

Minutes – RPS CG committee meeting 2025-03-24

Present : Tom Owens, Mike Kitson, Nick Linnett, Sean Goodhart, Adrian Hough, Nigel Corby, Paul Ashley, Alan Cameron, Steven Whittaker, Christine Pinnington, Patricia Ruddell, Tim Hancock (reporting).

Apologies :.

Previous minutes approved by email outside the meeting
<p>1</p> <p>Chairs report (TO)</p> <p>TO reported back from MemCom – the CEO has resigned (leaves end April) as has the Hon.Treasurer. The Events and Ticketing platform workshop which TO and SG attended, presented their work 16/12/2024 but only got feedback two weeks ago. TO re-iterated his opinion that the RPS has sought too much change, too quickly and without consulting or utilising the experience of the membership. Evidently of 57 identified priorities only 8 are now scheduled to be completed by end September 2025. The sale of RPS house is going ahead with a possible buyer identified, who has offered £2 million, which would be a £1 million capital loss to the RPS but would free up cash. The EGM to discuss the motion to extend the Presidents tenure by another two years is planned for April 24th.</p> <p>TO also reminded the committee of the existence of the Microsoft Teams Calendar which has dates for future meetings etc. Zoom links will appear here also.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Finance (AC)</p> <p>AC briefly discussed the accounts to be presented at the AGM straight after this meeting. He noted that the SIG does not get the full benefit of the subscription increase to £25 until the end of the year. The pdf of the accounts is attached.</p>



AC Accounts AGM
2025.pdf

3.

Events. (MK)

In the past year we have scheduled 8 Zoom events and only had to cancel one of these due to unforeseen circumstances (on the part of the speaker). These events are all available on our YouTube channel and have ranged across a wide variety of topics and types of photography from the more experimental imagery of Al Brydon through to the long-term documentary project of Lucy Saggars. Probably the best attended session was the Distinctions Q&A. The vast majority of the sessions have been at no cost to the group and this will remain the objective going forward.

At present there is one further talk in the works, possibly for April with Tamsin Stirling and I am waiting on her getting back to me with a finalised date and information. We are always in the hunt for photographers to talk to so all suggestions are welcome.

4.

Web / SM (SG)

SG thanked all for inputting for the website. The committee in turned thanked Sean for all his work working with the unfriendly website interfaces. A report for the AGM is attached.



Webmaster report
for AGM 2025.pdf

5.

Portfolio boxes (NC)

NC is now up to speed managing the two circuits with a “light touch” as there is so much experience in the group. He would like to increase numbers and plans are in hand to publicise the Postal Portfolio in Concept and Social Media. The IG post has resulted in one new enquiry already. There are 5 boxes in each circuit which take about twelve months to fully cycle. The boxes can contain prints and / or photobooks and a comments sheet. NC noted the sad passing of Douglas May who had been a leading member of the group for over 20 years.

NC now has a fully operational RPS email, contemporarypostal@rps.org

6.

Publications (PA/NL/CP)

The next journal is planned for end April. PA noted that he found working the twice a year publication was in some ways harder than previously as he can lose momentum. The committee all felt the new more substantial publication was an improvement as it felt more “valuable” in hand. TH noted that he had been asked to raise at the AGM the intention to conduct a survey of the Contemporary membership on whether they wanted to continue with the physical journal or go to digital only. This had not gone ahead and the committee stated again that it is keen to maintain the physical journal. PA noted that as the RPS is not able to provide address labels only for members who may opt into receiving a journal versus digital pdf only, that this would create a lot of extra work which he does not want to take on. The print run of 500 means that extra members can easily be accommodated within the existing cost (except postage). Postage of the larger journal has taken costs into the next bracket but this is not a big increase and the saving in print costs from only producing two publications a year easily outweigh this. Printing costs also vary between suppliers quite widely. Postage costs are ever increasing though.

NL reported that the next edition of CONCEPT is nearly ready.

7.

Regions. The NW meeting in Manchester had ten attendees. This will be followed up by a zoom call looking at the images and where the next trip location will be. All EA meetings are on the website. Northern are planning to take advantage of the Bradford City of Culture year. Scotland will be holding f2f during the summer, zoom in the winter and plan various city visits. Southern have three meetings per year.

AOB

None

Next Meeting Tuesday 17 June 2025 by Zoom 19.00.

Meeting closed 19.56

BALANCE SHEET 31.12.2024	
Cash based	
Contemporary GROUP	
OPENING BANK BALANCE	£10,654.77
PLUS SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£741.95
BANK BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	£11,396.72
NET WORTH OF GROUP/REGION	£ 11,396.72

Group Communications Officer/Webmaster report for AGM 2025

Our site is becoming a useful hub of information on contemporary photographers:

- We have the library of recordings of the “in conversation” events <https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/contemporary-youtube/>,
- The archive of our e-news “Concept” <https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/e-news-archive/>,
- The group journal “Contemporary Photography” <https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/journal-archive/>.
- The News section on <https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/> has grown by only a small number of items in the last year but the *Contemporary Special Interest Groups Around the UK* section is growing well – thanks to the regional organisers and their teams producing interesting output.

The RPS events system (Salesforce/Blackthorn) has given us a few challenges in the last year but it has been fairly reliable – at least the “minimalist” way that we choose to use it has features which are stable. A recent edict from the HQ team has resulted in a small change in how we label events but the result is anyone can find Contemporary Group events via this link

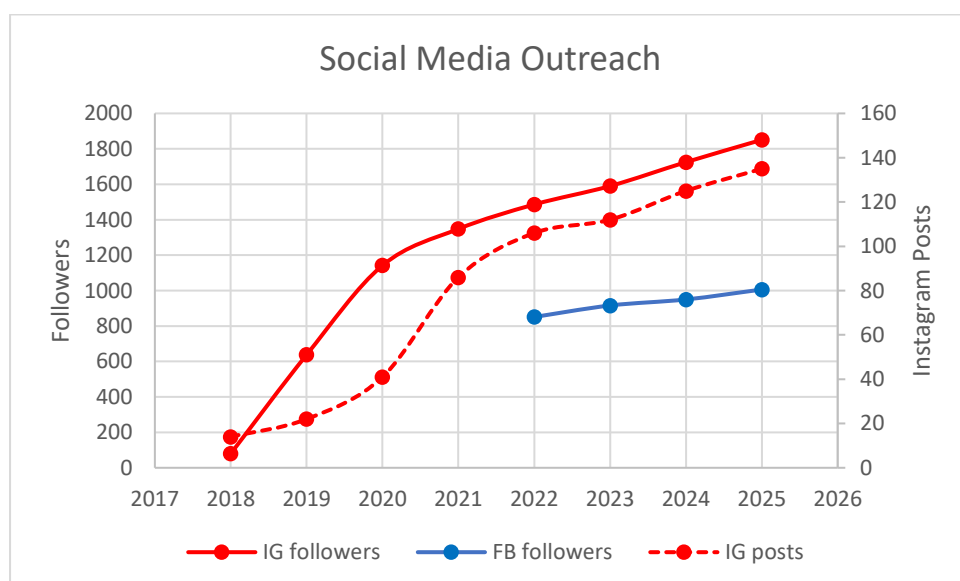
<https://events.rps.org/en/?search=Contemporary%20Group>

We dabbled with Eventbrite to publish our events to a wider audience, but this is very much discouraged by the HQ team. Together with other SIG and Region team members we have developed a requirements document which we hope will be used by the HQ team to develop improvements for users – both “insiders”, the general membership and public browsing. There’s no promises yet...

Social Media

We did for a short while have some help with social media outreach, but that is a position which is once again open. The need is to help publicise our own events, to point out interesting RPS and non-RPS activities in the world of contemporary photography and to engage with people posting and tagging their images with #rpscontemporarygroup.

Instagram and Facebook are the channels we’re using. Updating a graph from a couple of years ago we can see engagement there far exceeds our actual RPS membership. We believe outreach such as this is necessary to grow RPS and the CG membership.



<https://www.instagram.com/rpscontemporary/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RPSContemporary>