

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the RPS East Anglian Region which was held remotely using Zoom

The meeting commenced at 11:03am on Saturday April 12th 2025

Attendees:

Simon Fremont (**SF**)

Roo Pitt (**RP**)

Alan Bousfield (**AB**)

Tom Owens (**TO**)

Jonathan Williams (**JW**)

John Speller (**JS**)

Richard Lewis (**RL**)

Jennifer Gee (**JG**)

Malcolm Gee (**MG**)

Robin Garrod (**RG**)

Gill Beckett (**GB**)

1. Welcome from the Regional Organising Officer

SF welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Apologies for Absence

Peter Orton

3. Minutes of the previous AGM 2024

The minutes of the meeting have been published on the RPS website. They were accepted. They were proposed by Simon Fremont and seconded by John Speller.

4. Matter Arising

There were none.

5. Annual Report of the Regional Organiser

SF began by stating that his report is published on the RPS website (a copy of this can be found in Appendix A of this document).

SF reviewed the report, stating the Advisory Day held on 2024 had seen good attendance and had good feedback. A further Advisory Day is planned for the coming October, to be held in Foxton.

More events are planned for 2025 than occurred in 2024, these to include Walk Talk Walk events, a talk on the production of photo books and possible events organised between the region and various SIGs (including Landscape and the Digital Imaging groups). See appendix A for more details. Further events with other SIGs and regions are being investigated.

TO told the meeting that the Contemporary SIG were always happy for non group members to attend their meetings. **TO** supplied a link to their web page at the meeting. **SF** to liaise with **TO** to ensure the events are featured in the next Newsletter.

SF asked the East Anglian Region membership to send him any ideas they may have further events.

There were no questions on the report.

6. Financial Report of the Region presented by the Regional Organiser

RP explained the changes that have occurred in the accounting procedures for the Regions and SIGs. These were discussed in detail at the 2024 AGM. The new accounts reflect these changes.

RP explained that the Regions and SIGs now agree a budget for each which HQ monitor. The financial budget for 2024 had been £764.89 which matched the actual expenditure. This year's budget is £2,185.00.

For details please see Appendix B for details of the Financial Report (these have also been published in the website).

There were no questions on the report.

7. Q&A Session for the Regional members with the Regional Committee

TO re-iterated that invitation for non-members to come along to the Contemporary SIG meeting, which are held on zoom.

MG stated that the AV SIG is not now fully operational though hopefully meetings will be arranged. **SF** to liaise **MG** for inclusion on the next Newsletter.

8. Election of Officers

SF was standing for re-election as Regional Organiser

GB was standing for re-election as Regional Secretary.

As these posts were uncontested, it was agreed no formal election was needed. No one at the meeting had an issue with this.

SF stated that no one had come forward to take on the Events and Communications Role, so these tasks would be managed by the current 4 person Committee. **SF** stated that there are 2 vacancies on the Committee which he will be looking to try to fill.

9. Date of the following year AGM

The 2026 AGM will be held on 18th April 2026.

10. Thanks and Close

Prior to the meeting closure, **SF** stated that it was important that all members should exercise their voting rights for the upcoming EGM, either by proxy or at the actual meeting, which will be held on April 24th. **TO** re-iterated the importance of this.

Please see Appendix C for the details of the next steps arising from the AGM.

JG thanked the Committee for their continued efforts.

GB thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 11:26am.

Appendix A

Regional Organiser's Report

I want to share an overview of the photography activities in our region over the last year. The Region has Committee for 4 members following the resignation of the Web Editor due other commitments. We have the results of election for a number of committee members following the end of their 3 year term as a committee officer.

In 2024 I reported the region had 682 members which has increased to 765 members at the end of 2024 following activities of the marketing team.

Our Community Led Events during 2024 expanded significantly over previous years. We organised multiple events across all counties within the Region consisting of 7 events in conjunction with TalkWalkTalk and a further 3 events delivered by the Region.

We held an Advisory Day at Foxton in November covering all distinction levels support by Assessors Dr James and Dr Hazel Frost. It was great to see a number of different panels plus observers who we hope will come to future Advisory Days to share their panels.

We published 4 versions of the East Anglia Observer a quarterly newsletter for the region. It was great to receive articles from different members that were included in the newsletter.

In 2025 we have put together an expanded programme of events that we hope will increase regional engagement. The programme includes: -
Talk Walk Talk Events - Regional Photo Walks
- Advisory Day at Foxton

- Photobooks Workshop at Foxton 19th July
- Monthly Photo Clinics via Zoom
- Zoom Presentations from Special Interest Groups

We will continue to publish East Anglia Observer Quarterly and would like to include more member content. There is the East Anglia Facebook Group where members can share photography related information with each other.

We continue to work on improving the website and have space to share panels from members who are awarded a distinction.

It would be great if we could create a cohort of members who are interested in helping the committee run Community Led Events as that will allow us to expand the number of activities within the Region. For example, if we had 30 members who would be happy to led an event every 2 years we could significantly expand the volume of events available to members.

There will be a chance to ask question as part of agenda item number 7. I hope as many members as possible will find time join at least one of our Community Led Events.

Appendix B

Financial Report

There have been changes to the basis on which Regional finances are managed which was implemented during the 2024 year. After consultation with Memcom, and with the agreement of the representatives, funds that had been underutilised for several years in the regional bank accounts were moved to general funds for the use of RPS as a whole, and particularly to contribute to the cost of maintaining and developing our platforms and services. RPS has made a commitment to maintain adequate Regional funding and to provide for each year a total Regional fund of around 18 months of aggregated Regional operating costs. As a parallel activity RPS has begun the process of consolidation of individual Regional bank accounts into aggregated accounts, to make things easier to manage and reduce banking overheads. As a result financial reports at the Regional AGM's pertaining to the year 2024 will no longer focus on the balance of Regional funds in an individual bank account, but income and expenditure from Regional activities during the year relative to budget.

ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT	2024
East Anglia Region	
INCOME	
Regional Funding	£404.13
Group Subs	£0.00
Ticket sales	£340.00
Competition fees	£0.00
Food & Drink sales	£0.00
Publications	£0.00
Postage	£0.00
Raffle tickets	£0.00
Donations	£20.76
Other Income	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£764.89
EXPENDITURE	
Speakers fees & expenses	£0.00
Venue hire	£114.00

Food & drink	£0.00
Adverts	£0.00
Travel	£340.80
Accommodation	£135.16
Subsistence	£0.00
Newsletter production	£0.00
Publicity	£0.00
Postage	£0.00
Stationery	£0.00
Equipment	£0.00
Irrecoverable VAT	£0.00
Other Costs	£174.93
TOTAL COSTS	£764.89

ANNUAL BUDGET **2025**
East Anglia Region

INCOME

Regional Funding	£955.00
Group Subs	£0.00
Ticket sales	£1,230.00
Competition fees	£0.00
Food & Drink sales	£0.00
Publications	£0.00
Postage	£0.00
Raffle tickets	£0.00
Donations	£0.00
Other Income	£0.00

TOTAL INCOME **£2,185.00**

EXPENDITURE

Speakers fees & expenses	£200.00
Venue hire	£260.00
Food & drink	£0.00
Adverts	£0.00
Travel	£1,120.00
Accommodation	£300.00
Subsistence	£60.00
Newsletter production	£0.00
Publicity	£0.00
Postage	£0.00
Stationery	£0.00
Equipment	£100.00
Irrecoverable VAT	£0.00
Other Costs	£145.00

TOTAL COSTS **£2,185.00**

NET INCOME/COSTS **£0.00**

Appendix C - Next Steps

SF to include TO's Contemporary SIG events link in the next East Anglia Newsletter, to be published in May.

SF to put out another communication in the May Newsletter about the open Event and Communication Officer Role for the region.

MG to send SF a PDF poster about the AV event for inclusion in the May newsletter.

All members to vote (either by proxy or in person) at the RPS EGM on April 24th regarding the bylaw change.

SF to ensure the October Advisory Day event is added to the RPS website for booking.