



THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY AUDIO VISUAL GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28th October 2023

MINUTES

1. Opening & Welcome from the Chairman.

Ian Bateman opened the meeting at 10:00AM and welcomed everyone.

2. Present & Apologies.

Present:

Those present (names shown as per Zoom attendee screen profile name):

Ian Bateman, Keith Watson, Andrew Gagg, Edgar Gibbs, Linda Gibbs, Alastair Taylor, Lilian Webb, Howard Bagshaw, Carole Bagshaw, Roy Appleby, Chris Bate, Bryan Stubbs, Cathy Fordham, Jeff Morris, Robert Albright, David Grimwade, Mike Pill, Steve Reeves, Malcolm Gee, Jenny Gee, Richard Brown, Raymond Hughes, Derrick Holliday, Malcolm Imhoff, Steward Dodd, Prem Mutha, Mike Reed, Andrew Hersom, Brian Harvey.

Apologies.

Clive Rathband, Joan Rathband, Martin Addison, Sheila Haycox, Adrian Battersby, James Hamill, Peter Range, Jeff Lambert, Jim Waddington, Mary Pipkin

3. Minutes of AGM 2022.

The Minutes were accepted.

Proposed: Howard Bagshaw

Accepted: Edgar Gibbs.

4. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

5. Officers Reports.

Ian Bateman explained that all officers' reports are available to view online.

5.1 Chair Report (see appendix a.)

There were no questions on the report.

The Chair report was accepted.

Proposed: Edgar Gibbs.

Seconded: Derrick Holliday.

5.2 Treasurer Report (see appendix b.1 and Group Annual Account appendix b.2)

Alastair Taylor explained that the AV Group has three bank accounts. That being the main AV Group account, NAVC account and IAVF account.

He reported that the NAVC account ended 2022 with a deficit of £456 but had not been allocated monies from RPS centrally of £369. This has now been received which will falsify the 2023 account.

Alastair added that a big expense from the main account is the printing and distribution of AV News journal and a loss was experienced from the running of an AV Distinctions Advisory Day.

There was no activity on the IAVF account apart from some VAT returns.

The NAVC account made a loss of £1359 although it was felt important to operate NAVC 2022 as a live event and was forecasted to make a small deficit, although the end total is disappointing. Much of this was due to high venue charges and hotel costs.

Howard Bagshaw asked if the idea of merging the three accounts into one will still go ahead?

Alastair replied that RPS had wished to merge the accounts but as yet nothing has happened. The IAVF and NAVC activities would still be categorised individually for the AV Group.

Mike Pill asked if we were free to move monies from one AV account to another. Alastair replied that this was allowed.

Jenny Gee passed comment that considering the (Covid19) pandemic how surprised she was that the accounts looked as good as they do.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Proposed by Steve Reeves.

Seconded by Malcolm Imhoff.

5.3 Secretary Report (see appendix c.)

Keith explained that he nothing more to report other than what is already within his written report.

Howard Bagshaw asked how many members the AV Group has. Keith explained that the secretary no longer holds the membership details. Alastair Taylor responded that membership stood at 160 plus additional circa of 30 who subscribe to AV News.

Ian Bateman felt this number was sustainable but the group does need more members and the current figure is nowhere near the peak of several years ago.

The Secretary's Report was accepted.

Proposed by Malcolm Gee.

Seconded by Derrick Holiday.

5.4 AV News Editor Report (see appendix d.)

Alastair Taylor informed that the December issue was in progress and with so many items to report on there will be an additional issue of AV News e xtra, which Martin Addison is Editor.

Alastair gave thanks to Andrew Gagg for his assistance on the visual representation. Thanks were also given to Linda Gibbs and Malcolm Imhoff, along with Jenny & Malcolm Gee and Bev Tyrer who proof-read each issue.

Alastair also gave notice of 12-months for his resignation from Editor. Having been editor for 8-years he felt he was running out of steam for keeping it vibrant. He pointed out the three main challenges ahead in his written report; to acknowledge our demographic, acknowledge the printing costs which are rising steeply and acknowledge postage costs which are "a killer". Alastair explained that we are the generation of the hard-copy and now we have to ask ourselves how the next generation obtain their news and how do they receive their information. He feels

that there are other ways than the printed copy variety to get our message across and perhaps now is the time to be brave with the future decisions we make.

Ian Bateman gave his grateful thanks to Alastair for the fantastic job he has done since taking on the role of Editor and expressed his sorrow to see him step down in a years time.

Steward Dodd gave his thanks to Alastair and to all who support him. Stewart also commented that replacing AV News with an online document could be the way forward and gave an example how his local photography group, Dundee Photographic Society, made the transition.

Ian Bateman suggested looking at their online magazine.

Mike Pill added that his local camera group has also gone paperless and maybe this is the way forward for the AV Group.

Edgar Gibbs said he appreciated going digital with AV News with the current spiralling costs and that we have started that route with AV News e xtra. He shared his concern however with the demise of AV News if the AV Group members were getting value for money. Alastair Taylor felt that presently the AV Group gives fantastic value for money compared to some other RPS SIGs although we need to look at what some other groups do.

Chris Bate sensed that the present £14.00 per year AV Group membership was extraordinarily good value and suggested rather than cutting corners to save costs to increase this membership by a few pounds instead. Chris added that he would be happy to pay £20.00 per year or more and asked for this suggestion to be put forward for debate. Edgar responded by reminding everyone that the RPS membership is in addition to the AV membership fee. Ian Bateman thought this was a topic for the new AV Group Committee. He reported that there was a suggestion at one point that in order to take AV News forward that there would be a hybrid of mainly digital versions but with an annual "digest" to contain the "greatest hits" of the previous 12-months.

The AV News Editor Report was accepted.

Proposed by Lilian Webb.

Seconded by Roy Appleby.

5.5 AV News e xtra Report.

Ian Bateman explained that Editor, Martin Addison, is currently abroad and not able to attend the AGM and clarified that his report is online.

Howard Bagshaw felt that we were missing an opportunity with e xtra and that it is merely an electronic form of a paper document and is missing out on including links and show or provide links to view members AVs. Howard gave an example of Cathy Fordham's, "How I Made" which he felt should be used as a form of electronic communication. Alastair Taylor responded that in the absence of Martin Addison he has edited the next version of e xtra which will include links within the article by Mark Allen on Artificial Intelligence. He agreed with Howard that more links are needed in future issues.

Roy Appleby agreed with Howard and Alastair and added that you cannot watch an AV in a hard-copy magazine and more online activity could work as an advantage to the AV Group.

Mike Reed commented that he has always enjoyed the magazine for the examples within it but to see a visual presentation would be better and asked if they could be recorded. He also felt that a moderator should oversee the contributions were suitable.

Richard Brown tried to make a comment except he had problems with his Zoom audio. Richard wrote in the Zoom chat box, *"Response to Roy Appleby. It's great that we now have the opportunity for linking to and sharing work online. But it's a double edged sword in that it's also*

contributing to the decline of live events which so many people were so keen to get back to as the essence of what AV is”.

Ian Bateman mentioned that for a long time AV News has been the groups jewel in the crown and we should do our best to keep it as such. He added he was very taken by it evolving into an electronic document with enriched links and embedded files in order to make it more of a multimedia item along with an annual digest.

Stewart Dodd suggested putting a poll out to members whether they prefer to take AV News online or retain it as a hard-copy.

Jenny Gee passed comment that her local photography groups members accept their newsletter electronically of those who can whilst those who cannot are sent a printed version, which in return has reduced her groups costs.

Malcolm Imhoff reminded us that AV News has 30 or so subscribers who are not RPS AV Group members and who pay separately for the magazine to be delivered. If AV News went electronic, would we make a charge for that? Alastair Taylor answered that there are lots to consider and think about.

Stewart Dodd made a further comment that Dundee Photographic Society operates a hybrid version for their communication and that the AV Group could look at it in a similar way.

Edgar Gibbs reminded us that AV News e xtra is free to anybody and RPS is happy with this and it is a nice way in getting AV information out to a wider audience.

The AV News e xtra Report was accepted.

Proposed by Stewart Dodd.

Seconded by Edgar Gibbs.

5.6 Website Managers Report (see appendix e.)

Ian Bateman explained that Sheila Haycox, Website Manager, is not able to join the AGM meeting due to being in hospital.

Edgar Gibbs thanked Sheila for carrying out an excellent job with the website and online broadcasts, and for everything she has done for the RPS AV Group.

Ian added that there is a wealth of information on the AV Group website and recommended everyone to visit it.

Mike Reed asked if the website was available to anyone of if you needed to be a member. Ian replied that it was an open website.

Mike Pill asked if the AV website was done under the framework of the main RPS structure. Ian replied that it was. Edgar read out the direct link to the AV Group website, www.rps.org/av

The Website Managers Report was accepted.

Proposed by Edgar Gibbs.

Seconded by Andrew Gagg.

5.7 Graphics Report (see appendix f.)

Andrew Gagg added to his written report that he enjoys producing the graphics for AV Group events and playing a part in the prestigious IAVF event and looks forward in carrying on in the foreseeable future.

There were no questions or comments.

The Graphics Report was accepted.

Proposed by Malcolm Gee

Seconded by Steve Reeves.

5.8 International Audio Visual Festival Directors Report (see appendix g.)

Edgar Gibbs apologised for not getting his report done in time for attachment to the website. He reported that everyone he had spoken to that attended the IAVF event said they really enjoyed it and that the staff at RPS House were very helpful. He explained that there were some issues at the beginning; The President could not attend due to industrial action, the judge from Italy could not attend because of industrial action and the Chairman, Ian Bateman could not attend due to catching Covid although with hybrid judging and hybrid audience the difficulties were worked around. Edgar also explained the problems incurred with the sound and projector settings and that the new IAVF Director will meet with Canon, the projector manufacturer, in order to show AVs in their best possible way. He reported that the festival will make a financial loss which was mainly due to travelling to Bristol for testing the equipment and rehearsals. All results have been accepted by FIAP and the awards have been posted. Edgar offered thanks to Alastair, Keith, Andrew, Christine, Sheila, Robert, Howard and Linda. Edgar stated the years where he had been Festival Director and informed the members that he was now standing down as Director but will be pleased to assist anyone who wishes to take on the role.

Ian Bateman thanked Edgar and stated that the IAVF Directorship will be a hard act to follow and another task for the hard-working committee.

There were no questions or comments.

The IAVF Directors report was accepted.

Proposed by Bryan Stubbs.

Seconded by Chris Bate.

6. Election of Officers & Committee Members.

Ian Bateman suggested that with approval would be to take a bloc vote for the present committee members who are all remaining:

- Chairman: Ian Bateman
- Treasurer: Alastair Taylor
- Secretary: Keith Watson
- Vice Chair: Vacant
- AV News Editor: Alastair Taylor
- AV News e xtra: Martin Addison
- Website Manager: Sheila Haycox.
- Graphic Design: Andrew Gagg.

The existing committee members were re-elected unanimously.

Proposed by Robert Albright.

Seconded by Howard Bagshaw

Ian Bateman read out nominations for three new committee members:

- Adrian Battersby. Proposed by Alastair Taylor. Seconded by Keith Watson.
- Mike Pill. Proposed by Alastair Taylor. Seconded by Keith Watson.
- Malcolm Imhoff. Proposed by Keith Watson. Seconded by Alastair Taylor.

The election of three new committee members was voted en-bloc unanimously.

7. Any Other Business.

No written items were received.

Alastair clarified to the members of the AV Groups opportunity in playing apart in this year's Members Exhibition. The AV Day was well accepted by people who attended it and also colleagues at RPS House. He reported that he had been approached by the Landscape SIG who are keen to learn about AV to showcase their work.

Keith Watson suggested some AV tuition events with less emphasis on competitions all of the time. Stewart Dodd supported this suggestion. Robert Albright was unsure if the AV Group does over emphasize competitions, unless you classify the two big festivals. Robert asked Keith to explain his comments. Keith clarified that he was not proposing that neither the IAVF or NAVC should be discontinued and he showed respect to all of the hard-work which is put into those two events, although he stated that there was never any comments or critique learned from them and wondered if as much work could be put into tuition events which hopefully might attract new people in taking up the art of AV production. Ian Bateman did admit that it was easy to get the impression that there were many AV competitions and less about learning and education and felt that Keith had a fair point. Alastair Taylor mentioned the challenges to integrate what we do with other AV organisations and cited the AV day hosted by the MCPF section of the PAGB as an example of what might be done. He was sympathetic to Keith's suggestion.

Edgar Gibbs recalled the time when the RPS AV Group held attenders' sessions in the mornings where you could gain critique from the audience and felt that those opportunities have been taken away from us. Edgar also mentioned the difficulties due to work-load in getting a judge to comment on each admission in an event such as IAVF.

Ian Bateman asked for anyone outside of the Bristol area who might have suggestions on ideas or venues on how this could be achieved and for members to send in concepts via email.

Brian Harvey requested that we ditch the constant reference that Photo Harmony as a beginner's way into AV.

Howard Bagshaw asked if there was any hope in pursuing the return of Distinctions in Audio Visual since the RPS seem comfortable in accepting Zoom adjudications. He also made comment that since AV adjudication has taken place within the film panel, he said that he never seems to see any outcomes and results by the film panel.

Ian Bateman replied, as he is the only AV member of the film panel, that the AV committee has been attempting dialogue with RPS who seemed to take on board his argument for the return of AV Distinctions. He continued to say that he and Edgar had a face-to-face meeting with Andy Moore who seemed quite positive about it, so much so that it was hoped that the President would announce at the IAVF the reappearance of Distinctions in Audio Visual. A letter was then received from Andy that the proposals have been parked for 2-years. Ian clarified to Howard that although the door to the reappearance of AV Distinctions was not closed but was only ajar.

Ian reported that the last Film & Video meeting there had only been three applications, two in AV and one in film. These are mentioned within the (RPS) Journal but without the size of coverage that print qualification announcements are made. Edgar asked Ian to expand on the fact that we do not have the opportunity to see a distinction's process taking place and AV is the only group which doesn't. Ian did not have a direct answer to that apart from applications are put on a private YouTube channel which the panel get links to and enter their comments to the chairperson.

Robert Albright commented that all successful applications are always published in the journal but not the unsuccessful ones.

Jenny Gee asked who gets the film award in a film application, is it the producer, the director or who? Ian replied that it varies although usually it is the person who has done the photography.

Knowing how much work which has been put into this item, Keith Watson gave thanks to Edgar Gibbs for his long hard work, passion and determination in trying to return Distinctions to Audio Visual photography.

Steve Reeves gave his thought in regard to the future of AV and explained the power of smart phones.

8. Meeting Closure.

Ian thanked everyone for attending and offered a recorded vote of thanks to the Committee for their hard unpaid work in various roles over the past year and welcomed the three new committee members.

Ian closed the meeting at 11:52

THE RPS AV GROUP

Chairman's Report for the 2023 AGM 28 October 2023

Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-EFIAP APAGB

This has been my first year as Chair of the AV Group, and has seen the transition from the all-on-line events of the previous “Covid years” to the post-lockdown environment of a mixture of on-line and live events. This will probably be the ‘new-norm’, with both type of meetings having their advantages and disadvantages.

After managing to dodge Covid when the virus was at its peak, I finally succumbed in late September so had to miss the RPS International AV Festival for the first time in thirty years! Fortunately, this was a hybrid event so I was at least able to watch it over Zoom. All credit to Edgar Gibbs and his team of Linda Gibbs, Andrew and Christine Gagg, Sheila Haycox, Keith Leedham, Robert Albright and Alastair Taylor, and to Howard Bagshaw for taking on the role of official photographer.

The IAVF took place in the Tony Troman Theatre at RPS House, and a lot was said about Tony over the weekend. Although he will have been well-known to some, I’m conscious that more recent members will not have known him at all.

He served as Secretary on the IAVF Committee since its inception in 1976.

I was the Chair of the IAVF Committee when he retired in 2012, and we presented him with a special award to commemorate his years of service. He died the following year, and in his will left the bequest that enabled the RPS to



fund the theatre that now bears his name. (photo by Howard Bagshaw)

The Committee have done a sterling job over the last twelve months in keeping the AV Group running, and I should like to record my thanks to each of them for the work that they have done:

Alastair Taylor – Alastair has had two roles, Treasurer for not just the Group but also the National and International competitions, and Editor of AV News. AV News has gone from strength to strength during his tenure, and he will be standing down at the AGM in 2024. This means that we will be looking for a new editor to take over from then, so please consider if this is something that you could do. Alastair also chaired the National AV Championships in 2022, and this year arranged a showing of the top entries at RPS House, together with short lectures from five of the UK's AV makers.

Edgar Gibbs – As well as being the Director of the IAVF, Edgar has also stood in as de facto Vice-Chair, and has continued to lobby key RPS personnel for the re-introduction of the AV Distinction in its own right. Edgar and I had a meeting with Andy Moore of the Distinctions Dept last month, and despite a promising discussion, the decision was to keep the AV Distinction within the remit of the Film, Video and Multimedia category. We will continue to press for a reversal of this.

Edgar is standing down as Director of the IAVF, so for the 2025 event we will be needing a new organiser. If you would like to put your name forward for this position, please let me know.

Sheila Haycox – Sheila has done an excellent job in maintaining the AV Group section of the RPS website, keeping it up-to-date with regular and timely updates. Sheila also manages the various contact lists that are required to issue broadcasts and newsletters, and is an invaluable resource.

Andrew Gagg – Andrew has continued to bring a professional eye to our graphic design, designing logos, letterheads and Zoom backgrounds to ensure that the AV Group's public face is both appealing and in-line with RPS policies.

Martin Addison – when not being a judge on the IAVF jury, Martin is the editor of our electronic newsletter, AV News e-Extra. This has continued to be a useful fill-in between the AV News issues, providing timely information about forthcoming AV events and the results of recent competitions.

Keith Watson – Keith has done an sterling job as Secretary, keeping the rest of us on our toes for the various reports and agenda items needed for the Group committee meetings.

Hopefully at the AGM we will have several new Committee members who can bring fresh eyes to the Group's activities in the years ahead.

Ian Bateman FRPS

Chair of RPS AV Group

APPENDIX b.1



Treasurers Report

We have three accounts (although as reported previously, there are plans to merge these into one at some point to help reduce the banking burden. This decision is in the hands of the RPS Finance Department)

AV Group Main Account

The accounts are prepared on a January 1st to December 31st basis and as such does not include income or expenditure relating to the year which are not transacted in time for the account year end.

The accounts as presented show a deficit of £456.14. Comparison with the previous year will show this as being due to reduced income from membership subscriptions and a loss making Distinctions Advisory Day where expenditure exceed income by £104.80. However, the ongoing challenges with the recently introduced RPS CRM system meant that income due in 2022 was not allocated to the AV Group account until after year end. The positive impact of this is that had the income been allocated in year, there would have been a surplus of £369.12 which is much better than originally thought.

It should be noted that the Yorkshire AV Day made a surplus of £185.70 which is a great testament to the hard work of the organiser, Bryan Stubbs, who is standing down this year.

Income from AV News subscribers is reducing on account of a reducing number of subscribers. A recruitment drive is needed here if this income stream is to be grown. The number of RPS subscribers remains static. With joint events, we may gain a few more RPS members.

Expenditure is on AV News has increased. Printing costs have risen by £252 (with further rises anticipated). Similarly, postage costs have increased £125.45 (and again, this will only go up)

The bank balance is therefore sound for the time being although inflation remains a major concern.

NAVC Account

The AV Committee made the decision to run the NAVC as a live event despite the unknown risks of running live events following the COVID Pandemic. With the previous bank surplus, it was accepted that the event may run at a loss but sufficient reserves were available to cover this. The loss of £1359.54 is disappointing and greater than anticipated. The reason for this are mainly down to poor attendance at the event (this was approximately half of

previous years numbers). In addition, accommodation and venue costs have risen very significantly.

Any future NAVC must be re-configured to at least cover its costs as we cannot afford to make such losses given that the surplus is now quite modest.

IAVF Account

No activity in 2022 other than a VAT reimbursement

Overall

The financial position of the AV Group remains strong.

Appendix b.2

RPS AV Group - Combined Annual Accounts

	2022 Account 1 AV GROUP	2021 Account 1 AV GROUP	2022 Account 2 NAVC	2022 Account 3 IAVF
SUMMARY				
Opening Bank Balance - 1 January 2022	£9,713.35	£9,085.98	£2,341.73	£6,688.18
PAYPAL Balance	£75.34	£75.34	N/A	N/A
Ireland AV Group Balance	£69.00	£69.00	N/A	N/A
Income	£4,274.70	£4,269.25	£3,055.00	£25.40
Expenditure	£4,730.84	£3,641.88	£4,414.34	£0.00
Closing Bank Balance - 31 December 2022	£9,257.21	£9,713.35	£982.39	£6,713.58
Available Monies	£9,401.55	£9,857.69	£982.39	£6,713.58
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-£456.14	£627.37	-£1,359.34	£25.40
INCOME				
RPS Life Membership Subs	£240.00	£0.00	N/A	N/A
RPS Annual Membership Subs	£1,899.74 XXX	£2,776.25	N/A	N/A
AV News Subscribers	£1,229.00	£1,493.00	N/A	N/A
Internal VAT Refund Transfer	£12.96	£0.00		£25.40
Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
AV Group Events				
Audience Ticket Sales	£819.00 1	£0.00	£1,677.59	£0.00
Competition/Event Entry Fees	£0.00	£0.00	£859.41	£0.00
Refreshment Sales	£0.00	£0.00	£518.00	£0.00
Distinctions Day	£74.00 2	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Corrections/Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£4,274.70	£4,269.25	£3,055.00	£25.40
EXPENDITURE				
AV Group Events				
Room/Hall Hire	£238.00 1	£0.00	£600.00	£0.00
Medals	£0.00	£0.00	£270.00	£0.00
Judges/Distinctions Panel Expenses	£178.80 2	£0.00	£400.00	£0.00
Patronage	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Postage	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Accommodation and Subsistence	£0.00	£0.00	£1,137.50	£0.00
Travel	£278.80 1	£0.00	£1,114.95	£0.00
Printing	£0.00	£0.00	£132.94	£0.00
Refreshments	£116.50 1	£0.00	£671.45	£0.00
Misc Costs(VAT Transfers, etc)	£0.00	£0.00	£87.50 3	£0.00
AV News				
Printing	£1,971.00	£1,719.00	N/A	N/A
Postage	£1,319.00	£1,193.55	N/A	N/A
Leaflets	£126.00	£126.00	N/A	N/A
Envelopes and Filling	£354.00	£320.00	N/A	N/A
Courier	£36.00	£36.00	N/A	N/A
Committee Meetings				
Travel	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	N/A
Accommodation	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	N/A
Venue Hire	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	N/A
Refreshments	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	N/A
Stationary	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	N/A
Postage	£0.00	£103.45	N/A	N/A
Zoom On-line Meetings	£112.74	£143.88	N/A	N/A
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£4,730.84	£3,641.88	£4,414.34	£0.00

Note 1 - Yorkshire AV Day - November 2022
 Note 2 - Distinctions Advisory Day at Bristol
 Note 3 - Voice Recording from Ashley Franklin for Introduction

Note XXX £825.26 of RPS income for the period July to December 2022 has been since credited in 2023 (£369.12 surplus)

Prepared by A J Taylor - 03/03/2023



RPS AV GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28th October 2023

SECRETARY REPORT

My main activities during 2023 were the usual taking of Minutes at Committee meetings and preparing the agenda prior to that. Collating committee reports and filing them for future record is all part and parcel of the role.

Thankfully, our committee meetings these days are held on Zoom and have been ever since the Covid lockdowns. This is exactly what Zoom was devised for. That pandemic has decreased to levels of common colds and become the "norm" but by holding our meetings on this conference platform saves money, time and effort. Furthermore, the meetings can be audio recorded, which for me, taking the Minutes is a far easier role to do. Plus, I can take part in discussions whereas I could be busy in just writing or miss out essential pieces on the minutes.

The RPS Members Exhibition which was shown during the summer was a great event and pivotal that we played a part within that with the AV Day.

I was very pleased when I was asked to record the day photographically, particularly when I consider the company I was with.

The morning was filled with superb presentations from some of our countries top AV producers. It would have been nice had there been even more people attending it, particularly those who may not yet be a member of the RPS AV Special Interest Group. Somehow, we need to introduce and encourage new and possibly younger people to Audio Visual or sadly I fear it will just fade away over the coming years.

Events such as the RPS AV Day are, in my mind, far more informative, attractive and open than competitions alone. I do hope the RPS will spend more time on future days like the one this year.

I would like to remain on the committee for at least a while longer. I often feel ashamed that I do not put the time and effort into it which my committee friends do but I thank them for the help, support and friendship which they have given me. It is always a privilege to work with them as it will be with the new committee members coming on board who are also renowned AV producers.

Keith Watson LRPS
Secretary RPS AV Group

Appendix d.



AV News Editor Report - My report is much the same as last year, namely ...

We publish three times a year with AV News e-xtra to fill the gaps. This appears to have been well received by members particularly as we increased the page count of AV News up to 64 pages per issue. All of this has reduced our printing and postage costs and has had a positive impact on our accounts whilst maintaining quality. However, in 2023 there has been a significant increase in printing and postage costs. This will only head in the same direction.

Obtaining sufficient copy for AV News is always a challenge but we always get there. AV News looks to include more images and photography with some technical articles. Competition results are published in AV News e-xtra along with the promotion of future events.

New contributors are always needed.

Thanks are extended to AV News contributors and to Andrew Gagg for his excellent support with graphics and artwork. Thanks also to those who proof read AV News and spot all my typos.

AV News for the years 2017 to 2022 are now on the RPS Website with plans to scan and upload all copies from the very start. Some help with scanning would be appreciated.

AV News Going Forwards

I will continue editing AV News for the next year but plan to stand down as editor at the 2024 AGM. I have been editor since the end of 2016 and by the end of 2024 it will be almost eight years and 27 editions under my stewardship. After so long it is very difficult to maintain a fresh approach.

This gives a good opportunity for the Committee to review where we go with AV News. The following points are important.

- Our demographic is such that membership and subscription numbers are reducing year on year and we are getting to a point where expenditure exceeds income, particularly as print and distribution costs increase. Whilst our generation prefer hard copy we have to consider the next generation for whom different media are now the norm.
- There are many ways in which members gain updates (Social Media, E-News from various sources, the many Zoom events, the wonderful AV Group Website) so the

need for a journal has changed. There are other ways of achieving the same outcome at much reduced costs at the same time as maintaining or legacy.

- The next generation expect (and demand) open access and this demands a different model which the AV Group should consider. One approach might to be to publish electronically and then pull everything together into an annual review of the year which is available in print form. We need to see what other groups do for their members.

Alastair Taylor
September 2023



AGM Web Manager Report

The year has gone well, and am pleased to report that I have been kept busy especially as we had two main events taking place, namely the AV Members Exhibition at RPS House and more recently the 25th International Audio Visual Festival at the RPS House. Both these events were publicised on the site quite extensively. We also had to use the new RPS booking system for the IAVF. Unfortunately, there were a few bugs with the software but we managed to solve the issues in a roundabout way.

The AV News and AV News e-xtra broadcasts also involves adding information to the website as does any Archive material.

Hopefully AV Members look at the site which is very comprehensive with useful information, how to make a sequence, links and resources, and all about the RPS National and International events, which are just a few items on our Navigation Bar.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their help when needed.

Sheila Haycox ARPS MPAGB/AV EFIAP

Audio Visual Web Manager

<https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/>

Appendix f.



It has been enjoyable to carry on with the graphic design work that I have been requested to execute for the Group. I have continued to advise on the look of AV News and have been able to supply various graphics for headers and the like for particular articles or strands.

The International Festival has been a great pleasure to do once again. Creation of a house style for it was an interesting project especially as the venue was such a prestigious one with such a characterful exterior - an obvious choice for a motif for the Festival! From this stemmed the generation of the programme cover, tickets, badges and signage, together with the job of assembling welcome packs and manning the reception desk with Christine, my wife.

I look forward to continuing with these tasks for the foreseeable future.

ANDREW N GAGG FRPS

Appendix g.

Report from the Festival Director

Firstly, I can say confidently that everyone that attended the festival enjoyed the event. The Royal Photographic Society, in particular Matt, Laura Foster, Seb and Finn were all very helpful and did make a lovely coffee in Nice Shot.

Leading up to the festival, the President said due to industrial action, regrettably he would be unable to attend the event. Several days later, our Italian judge Lorenzo de Francesco emailed me to say that he was unlikely to be able to attend due to industrial action in Italy. His email was closely followed by a telephone call from our Chair Ian saying he and his wife Elaine could not attend either as they had Covid. Not brilliant with a few days to go.

I came up with a plan and decided to continue the hybrid theme for the audience with hybrid judging. The main system would continue as practised with Lorenzo de Francesco watching via zoom. I would set up zoom with a different computer and account in the jury room where the two Martin's could talk to Lorenzo in the break between sessions. Lorenzo used his main PC to watch the AVs and a laptop for the jury room Zoom. That system worked really well.

There were 2 minor problems.

At the start on Saturday there was no sound for the Zoom participants. A message showed **"original sound for musicians off"** For about 10 minutes with my call to John Smith and Sheila speaking to Ian Bateman and WhatsApp messages from Lorenzo, we were diving into settings but there was still no sound for those on Zoom. On seeing the message and asked Sheila to click the message, and I was relieved to find it toggled on and off, so all was well. This setting returned to off on Sunday morning, but a simple click sorted that.

The other was the dissolves of black/very dark images was blotchy. This was seen at the test day and we thought it had been resolved. I think it needs a discussion with Canon as it is thought it is about the upscaling within the 4K projector and the settings required when using full HD 1920 x 1080 with a 4K projector

The President sent a really good message which Linda read out and there was a cracking paragraph included about he and his Dad and AV. The full message is on the website.

My first foray into catering resulted in many compliments which I was delighted with.

The finance will not be as positive as the number in the theatre was about 36 and Zoom was about 28. This with couples on zoom should give about 70 people watching, which is not as good as 70 people sat on seats.

The cost of the trial at the RPS house, which was absolutely necessary, has not helped, plus the mileage to and from Cribbs Causeway to RPS House. Having said that I was able to take three passengers to and from RPS House from Cribbs Causeway which cut down the cost considerably. We did pay for parking in the Paintworks but that could not be helped. The Premier Inn at Cribbs Causeway was cheaper than the city centre and had free parking which was £25 per day in the city centre.

I made the decision that Lorenzo should not drive two hours to the airport in the hope of getting a flight and then there not being one. It also suited Lorenzo for personal reasons. We were able to cancel four nights at the Premier Inn and save some money, although we will have to pay for the flights which were purchased in February.

John Willett came to present the FICS Sound Medal on Sunday and I was able to offer him Lorenzo's lunch which he enjoyed.

I emailed the results to all entrants on 2nd October, sent off the Salon Spreadsheet to FIAP which has been approved, the FIAP required Catalogue has also been approved and is now on our website, a link to the Awards has been sent to all entrants, all the certificates have been completed and emailed to entrants with a link to the Catalogue, and all the awards posted.

The Festival Makers did extremely well with everyone, playing a vital part.

Alastair Taylor ARPS DPAGB

Treasurer;

Keith Leedham FRPS EFIAP FIPF

Projection and Technical Management;

Andrew N Gagg FRPS

Graphic Design, Reception and Welcome Packs;

Christine Gagg

Reception and Welcome Packs;

Sheila Haycox ARPS MPAGB/AV EFIAP

RPS Booking Portal, Promotional AV, Website and Zoom Management;

Robert Albright FRPS

Assisting with the preparation of the running order of the entries;

Howard Bagshaw ARPS MPAGB FIPF

Official Festival Photographer;

Linda Gibbs MPAGB AV-AFIAP

Communications, Festival administration, including the production of the Introductory AV, the Programme, and the Official Catalogue, plus "MC" for the Festival weekend.

Looking back, I have directed

- 2 in person festivals, 2016 and 2018
- an online Retrospective 2020,
- a fully online Festival 2021 and
- a hybrid audience/hybrid judging Festival 2023,

I am formally stepping down from my role as Festival Director, but I will help/advise the new team should they wish me to.

Edgar Gibbs

28th October 2023