

From the Secretary

At the EBA Convention 2017 in Genk an important era for the EBA ended and a new one was started. Reg Bolton's long-standing presidency ended and Marc Noelanders was elected as new president. At the same time Pierre Bedes moved into the EBA board as 1st Vice President.

The term of office of the new Board begins on 1 April 2017 and will last four years. The Board will endeavor to optimize the management of EBA in the interests of its members and to ensure a stable development. For that it will be important to bring the different positions within the members together to a common denominator, thus fulfilling all requirements for a roof-organisation of today and for the future. As secretary, I see my role in ensuring the carrying out of the extensive work for the annual EBA Conventions and the NTC as well as in keeping with the legal requirements given by the bylaws and the EBA rules. The bylaws in conjunction with the EBA rules will be reviewed. Both documents should be brought together to form one document for the management of the EBA.

Looking back at the successful years of Reg Bolton's Presidency, EBA has to strive for continuity in the cooperation within the EBA membership and for the prevention of intentions to develop separate interests. Intended changes should not be self-serving. We have to support all matters which serve the prosperity of EBA as a roof-organisation. With this in mind I would like as secretary of EBA to create a trouble-free work environment and to ensure a good cooperation within the board and the membership. Below you will find my short speech I made at the end of the AGM in Genk at the farewell ceremony for Reg.

Detlef Mostler EBA Secretary

Klagenfurt, 26 March 2017

Dear President, dear Reg,

On behalf of the Member Countries of the European Bonsai Association and the EBA Board, I would like to thank you for both your excellent Presidency of EBA and your long term friendship.

I personally thank you for your supportive cooperation with me as Secretary of EBA and with all Members of the Board.

I think everyone here will agree that Reg has done a great deal for our Association.

His Presidency began in 2004 with complicated matters to be resolved within the organisation of EBA. Through his gentlemanly manner he supported us all to overcome the challenges.

As President he oversaw many successful and excellent EBA Conventions: San Marino, Arco, Ksiaz, Ostend, Vienna, Lorca, Zurich, Ratingen, Ljubljana, Audincourt, Wroclaw, Vilnius, Szekesfehervar and Genk.

Most of the meetings he headed at these venues created new impulses for the further development of EBA. Only a few of the EBA conventions he was not able to attend.

Following in the footsteps of Rene Vantilt, Reg became together with Vaclav the soul of the NTC - the New Talent Contest. He brought new ideas to this exciting area.

Further, Reg had the idea that the EBA should have a "Presidents Shield" with the engravings of all EBA Conventions from the beginning of the foundation of association. Since then, we now have two shields which will pass on from convention to convention to show our commitment in further informing the public's understanding of Bonsai, as well as to appreciate the creative efforts of all our members in their enthusiasm of Bonsai.

In Genk it will be his last appearance as President at an EBA meeting. However, as continuing member of FoBBS we look forward to meeting Reg at further Bonsai and Garden exhibitions; for example, the upcoming presentation of outstanding and excellent bonsai at the famous Chelsea Flower Show in London – a venue where he has been able to promote Bonsai in an international setting and for which he and his team have been awarded gold medals.

And so, dear Reg, we wish to show our appreciation of your sustained efforts and to thank you for all of the work, and not least, especially for the friendship and support so generously given to all bonsai enthusiasts in Europe and, in fact, many other parts of the world.

We wish you and your partner all the very best for the future. We will meet again.

And at the end of my speech I finish with Reg's own words – passed on by his father: I quote: 'If you have anything to say – stand up and say it.....then SIT DOWN and then KEEP QUIET'