

FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting for the year ending
31 December 2023

12 p.m. Sunday 24th March 2024 at the
Louden Suite, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

1) Members present: Committee members – Peter Fielding, Malcolm Hughes, Barry Walker, Kim Turton

Societies. Ambion B. S. South Staffs,

2) Apologies.

Committee members – Nigel Wright, Chris Durne and Denise Baum – Pick.

Societies. Akamatsu, Wirral, South Yorkshire, Sussex, Ashfield.

Of the societies who sent their apologies, all had nominated the Chairman to carry their proxy.

3) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 20th March 2023

The minutes of the previous AGM were presented and accepted as accurate. Proposed by Dave Barnsley South Staffs BS, seconded by Barry Walker South Staffs BS. Passed unanimously.

4) Matters arising. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5) Reports.

a. Chairman.

Peter Fielding presented his written report and summarised it as follows.

The first ever FoBBS sponsored event was held at RHS Rosemoor in Devon on the 7th and 8th May 2023. Peter thanked Nigel Wright for his hard work in putting on such a popular and successful event. Another event is planned for the weekend of 3rd May 2025 at the same venue and it has been agreed that FoBBS sponsor it.

He reported that "The Bonsai Boys" under the guidance of Chris Durne were responsible for the FoBBS display at RHS Chelsea. It was an excellent display that was awarded a Gold. Peter also informed the AGM that the same team have agreed to take on the challenge again this year.

Peter explained that Miroslav Kolar, the winner of the New Talent Competition in 2019, took part in a highly contested European final in Oulmouc in the Czech Republic and came a respectable third.

The New Talent competition this year is to be held at Bonsai by the sea event at Exmouth on 9th June. Peter hopes that the winner will be able to represent FoBBS at the European Bonsai Association Convention in November.

b. Financial.

Acting treasurer Malcolm Hughes reported that current FoBBS cash holdings are £7881.44. He explained to the meeting that since he took over from the previous treasurer he has been experiencing some difficulties with banking to such an extent that, should they continue he plans to move the account to Nat West. Malcolm informed the meeting that there were currently 58 membership renewals this year.

c. Friends of the National Bonsai Collection reports.

i) Chairman

Barry Walker presented his written report and summarised it as follows.

He explained that the new CEO of the Gardens, Sara Blair-Manning and her team have developed a plan to redevelop the fabric of the Botanical Gardens which involves returning the glass houses to their original design at the centre of the property. This will involve the demolition of the current site of the National Bonsai Collection and its re-instatement elsewhere within the Gardens. Plans are well established, but work will not start until summer 2025 at the earliest. He concluded this part of his report by informing the meeting that

there were several possible new locations for the National Collection within the Gardens, but as yet there is nothing decided. He said that the increased maintenance visits were paying off, and that the trees were in very good condition as a result. He hoped that the continued efforts of the volunteers involved with the working group would continue to improve the quality of the trees on public display.

Barry reported that the FNBC committee are in regular contact with the management of the Gardens and that the new horticultural staff were keen to help out with some of the regular maintenance tasks undertaken by the working group.

He concluded his report by saying that the CEO of the Gardens is very supportive of the National Bonsai Collection and that this was evidenced by her willingness to allow the Bonsai Boot Sale to take place again this year.

ii) Financial

Malcolm Hughes presented his financial report. Currents funds stand at £6,955.01 with an additional £765 for the fees taken at the Bonsai Boot Sale held earlier in the day.

He reminded the meeting that the Bonsai Boot Sale provided the only regular income for FNBC, but that current outgoings are quite low. The only regular outgoing was mileage expenses for members of the working group.

6) Election of officers

Due to the lack of nominations for the post, Malcolm Hughes agreed to stand as treasurer. All officers were willing to stand again and were voted for on block. Proposed by David Barnsley (South Staffs Bonsai Society), seconded by Barry Walker. Unanimous.

a) Other business

Possible future FOBBS events. Malcolm Hughes suggested that after the completion of the redevelopment work at the Botanical Gardens FoBBS might consider putting on an event similar to "Best of

British Bonsai" event and that it might be marketed as a re-launch of the National Collection. Dates may be in 2027 or 2028 depending on completion of building work.

7) Date and venue of next AGM

23rd March 2025. Birmingham Botanical Gardens. 12 p.m.