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

The meeting commenced at 10:00am on Saturday February 11rd 2023

Attendees:

Jonathan Vaines (JV)

Simon Fremont (SF)

John Speller (JS)

Ben Nichols (BN)

Gill Beckett (GB)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Moira Ellice

Richard Lewis

Sue Vaines

Malcolm Gee

Jenny Gee

1. **Minutes of the previous AGM 2022**

The minutes of the meeting had been previous circulated on the website. There were accepted. They were proposed by John Speller and seconded by Simon Fremont.

1. **Matter Arising**

There were none.

1. **Officers’ Reports**

**4A. Treasurer’s Report**

SM talked through the financial statement which had been submitted and approved by RPS Bristol. There were no events during the year, so there hasn't been much movement in the accounts. THe accounts are available on the website.

SM stated that Bristol is now largely in charge of monetary movements and that the role of Treasurer has become straightforward.

SM stated that he is in the process of finding a replacement for him as Treasurer, and will continue in the role until a suitable candidate is found.

**4B. Regional Organisers Report**

JV talked through his report. Please see the Appendix for details. Some discussion took place over the contents of the report relating to a complaint received.

JV thanked the other Committee members for their support and also thanked Matthew Clarke for all his hard work on the exhibition. Sadly, due to the way Matt was treated by the Creative Eye Group he has left the RPS.

1. **Election of Officers**

The committee then resigned with the exception of JV.

Nominations were received from:

Regional Organiser Simon Fremont

Secretary Gill Beckett

Treasurer Simon Fremont (interim only)

Webmaster Ben Nichols

The new committee was unanimously voted in, *en bloc*, by those attending the meeting.

JV stated that he was still available to lend support to the committee going forward.

1. **Any Other Business**

No other business had been presented to EARPS Committee.

SF talked through the proposed merger with the BIPP. Since this meeting this proposal has been dropped.

GB stated that at some point Bristol may ask for volunteer hours to be submitted for 2022, but, at present no one has asked.

The meeting closed at 10:36am

Appendix

Regional Organiser’s Report
This is somewhat of a short report in comparison with those of past years. Last AGM I had planned to hand over as
RO to a volunteer that we had in place, however, just ahead of the AGM he withdrew from the post. Such was the
timing that I had already made my plans for 2022/23 which did not include East Anglian RPS. The result of this would
be little activity within the region for 2022 as I stated at that time. No activity at all has been the case but what also
contributed to this and completely stopped any activity being planned was when in May I received a complaint in
the form of an indexed document from a member directed at myself.
After some e-mail traffic with the Chair of the Group involved, I thought it correct to escalate the matter as the
person making the complaint had threatened to do so ahead of me. I therefore informed the Volunteer Manager,
the Board of Trustees, the CEO and the President. The President did acknowledge receipt with a reply that he would
discuss the matter with colleagues and come back to me. No other person acknowledged the e-mail, and no one
has come back to me to date. I did speak with a Police Officer regarding the matter, and I was asked to report it as
the officer believed the member had committed a crime. I have not done this as yet as I feel it should be reported
with the knowledge of the RPS at Bristol. I have not chased Bristol for a reply as I was asked to stop e-mailing on
the matter “to allow things to calm down”, so I did. I would like to document this in our minutes as I feel that the
people in the positions above have failed a volunteer and more importantly a member.
I have volunteered for the Society for a number of years and given several thousand hours free for the benefit of
the Society and its members. I thought it bad luck to have a bitter ending to the role until I spoke with another past
RO from the region who reminded me that it was the very same member who has caused my bitterness, also
tarnished his farewell at the AGM when he handed over to the incoming RO. In fact, the Chair of this member’s
group did say to me directly that if we had a mechanism of ejecting members, he would use it. So maybe I should
not be so down about it.
Last week I received an e-mail thanking me for my support last year and advising me that I am no longer a member. I
await the refund of my membership fee. I am not relating this to any of the above but just providing an example of
the poor organisation of the Society. I hope this improves soon as I have watched this decline for the past eight
years.

In the past year our Treasurer, Simon Fremont, has taken on the role of Regional Organiser Elect and today takes
the role on fully. He has already volunteered to chair the Memcom meetings and with a new team building around
him I am sure he will take the region to new places with new experiences. I stand by my pledge to support him and
his team whenever needed and for long as needed. I would like to thank all the volunteers in the region and
especially Matt, Gill, Clare and Simon.
Thank you for all your support.

Jonathan Vaines