



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
The Royal Photographic Society's Travel Group
Saturday 17 May 2025 at 10:00 (BST) by Videoconference**

27 Group Members were present comprising:

Committee:

Kathryn Phillips (KP), Justin Cliffe (JC), Patricia Mackey (PM), John Speller (JS),
and Sue Hutton (SH),

Members:

Robert Akester, Dan Bronish, Liz Bugg, Annie Busch,
Michel Claverie, Jo Court, John Curgenvin, Janey Devine,
Andrew Albert Flanningan, Judy Ford, Lachlan French, Steven Galvin,
Ruth Hanson, Vivien Harthill, Paula Hillier, Margaret Hocking,
George Pearson, Wiebke Schröder, Jane Tearle, Paul M Turner,
Stewart Wall, and Rosemary Wilman.

Welcome from the Chair of the Group

Kathryn Phillips welcomed everybody present this morning or 'whatever time it is in your part of the world'. Noting attendance from members as far apart as the USA and Australia, with others from Greece, Germany and Spain, she said that it was good that we have people from all parts of the world attending and it was for that reason that the committee had decided the AGM should be online rather than tied into a UK-based face to face meeting.

Agenda Item 1. Apologies for Absence.

John Speller advised that Apologies had been received from
Colin Howard, David Short, Julian Comrie, Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell,
Hazel Frost, Richard Lewis, Alison Mees, Martin Reece, Elizabeth Roberts,
Paul Sansome, Colin Strong and Graham Vulliamy

Agenda Item 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 19 May 2024

KP referred to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 19 May 2024, which, in draft form, had been circulated as an email Broadcast to Travel Group Members on 1 June 2024, and were also available when requesting the Zoom Key.

KP asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. No such matters were raised leading KP to seek agreement of the Minutes.

**Acceptance of the Minutes was Proposed by Andrew Flannigan
and seconded by Jane Tearle**

The Minutes were accepted unanimously

Agenda Item 3. Annual Report presented by the Chair of the Group

KP gave a report of the activities of the Group during 2024.

For the Minutes she prepared a transcript, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

KP invited questions. None were raised.

While not a question Michel Claverie commented that he commended the initiative to involve non-UK based members in activities within the Travel Group. He also is pleased to see that some meetings are timed, as far as is possible, to be convenient for overseas members. He is now setting up an E-Circle with a suggested meeting time of 9 am UK Time on a Sunday.

Agenda Item 4. Financial Report by the Group Finance Officer

Justin Cliffe shared, on screen, a copy of his Finance Officer's Report for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2024. A copy of that report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2

JC commented that the year-end figure included £1,337.50 collected in respect of the forthcoming Group Trip to Belfast. It is expected that the Belfast Trip will be self-financing from that sum.

JC highlighted the other items of significant expenditure, namely, Travel Log, Spring Conference and the new Head Office Admin Charge

Travel Log – The production costs were £7.04 per copy or £14.08 for the two copies per year produced. The production costs are kept under review and an alternative printer – of another Group's magazine - was approached for a quote. As the figure quoted was greater than at present, it was deemed appropriate to stay with the current printer.

Spring Conference – This produced a deficit of £444.42 – effectively an approximate subsidy of £11.10 for each person attending.

Head Office Admin Charge – This is the long mooted contribution by Special Interest Groups to the central administration costs incurred in running the SIGs. It is charged on a per capita of membership basis which, on 516 members on 1 December 2024 resulted in a contribution of £799.26

Looking forward to 2025 JC estimates that the same three items will be

Travel Log - £8,800

Autumn Event - £3,000 but this may be reduced as the Speaker's fees are less than initially estimated. KP commented that she hopes to gain some sponsorship for this event as had been obtained for the Elan Valley trip.

The contribution to Head Office Costs is estimated at £1,600

JC anticipates that at 31 December 2025 the funds available will be £15,200 which compares with £10,000 at 31 December 2018.

KP and JC made a recommendation to maintain the current level of Group Subscription at £15.00 per year.

Rosemary Wilman asked what was the logic behind the SIGs being required to contribute to the running costs of Head Quarters?

JC commented that this was a matter of detailed discussion with strong views being expressed across the Groups. The background was that, in the view of Head Quarters, the cost of the administrative support given to the Groups should be charged to the Groups. The total amount involved charged to the SIGs was £25,000 with £1,600 being the Travel Groups proportion.

Rosemary was of the view that the charge was a disastrous tack as it ignores the contribution of many excellent volunteers working within the Groups and Regions.

KP reminded that now, the Regions no longer receive a capitation but have to submit budgets for funding the events they wish to hold.

The Treasurer's Report was Accepted.

Agenda Item 5. Q&A Session for Group Members with the Group Committee

KP noted that no questions had been notified as requested in the Agenda and invited questions from those present.

In the absence of any questions and in moving on, KP reminded all that the AGM was not the only opportunity to raise matters with or make proposals to the Committee, so please feel free to make contact with any of the Committee members – the email contacts are in the "the Travel Group Team" tile on the opening page of the Travel Group section of the RPS website.

Agenda Item 6. Election of any Committee member not elected at the AGM of 19 May 2024

KP advised we do not have a full Committee and that there remains an opportunity for someone to join us. We would welcome any younger person or someone with social media experience or from the international members of the Group. The Committee can appoint any volunteer to the Committee. While an answer today is not sought, KP asks that you consider the matter.

Dan Bronish asked for an explanation of the responsibilities involved. KP replied that responsibilities can be limited but she would like someone to run the Instagram and Facebook accounts as she does not consider her skills to be adequate in those areas. Alternatively, KP would like someone to take over the running and updating of the Group Website but suggests a staged handover would be the better approach to this. Finally KP suggested that she and Dan discuss this outside of the AGM.

In the Chat facility of Zoom Robert Akester enquired if we should be re-electing the committee members. JS replied that under the Terms of Reference adopted last year, the Committee members are elected for a three year term.

Agenda Item 7. Date of the next AGM

KP advised that, while the AGM will be held in April or May 2026, the date has yet to be set. It is likely to be online rather than attached to a face to face meeting. The Committee has a meeting scheduled at which the date will be discussed and confirmed on the circulation of these Minutes

Action: Review timing of next AGM and advise

Thanks

KP thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:31

Following the closure of the meeting Rosemary Wilman expressed thanks to the Committee for their hard work on the Group's behalf.

Appendix 1



Chair's Report for AGM held on 17.05.25

Since the AGM last May the Group has built on some post-COVID successes and I am grateful to all those both within and beyond the committee who have contributed to our offering to members. And while there have been some upheavals in the Society itself, we have continued to work towards developing an offering of talks, activities and publications which is appropriate to the membership.

This is my opportunity to thank those of you who have taken the time to thank event organisers and our editorial team for the work they have done. That is much appreciated and makes it much easier for us to do more.

Online presentations

There were a number of very well-received Zoom presentations online. Aside from the shorter presentations from Group members as part of the regular Share and Chat sessions and Colin Howard's presentation at last year's AGM two major presentations really highlighted the techniques of Travel Photography:

Exploitation vs. Empathy with Jamie Furlong

The Endless Horizons of Travel Photography with AndreJa Ravnak

Both are still accessible via the Group website <https://rps.org/groups/travel/recent-travel-group-events/> and are well worth watching at your leisure. We have been able to offer these sessions at no cost because our speakers have given generously of their time. AndreJa was one of the TPOTY winners last year who received a year's membership of the RPS as part of her prize and, in line with an agreement we made with the RPS House team two years ago, also became a member of the Travel Group for the year.

Share and Chat

Interspersed with these, The Share and Chat sessions continued, with a wide variety of places and people represented: each one has encouraged those present to offer to present their own travels in future as they have realised these are friendly, fairly

informal sessions doing just what they say - sharing experiences and learning from one another. They reflect very different interests and ways of travelling.

Collaboration

We are currently exploring a number of other possibilities for collaboration beyond the RPS which will be of benefit to members. At our October weekend, there will be representatives of Epson, Fotospeed and Permajet - so if you are looking at any purchases in those areas and can wait - be sure of 'conference deals'! And we very much hope to involve a renowned publisher of travel guides as part of our 2026 weekend, perhaps providing speakers and giving us ideas of what they look for in image submissions.

Residentials

There was just one 'residential' visit: to the Elan Valley, led by Ian Foster. This was a great success and members returned enthused about their experience of the place and of the photographic possibilities.

One day events

There were one-day events, too - one of which was a spontaneous reaction to knowing that one of the Group was visiting from overseas and would enjoy meeting others. THIS IS SOMETHING WE WOULD LOVE TO REPEAT! So, if you do not live in the UK and are planning a visit do let us know and help us to make this a Group where we truly support one another's travel experiences. Of course, the reverse is also true: we'd love to create links between members when they visit each other's country. The Facebook Group is an ideal place to post that you are planning a visit and to invite contact with members in the area.

Conferences

The Spring Event 'The Future of Travel Photography' made full use of RPS House and was very well-received by those who attended, but less well-attended than we had hoped. As a result of the involvement of Kav Dadfar and Jordan Banks of JRNY magazine in that event, all members of the Group have access to a digital subscription to JRNY at NO cost. You need the correct code. That £28 value for a £15 Travel Group subscription!! The October 2025 weekend 'Roads Less Travelled' builds on the positives of the 2024 weekend but is a full two days with some extras.

The success of the 2024 content gave the committee confidence to become even more ambitious. We booked a range of speakers and a conference centre in the centre of the country - in Royal Leamington Spa. And we decided to try an Autumn

rather than Spring date. All the details have been shared with members and more have booked five months ahead than had booked a month ahead for Bristol last year - but there's room for 50 more and you're last chance to book at the early bird Travel Group member rate is this month.

Travel Log

One of the major benefits of being a member of the Travel Group is Travel Log. In 2024 we made the decision to reduce this to two editions per year. This was partly to allow our editorial team some breathing space (they are volunteers who have significant responsibilities in their day jobs) and to minimise the disproportionate postal costs. This is one of the benefits of membership that is most appreciated and we owe a great debt of thanks to Patricia Mackey, Dimitra Salmanidou and John Minter for the work they do.

E-news

We have tried to use the e-news to highlight successes and activities within the Group. The most recent copy is always on the website as a point of reference.

Travel Blog

During 2024 the 'Travel Blog' came to an end. Not, as the name suggests, a blog about travel photography this was a sub-group that had grown out of the print critique circles set up in the earlier years of the Travel Group's existence. Despite frequent invitations to members to get involved, it had become regarded by some as an 'elite' and was not as effective as it had been originally. As a result, it is our intention to establish e-circles to encourage one another in the development of our photography generally and of our Travel Photography in particular. It is possible that one may focus on Distinctions and we will look to the Travel Distinctions Panel for whatever support they can offer there, but the main focus will be on personal development and the enjoyment of Travel Photography. Interest had been shown and there is certainly enough for one group. More can easily be established as there is the possibility of establishing multiple group - maybe in different time zones. I am grateful to Richard Burn LRPS for being willing to facilitate the first of these and we will be in touch soon with those who have already expressed interest to plan ways forward. It's not too late to drop an email to travel@rps.org to say you would like to be involved.

Competitions

Probably the way in which the highest percentage of members engage with the Group is through competitions, whether the Annual or the Monthly and I am

particularly grateful to Sue Hutton and to our judges - Glyn Paton, Justin Cliffe and Victor Wong for the work they do in offering critiques of the winning images each month.

We are looking at ways of improving our competitions and your ideas are very welcome. There is likely to be an interesting development with the Annual Competition next year.

Thanks also to John Speller for all he does to administer the Annual Competition - as we'll see shortly, it's no small task!

All in all 2024 was busy and productive. We look forward to greater involvement from Group members as we move forward and more international activity.

Kathryn A Phillips May 2025

Appendix 2



**RPS Travel Group
Finance Officer's Report
Financial year ending 31st December 2024**

The Group started the year with a balance of £19,668.77 – as at 31st December this was £20,239.57 representing an increase of £570.80 over the course of the year.

It should be noted, however, that this includes net income of £1,337.50 which relates to the Group's Belfast Trip in 2025, which should be accrued. This would reduce the effective year-end balance to £18,902.07 – a reduction of £766.70.

In summary, the year's figures were as follows:

	Expenditure	Income	Balance
1 st Jan 2024			£19,668.77
Member Subs		£7,360.58	
VAT Refund		£596.09	
Spring Conference	-£444.42		
Other events		£1,130.65	
Travel Log	-£8,449.38		
Admin, Zoom, etc	-£974.19		
Donation		£13.97	
Belfast Trip, 2025 Pre-pyts		£1,337.50	
31 st Dec 2024			£20,239.57

Please see Appendix 1 for a more detailed breakdown of Income & Expenditure figures that were actually received during 2024.

Income

As mentioned above, Income was made up of Member subs – of £7,360.58 (2023 - £6,903.84), with our year-end membership standing at 516, (an increase of 36 over the course of the year).

Expenditure

The main elements of Expenditure in 2024 were the two issues of Travel Log and the Spring Conference.

1. Travel Log: We incurred total costs of £8,449.38 (2022 - £7,892.84) in respect of the two issues that were produced – made up of software (Adobe InDesign), printing & publication and mailing costs.

Given that 600 copies were produced, printed & mailed for each edition, this works out at £7.04 (2023 - £6.58) per copy – or £14.08 p.a. for the two copies, accounting for 94% of a member's subscription.

2. Spring Conference: The Gross costs incurred were £2,833.02 (2023 - £4,002.32), Speakers' Fees accounting for £920.00 with the balance principally being the dinner costs.

Income received totalled £2,153.20, made up of tickets for the dinner (which was self-financing) and the conference itself. We also received a VAT refund relating to the some of the costs incurred – of £235.40.

The Net Cost of the event to the TG was therefore £444.42 (2023 - £1,114.82) – effectively a subsidy of approx. £11.10 pp to those c40 people attending the event.

Here, it should be noted that we received a further £596.09 in VAT refunds during the year, part of which relates to Travel Log costs. It's not possible, however, to be able to ascertain exactly how much.

3. Head Office Admin Charge: As has been mooted for some time, Head Office are now implementing a per capita charge for the Special Interest Groups (and the Regions) to go towards the overall administrative costs incurred by the Society in running these groups, eg finance and banking charges.

We have received the first levy - £799.26 (included in the Admin charge above) which represents the 516 members as at 1st December.

Looking Ahead to 2025:

1. Head Office Costs

These will continue to be levied during 2025 – on current membership levels costing us £1,600.

2. Autumn Event

Based on the planned agenda for the conference, we anticipate this costing the Group c £3,000.

Summary

From the Group's financial perspective, we ended the year pretty well as we began it – with an effective bank balance of £18,902 – and this was after two editions of Travel Log and the Spring Conference.

Looking ahead to this year, 2025, I anticipate that this balance will reduce – by around £5,000, based on:

- Membership Subs remaining at around £7,500
- 2 Editions of Travel Log (as per 2023) at a cost of £8,800
- The Autumn Event, costing the TG a net £3,000
- The new Head Office levy on membership, the cost of which will be c£1,600

So, taking all this into consideration - I anticipate that we will continue remain in a strong financial position with a healthy bank balance, of somewhere around £15,200 at the 2025 year-end. By way of comparison, the Group's bank balance, on 31st December, 2018 was c£10,000.

Justin Cliffe ARPS
Finance Officer, RPS Travel Group
16th January, 2025

Appendix 1

Travel Group - Financial Summary									31-Dec-24
									Brought Fwd
									£19,668.77
Expenditure									
	Admin	Committee	Publications	Elan Valley Workshop	Conference - Spring '24	City Walk Feb 24	Savernake Forest Autumn	Belfast Trip 2025	Grand Total
Accommodation					£522.00				£522.00
Food & Drink					£1,082.03				£1,082.03
HO Levy	£799.26								£799.26
IT & Website	£174.93								£174.93
Lecturers Fees & Expenses							£500.00		£500.00
Medals & Certificates									£0.00
Packaging									£0.00
Postage			£3,517.85		£108.99				£3,626.84
Printing			£4,487.00						£4,487.00
Software			£444.53						£444.53
Speaker Fees & Expenses				£5,545.09	£920.00				£6,465.09
Stationery									£0.00
Travel / Mileage						£48.10		£162.50	£210.60
Venue Costs					£200.00				£200.00
Grand Total	£974.19	£0.00	£8,449.38	£5,545.09	£2,833.02	£48.10	£500.00	£162.50	£18,512.28
Income									
		Donations	Financing	Elan Valley Workshop	Conference - Spring '24	City Walk Feb 24	Savernake Forest Autumn	Belfast Trip 2025	Grand Total
2022 Income									£0.00
Conference Tickets					£1,793.20				£1,793.20
Member Subs		£13.97	£7,360.58						£7,374.55
Sponsorship				£93.84					£93.84
VAT refund			£596.09		£235.40				£831.49
Workshop Tickets				£6,430.00	£360.00	£50.00	£650.00	£1,500.00	£8,990.00
Grand Total	£0.00	£13.97	£7,956.67	£6,523.84	£2,388.60	£50.00	£650.00	£1,500.00	£19,083.08
Net Income / Expenditure									
Net Income / Expenditure				£978.75	(£444.42)	£1.90	£150.00	£1,337.50	£570.80
									Carried Fwd
									£20,239.57
									Accrued Net Income
									(£1,337.50)
									'True' Balance c/f
									£18,902.07