



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

Joint meeting held at 10.30 am, Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 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, Nigel Wright.
2. Apologies. Barry Walker.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of events. MH. CD.
4. Matters arising. None.
5. Chelsea 2025. CD informed the meeting that he has applied for space at Chelsea 2025.
  - a) CD reminded the meeting that the design of the stand was under review, but that the overall size would remain the same.
  - b) MH asked if there is an inventory of materials/property belonging to FoBBS that was held for Chelsea. CD agreed to provide a list of items held by the team.
  - c) CD informed the meeting that Nick Payne is willing to continue his role for the 2025 show, and PF reported that he intended to seek out the Bonsai Boys at the Heathrow event and thank them personally for their efforts with Chelsea.
  - e) Tree selection. The Bonsai Boys have agreed that it would lighten their load if some trees could be taken to them from outside of the south east. They qualified this by stating that they would need pictures of the trees that would be included so that they could better plan the layout, and it was agreed that arrangements would be made once RHS confirmed that FoBBS were allocated display space at the 2025 event.
6. Rosemoor 2025. NW stated that more clubs have expressed interest in putting on a display and presented a list of tasks for the event as follows.
  - a) Would there be a trophy for the best club display? MH to ask BW to make one.
  - b) Practicalities of getting centrally held items to and from the event. TBD
  - c) Wire and raffia for demonstrations. Last year Davin Cheshire provided these, but his participation next year seems uncertain. Item for next meeting.
  - d) Demonstration trees. Several possibilities were discussed that need following up. Item for next meeting.

e) Current location the roller banner? MH to Check.

f) Transportation of the above mentioned items from and back to the Midlands.

g) Venue for NTC. It was agreed that this would be held in the Midlands in 2025. Date and Venue TBA.

NW shared the current state of the website with a short demonstration. PF thanked NW for his work with the event. All agreed that the site looked very good.

## 7. FoBBS registration at Company House. MH

MH informed the meeting that he had encountered some problems when attempting to submit the accounts using the online form, but he thought that he was successful. MH continued by reminding the meeting of the historical reason for FoBBS needing to be registered as a company limited by guarantee. Namely, trading of memorabilia and organizing large events that involved large amounts of money being at risk should things not go to plan. As FoBBS no longer have such financial liabilities MH proposed that FoBBS withdraw its registration with Company House and instead register as a charity. Agreed by all. MH to investigate obtaining charity status.

In conclusion it was agreed that the wishes of the committee needed to be ratified at the AGM and that information would be mailed to member societies later in the year so that de-registration could be ratified at the AGM in March 2025.

## 8. Reports.

### a. Financial (FoBBS and FNBC). MH

FoBBS current funds are £7,758.16. This figure includes the income from Chelsea and MH reported that no more significant outgoings were planned.

FNBC. £7,654.49. MH explained that due to an improved interest rate he would move money into the savings account in order to take advantage of this.

### b. Companies House. As above.

### c. Membership stands at 60.

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

MH reported that the National Collection was generally doing well and that some issues with the Junipers was being followed up, and the working group have been continuing with regular maintenance.

KT informed the meeting that the final Open Day of the year was due at the end of the month and that overall these had been seen by the Gardens as a good attraction, although one or two were adversely affected by poor weather. As the start of renovation work at the Gardens has been pushed back to 2026 it has been agreed to run Open Days in the same format for 2025. KT to arrange.

CD reminded the meeting that the Gardens have accepted his donation, on behalf of the disbanded Bonsai Kai, of 60 important Bonsai books. They will go into the library held at the gardens. CD will report when this has been finalized.

e. EBA & WBBF.

There was a short discussion regarding arrangements for the UK contestant of the NTC at the EBA convention. It was agreed that MH and PF would ensure that Mr Oswin has all of the arrangements in order and that he is informed clearly of the rules regarding expenses.

WBBF. Nothing to report.

10. Renaming of New Talent Competition. PF. Several attendees had suggestions for an alternative name, but PF said that because the UK event was held as a qualification for the European Final we should keep the name as it is.

8. OB. None.

9. Date and venue for the next meeting. 10.30 am on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at Woodlands.