balance was £7378.84. He also reminded us that the RHS insurance runs from the date that each society takes it out rather than a mandatory calendar year. That there are 8 previous members who have not yet renewed and therefore are not covered so he undertook to remind them. £150 has been paid for EBA membership and £68 per tree purchased from Lodders for the Amateur New Talent Competition, which, with those already held, should be enough for the next 12 months.
 - b) **Companies House:** RB stated that the Directors' report must be in by April 5th and he will be preparing a balance sheet explaining the variance in the deficit.
 - c) **Current membership and society listings:** The membership is now 40 members and listings are up to date.

- d) **Recent events:** The Swindon Winter Image Show went well despite the unexpected arrival of a coach party from Capel Manor. Altogether there were about 400 paying guests and 70 passes were issued. Unfortunately, some exhibitors brought their own screens and/or tablecloths which were not up to the desired standard, so RB said that this would not be allowed in future. He has prepared a business plan for next year's event, which is already over-subscribed so there will have to be a Noelanders-type selection process implemented.
MH reported that acting as judge, together with Lee Verhorevoort and Ken Lever, was a difficult task as the general standard was excellent. John Pitt sponsored a plaque.
RW congratulated Swindon on their excellent setup and organization.
- e) **Regional updates:** RW reported that the Heathrow show, which was a collaboration between two groups in Kent, was let down by inferior backdrops and suggested that in future, they should use the FoBBS' backdrops. RB is meeting them in April to discuss general show organization.
RW said that he had heard that several people/groups had been unhappy about MH's report on Bonsai World 2011, which remarked on some of the rather sub-standard trees that were displayed. MH responded by saying that he made no apology as any criticism was intended to be constructive. He also reiterated that Local society shows could have separate sections for trees in development as well as those in the competition, however, National shows should be more selective, aiming for quality rather than quantity and each show should have a show manager with the responsibility for making autocratic decisions so that any complaints could be directed to him/her.
FoBBS should provide members with guidelines to help to ensure that all shows reach as high a standard as possible.
- f) **FNBC & National Bonsai Collection:** TA reported that refurbishment of the collection's quarters will run into the main visitor season and that may mean it will be closed for a short period. A composite material is to be used which should last for over 20 years and will look like dark wood. He also said that the FNBC is willing to finance the purchase of new material for future Amateur New Talent Competitions when necessary.
Corin Tomlinson has been asked to provide a valuation of the trees in the collection for insurance purposes. This will be a like-for-like valuation – not including any provenance.
TA confirmed that the FNBC holds an open-ended license for raffles.
- g) **European Bonsai Association:**
The French are putting together a brochure for the next EBA event at Audincourt (south-east of Dijon) 29th – 31st March, 2013, and are intending to include an English translation, unlike the German one, which was only in German. In 2014 the event will be held in Wrocza, Poland and applications have been received from Italy and Lithuania for 2015.
- h) **World Bonsai Friendship Federation:** RB reported that Solita Rosade has sent out a new form for entries to the WBFF Photographic Competition. Entries must be received by July 31st and selections will be made by the end of August. The judging will take place later in the year.
The next WBFF Convention, 2013 will be in China. The proposed judges to the event, representing Europe, are Steve Tolley and Marc Noelanders.
- i) **Amateur New Talent competitions:** PF has recently been trying to contact previous runners up with a view to re-entering but there is a very short window of opportunity for getting representatives for the event in Ljubljana. DC said that he would like to take part again if the rules allow. MH offered to host a heat at his studio, possibly on March 18th. There are 4 UK contestants for the UK Final. To date, Portugal and Italy are the only other countries so far confirmed.

9) Forthcoming Events:

- a) **Chelsea:** The show will be held on 21st to 27th May and we have a good position but with an area of only 9 x 3 metres, which has resulted in fewer tickets being available. The expense allowance remains the same as last year and should be enough to cover costs. There is an option to purchase more tickets but applications must be in by mid March.
The rota of helpers is almost complete.
RB said he would like at least one Satsuki azalea on show but it might be difficult to source one as many trees have suffered badly this winter.

b) Gardener's World Live: DC reported that 5 societies have already signed up with another as a possibility. The main area would be devoted to the exhibition trees with demonstrations, the Amateur New Talent Competition heats and an FNBC display taking place on the staged area. TA said that in view of the Japanese Garden Society's lack of interest, he and MH would take responsibility for creating a small Japanese garden where the Omiya tree could be displayed under the auspices of the FNBC. Steve Tolley, Barry Walker, Mark Scan, David Cheshire and Malcolm Hughes will be the demonstrators.

c) Bonsai in Wales: PF reported that all is proceeding according to plan. Kevin Willson and Mark and Ritta Cooper will be there and an appeal for display trees has been made in the Bonsai Review with a deadline for the submission of photographs of June 10th. RB asked about insurance and was told that Tredegar House has 3rd party public liability insurance, but exhibitors will exhibit at their own risk. A deal has been negotiated with the Holiday Inn Express at Newport for a number of rooms to be reserved at a discounted cost of £60 per room per night and PF also has a list of other accommodation places in the vicinity.

10) Bonsai Instructors' Book: All but four entries have now been updated with two more expected soon, the other two, namely Kevin Willson and Peter Foele, have not replied. DC, PF and JD all expressed an interest in M & K H's speaker's course.

11) Federation website and publicity: This was updated recently. RB is to send a report on the Swindon Winter Image Show. Concern was expressed about the deadline for entry into the next Bonsai Focus. It was agreed that advertising in the magazine was both expensive and fruitless. Much better results have come from local press advertisements and open days at National Bonsai Collection. RW suggested that 'before' and 'after' photos of the refurbishment at the National Collection site should be taken, to be later included on the FNBC website.

12) Any other business: None.

13) Date and venue of the next meeting: The meeting concluded at 15:50. The next meeting will be on Sunday April 29th, 2012 at 10.30 a.m., at The Woodlands.