

Saturday 25 September 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND "IN FOCUS" EVENT

Hybrid event, held online and in person at RPS House Bristol
10am to 5pm

MINUTES

27 members were in attendance at RPS House in Bristol, and 170 members joined online from throughout the world, including photographers from throughout Europe, and also from as far afield as Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Madagascar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and the US. This is a total of 197 members in attendance.

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM, the Trustees presented their Annual Report for 2020, which members can download [here](#).

The finances were presented by Honorary Treasurer **John Miskelly FCA FRPS**, and questions and comments were received from members in person and online.

Motions

1. Through an online poll and in-person show of hands, the Annual Report was accepted (134 For, 1 Against, 15 Abstained)
2. The auditors Moore were appointed for the current financial year (140 For, 0 Against, 10 Abstentions).

No other motions had been proposed by members.



Elections

The results of the recent elections were announced, in which 1,698 members voted, through a process that had been overseen by our independent Nominations Committee, supported by the independent voting organisation Mi-Voice.

Nicola Bolton	1,078
Sarah J Dow	997
Mervyn Mitchell	995
Andy Golding	811
Peter Walmsley	789
Gavin Bowyer	769
Avijit Datta	763
Brian Pomeroy	574
Bob Ryan	539
Steve Jupp	511

Results

Therefore, we are pleased to announce that the following six candidates were duly elected: **Nicola Bolto ARPS, Sarah Dow ARPS, Mervyn Mitchell ARPS, Andy Golding ASICI FRPS, Dr Peter Walmsley LRPS and Gavin Bowyer ARPS.**

On behalf of all RPS members, Simon Hill HonFRPS expressed our sincere thanks to **Janet Haines ARPS, John Miskelly FCA FRPS, Dr Avijit Datta ASIS FRPS and Sir Brian Pomeroy ARPS**, who served as trustees for the past year or so. Their generous and expert contributions enabled the RPS to make very significant progress during this time, including the adoption of a new set of Bylaws to modernise our governance and an ambitious new strategy entitled "*Photography for Everyone*" which you can view [here](#). On behalf of all RPS members, our very sincere thanks to all four of them.

President's Address

RPS President **Simon Hill HonFRPS** delivered his first President's Address. This was on the subject of governance and successfully laying to rest the problems that had beset the RPS since the election of 2019 and possibly for some time previous. In his Address he also described the most significant achievements of his Trustee colleagues and praised the work of the Nominations Committee. He concluded with mention of the morals and ethics of good governance and voiced his hope that Members will give their support to the new Board as it works to deliver an exciting and successful future for the RPS.

(The President's Address will be printed in full in the next issue of the *RPS Journal*.)



Following the formal parts of the meeting, the morning sessions were hosted by RPS President **Simon Hill HonFRPS**, and the afternoon was hosted by RPS CEO **Evan Dawson**.

Speakers included:

Len Metcalf: The environmentalist, educator and the artist discussed his unique and poetic approach to the photography of trees.

David Tay FRPS: "*Cultural Colours*" - A discussion of how colour is perceived and respected differently around the world.

Dr Michael Pritchard FRPS: "*Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors*" - On view now at the Imperial War Museum and at the RPS in Jan 2022, the exhibition features two images from our patron HRH the Duchess of Cambridge.

Alison Webber FRPS discussed her innovative new approach to autism and photography, on behalf of the RPS.

Alyn and Chris from the *Scrambles Photography Group* in Nottingham discussed the impact that photography has had on combating isolation.

Andrew Page The Founder and CEO of *Positive View* discussed how photography workshops have helped 16-25 year olds living in some of the UK's most challenging housing estates.

Helen Costello of *Action for Children* discussed a brand new project, working with the RPS, to create a portrait of the UK's young carers.

Paul Sanders: Discussed '*Mindfulness Through Photography*' his own personal journey in photography, and its implications for everyone's mental health.

Tim Daly FRPS and **Andy Moore LRPS:** Presented the new *Photobooks* genre in *Distinctions*, and an overview of how photographers might consider their own creative approaches to making books.

The event concluded by 5pm
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