



RPS Nature Group – Minutes of the 44th AGM 31st October 2020

The 44th Annual General Meeting of the RPS Nature Group was held on Saturday 31st October 2020 starting at 1500hrs on-line using Zoom. It was attended by 62 Members. This Meeting was a replacement for the AGM originally planned for Saturday 4th April 2020, which had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions at the time.

Address by the RPS President Dr Alan Hodgson ASIS HonFRPS FInstP

The Nature Group Chairman, Thomas Hanahoe FRPS, welcomed Members to the Meeting and introduced the President of the RPS, Dr Alan Hodgson ASIS HonFRPS FInstP, who started the Meeting with a 15 minute address.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for Absence had been received from: John Curgenven and Peter Smith.

Minutes of the 43rd AGM 2019 (printed in Issue 134 of The Iris and available on the RPS Nature Group Website):

There were no corrections to the minutes and it was proposed by Stan Saunders and seconded by Ralph Snook that the minutes be approved.

Matters Arising:

None.

Post Meeting Note:

The Officers' Reports, the Young Photographers' Exhibition Proposal and the Update of the Nature Group Regulations with Explanatory Notes referred to in the following three sections of these minutes are on the RPS Nature Group Website under:

<https://rps.org/news/groups/nature/2020/2020-agm-reports/>

Questions on the Officers' Reports dated 1st April 2020 that were put on the RPS Nature Group Website on the 6th April 2020:

Chairman's Report – Thomas Hanahoe FRPS

No questions were raised.

Treasurer's Report – David O'Neill LRPS

No questions were raised.

Secretary's Report – Duncan Locke LRPS

No questions were raised.

Questions on the Young Photographers' Exhibition (YPE) Proposal that was put on the RPS Nature Group Website on the 6th April 2020 – Ralph Snook ARPS

Ralph Snook said that it was proposed to introduce a YPE into the Group's Annual Exhibition. There would be one class covering all subject matter and the normal rules for nature photography would apply. There will be two categories: firstly age 14 years and under and secondly age 15 to 17 years. Entry will be for digital images only, no prints, using the same entry system as that used for the present Exhibition. Three experienced selectors will review all of the images and select a suitable number to go into the Exhibition; these images will also be included in the final slide show.

All entrants whose images are accepted will receive free copies of *The Iris* for the following year and those submitting what is judged to be the best image in each age category will also receive an engraved trophy and certificate. Certificates will also be awarded for Commended and Highly Commended images at the discretion of the selectors.

Given present Covid-19 restrictions, promoting the Exhibition will be difficult in the near future so the plan is to introduce it for the 2022 Exhibition.

Colin Smith suggested advertising the YPE through the Awards Section of the John Muir Trust, which encourages exploring the natural world through image, film and sound recording. There was a need to reach a wider audience in addition to schools and the youth community and an NGO like the John Muir Trust could help to promote the YPE more widely. Thomas Hanahoe thanked Colin for his suggestion and said that the Group Committee would take it forward.

In response to a question from Malcolm Gee, Ralph Snook said that entry into the YPE would not be confined to RPS Members and their relatives; the aim was to reach as wide an audience as possible.

In response to question from James Foad, Ralph Snook said that entry into the YPE will be for digital images only and added that mobile 'phone images will be accepted.

Thomas Hanahoe asked the Members on-line if they were happy for the Committee to proceed to develop the YPE. No comments were received.

Thomas Hanahoe added that it had not yet been decided if the YPE would be run as part of the existing Group Annual Exhibition or separately at a different time of year. He thanked Ralph Snook for the work that he had put into developing the YPE.

Update of the Nature Group Regulations (available on the RPS Nature Group Website) – Duncan Locke LRPS:

Duncan Locke reported that he had put two documents on the RPS Nature Group Website: firstly a proposed set of updated Nature Group Regulations and secondly a set of Notes explaining why the previous Regulations needed updating and including details of the proposed changes.

The previous set of Nature Group Regulations had been approved by the RPS Council in December 2006 and accepted by the Group Members at the AGM in March 2007.

It was not proposed to make any major changes to these, but to update them in the light of changes in:

- **Communication technology:** this meant that the roles on the Committee had to change to include, for example, a Webmaster.
- **Finance:** the almost complete elimination in the use of cheques for payments.
- **Changes in the structure of the RPS:** the titles of positions in the RPS had changed, for example, there was no longer a Director General as this post had been replaced by a Chief Executive Officer.
- **The almost 50% increase in the Nature Group membership:** the number of Members required for a quorum at, for example, the AGM has been increased slightly.

Thomas Hanahoe asked the Members present if they had any questions on the proposed updated Regulations. No questions were raised and Thomas Hanahoe thanked Duncan Locke for the work that he had put into the update.

Any Other Business:

None.

Date and Venue of the 45th AGM 2021:

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the RPS Nature Group will be on Saturday 24th April 2021 at either Smethwick Photographic Society, The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, B69 2AS or on-line on Zoom dependent upon any Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time.

The Chair, Thomas Hanahoe, thanked the Members present for attending what was probably one of the Nature Group's best attended AGMs. He thanked the Members of the Committee for the work that they had put into making the overall Chairman's Day such a success and particularly thanked the speakers and the President of the RPS, Dr Alan Hodgson for their presentations. James Foad added thanks on behalf of the Group Members to the organisers of the Chairman's Day and AGM for their work that they had put into the day.