



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

Joint meeting held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 23rd November, 2024 at
"The Woodlands", New Hall Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QX
Also held online.

Minutes

1. In attendance. Peter Fielding, Malcolm Hughes, Kim Turton, Chris Durne, Nigel Wright, Barry Walker.
2. Apologies. Denise Baum-Pick.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting. Were an accurate record of the meeting. MH and PF.
4. Matters arising.

Item on Chelsea.

a. Inventory of available items as follows. CD – 4 chairs, water spray, fabric for stand, stands and 2 bags of vermiculite. MH – 2 tall stools.

b. RHS have informed CD that we have been allocated a space 10m by 3m against a wall for '25.

c. Selection of trees from Midlands. It was agreed that the Midlands based members of the committee should pre-select a number of trees and initially send photographs and size details to the Bonsai Boys. It was agreed that the Bonsai Boys should have final say on tree selection.

d. CD informed the meeting that volunteer "tree minders" would be welcome but that priority would be given to the owners of trees included in the exhibition.

e. Item 6a. Best Club Display at Bonsai by the sea. BW agreed to manufacture a suitable trophy to be awarded for the best club display.

f. Item 6e. Location of the roller banner is still unknown. NW to ask Dave Cheshire to see if he knows its location.

g. Item 6g. It was felt that a venue for NTC should be decided after the EBA final. Item for next meeting.

5. Correspondence. MH has had a communication from EBA regarding arrangements for accommodation at the imminent event.
6. De-registration from Company House and proposed future charity status. MH reported that as agreed he had sent a letter to members explaining the committees' intention of withdrawing from Companies House as "a company limited by guarantee". FoBBS had received responses from Andy Bray, Reg Bolton and Graham Walker explaining why the proposal should not proceed. In summary, it was the view of the responders that FoBBS would be likely to encounter a number of difficulties and administrative hurdles should we proceed with the de-registration and seek registration as a

charity. As there were no submissions from members with arguments in favor of de-registration it was agreed to continue with the current arrangements. PF and MH to provide NW a communication to be sent to members informing them of the decision.

7. Rosemoor 2025. NW reported that he has had interest from Mark Shoka (Northern Ireland) who will be putting on a display of Mame. Brexit phytosanitary problems mean that it is easier for him to sell the trees after the show; TBA with one of the traders. Half of the trading space and half of the display space has been taken up to date. Accounting will be done by FoBBS on a separate sheet.

8. AGM accounts and reports. MH will send accounts after Christmas and NW to send membership reminders out.

9. Reports.

a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC)

Current funds £8143.55.

MH reminded the meeting about his recent problems when trying to submit accounts to Companies House, but a phone call resolved the issue. The problem, which understandably caused MH a great deal of stress, was with the third party software used by CH. There was a vote of thanks to MH for putting up with the situation. NW and CD.

b. Companies House. As above

c. Membership. NW to send membership renewal forms.

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

BW reported that some trees have been put under cover keep them dry. He has the watering system timers and he informed the meeting that he hoped for a meeting with the Botanical Gardens management early in 2025 in order to discuss the relocation of the collection.

e. EBA & WBBF

EBA. The event for 2024 was being held at the time of the meeting and no venue for 2025 has been announced.

WBBF. Nothing to report.

10. OB.

a. FoBBS bylaws review needs to be an item for the next meeting.

b. BW suggested that the current holder of the UK New Talent trophy should be asked to contribute to the next FoBBS event either as a demonstrator or put on a display.

c. MH to ask the organizers if it would be possible to hold the New Talent competition for 2025 during the Gardeners World Live show.

d. CD has been asked by UKBA for an autobiographical profile. He informed the meeting that he intended to include full credit to FoBBS.

11. Date and venue for the next meeting. Saturday 25th January 2025 at 10.30 am at Woodlands.