

Minutes – RPS CG committee meeting 2024-09-03

Present : Tom Owens, Mike Kitson, Nick Linnett, Patricia Ruddle, Christine Pinnington, Tim Hancock (reporting).

Apologies : Sean Goodhart, Adrian Hough, Paul Ashley, Alan Cameron, and other members of the committee.

Previous minutes approved by email outside the meeting

1

Chairs report. MemCom this Saturday but no-one from CN Sig available to attend. Agenda items of interest include Service Level Agreement, Distinction System (broken for A and F), and Promotion of SiGs to new members of RPS. Regarding the SLA then no charges have been made as no deliverables have yet been met by Bristol (see Finance). Regarding Distinctions, the level of success is currently very low for A and F despite candidates having followed the due process. Regarding Promotion of SiGs to new members, this doesn't appear to happen. Janina is now the only Volunteer Representative. CEO is on paternity leave. Simon Freemont is chair of MemCom.

2

Finance (report submitted by AC) The attached table shows that out income appears to be healthy, but note that the cross charges from the centre have not yet been taken. I understand from the Chair that the implementation of the cross charge is dependent on the CEO delivering certain parts of the future plan. TJO may have a clearer view on this by the date of the meeting. Income for the year to date amounts to £4926 and expenditure to £3088, though July Subscriptions have not been added to the account yet - I get notification through the bank account. I expect that to be added on 31st August. It's hard to predict, but it seems likely to be in the range £450 to £650 based on recent months. All but £51 of income have come from subscription passed through by HQ. The smaller amount is VAT refunds. Expenses are detailed not in the printed summary account but are: 1. For the printing and postage for Contemporary Photography £2042 2. For payment to the Eamonn McCabe bursary fund £500 3. Speakers £250 4. Zoom expenses for East Anglia and Yorkshire Region £296 Until we know the quantum of the cross charts it will be difficult to forecast to the end of the year, but another £2,000 will be required for Contemporary Photography plus another £100 for Zoom. We have 373 members.

BANK & CASH SUMMARY		2024				
Balances at 31/12/2023						
Bank - Current Account	£10,654.77	N.B. This needs to be the bank figure after allowing for the clearance of cheques etc., so may not be the bank statement figure.				
Cash Floats						
Total	£10,654.77					
	OVERALL					
	OPENING			MONTHLY	MONTHLY	NET MONTHLY
DATE	BALANCE	CUM INCOME	CUM EXPEND	INCOME	EXPEND	INCOME
31/01/2024	£10,654.77	£607.56	£1,358.08	£607.56	£1,358.08	-£750.52
28/02/2024	£9,904.25	£1,578.86	£1,358.08	£971.30	£0.00	£971.30
31/03/2024	£10,875.55	£2,241.10	£2,510.26	£662.24	£1,152.18	-£489.94
30/04/2024	£10,385.61	£3,039.38	£2,510.26	£798.28	£0.00	£798.28
31/05/2024	£11,183.89	£3,823.20	£3,010.26	£783.82	£500.00	£283.82
30/06/2024	£11,467.71	£4,238.73	£3,010.26	£415.53	£0.00	£415.53
31/07/2024	£11,883.24	£4,926.10	£3,010.26	£687.37	£0.00	£687.37
31/08/2024	£12,570.61	£4,926.10	£3,088.21	£0.00	£77.95	-£77.95
30/09/2024	£12,492.66	£4,926.10	£3,088.21	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
31/10/2024	£12,492.66	£4,926.10	£3,088.21	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
30/11/2024	£12,492.66	£4,926.10	£3,088.21	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
31/12/2024	£12,492.66	£4,926.10	£3,088.21	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL				£4,926.10	£3,088.21	£1,837.89
Current Account Reconciliation						
as at the last calendar day of month			Enter as dd/mm/2024 ->	31/07/2024		
Bank Statement Balance				£12,570.61		

3.

Events. Three talks are booked in for September / October . Faraz Ravi on 17 September, Martin Salter on 27 September and Eugene Schlumberger on 17 October. The Pecha Kucha has been put back until 2025. Several others are planned including Viveca Koch. Mike noted that most speakers he invited were not knowledgeable about the RPS.

4.

Web and Social Media. SG provided a report prior to the meeting by email.

Web/Events

Web wise, same old same old. Events looking good, keep the details coming over and I'll keep putting them in the systems (yes, need to do things 2x, put the event in Salesforce, then link it manually in our rps.org site so we have a stream of activities visible to members). I'm now able to do everything without needing HQ folk to add banner graphics, I've even learned the trick of tagging events so they properly appear in the Events search.

(One thing to remember when submitting images for events is that the Salesforce/Blackthorn system is set up to use banners 820x410 pixels as the main event pics.)

Blogs/zines

Thanks for sending material through to be added as blogs/zines etc. These make great additions to the site.

Year of Photography

We posted a few times about this with a blog on rps.org and on the Facebook pages but I have to admit I didn't take part.

Facebook

Facebook site seems to be functioning well enough. We get occasional spam, mostly it's being trapped. There are a lot of false positives – some of our frequent posters are often blocked. If you see a rush of stuff from one person that's likely because I've just released lots from the holding pen. Currently 990 members in the group.

I banned a member last week; likely a good choice because they've not complained. Account has 3.6k followers but not following anyone and has never posted anything to their own pages. Their first posting in our group was selling camera gear. Almost certainly a scammer.

Instagram

Our Instagram has 1772 followers. Our tag “#rpscontemporarygroup” gets a lot of use these days, with 3222 posts tagged with that. Recently I’ve noted some stuff tagged that has lots of text, looks political and doesn’t really fit our ethos... but so far as I can tell it’s not possible to delete “our” tag from their post.

YouTube :- a brief discussion was held on how to access You Tube videos of the SiG. This can be done via the RPS website but is less easily searchable via You Tube.

5.

Publications

PA reported by email :- The next issue of the journal is in hand (as planned, to be published at 6 monthly intervals, with double the number of pages). I had hoped to have it ready to post at the end of September, but summer delays, and a surprising number of non-responses from potential contributors (usually very rare) means it will be a couple of weeks later.

The next Concept is planned for November but could be held back to December to allow greater interval with the journal.

Journal – twice a year (May and October)

Concept – three times a year (Mar/July/December)

The committee complimented NL on the latest edition. NL asked if Concept could be put on Issuu but CP stated that this would require formatting changes to the pdf version.

6.

Regions

PR reported that meetings were progressing well and a new book is planned for 2025 to follow on from Vision 2020. TO stated that EA had a meeting soon. They have abandoned virtual exhibition.

7.

AOB

Next Meeting Thursday 5th December by zoom.

