

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

MINUTES of meeting (hybrid) held in person at RPS House, Bristol, and via ZOOM on Saturday 24 September 2022, 11:00-12:00h

The Meeting was chaired by the President, Simon Hill HonFRPS

Present

RPS Board of Trustees (Council):

Simon Hill HonFRPS, President and Chair of Trustees
Mathew Lodge LRPS, Deputy Chair
Tony Cearns, Honorary Treasurer
Mónica Alcázar-Duarte, Trustee
Nicola Bolton ARPS, Trustee
Gavin Bowyer ARPS, Trustee
Sebah Chaudhry, Trustee
Sarah J Dow ARPS, Trustee
Andy Golding ASIC FRPS, Trustee
Mervyn Mitchell ARPS, Trustee
Dr Peter Walmsley LRPS, Trustee

RPS Executive (Senior Leadership Team):

Tracy Marshall-Grant, RPS Director of Development
Nikki McCoy, RPS Director of Finance and HR
Dr Michael Pritchard FRPS, RPS Director of Programmes

There were 235 Members present online and 26 Members in the auditorium (261 in total) representing 2.55% of the total Membership. Several members of RPS staff were in attendance.

Apologies

Evan Dawson, RPS Chief Executive Officer

The following Members asked for their apologies to be recorded:

Paul Bannerman
Derek Britton
Moira Ellice ARPS
Professor Ralph Jacobson ASIS HonFRPS
Andy Moore LRPS
Alistair Taylor ARPS
Stewart Wall ARPS

WELCOME

The President welcomed all to the Meeting noting that Members were attending from UK, Republic of Ireland, mainland Europe, the United States, India, Japan and SE Asia.

TRIBUTE to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The President paid tribute to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Patron of the RPS from 1952 to 2019, and expressed the hope that, despite the inevitable expansion of her duties, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales would remain our Patron for many years to come.

Those present, and able to do so, stood for one minute silence in remembrance of Her Late Majesty The Queen.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the AGM held 25 September 2021 (POLL 1)

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021 were circulated prior to this Meeting. There were no errors or omissions notified prior to the Meeting nor were any raised at the Meeting. There were no matters arising.

The President, as Chair of the Meeting, asked for a vote on acceptance of the Minutes as a true and accurate record. Acceptance was proposed by Gavin Bowyer ARPS and seconded by Sarah J Dow ARPS. In the subsequent vote, 161 Members voted For, none voted Against, there were 10 Abstentions (total indicating a vote 171). The Minutes were duly accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Annual Report

In advance of the meeting the Annual Report of the RPS for the year ended 31 December 2021 was made available to Members via the RPS website. In a presentation to those present, the President restated the Vision and Mission of the RPS and provided an outline of the three Pillars - "*Inspire*" "*Create*" "*Connect*" - and the five Aims - *Inclusion, Social Responsibility, Member Involvement, Financial Sustainability, Profile Raising*.

The President presented some of the highlights from the Annual Report, including:

- International Photography Exhibition 162
- Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors
- RPS Awards
- RPS Journal
- 'New' RPS Collection
- In-person, online and facilitated education opportunities
- Distinctions and Qualifications
- RPS Community: Total Membership; Regions; Groups; International

A selection of those presentation slides showing relevant data is provided below:

Education

A diverse offering of in-person, on-line and facilitated programmes

- 231 photography workshops
- 2438 participants (mostly online)
- 280 events
- 6618 supported photographers
- 625 attendees to 'Books on Photography' with MPF
- 841 students at 'Digital Photography: Creating and Sharing Better Images'
- 221 students 'Digital Photography: Discover your Genre and Develop your Style'



RPS



RPS

Distinctions & Qualifications

LRPS ARPS FRPS HonFRPS CIQ ISQ

(2020 figures shown in brackets) [Total active in 2021]

- 613 one-to-one interviews (376)
- 741 assessments (675)
- 63% success (51%)
- LRPS 240 (73% pass rate) (179) [3091]
- ARPS 157 (59% pass rate) (131) [2239]
- FRPS 67 (44% pass rate) (24) [663]
- HonFRPS 192 (conferred) (12) [204]
- CIQ (Creative Industries) (0) [18]
- ISQ (Imaging Science) (3) [107]



Viveca Koh FRPS | RPS Journal Sept/Oct 2021

The RPS Community

RPS Membership



	2020	2021	2022*	%*
UK	9374	9317	8974	87.6
International	1247	1338	1275	12.4
Total	10,621	10,655	10,249	100
Change on previous year	-581	+34	-406	

* Correct at 14 September 2022

The RPS Community

International Membership



	USA & Canada	Hong Kong	Mainland Europe	Australia & New Zealand	Republic of Ireland	China	India	Japan	All other international	Total
Total	241	186	163	130	102	73	52	40	288	1275
% of International Membership	18.9	14.6	12.8	10.2	8.0	5.7	4.1	3.1	22.6	100
% of Total RPS Membership	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	2.8	12.1

The RPS Community

Regional Membership

	Central	East Anglia	East Midlands	London	N Ireland	Northern	North West	Scotland	
Total	568	720	455	1065	100	336	624	570	
%	6.4	8.1	5.1	12.0	1.1	3.8	7.1	6.4	
	South East	Southern	South West	Thames Valley	Western	North Wales	South Wales	Yorkshire	Total
	805	895	434	760	754	105	231	434	8856*
	9.1	10.1	4.9	8.6	8.5	1.2	2.6	4.9	100

* Variation of 118 (8974) due to unallocated Region

The RPS Community

Group Membership

	Archaeology & Heritage	Analogue	Audio Visual	Creative Eye	Contemporary	Digital Imaging	DIG Online	Historical	
Total	147	214	187	566	392	1388	493	155	
% of Total RPS Membership (10655)	1.4	2.0	1.8	5.3	3.7	13.0	4.6	1.5	
	Imaging Science	Landscape	Medical	Nature	Visual Art	Travel	Documentary	Women in Photography	Total
	119	1013	59	947	1018	517	588	135	7938
	1.1	9.5	0.6	8.9	9.6	4.9	5.5	1.3	100

3. Financial Report

Together with Legal and Administrative information, the Consolidated Financial Statements of the RPS for the year ended 31 December 2021 were published with the Annual Report. At this meeting the Honorary Treasurer, Tony Cearns, additionally provided a spoken Financial Report:

"I was appointed a Trustee in April this year, after the year-end of the Accounts that are being presented today. I wasn't a Trustee for the year in question but I agreed to sign the accounts and present them to you. I don't normally read out presentations, but in an AGM a written transcript is important for the record. I would like to cover off in a few slides the context of the Accounts, that is, their significance to today's economic climate rather than the figures in detail. Members have been given the opportunity to read the Accounts and submit questions.

Income Performance

Income (£k)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Subscriptions	1,199	1,188	1,018	1,020	1,079	Area of Focus
Other	682	518	593	551	748	Positive
Investment Income	227	167	140	101	74	Changed Fund Manager
Total	2,108	1,873	1,751	1,672	1,901	14% increase YOY

Summary of Income Performance

This chart simply sets out total income compared to the previous 4 years. You will see that total income has increased year on year by 14%, or 8% if you discount 2020 as an unusual year due to COVID. But of course it's difficult to assess trends, because COVID was an issue for 2021 as well. The key trend here is the top-line - Subscriptions. There has been a slight increase in 2021, but nothing to write home about. Membership, as you may know, has been in decline over recent years. I will return to this later on in my talk. Other points to note are:

1. Other income increased largely due to the opening up of events and workshops following the lifting of COVID restrictions.

- Investment income declined. The Society's Fund Manager was changed and the investment firm, ABERDEEN, was appointed.

Financial Health

Results from Operations (£k) (excluding investment activity)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Income	1,881	1,707	1,612	1,571	1,827	
Expenditure	2,064	2,122	2,754	2,154	2,188	
Operating Deficit	-183	-415	-1,142	-583	-361	
Add Back Depreciation Charge	67	58	180	249	253	
EBITDA: 'free cash-flow (outflows)'	-115	-356	-962	-335	-108	Improving trend

Financial Health

This slide shows the 5-year record of EBITDA*. I won't explain what the acronym 'EBITDA' stands for other than to say that it's a useful measure because it throws the spotlight onto operating activities, that is, it excludes exogenous cash-flows, like investment income, and it excludes depreciation and one-off items like property write-downs. The EBITDA trend is a good proxy for financial health.

Pleasingly, 2021 shows an improvement over the previous 4 years. However, it is negative, that is, the Society is still consuming cash from operations rather than breaking even or generating cash from operations.

Financial Highlights

Apart from the improved trend in EBITDA, two other things are worth mentioning.

Firstly, in the Statement of Financial Activities there is a line called 'impairment of fixed assets' with a charge of £414,253. Technical accounting standards require that the value of fixed assets be adjusted to the value given by an independent valuation report. The adjustment does not affect cash. Without this technical adjustment, the Society would have posted a net surplus for the year of £111,450 rather than the net deficit of £302,803. What this tells me is that the Society is well capable of generating a surplus, that is, paying its own way from operations.

Secondly, the Trustees decided that it would be prudent to maintain the level of reserves within the target range previously set, £2m - £3m. This will help the Society to withstand shocks that might arise due to movements in the market, adverse economic conditions or unforeseen operational issues.

Key Issues

Let me speak to these potential shocks in a little more detail.

In terms of the balance sheet, the most valuable assets are the listed investments and RPS House. The value of listed investments at 31 December 2021 was £3m. Investments underpin the Society's free reserves. During the current financial year, in common with most other investment holdings, the investment portfolio declined in value following the falls in the stock market and bond market.

At one point the value of investments had reduced by 20%, although it has recovered a little since then. However the volatility in the markets, a good example which we saw yesterday, means that it is sensible to maintain a prudent Reserves Policy.

RPS House is on a 250 year-long lease and, including permanent plant and machinery, is valued at £2.35M. To some extent it acts as a hedge against the volatility of the markets (although I wouldn't want to push this argument too far). The financial issue however remains its opportunity cost. It is a large part of the Society's asset base and ties up a lot of capital. The Society needs to increase the value delivered from RPS House.

In terms of cash-flows the largest source of shock is likely to be the high inflation and recession, conditions that were not visible on the horizon when the current year's budgets were put together last December.

I can't stress enough how difficult this will be for Charities in general and our Society in particular. The cost of living crisis could affect membership retention rates and will certainly increase operating costs.

Financial Objectives

High inflation is likely to continue for quite some time. Yesterday we saw Sterling come under real pressure with the result that the UK will import inflation. Furthermore, if the Arts Sector experiences significant funding cuts, which seems inevitable, then the Society would see a source of potential funding cut away.

Such conditions present real challenges for the Charity sector which depends on donations and fund raising and is particularly exposed to cost inflation. The pandemic followed by high inflation is a double whammy for the sector.

So, the financial strategy for the Society therefore must be defensive and centred on liquidity and cost control. In particular:

1. The Society needs to consolidate on core strategic objectives. That means a focus on member retention, initially, and then growth. Obviously, service levels are vital to this as is a radically better support for volunteers. Volunteer engagement is crucial.
2. Secondly, good working capital disciplines need to be maintained.
3. Finally, robust cost controls need to be applied.

Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team are on with course-correcting in the face of such challenges.

Summary

The Accounts to 31 December 2021 show an improvement in financial performance on recent previous years. Given the current economic climate and probable deterioration, the Board of Trustees has decided to maintain a prudent Reserves Policy. The Society's main financial objective is to be self-funding from operations. Achieving this in current conditions is a significant challenge, but it's one that **absolutely must be met**.

I'm sorry to be so gloomy but I think my assessment is realistic."

** EBITDA is short for "Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation. It is one of the most widely used measures of a company's financial health and ability to generate cash. A positive EBITDA means that the organisation is profitable at an operating level: it provides goods or services (value) at a price higher than they cost to serve. Conversely, a negative EBITDA means the organisation is facing operational difficulties and/or it is poorly managed.*

4. Questions & Answers

Question 1 [A question was submitted that voiced concerns about the new CRM system and what is being done to address the problems that have arisen with it. The question was subsequently retracted but Evan Dawson provided a response that he asked be read to the AGM.]

Answer from Evan Dawson, CEO [read by Simon Hill in Evan's absence]

General: The project has not gone to plan. This has caused frustration for members and volunteers, placed extra pressure on staff, impacted our income and reputation. I'll tell you about what happened, what we have done to address the problems and what are our next steps.

Background: The CRM system is the application that allows us to hold data and build relationships with, and provide bespoke services to, all our members. Our previous system had reached the end of its life, so it needed to be replaced. With help from consultants, in August 2020 we put out a tender to select the most appropriate development partner. In July 2021, the Board of Trustees supported the Senior Leadership Team's recommendation for Emprisia to carry out this work, based on a very impressive proposal, due diligence and external advice. The work started immediately, with go-live originally planned for March 2022.

Summer 2022: The new system was already three months late, when our old system failed. This meant that we suddenly couldn't make payments online for new memberships, or help members

with renewals or event bookings. We put a phone line system in place, with two excellent temporary workers, which worked well - but there was pressure on us to move to the new system as soon as possible. The experts were telling us that testing had gone well and encouraged us to go live - so that's what we did.

That happened in July. It immediately became clear that things that had been working in the test environment weren't working consistently now. For some people, it was all fine - but for others, they couldn't log in, join, renew or book events. It was very difficult for our loyal volunteers and hard-working staff team - many of whom set up alternative systems to ensure members could still attend events.

By late Autumn, the systems were still sporadic at best. We were placing pressure on the developers and project managers, and eventually felt we needed to declare it a crisis, and form a Taskforce to address it, including an expert external advisor (who has given his time for free), a Trustee (Sarah Dow) and a volunteer representative (Mark Phillips from the Documentary Group).

Next steps: I want to apologise to everyone that's been affected by this, including members, staff and volunteers. I know it's been very frustrating. Now we have a clear 'roadmap' to prioritise the most urgent fixes, many of which have already been implemented. The most essential features of the system are membership login, payments for new memberships, renewals and groups, and information to volunteers. The new events booking system has a lot of potential, but the user journey for booking and setting up events is currently too complicated. This is being urgently addressed, and you should all see improvements during the coming few weeks, giving you a positive online experience of the RPS again. The plan anticipates that all the membership functions, including some new ones, will be functional by the end of November.

It's not all doom and gloom. The good news is that, when it's working properly, the system itself is impressive, and offers an enhanced experience for all members. George is going to discuss this with everyone this afternoon, giving us a walk-through of some of the new features. I hope this session will help address any further questions you have.

Also, if you look on the events page today, you can see a large number of fascinating and exciting photography events to get involved with. This is already an improvement on the previous portal. Once the user journey for booking is improved, we are confident that this will be a really valuable addition to your RPS Membership.

If you want to write to me about it, I personally answer every email I receive from Members, and our staff do the same. Once again, I do sincerely apologise if you've been affected by this, and we are all very grateful for your patience and support while we get this fixed.

Question 2 from Mark Reeves FRPS

"I note from the annual report that during 2021 income from exhibitions was £3,315 whilst expenditure was £314,433. Please confirm

(i) whether the expenditure represents the full costs (including an apportionment of buildings costs and the costs of the exhibitions staff etc);

(ii) if not already included, what was the estimated full cost of running exhibitions;

(iii) in the light of the very significant outlay, how do trustees evaluate the costs and benefits of the exhibitions programme and;

(iv) is this level of net spend planned to continue?"

Answer from Tony Cearns, Honorary Treasurer

(i) Yes it does. It includes attributable direct costs and an allocation of overheads.

(ii) It is included; this is the full cost of running exhibitions.

(iii) It is worth saying at the outset that Trustees have a responsibility for ensuring that the Society's charitable objects continue to be met. The charitable objects are to educate members of the public through various means. Promoting the art and science of photography by holding exhibitions is one of the Society's stated means.

It is pleasing to note that the gap between expenditure and income fell by c20% in the year under review. However, more needs to be done. Firstly, given the costs, we need to increase exhibition attendance levels.

And secondly, there is more that we can do (and are now doing) to use the space to exhibit the work of Members.

One complication is that we must do this in a way that does not put our charitable status and VAT and Gift Aid status at risk.

(iv) When comparing income to expenditure it is worth noting that included in expenditure was £122k of head office [RPS House] overheads and that £30k of exhibition-related income was accounted for in donations.

Nevertheless, the question is a good one and as you would expect going into a period of high inflation/recession, this is one of the areas under scrutiny.

Question 3 from Mark Reeves FRPS

"I note that total income from events and workshops during 2021 was £266,761 whilst expenditure was £350,120 leaving a loss of over £83k. Given that SIGs and regions largely run events that generally at least break even, could you please explain

(i) why overall this activity generates a significant loss,

(ii) whether this loss is planned to continue and

(iii) if so, why is this considered to be desirable?"

Answer from Tony Cearns, Honorary Treasurer

(i) Firstly, it is right to say that the Groups at least break even. In fact, they do better than that. Generally, they are profitable. The straight answer to your question is that there is insufficient income to cover the overheads. Group activity is through unpaid volunteers. RPS House activity incurs people costs as well as a shared of overheads. Groups are not charged for any central costs that are incurred for the benefit of Group activities. However, even if you strip out people costs and overheads, RPS activity still makes a loss. It's worth mentioning that the charity is not a "For Profit" organisation but we should n't be making a loss either.

(ii) Not at this level.

(iii) It is not desirable.

Question 4 from Richard Ellis

On average per day, the exhibitions programme costs £852, attracts fewer than 20 visitors and thus incurs a subsidy of ca £49 per visitor. In the light of the poor financial performance of this programme:

(i) what plans do the trustees/SLT have to make the programme more attractive to a larger number of visitors?

(ii) why do the trustees/SLT feel it is desirable to allow the majority of the programme to focus on social documentary/contemporary photography rather than a more broad range of photographic subjects as per the strategic plan and the ambition of "Photography for Everyone"?

(iii) The volunteers have organised very successful exhibitions in terms of footfall (documentary group), international exposure (London region) and accessibility (landscape group). Given this, why are the groups and regions excluded from using the main gallery in RPS HQ to exhibit their work?

Answer from Dr Michael Pritchard FRPS

I'd like to thank Richard for his question and the opportunity to contextualise some of the thinking behind the RPS House exhibitions' programme. I will start by providing some initial context and then pick up on Richard's specific questions.

It's important to start by saying that decisions about the exhibition programme and content are made by the staff team. The different Boards of Trustees since 2018 set the strategic direction and his has changed so that there is now a greater focus on the RPS's membership which will feed into the detail of the programme.

The programme to date has been widely praised by visitors. One of the difficulties in reviewing the raw numbers in the 2021 Annual Report is that as a new venue – we only opened to the public in February 2019 – we have no long-term numbers to use as comparators and to see trends. For most of 2020 and almost half of 2021 we were unable to open to the public due to the pandemic.

However, the RPS was able to make use of the government's job retention scheme and we had no direct expenditure on the Gallery.

Since 2019 we have tried different models of ticketing and opening hours. So, in 2019 we charged an admission fee which brought in a limited income and we opened Thursdays to Sundays. We then worked with Martin Parr Foundation to better synchronise opening hours which were increased to 5 days per week – to support, in part the ability to make sales through coffee and books - and – at the Board's request - admission was made free, to improve accessibility. So on an historical basis for

- in 2019 for 44 weeks of 2019 when the gallery was open it received 6533 visitors;
- in 2021 for approx. 30 weeks open it received 2932 visitors;
- and so far, in 2022 up to the end of the IPE163 in mid-August we received 3394 visitors in approx. 29 weeks

It is also worth reminding ourselves that the Gallery is a key part of the RPS's public presence in Bristol and it acts as a driver to bring people to RPS events, workshops, and to membership. Those visitors also buy from the RPS bookshop and coffee shop. Gallery exhibitions are also important means of delivering on the RPS's public benefit which it is required to do as a charity, as well as delivering the RPS's own strategic objectives of inclusion, profile raising, and member engagement. Universities, colleges and school groups from Falmouth, Birmingham and locally regularly visit and engage with the exhibitions. The exhibitions are the catalyst for artist talks, workshops and public activities.

Furthermore, the IPE and other exhibitions are toured across the UK and bring in an income from those venues. Similarly, the Gallery is also hired commercially to Food Photographer of the Year and we aim to extend these hires.

The addition of the outdoor exhibition space which opened in June has also allowed us to show shorter run, less costly, exhibitions.

That's enough context. In answer to Richard's specific questions:

(i) Programme

The programme is designed to meet the RPS's strategic objectives, and we have shown a range of exhibitions from the RPS's own ever-popular International Photography Exhibition (IPE), to those showcasing inspiring photography from a range of diverse photographers and artists. We keep the programme under review and are looking to grow audiences by showing exhibitions that are popular but also inspire and challenge our visitors.

(ii) Content

I would question the premise that the content focuses on social documentary work. With four exhibitions in a normal year (including IPE and Food), since 2019 the exhibitions have ranged from historical photography, environmental themes, Augmented Reality installations, fine art, social/documentary, portraiture, food (within which are a range of themes from fine art, and advertising to documentary), processes, and two editions of the IPE which, again, covers all genres from landscape and the natural world, to contemporary work, fine art and social and documentary themes. Many of these have included members' work. The IPE164 which has

just been selected includes 12 members out of 46 photographers.

(iii) Groups/Regions/Members

Again, I would question the premise of the question. Groups and Regions have not been explicitly excluded from the gallery, but the gallery does have a wider public remit for the RPS. Some of the Group exhibitions, especially, such as the Documentary Group's Documentary Photographer of the Year I could foresee being shown in the gallery - I am looking forward to seeing the current edition in a couple of weeks' time. We welcome costed proposals for exhibitions for the gallery and outdoor exhibition spaces that will fulfil the RPS's wider objectives, engage a photography audience, and also have a broad public appeal.

In 2023 we will be hosting an exhibition outdoors and on the video wall from the RPS's Women in Photography Group, and in the same year the Travel Group will be holding an exhibition of travel photography here in Bristol.

What I can also announce for the first time today is that in November we will be launching a call for a summer exhibition that will showcase photography from the RPS's membership – we hope that the Groups, Regions and Overseas Chapters will encourage their members to participate. Look out for details in the next Journal.

I would end by saying the Groups and Regions continue to produce excellent online and gallery exhibitions which reach beyond Bristol and show across the UK and overseas: the AV Festival, the Documentary Group, the Creative Group and those from the Western Region I know from personal experience. They are all distinctive and help further the RPS's objectives, alongside the exhibitions in the RPS Gallery.

5. Acceptance of the Annual Report and Financial Statements (POLL 2)

The President, as Chair of the Meeting, asked for a vote on acceptance of the Annual Report and Financial Statements. Acceptance was proposed by Edgar Gibbs FRPS and seconded by Mathew Lodge LRPS. In the subsequent vote, 173 Members voted For, 1 voted Against, there were 8 Abstentions (total indicating a vote 182). The Annual Report and Financial Statements were duly accepted.

6. Appointment of Auditors (POLL 3)

The President, as Chair of the Meeting, asked for a vote on the Appointment of Moore's Accountants as the Auditors for 2022. Acceptance was proposed by Sarah J Dow ARPS and seconded by Edgar Gibbs FRPS. In the subsequent vote, 160 Members voted For, 1 voted Against, there were 23 Abstentions (total indicating a vote 184). Moore Accountants were duly appointed as auditors.

7. Notice of Appointments to the Board

7.1 The President reminded the Meeting of the election (at the AGM 2021) of the following Elected Trustees, effective from the close of the AGM 2021:

Nicola Bolton ARPS
Gavin Bowyer ARPS
Sarah J Dow ARPS

Andy Golding ASICI FRPS
Mervyn Mitchell ARPS
Dr Peter Walmsley LRPS

These Elected Trustees are eligible to serve for a period of three years from the close of the AGM 2021 (By Law 14.2) which is until the close of the AGM 2024.

7.2 The President reported the appointment of the following Appointed Trustees, effective from the Board Meeting of 20 January 2022 at which these appointments were ratified:

Mónica Alcazár-Duarte
Tony Cearns, Trustee and Honorary Treasurer
Sebah Chaudhry
Mathew Lodge LRPS

These Appointed Trustees are eligible to serve for a period of three years from the date of their appointment (By Law 15.2) which is until 19 January 2025.

The President reported that Mathew Lodge LRPS was elected (by the Board of Trustees) to the office of Deputy Chair on 18 July 2022 and will serve in that office until the end of his Appointed Trusteeship which is 19 January 2025 (By Law 12.1).

7.3 The President reported the resignation of **Tony Cearns** as Trustee and Honorary Treasurer, effective from close of this meeting. As previously reported, Tony was appointed 20 January 2022 and, on behalf of all Trustees and the Members of the RPS, he thanked Tony for his work since that date and wished him well for the future.

7.4 The President reported the appointment of the following Appointed Trustees, effective from the close of this Annual General Meeting.

Derek Trendell FCA ARPS, Trustee and Honorary Treasurer
Sophie Collins LRPS, Appointed Trustee

Both are eligible to serve for a period of three years from the date of their appointment (By Law 15.2) which is until the close of the AGM 2025.

8. Result of Vote on the Motion

There was only one Motion put to the Meeting and that was to re-elect Simon Hill HonFRPS as President and Chair of Trustees to serve until the close of the AGM in 2025. This Motion was proposed at a Meeting of the Board of Trustees held 23 May 2022 and had the unanimous support of the Board. The Motion already having the support of the 10 Trustees subsequently gained the support of 55 Members and, as required under By Law 26.5, was duly lodged at the Registered Office of the Society on Friday 17 June 2022. With the Notice of the Annual General Meeting published in the *RPS Journal*, vol 162 no 4, page 429, Members were asked to vote on the Motion.

The result of the Vote on the Motion was 249 Members voted For, 15 voted Against, and there were 3 Abstentions (total indicating a vote 267). Therefore the Motion was carried with the support of 93.3% of the total votes cast.

Following announcement of the result, Simon Hill HonFRPS provided the following statement:

“As you can imagine, I am incredibly humbled and, of course, delighted that so many of those Members voting on this Motion have chosen to support my re-election as President. Thank you for that support. I will continue to do the best I can to ensure an effective and sustainable future for the Society. I am sorry that 15 Members felt they could not support the Motion so, if they wish, I invite them to write to me at president@rps.org so that we can discuss any concerns they may have and together try to find a way to address them. Thank you again to everyone who voted in support of the Motion.”

9. Thanks and Closing Remarks

The President thanked all present for attending, in person or online, and gave special thanks to those members of staff and volunteers who had developed and delivered the technical presentation of the AGM and the wrap-around event programme, including: Kate Constance, Janet Haines ARPS, Chas Hockin LRPS, Deborah Loth LRPS, Dr Michael Pritchard FRPS, Matt Steele, Neil Taylor LRPS and Rex Waygood.

The President also thanked the speakers who had so generously given of their time to make presentations during the day: Aneesa Dawoojee FBIPP FRPS, Evan Dawson (RPS Chief Executive Officer), Andy Golding ASIC FRPS (RPS Trustee), Lucinda Grange, Professor Stephen Peake (Open University), Dan Robinson (Open College of the Arts), George Thomas (RPS Digital Development Manager), and Liz Williams (RPS Education Manager)

10. President’s Address

The President delivered his annual President’s Address which will be published, together with a report of this meeting, in the next issue of the *RPS Journal*, vol 162 no 6, Nov/Dec 2022.

Date of Annual General Meeting 2023

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held 23 September 2022, Trustees set the date of the Annual General Meeting 2023 to be **23 September 2023**; time to be confirmed in the Formal Notice which will be published in the *RPS Journal*.

[SH] 25-Sept-2022