

The Royal Photographic Society

Creative Eye Group

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting of the RPS Creative Eye Group held via Zoom at 10:30 on Sunday 20th March 2022

Meeting commenced at 10:30 with 45 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Bill Coles
Graham Lingley
Mervyn Mitchell
David Townshend
Janet Turnbull
Robin Myerscough

2. Minutes of the AGM 2021

Proposed by Rebecca Johnson.
Seconded by Brian Fleming.
Signed by the outgoing Chairman.

3. Matter Arising

There were none.

4. Chairman's Report

Moira Ellice (ME) read out her report.

ME summarised the activities over the past year. These included a number of very successful zoom meetings superbly organised by Jan Harris (this included the on-line members day), the continued success of the Facebook and Flickr groups run by Margaret Rainey and David Ryland respectively and the Portfolio group, run by David Harris. Jeremy Rodwell organised a field trip in Norfolk.

The 2020 Print Exhibition was displayed at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds for 2 months during the summer, and at the Edinburgh Photographic Society in November.

David Baxter organised an exhibition of 40 prints from the 2020 Exhibition, which are still in display at the Stamford Hospital.

ME detailed the changes being made to the Committee membership. Matthew Clarke stood down in December and ME, Gill Beckett, Bill Coles and Barry Freeman standing down at the AGM. ME thanked them all, along with the other Committee members and all the other volunteers for their support during her term in office.

ME gave special thanks to Barry Freeman for his work with the Group for the past 22 years.

ME also thanked Rebecca Johnson, Roger and Angela Ford, Mick Cant and Veronica Worrall for their support during the past year.

ME detailed the changes that had been introduced to the Exhibition procedures.

ME noted the line up of the new Committee.

ME thanked the membership for its continued loyalty to the Group and also thanked her husband, Neill, for all the support he had given her during her time as CEG Chair.

For further details please see the full 2022 AGM Chair's Report.

Brian Fleming, Martin Heathcote and Linda Findlay all thanked ME for her hard work.

There were no questions.

5. Finance Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021

Nigel Rea (NR) summarised the finance report and went through the accounts as of the end of 2021.

NR talked about the continued use of Zoom and the cost this entails.

NR iterated that there had been a loss on income due to the scrapping of the entry fee for the Exhibition. This was partially offset by non-Group members paying to attend CEG Zoom events.

NR talked about the new accounting system introduced by the RPS and that the new system is much easier to work with.

NR mentioned the move to using a new printing company for the Creative Eye magazine, which incurred no additional cost. Increase in membership and higher postage rates have, however, resulted in an increase in the overall costs.

NR stated that there was an overall surplus of £2,301 giving the Group a reserve of £14,062.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jan Harris and seconded by David Baxter.

For further details please see the Finance Report.

There were no questions.

6. Secretary's Report

Gill Beckett (GB) read her report. She stated that she was standing down from the role.

GB thanked the Committee for their support over her years in the role. Special thanks were given to Moira Ellice, Matt Clarke and Nigel Rea for all the work they have done for the Group.

ME, Brian Fleming and Clive Watkins thanked GB for her efforts.

There were no questions.

7. Members' Reports

Membership Secretary's Report

GB read out Bill Coles (WJC) report.

WJC stated that membership had continued to increase to 573 at the end of December 2021. An increase of 51. The trend has continued into 2022, with the membership number on 4th March 2022 standing at 588.

WJC detailed the breakdown by region of the Group.

WJC thanked the Committee members for their support and for the way the Committee had worked over the period.

ME and Jan Harris thanked WJC for his support.

There were no questions.

Publication Editor's Report

Steve Varman (SV) reiterated that the Group had changed printer over the past year. SV stated that new printers were a high quality and were proactive in helping maintain the quality of the magazine.

SV stated that EU members were now having to be sent the Magazine Business Class.

SV stated that he will continue to set the Magazine, but the content would now be controlled by David Cooke.

ME, GB, Brian Fleming, and Barry Freeman thanked SV for the amazing job he has done on the Magazine.

There were no questions.

Communications Coordinator's Report

Clive Watkins (CW) explained that during the year he had taken on this role and has been sending bulletins to the membership to increase awareness of the Group's activities.

CW published a long Newsletter before Christmas and intends a shorter update bulletin every month.

CW stated that he will be taking on the role of Membership Secretary as it aligns with his current tasks.

CW asked the membership to send him any suggestions they may have to help improve communications.

ME and GB thanked Clive for all he has done since taking on the role.

There were no questions.

8. Nominations and Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following nominations were received for the Officers of the Group and the Committee:

Chairman	-	David Cooke
Treasurer	-	Nigel Rea
Secretary	-	Graham Lingley
Committee Member	-	Steve Varman
Committee Member	-	Clive Watkins
Committee Member	-	David Rutter

The voting was as follows

Chairman	-	41 for
	-	3 abstentions
	-	0 against
Treasurer	-	43 for
	-	1 abstention
	-	0 against
Secretary	-	44 for
	-	1 abstention
	-	0 against
Committee Members	-	43 for
	-	1 abstention
	-	0 against

9. Any Other Business

No items were raised.

10. Date of the Next AGM

The next AGM will be held in March 2023 and will be via zoom.

The meeting ended in good order at 11:01