

DRAFT NOTES OF THE RPS LONDON REGION AGM

HELD ON

29TH JANUARY 2024 at 7.00pm via ZOOM

The RPS London Region AGM was held on 29th January 2024 at 7.00pm via zoom.

There were 62 London Members present who attended the meeting plus 8 observers. A further five (2 Members/3 non-Members) joined for the presentation only. List is at back of these minutes.

David Hicks, London Region Organiser, was in the Chair.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from eleven Members - list at back of these minutes.

2 MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM

These had been previously circulated. There were no questions.

The motion to accept the Minutes was proposed by: Dennis Durack and seconded by Cathryn Chetwynd.

The motion was carried by 54 Votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

3 REGIONAL ORGANISER'S REPORT

3.1 The RO's report is attached.

David noted that the Core Team had remained stable during the year and that Membership showed a very small increase (from 1055 at the end of December 2022 to 1065 at the end of December 2023). This is against the trend of the RPS as a whole. The Region held 121 events in the year with a recorded footfall/attendance of 1,880.

3.2 CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

David brought the meeting's attention to the contribution of volunteers and the regular monthly meetings and events which are held in the Region both In Person, Online via Zoom and as Hybrid (both Online and in Person).

These are listed on our webpages and as part of the RO's report, pages 8 and 9.

3.3 LONDON REGION MEMBERS' ANNUAL PRINT EXHIBITION

The London Region Members' Print Exhibition for 2022-23 was deemed to be a success with 98 images from the same number of London Region Members displayed in the Espacio Gallery. In return for hosting us in 2022, we also displayed 50 images from Split Foto Klub in Croatia.

In January, we held three Selection Days for the 2024 London Region Members' Exhibition and 104 images from 104 London Region Members have been selected for this year's Exhibition, again at the Espacio Gallery - dates 20th to 24th March.

David noted the history of the Exhibition and how it has grown in participation since 2017. (Again, numbers are in the full report attached page 11).

3.4 LONDON REGION PROJECTS

Three London Region Projects were completed during the year and brought together in an Exhibition at Espacio Gallery in October. These were:

- London Independent Traders' Exhibition
- London's Magnificent 7 Cemeteries Exhibition
- Celebrating the Coronation.

The London Independent Traders' Exhibition had previously been shown at the London Chamber of Commerce Members' Lounge for a number of months over the summer providing RPS with an audience who might not normally see our work.

The Coronation Project was launched in April and (mainly) photographed people attending in The Mall and around, plus some local events, primarily in London. If you want a copy of the book, please contact Judy londonro2@rps.org as she still has a few copies left.

3.5 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

RPS London has continued to support Cafe Art in two programmes:

- The MyLondon Calendar, where we assist with the camera handouts, briefing of photographers and selection of pictures.
- The RPS London-Cafe Art Photography Mentoring Group, led by Julian Rouse. This has grown from strength to strength with up to 12 participants at the regular weekly events: a photo shoot/field trip alternating with a feedback session on zoom.
- A very successful Exhibition of work of the RPS London/Cafe Art Mentoring group was held in the Putney Library in January, organised by Julian, supported by Judy and Fred.

3.6 DISTINCTIONS SUCCESSES

David congratulated those who had been successful in their Distinctions this year. GDPR restrictions prevent naming individuals, but 12 photographers had achieved LRPS and 16 ARPS.

3.7 RO's REPORT SUMMARY

David summarised by saying that:

The Region has continued the 'Hybrid' model for two of our regular monthly meetings (North London and Bookworms), two are in person (SE and SW London) and one has continued as Zoom only (London Zoom).

Distinctions Advisory Days have remained online with great support from Advisors.

The Online Distinctions Study Group has proved very popular and successful.

Photo-walks are extremely popular: the three that we do each month (Street, Midweek and Landscape) are regularly fully booked with a waiting list.

The RPS London- CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group continues both in person (for photography field trips) and online (for feedback / instruction) with great success.

RPS HQ and various Regions and SIGs have continued their programmes of talks with high-profile photographers and a great series of talks and events relating to Distinctions. **We endeavour to compliment them, not compete with them.**

David emphasised that the Region relies almost entirely on support by volunteers with specialist support from a small staff team at HQ.

He noted that this year has been difficult for both volunteers, HQ Staff and Members. due to the continuing problems with the implementation of the new CRM system, particularly the Blackthorn Events sub-system, which has led to difficulties in finding, booking, and paying for events. London Region volunteers, in line with other Regions and SIGs, developed workarounds as best they could and continue to use Eventbrite for bookings until such time as the problems are resolved.

3.8 WHY DO WE DO THIS?

Our aims as a Region are to:

3.8.1 Support the strategic aims of the RPS by bringing photography to a wide audience. We do this through running 'open' groups and activities, through our projects and exhibitions.

3.8.2 Engage with the London Region Members and non-Members (i.e. potential members of the future!)

3.8.3 Most importantly to create opportunities for members to enjoy their photography and learn/progress (if they wish!) in the company of like-minded individual.

3.8.4 And to have fun!

We hope that you have enjoyed our varied 2023 programme and that there has been something for everyone to enjoy during the year.

3.9 There followed a general discussion about the report and the activities organised by London Region.

3.10 VOTE TO ACCEPT ROs REPORT

There being no further questions, the Members present were asked to vote to accept the Regional Organiser's Report. The motion was proposed by Eve Milner and seconded by Mo Greig. The motion was carried with 56 in favour, 0 votes against and 3 abstentions.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jennette tabled the Financial Summary as of 31 December 2023. This showed Cash at Bank of £9,020.74 a reduction on last year's balance of £1,548.25 due to Exhibition Costs.

Jennette noted that we had committed expenditure for rental of Espacio Gallery for the 2024 LRMPE exhibition of £1,400 but that we anticipated HQ funding equivalent to last year's (£1,537), which would more than cover this cost.

There being no further questions, Mo Greig proposed the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Brian Connelly. The motion was carried with 57 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

David explained that there is a core of Elected 'Officers' (minimum of three is required by the RPS, currently RO, Treasurer and Deputy RO or Secretary) and a Core Team of Volunteers, who are key to the success of the London Region.

David confirmed that the existing elected officers were:

David Hicks - Regional Organiser

Jennette Russell - Treasurer

Mike Psyllides - Co-Deputy Regional Organiser

Roger Towell - Co-Deputy Regional Organiser

Judy Hicks - Co-Deputy Regional Organiser

And that they were all prepared to stand for re-election.

David stated that he had not received any proposed nomination for any role in advance of the meeting; and asked if there were any being put forward in the meeting. There were none.

David advised that in previous years, there had been a single vote to elect the existing elected committee as a block; he asked if anyone objected to using this approach. There was none.

The motion to re-elect the five existing committee members was proposed by: Cathryn Chetwynd and seconded by: Jay Charnock. The motion was carried with 58 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

PLANS FOR 2024

6. JOINING THE VOLUNTEER TEAM

David explained that to provide and to continue to provide a variety of regular activities we are always looking for people to organise and/or assist at one-off events and activities, or provide support in running the Region with items such as updating websites etc. Anyone who wishes to get more involved should contact David.

A list of the sorts of things Volunteers do if or for London, see attached page from the RO's Report. For a list of who currently does what amongst our core volunteers to this link rps.org/londonteam
If you are interested in joining our Volunteers, please email [David](#) or [Judy](#)

7. PLANS AND IDEAS

7.1 NEW 2024 PROJECT; 'SUSTAINABLE LONDON'

David introduced our proposed new London Region Project for 2024: "Sustainable London" and handed over to Joanne Segars who gave a presentation outlining some of her thoughts and ideas. The meeting supported this be an appropriate project with some stating they wished to participate.

Subsequent to the meeting, two zoom meetings have been set up which resulted in about 40 members expressing interest.

7.2 EXHIBITIONS

7.2.1 London Region Members' Print Exhibition (LRMPE 2024)
104 images chosen, Espacio booked for 18th to 24th March (set up 18th and 19th, Exhibition 20th to 24), Open View Thursday 21st.

7.2.2. A themed Exhibition and Book is planned for September in the Putney Library by the SW micro-group.

7.2.3. An Exhibition is being discussed with those who meet in the CanTav (North London). David asked if there was any interest in putting on an exhibition by those in the SE or any of the Photo-walks groups. (We hope to include some of last year's images from the photo walk groups in LRMPE 2024).

7.2.4 Following the Magnificent 7 + 1 project, panels have been given to Brookwood Cemetery for their use at their summer open days. Likewise, Tower Hamlets are interested in including some of our work in their Summer Open Weekend which is usually held in August.

7... There is the possibility of taking our Exhibition overseas again - Slovenia (Ljubljana) and Croatia (Zagreb) are two possibilities and where we have contacts: are there other places in Europe where members might have a toehold?

7.3 VISITS

We recently had a very successful day out to Hitchin: old town, markets, and Diane Arbus Exhibition.

We are planning a trip to the Saul Leiter Exhibition in Milton Keynes and a special guided visit to the Supreme Court and its architecturally interesting building interior is being discussed.

If you have other ideas and would like to organise something e.g. Curator Tours or Special Tours to the V&A we would be happy to assist, manage website entries etc. - please email [David](#) or [Judy](#)

7.4 REGULAR MEETINGS

While members are keen for us to do so, we plan to continue:

- regular meetings in various parts of London (N, SW, and SE) and on Zoom
- Street and Midweek Explorers Photowalks
- Field trips - Landscape, Wildlife & Nature, Urban

Is there anything else we should be doing, or should we make changes?
Again, please email [David](#) or [Judy](#)

7.5 **DISCUSSION**

David invited people to come forward with their ideas and shared how to sign up for Capital Letter and the website.

Again, please email [David](#) or [Judy](#)

For a quick list of London Region organised events use this link rps.org/londonevent

For a slightly cumbersome list of all events being organised in London Region go to events.rps.org or www.events.rps.org and then find and select "London Region" in the (very) long list of keywords down the LH side.

To sign up for our monthly newsletter - "Capital Letter" - [follow this link: https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/9350C790CA2FCDD7](https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/9350C790CA2FCDD7)

8. **AOB**

David advised that he had received one question in advance of the Meeting: *"Can I please ask you to say something at the AGM about what you know and can report from your attendance at the Members Committee on the direction of travel and proposed major changes to the RPS that the President referred to in his last (Xmas) email"*

David explained that Dan Jones had advised that he prefers to call it "The Modernisation Agenda" which has several "headings: (a) restructuring head office and changing existing processes to maximise the benefits from the new computer system (CRM, Blackthorn, etc.); (b) using this to improve the service and benefits offered to Existing Member; (c) using the new technology and its analytic tools to better understand Members, potential Members, and users of the website and other systems; (d) raise the profile of e.g. The Awards, IPE, Bursaries, etc. to enhance the profile of RPS and expand the potential user base.

There being no other questions raised in addition to those raised in previous discussions, this item was closed.

9. **DATE OF NEXT AGM IN 2025**

Monday 20th January 2025.

10. **BUSINESS MEETING CLOSED**

The Business of the AGM closed at about 8.15pm.

PRESENTATION BY ANDREW WILSON

Following the AGM, after a short break, members enjoyed an excellent presentation from local Wildlife and Nature photographer, Andrew Wilson. The end.

ATTACHMENT 1 - Apologies for absence and list of attendees.

Apologies were received from: -

Sarah Smith	Mike Farley
Karen Brickley	Dawn Clifford
Ron Matthews	Cliff Mills
Peter Evans	Patrick Hudgell
Richard Sharp	Mike Longhurst
Nasser Al-Teil	

List of Members attending (by Zoom sign in details): -

Alan Bousfield	Edward Shipp	Marius Dan Cuica
Anita Varju	Elizabeth Roberts	Mark Percival
Astrid Zweynert	Eve Milner	Martin Gandy
Brian Connolly	Fred Barrington	Michael Walker
Bunshri Chandaria	George Doughty	Mike Psyllides
Carl Goodwin	Gerald Kitiyakara	Mo Greig
Carol Britton	Gordana Johnson	Nicholas Kemp
Catherine Chetwynd	Graeme Knibbs	Paul Burwood
Christopher Cumming	Graham Meers	Peter Stott
Cynthia Ireson	Helen Shaw	Peter Taylor-Medhurst
Daniel Waller	Helen Wolstencroft	Peter Thompson
Dave Allen	Inna Alden	Petra Laidlaw
David Butler	Jaffer Bhimji	Roger Towell
David Hall	Jay Charnock	Simon Elsy
David Hicks	Jen Pedler	Stephen Roberts
David Lewis	Jennette Russell	Thomas Obitz
David Loxley-Blount	Jennifer Hurstfield	Tony Hale
David Mooney	Joanne Segars	Vathani Navasothy
Dennis Durack	John Dick	Vincent Harris
Desiree Muller	Judy Hicks	Vincent Torrens
Don Cooper	Julian Rouse	Vincenzo Albano
Edith Templeton	Lynda Morris	