



FEDERATION OF BRITISH BONSAI SOCIETIES  
AND FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

Joint meeting held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 at  
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX  
Also held online.

**Minutes**

1. In attendance. Peter Fielding, Malcolm Hughes, Denise Baum-Pick, Kim Turton, Chris Durne, Barry Walker, Nigel Wright.
2. Apologies. None
3. Minutes of the previous meeting. Were accepted as accurate. MH PF
4. Matters arising. None
5. Chelsea 2024 report. CD

Chris Durne submitted his report on the event (appended to this document) and thanked MH for his update on the finances of past years.

a. There was a discussion regarding the value of continuing to fund the stand. KT pointed out that RHS Chelsea is seen as the pinnacle of British horticulture and as such, if FoBBS can afford it, we should do what we can to be represented at the event. Agreed by all.

b. MH reminded the meeting that the costs were quite high this year, but that some of the expenditure was on re-usable materials and so can be viewed as one off. He added that even with a small deficit FoBBS could afford to fund it and also that the RHS value our contribution to the show.

c. It was agreed by all to continue and CD will apply for a stand at the 2025 event.

d. Considerations for 2025 event. MH suggested that we could take a small van with trees from the Midlands (and wider area?) to a holding area just before setup and collect the trees shortly after breakdown. This would also help with widening the area from which trees are selected and reducing some of the load on the local team with tree selection and transport.

6. Bonsai by the Sea and New Talent competition. NW and PF. The written report is appended below.

a. Three of the competition trees were not purchased by the competitors, two are with BW who will make them available for sale at the Boot Sale in March and NW has the other one.

b. PF questioned the use of the word "New" in the title of the competition. His feeling is that the majority of competitors were far from new to the hobby. It was agreed that changing the name of the competition should be an item for the next meeting.

c. Venue for the competition for 2025. It was felt that the venue of the competition for 2025 should be more central. MH offered Woodland and also suggested that Gardeners World Live might be a possible location for the event.

## 7. Reports.

### a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC)

#### FoBBS

MH reported that there was little change in the balance of £6,383.56 with at least £2,000 to come in from Chelsea.

#### FNBC

MH reported no change at £7736.75 with only travel expenses to come out.

### b. Companies House

MH reported that the Annual Returns have been completed.

### c. Membership is now at 60 and is likely to stay at that number.

### d. FNBC Working group and state of collection and open days 2024.

BW reported that there were a few small issues with pests which were in hand, otherwise the collection overall is in good health. He explained that he would be seeking a meeting with the management of the Gardens later in the year for an update of our position regarding the future location of the collection within the gardens after the renovation as well as arrangements for the trees during the building work.

### e. EBA & WBBF. Nothing to report.

## 8. OB.

1. NW. Bonsai SW is set for the May Bank Holiday 2025. NW asked for £500 startup fund. NW informed the meeting that he had already sourced one demonstration tree and is seeking a second, he also shared details of the website which he is developing for the event.

2. MH informed the meeting that James Thornton who was coopted to FoBBS has recently started undergoing a change of career and so the demands on his time will mean that he will not be able to continue his connection with FoBBS.

## 9. Date and venue for the next meeting. 10.30 and on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Woodlands.

## **Appendix One**

### Chelsea 2024 Report

Once again this year we were delighted to receive a Gold Medal award from the R.H.S. Especially 12 points the maximum award possible from the Floral Committee.

Thanks goes to the three members from the Bonsai Boys who planned and implemented the exhibit.

Remotely from the U.S.A.I monitored progress and gave support for decisions and improvement points for the design, build and selection process.

On the ground I was on site to ensure each stage completed by the judging deadline.

Overall I was extremely pleased with the build quality, selection and use of materials.

The team went with the same design once again, although other options had been explored.

The selection of plants to show the public worked well to highlight different species and styles of Bonsai.

It would have been preferable to have had a more representative selection of trees from across the membership, but as before, time and personnel to collect trees from other parts of the UK came into play.

Examples of duplicate species already offered could have been discussed further.

All of the stand minders who attended and assisted were impressed with the interest and praise from the public across the U.K. and abroad.

The QR code signs provided by Kim were used well to link to the website and membership.

The original FoBBS sign needs a refresh as not clear when seen from a distance.

Thank you to the Committee for once again supporting the exhibit to take place in 2024.

Chris Durne

## Appendix Two

### "Bonsai by the Sea"

This was held at Exmouth on Sunday June 9th 2024. It was a beautiful June day. Local clubs and others from as far afield as South Wales put on a fine display of Bonsai.

The exhibition was organized by Brian Mac Kichan Chairman of Exeter Bonsai club. Through our FoBBS administrator Nigel Wright, a Devon resident, Brian became aware that FoBBS was looking for an event to host this year's NTC . Brian offered space at "Bonsai by the Sea" and Nigel & I jumped at the offer. This is the reason why my wife & I had two very enjoyable days in such a lovely part of Britain.

For the NTC we had five very credible competitors from around Britain stretching from County Durham to South Wales with Wiltshire & Devon in between.

The competitors had three hours to style a small juniper. This year the trees were supplied by Oakfield Bonsai. We had two judges – a local enthusiast Frank Reid & from South Wales Rowly Hester.

After three hours we had five very well styled bonsai. So much so that the judges decided after much discussion to award an overall winner & four equal runners up.

This year Barry Walker ,FoBBS committee member & wood worker made a fine walnut box topped with a carved Oak leaf & a FoBBS logo as part of the prize. I was very pleased to present this to the winner Nathan Oswin also as part of his prize I hope he will represent Britain at the European Bonsai Association New Talent Competition in Spain in November 2024.

The other competitors were Ryan Forth of Co Durham, Matthew Griffiths from South Wales, Stephen Hill from Barnstaple, Robin Hereward-Isacc of Trowbridge and our winner Nathan Oswin also from Trowbridge.

My thanks to everyone for making this such a splendid event.

In 2025 FoBBS will be hosting Bonsai South West at RHS Rosemoor on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May

My very best wishes,

Peter Fielding (Chairman of FoBBS)