



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

Joint meeting held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 22nd November, 2025 at  
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX  
Also held online.

**Minutes**

1. In attendance. Malcolm Hughes, Kim Turton, Chris Durne, Nigel Wright, Peter Fielding, Denise Baum-Pick, Barry Walker.
2. Apologies. None.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate. PF and MH.
4. Matters arising. None.
5. Correspondence. None
6. FoBBS New Talent Competition 2026

After discussion the following was agreed.

- a) The 2026 event will be held at Bonsai Fest in Newark on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.
  - b) Corin Tomlinson has agreed to provide the competition trees on a sale or return basis.
  - c) The deadline for applications is the end of Jan 2026.
  - d) NW has produced a digital flyer containing arrangements to be sent to interested individuals.
  - e) Final is in Slovakia on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
  - f) Max of 5 UK individuals accepted for the Newark event.
  - g) PF will record receipt of entries and competitors will be accepted on a first come first served basis from people who are available to attend the final in Slovakia.
7. Chelsea 2026. CD informed the meeting that he was waiting for the RHS to send confirmation of acceptance. It was agreed that FoBBS will hire a suitable van for the build and breakdown periods. MH agreed a budget of up to £2250 and explained that from past experience it was likely that most of that amount would be recouped. NW and PF put their names forward as stewards.
  8. Reports.
    - i. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC). MH
      - FNBC
      - a) No change at £8,558.69 with a small amount of interest to come.
      - b) MH reminded the meeting that building work at BBGG will prevent our usual Boot Sale in March therefore there is no planned income in 2026 for FNBC.

- c) MH reported that there are no planned outgoings other than minimal expenses involved with maintenance of the collection and suggested that there should be up to £5,000 available to spend on moving the collection to the new site in BBGG.

#### FoBBS

- a) MH reported that the expenses cheque for (£672.13) the FoBBS representative at the EBA 2025 New Talent competition has finally been cashed. PF thanked MH for his tenacity in seeking to resolve this matter.
  - b) The final income for Chelsea 2025 is £2,372.
  - c) NW informed MH that he will be submitting his I.T. related invoice shortly.
  - d) Current funds are £8158.64
- ii. Companies House. Nothing to report.
  - iii. Membership. Unchanged and there is no need to increase the fees for 2026.
  - iv. FNBC Working group and state of collection and open days 2024. BW informed the meeting that the watering system has been shut down for winter and that there is no date set for demolition of the site as at the time of this meeting. BBGG are starting work on the new area and that it is intended that there will be a temporary display on the terrace as a part of the transition.

BW concluded by informing the meeting that members of FNBC attended a meeting in October between BBGG management, FNBC and representatives from the Japanese Garden Society. Sara Blair-Manning (CEO BBGG) set out the vision for the new area of the Garden as a joint venture between the three parties with the intention of creating an area focused on mindfulness and mental well-being. The new garden will have a Japanese feel and show the Bonsai Trees off to their best advantage. SBM made her vision of a “blend” very clear, stating that it is not intended to be a Japanese Garden. She concluded by explaining that the area would provide visitors with a place of retreat, calm and mindfulness.

- v. EBA & WBBF. No change

#### 9. OB.

- a) It was agreed that the AGM be held as an online event based at Woodlands. KT agreed to chair the meeting, NW will send notification with the AGM paperwork and will work with KT to plan practicalities and technical details for the meeting. Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

#### 10. Date and venue for the next meeting. 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at Woodlands.