

Scottish Bonsai Association					
Member Survey - Results		Total			
		42			
Website					
1. How often have you visited the SBA website in the last 12 months?					
a.	None / no web access	3			
b.	Rarely/occasionally	10			
c.	Monthly	18			
d.	Weekly	9			
e.	More frequently than weekly	2			
2. If you have web access, do you use your password to log into the "Members Only" section of the site ?					
a.	Yes	32			
b.	No	7			
3. Which section(s) of the site do you find most useful/interesting?					
Club updates		14			
Sales page		9			
AtoZ		8			
Minutes		2			
Newsletter		3			
Events		16			
All		4			
News		4			
Business page		1			
Techniques		2			
Images		6			
Paying membership		1			
Bargains		2			
National Collection		1			
4. What, if any, additions/improvements to the website would you like to see?					
Answer :					
5. Have you ever visited the A to Z section of the SBA website?					
a.	Yes	34			
b.	No	6			
Answer : (If No please say why)					
6. Have you ever visited the For Sale section of the SBA website?					
a.	Yes	34			
b.	No	6			
7. Have you ever purchased anything via the "For Sale" section of the SBA website					
a.	Yes	3			
b.	No	37			
Members' activities					

8. Would you like the opportunity to meet with other SBA members to buy or sell surplus trees or pots at a Bonsai Boot sale?					
a. Yes	29				
b. No	9				
c. Maybe	3				
9. If Yes would you like to do this at :					
a. SBA AGM (November)	15				
b. National Collection Open day (August)	10				
c. SBA National Exhibition (May)	4				
d. All 3	15				
10. If you answered c. to Question 9, would you still wish to do this if it meant that traditional traders would not be willing to participate?					
a. Yes	5				
b. No	15				
c. Not Sure	3				
11. At the SBA National Exhibition would you like to be able to exhibit as an individual, if there were sufficient space? You could still contribute to the club stand as well.					
a. Yes	7				
b. No	21				
c. Not sure	11				
	1				
<u>SBA members' benefits</u>					
12. What activities would you like the SBA to organise or sponsor for members (within the limits of the SBA's funding capability) ?					
a) Workshops	11				
b) Demonstration days	22				
c) Lectures	15				
d) Ongoing schools	4				
e) None (Comment why)	1				
f) All	13				
g) Other (please specify)	2				
13. What other things should the SBA subsidise/provide to make it more relevant to members' needs?					

14. Do you believe that it would be useful/beneficial to the overall membership to fund individuals to train at locations outside Scotland (e.g. Willowbog)?					
a. Fully	1				
b. Partly	16				
c. Not at all	22				
d. Not Sure	2				
15. How do you access the SBA Newsletter?					
a) Email	29				
b) Via website	3				
c) Hard copy	11				
d) Combination of the above	2				
e) I do not read it (please give reasons)	0				
16. What improvements or additional content would you like to see in the Newsletter?					
17. Would you be interested in SBA monogrammed clothing?					
a. T-Shirts	5				
b. Polo shirts	11				
c. Sweatshirts	3				
d. Fleeces	14				
e. None	14				
f. All	6				
G. Other	1				
18. Would you be interested in an SBA organised (but not subsidised) bonsai trip to Japan. [Indicative pricing per person for 12 day tour : £3,000 single, £2,700 double/sharing.]					
a. Yes	5				
b. No	26				
c. Maybe (need more information)	11				
19. Do you believe that you receive adequate feedback on SBA Committee Discussions?					
a. Yes	37				
b. No	2				
c. Don't know	1				
20. If the answer to Q. 19 is No, then how would you like to improve the quality of feedback?					
<u>National Collection</u>					
21. Have you ever visited the National Collection?					
a. Yes	32				
b. No (please give reasons)	11				
22. Would you be prepared to nominate one day in the year when you would be willing to visit the National Collection to check the general condition of the display. [initially in the company of someone who knows the routine, if requested?]					
a. Yes	21				
b. No	16				
c. Not sure	2				

About you					
23. What sources of information on bonsai are important to you?					
a. My group members	38				
b. Other SBA members	30				
c. Bonsai professionals	26				
d. My group library	15				
e. Books	26				
f. Magazines	22				
g. SBA website	28				
h. Other websites	21				
i. Website/Youtube videos	29				
24. Approximately how long have you been doing bonsai?					
Answer :	637	17			
25. What level of involvement in bonsai do you want ?					
a. Attend regular club sessions	38				
b. Attend non club sessions with small group	16				
c. Attend SBA or group organised talks	31				
d. Attending SBA or group organised workshop	22				
e. Attend non-SBA workshops	14				
f. Attend non-SBA (bonsai or garden) shows	24				
g. Show at SBA organised events: National Exhi	27				
h. Show at non-SBA shows e.g Ayr Flower Show	19				

Scottish Bonsai Association	
Member Survey - Results	
Website	
1.	How often have you visited the SBA website in the last 12 months?
	Redundancy and new job have affected availability
	No web access
	Once to pay my membership and maybe another time when I read something about someone wanting pots but got no reply so still have a box of pots (mainly small indoor) needing got rid of.
	Have not yet had time to access
2.	If you have web access, do you use your password to log into the "Members Only" section of the site ?
	Bonsai largely individual activity for me.
	Idleness regarding web - frustration with passwords etc.
	Because I haven't had a ny reason to.
	Just looked at it since i had my membership number to hand but it needs a password that was possibly on an email or a letter.
3.	Which section(s) of the site do you find most useful/interesting?
	All club information about what's going on and when and newsletter
	Useful contact information
	AtoZ is helpful start
	All of them are of interest at varying times
	Events, but don't visit for any particular reason.
	It's all O.K. depends what I am looking for.
	Just to browse, unless I have something specific in mind.
	I don't have sufficient interest in bonsai to read any particular sections.
	Looking at photographs of good trees
	Paying my membership.
4.	What, if any, additions/improvements to the website would you like to see?
	:A space for club members to photograph and show their trees and the progression of their trees.
	More group information on what theya re doing and when
	I would like to see a single calendar of all Scottish Bonsai events in one place without having to trawl through individual club pages.
	More inter-action between members on the site - maybe a Q&A or "chat" page.
	Perhaps some tutorial videos.
	Keep everything up to date
	Colours should be more neutral if possible
	Not a website person to be truthful
	Maybe a members blog site
	A discussion forum
	Updated overall branding to attract yound people into Scoittish Bonsai
	Make sure events page is updated. At the moment it isn't
	A summary, somewhere, of the topics covered by the A to Z. I think Kenny has already suggested this.
	In the photo gallery, it would be useful to be able to scroll through the photos when they are in full size view. Currently it is only possible to open them one at a time.
	An easier option of uploading photos, it seems a bit laboured at the moment

	I am happy with the site
	More tips on trees, discussion etc.
	More info on British events
	Better update of events, future and present. Some events on the list date back to 2011! Or are they left on to show, historically, what has been !?
	Based on Scottish weather a calendar or what can/should be worked on each month
	Improved recommended (by members) links to favourite websites/blogs/DVDs – with the reasons why. [I tried to do this at the start of my tenure as content manager, but only got a small number from people that I knew]
	Would be good to have event info as early as possible. I've missed a few things because I couldn't find info far enough in advance to avoid double booking
5.	Have you ever visited the A to Z section of the SBA website?
	One of the countless sources of info I haven't visited
	I haven't thought about it
	I think that's for visitors
	Yes, but only lately
	Tried to find items in the A-Z to link to my Jan/Feb calendar. Wasn't good enough at tight specification to exclude lots of irrelevant stuff. Might need some advice when I have another go.
6.	Have you ever visited the For Sale section of the SBA website?
	Doesn't appear to be updated regularly - also possibly encourage members to use this facility more. Sell/swap
7.	Have you ever purchased anything via the "For Sale" section of the SBA website
	Some items are a bit over-priced. Could we have a "bid" capability included.
	Wasn't looking to buy anything particularly. Just perusing!
	But have sold items
	Never seen anything I wanted
	You could have used a questionnaire website which might have been easier for the people filling this in. Survey Monkey is free.
	You can never please all of the members all of the time. A big thank you to the hard working organisers.
	Sending open emails to a list of people is not very acceptable and could put people off if they worry about their privacy. It makes it easier for the addresses to be stolen and used for spamming.
	No - never sure if info is current
<u>Members' activities</u>	
8.	Would you like the opportunity to meet with other SBA members to buy or sell surplus trees or pots at a Bonsai Boot sale?
	There is no opportunity in Scotland for boot sales and surplus tree sales, I would love that to change. On the wee trees bonsai website there are many advertised boot sales each year for down south, and I envy them when they show the trees they bought and the prices they paid on the wee trees website.
	I think that this is a great idea to try but needs to be supported by members of course.
	Sellers should pay a small "commission" of say 10% to offset SBA costs of staging the event.
	Maybe! Just a new recruit just now but likewise would probably find such an event useful in the future

	Not at a boot sale. I want to be able to sell to the public not just the limited market of SBA members.
	Yes, this seems very popular down south so if well attended it could be a good source of material
	Not really have done it through the group
	I just take stuff (a relative's pots) to the meetings.
	I enjoyed adding to my collection through other members gifts
	One of the major problems for members is to get good enough trees to work on. This may be a big help in that regard, providing sellers don't ramp up prices and buyers realise that good material does cost a fair sum.
9. If Yes would you like to do this at :	
	The only practical place to do this is the AGM so we don't step on traders toes
	The Nat Coll open day would be weather dependant as we could only be outside. though general public attend and there's a chance they might buy
	The only practical solution would be the AGM or a separate day altogether.
	If held at National Collection open day this would muddy the waters about where any funds raised would go.
	It would encourage more members to attend AGM.
	No reason why members can't make own arrangement
	Or maybe making it a separate event would be good.
	SBA AGM. Would add much interest to the day.
	National exhibition is the one I'm most likely to be able to go to, but if it is a success it could be all three
10. If you answered c. to Question 9, would you still wish to do this if it meant that traditional traders would not be willing to participate?	
	Not sure, would depend on the amount of surplus trees etc on offer
	There are different levels of trader. Wattston is a proper business with shipping, tax and import costs. Some others are part time.
	Ideally if we have a dedicated sales day different from the National Exhibition we get the best of both worlds.
	No I think the traders need to participate
	Bad move if traders felt they could not attend
	I think most members would not have the means to bring show trees and stuff for sale and the traders are a welcome addition to the exhibition
	I do hope the traders would still come as it certainly would not be the same without them
	Although expensive traditional traders always were a great interest to me
	Yes - I think it unlikely that any trader would be afraid that a members boot sale would deprive them of serious business. I'm sure any sensible trader wouldn't care

11. At the SBA National Exhibition would you like to be able to exhibit as an individual, if there were sufficient space? You could still contribute to the club stand as well.	
	Why not a table where anyone could show a good tree that was not used on the club exhibition. I think Ayr has a problem with some members not exhibiting on club stand and want to show their trees out with the group stand . I think if we go down this road many of us might consider having our own stand at a show instead of working with the group. I think it might be ok if a person were invited to do the occasional exhibit of good trees, but don't want this to start a precedent which would continue year after year .
	Yes, depending on space. If the club approach is that all members can contribute to the club stand if they want to this can mean that some good trees do not get exhibited.
	National Exhibition is traditionally for all members to have at least one tree on display. If enough members want to display individually then they can organise a show at another time.
	would need to know more about the pros and cons.Does it benefit or distract from the show no objections really
	Would have liked that opportunity classification was sometimes difficult.
	No. For our group, this is the antithesis of what the Nat Ex is all about.
	I'm not ready for that yet, but would like to see more trees if there is room SBA members' benefits
SBA members' benefits	
12. What activities would you like the SBA to organise or sponsor for members (within the limits of the SBA's funding capability) ?	
	Bonsai tree auctions similar to this one currently being advertised by Nibs the Northern Ireland Bonsai association please see the link below. Something similar in Scotland each year for members to sell excess trees and newbies the opportunity to buy more.
	http://www.nibonsai.co.uk/bonsai-auction-8-4-16/
	All if they were affordable and if we could guarantee real interest I think workshops are needed at all clubs
	What about SBA staging a separate exhibition which is for individual tree displays and not club displays. This is how many bonsai shows are organised. We could invite individuals from rest of UK .
	Workshops and demonstra4tion days as they benefit the greatest number of members.
	If members want these activities they should go under their own steam and self fund it.
	The horticultural aspect of bonsai should be explained. No use styling a tree if you don't know how to keep it alive. Demos and lectures on various species would be more advantageous.
	Workshops - but would still be selective about who I would allow on work on my trees
	Workshops - dependent on FIRSTLY securing sufficient interest and confirming attendees BEFORE making any bookings and setting any dates
	Mostly I've been to the Stirling Christmas Party and quiz. there was plenty to buy there or win.
	'Why do we not have a facebook group?' I'd suggest making a fb group even if no-one is in it just so nobody else can! Facebook does have us in 'Whats on in Stirling'
	Trips to bonsai shows/garden centres always very important
	(Workshops) but not necessarily led by outside tutor, more as opportunity to work together across groups
	Not sure about d. (ongoing schools) Can't see us organising one, or affording to pay for an outside one. By this stage of development, if a serious school, members should perhaps be funding their own development.

	<p>An exception might be subsidising members to do an online course, such as</p> <p>http://course.bonsaiempire.com/ Your teachers - Bjorn Bjorholm & Bonsai Empire Interactions between participants in this and other group members might be good for general discussion & learning.</p> <p>An exception might be subsidising members to do an online course, such as</p> <p>http://course.bonsaiempire.com/ Your teachers - Bjorn Bjorholm & Bonsai Empire Interactions between participants in this and other group members might be good for general discussion & learning.</p> <p>. An exception might be subsidising members to do an online course, such as</p> <p>http://course.bonsaiempire.com/ Your teachers - Bjorn Bjorholm & Bonsai Empire Interactions between participants in this and other group members might be good for general discussion & learning.</p>
	<p><u>Lists of possible SBA speakers and their areas of expertise, who would be willing to talk at group meetings.</u> <u>[Also tried this, as suggested by Ian MacD, but even he didn't reply!]</u></p>
13. What other things should the SBA subsidise/provide to make it more relevant to members' needs?	
	Workshops by more experienced members If necessary subsidised by SBA , small groups may not be able to afford expensive people
	Have to think about this one
	Can we group members purchases to save money by bulk buying and on shipping costs.
	Not aware of anything just now
	Very good value already
	In my general opinion i would prefer a quarterly workshop with Peter Warren or other professionals rather than travelling down south to willowbog as I have done for 3 years. Instead of travelling 6hrs in a day, this way you are covering all seasons,but as you already know you could hardly fill the 2 days this yr for workshops there just doesn't seem to be the interest. People dont want to spend £60 or £150 on decent tutoring to learn from masters and if thats the case i wouldn't be having observers at the workshops either but thats just me. I am unfortunate that there is only 2 clubs that meet at weekends ayr/lanark and you know how often i have appeared at ayr, my local one as all the rest are weeknights and i work shifts and some weekends so no good to me. I still intend to meet up at the Ayr meetings if am able too.
	List of speakers willing to speak to individual groups.
	Supported field trips to more inaccessible places for collection of Yamadori
	Help the groups with equipment and if needed some financial help.
	An opportunity to promote the hobby and to enable members to sell surplus material to the public.
	If individuals want to do this, then it should be self-funded.
	Maybe look at different dig venues and the permissions required/permits
	Possibility of showing trees at say shopping centres or garden centres in the idea of bringing in new members.

	If possible get someone like Graham Potter or Harry Harrington to visit
	Visits to other garden groups for exchange of ideas. E.g. we invited miniature fuschia experts to share their expertise.
	Allow clubs to arrange workshops with the benefit of not having to pay the travel costs of demonstrators if arranged during the period the SBA organised Lectures/Demonstrations. :
	Discount on wire, potting mediums, pots & trees for SBA members. [Pipe-dream! Kenny tried to start this with Kaizen, but it stalled. He's got the neck, but we probably aren't big enough for it to work]
	Subsidise members to go to other events outwith Scotland
14. Do you believe that it would be useful/beneficial to the overall membership to fund individuals to train at locations outside Scotland (e.g. Willowbog)?	
	Only if the individual were prepared to pass on information to others
	This was tried quite some time ago without success, some people went for tuition/workshops and tried to claim full amount retrospectively which was against the rules laid down at the time.
	Yes, SBA could contribute partially but should not insist on beneficiaries having to pass on info in formal presentations etc. as this will put less experienced and shyer people not taking up the option.
	I think partly fund would be useful, if the SBA do partly fund training then I think it would be a reasonable condition to ask the member to then give a talk to a wider group to share the knowledge they have gained
	Never seen any benefit to the general membership from this approach in the past
	Difficult to get a consistent return on investment from individuals so part funding would attract keener members. Possibly encourage clubs to sponsor members ?
	Person trained should agree commitment to providing some sort of feedback/support to club members once completed. Perhaps an input to SBA website or article for Newsletter or FAQ article. Unsure how else all members would benefit. There may also be a belief that the person's local club would benefit more than the general membership. No way to stop that happening I expect.
	This would need to be discussed further. What sort of training is available and who would benefit? Just the individual or the whole club? That would be difficult to organise, and we already have highly experienced bonsai practitioners (Robert Porche etc.) to spread the expertise.
	If individuals want to attend workshops that is up to them.
	Tried this years ago but individuals could not fulfil conditions due to various reasons
	Especially to fund young people e.g. under 25
	They would have to give a workshop, write articles and/or tutor members on their return?
	If someone wants to improve their lot then they then they pay for it themselves.
	Yes, given that good feedback is arranged.
	Partly, for the benefit of other members
	Partly, as long as they share their knowledge gained. Otherwise members should pay for themselves.
	Moderate subsidy for limited number per year was already agreed from year 2000 and no change to this has ever been announced.
	Partly ie. just for one trip to a workshop or open work day, for those who have never done a day's workshop of any kind there. It was done by SBA in the 1990s & it changed my whole outlook.

	Partly - would be far better to bring teachers here even if it takes time to develop participation but have no objection to scholarship type awards provided recipient attends with the purpose of obtaining info/techniques not available here and commits in advance to sharing with wider membership e.g. Could do presentation to own club and one other and/or write up workshop for inclusion in newsletter or website. Not to be used to improve individuals trees only.
	Partly, subject to an upper limit
15. How do you access the SBA Newsletter?	
16. What improvements or additional content would you like to see in the Newsletter?	
	Ways to see how the SBA are encouraging youngsters to get interested and involved in Bonsai trees. by advertising / informing / encouraging youngsters in schools, youth clubs etc.
	The Newsletter Editor should be inundated with stuff to choose from and this is just not happening. I would lay the blame at group conveners door but the members should share this as well.
	Would like to see before and after (and in-between) pictures of members trees that they have developed.
	More members should be willing to share specific experiences or problems they have had and how they got around them
	Presidents corner, for sale page, problem solving
	Suits my needs.
	Quite happy with format and content
	Questions and answers.
	Clear photos that you can actually see.
	Maybe try to encourage members to sub, it some news/views/ideas etc.
	Profiles / interviews with established members
	Just previous suggestions put into practise
	As has been said time and again - more content from individuals (I am an offender)
	Happy as is.
	Readers trees .tree of the month, tree tips for the month anything showing more trees
	Build upon the season advice articles.
	Q and A
	It is fine for me
	Not get multiple (email) copies of it?
	The existing content is adequate.
	Debates
	Better quality photos
	Could change to A4 format, like the one FOBBS used to do with each issue of Bonsai Focus....easier for printing and posting?
	Better to keep monthly format than change to eg bi-monthly.
	more input e.g. comments or questions from members
	Better pictures sometimes
	Give species name for tree pics, where displayed, owner if acceptable (security?).

	More interactive. When someone writes in with a query, no-one answers (at least not mine!). Could we get an SBA brains' trust panel who would volunteer an answer from their number? Could this panel's activities widen into meetings (our local experts rather than big names). A) Either a panel & audience, or B) availability at the Nat Ex for members to get several opinions on a displayed tree, or a tree brought separately.
	Perhaps a regular column(s) on what experienced member is doing with trees, focus on particular species, reviews of other content. Could/should it be used to promote SBA more widely?
17. Would you be interested in SBA monogrammed clothing?	
	Fleeces, for when you want to venture outside to check the trees but it is still a bit cold.
	Many members have some of those items but are very seldom worn.
	Would be good if SBA logo could also include the individual club name underneath.
	Possibly a soft shell jacket. Have one for both work and another hobby - cost £20/30.
	Not really my thing.
	With proper updated branding
	If the Tshirt had a V neck and was in a colour I like.
	probably, but at what cost to SBA?
	Only if they are not too expensive or bought in large quantities. The silver brooches were very nice.
	if they don't shrink too quickly, as previous ones did!
18. Would you be interested in an SBA organised (but not subsidised) bonsai trip to Japan. [Indicative pricing per person for 12 day tour : £3,000 single, £2,700 double/sharing.]	
	I think individuals would prefer to arrange a trip like this personally.
	I could not justify the cost at the moment (however it something I would be interested in for future years)
	Not in a financial position for such an outlay
	Can you really do it for that price? Is that dinner plus b&b? Could go with my son if my premium bond came up.
	Maybe in the future
	I Could book (and am considering for next year) a 12 day trip for myself for less than £1300, staying in 3star hotels including flights and rail pass - what extras would be involved in this trip for the additional £1700?
19. Do you believe that you receive adequate feedback on SBA Committee Discussions?	
	Yes, but mainly through reading the minutes on the website.
	Yes but I am not sure that we get enough feedback from individual members.
	Don't know at this point how info is fed back to the local group as I haven't been a member long enough
	One of many places/displays I'll visit some time.
	Excellent
	The minutes are available online still aren't they?
	Have never seen the minutes (not on line). Could be shown at group meetings.
	If the SBA is to keep changing, as now(!), then some is needed for discussion.

20. If the answer to Q. 19 is No, then how would you like to improve the quality of feedback?	
	Include the minutes with the email version of the newsletter
	Brainwash convenors.
National Collection	
21. Have you ever visited the National Collection?	
	Not yet, only in my 4th year as a bonsai member.
	Yes frequently
	Yes but it's a long way to travel and the number and quality of trees on display do not really justify the effort.
	But I would like to and intend to visit this year
	Haven't managed it yet, no excuse. Want to at some point.
	just haven't got around to it
	Long long ago i think or was it at an event such as the garden Festival in Glasgow?
	No, uncomfortable with journey
	Yes, but not for a long tme.
	No - no idea how to get there on public transport and haven't yet had time/inclination to book a car specially for the trip. I will one day
22. Would you be prepared to nominate one day in the year when you would be willing to visit the National Collection to check the general condition of the display. [initially in the company of someone who knows the routine, if requested?]	
	No not experienced enough.
	Advertise the monthly workshops in newsletter
	The Trustees of the National Collection have at least two meetings and an AGM plus work days are on the last Sunday of each month annually through March to September, anyone willing to help is welcome on those work days.
	Anyone can visit the Collection at any time and if a member is willing to " <i>check the general condition</i> " they are welcome.
	It's a bigger issue than the question allows for. Since the National Collection Trustees have declared the collection a separate organisation and the best trees are not visible to SBA members being cared for on trustees premises then I do not feel sufficient involvement or ownership to put myself out.
	I would certainly need guidance from somebody
	Yes it would have to be with someone
	Probably not. Though if it is on a bus route maybe.
	Not physically able now to do what may be required.
	Yes, provided there was a day or two's latitude each way.
About you	
23. What sources of information on bonsai are important to you?	
	Wee Trees
	I like to watch videos on the web so the video links in the AtoZ are very helpful to me.
	Just the Newsletter at present.

24. Approximately how long have you been doing bonsai?	
	Growing and maintaining. Last 2 years becoming more aware of actual "Bonsai" requirements and proper development.
	Not very successfully; love Bonsai so my trees may not be as 'Bonsai' should but they are pleasing to me
	My mum had started before 1988. I give up and let them grow into trees which I give to people with big gardens. Then I half start again.
25. What level of involvement in bonsai do you want ?	
	upto now i didnt feel my trees had been good enough to be of show quality
	I am personally interested in all of the above and would attend when/if I could (pay or free). However, my job includes a lot of travel so I am under unforeseen constraints regarding planning time.
	Who knows what the future will bring. Public transport is my most important factor then date and price.
	All of the above, though I don't yet have trees ready for showing. The club is great but when it comes to talks, shows and workshops I don't care who organises them, I care about the quality (I'm still learning how to judge this)