

The Royal Photographic Society Creative Eye Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on 26 March 2023
Via Zoom

Meeting commenced at 10.30 with 28 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Steve Varman

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

Proposed by Nigel Rea.
Signed by the outgoing Chair.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair gave his report, copy is attached (Appendix 1).

5. Finance Report

Nigel Rea gave his report, copy attached (Appendix 2).

The accounts (Appendix 3) for year ending 31 December 2022 were reviewed.

Jan Harris proposed their adoption.

David Rutter seconded the proposal.

All attendees were in favour.

6. Secretary's Report

Comments were included in the Chair Report.

7. Committee Members' Reports

Comments were included in the Chair Report.

8. Election of Officers

The following nominations were received:

Chair	-	Clive Watkins
Secretary	-	Graham Lingley
Treasurer	-	Nigel Rea
Committee Member	-	David Rutter
Committee Member	-	Steve Varman

The voting was as follows:

Chairman –	25 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Secretary –	25 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Treasurer –	25 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Committee Members –	25 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next AGM will be held on 24 March 2024 via Zoom.

Clive Watkins concluded the meeting by giving his thanks to David Cooke for his time as Chair and also thanking the other Committee Members.

The meeting ended at 11.00.

Appendix 1

Chair's Report for AGM 2023

Membership

Membership of the group during 2022 was around 600. This has fluctuated slightly each month but recently there seems to be a slight drop in numbers.

Creative Eye Magazine

As usual, there were three issues of Creative Eye magazine published in 2022.

After just a little more than 3 years as editor of our magazine, Steve Varman handed over the reins to me. In the first stage I commissioned the articles, whilst Steve designed and assembled the magazine (Issue 88) and in the second stage (Issue 89), I took over the entire process of producing the magazine.

Exhibitions

For 2022, the Print Exhibition and the Digital Exhibition were held at different times of the year so that members had two opportunities a year of having their images accepted in lieu of a creative eye group exhibition.

2022 Print Exhibition

The Members' 2022 Print Exhibition, selected by Dr David Townshend FRPS, Joan Jordan ARPS and Dr Ian Wilson ARPS was free to enter.

There were awards for the best prints and a change to the format for print submissions in that the images did not need to be mounted for submission. It was hoped that this change would give more members a greater opportunity to enter.

The result was a great success, resulting in double the usual number of entries. Prints arrived from all over the UK, but importantly, also from Hong Kong, Australia, Sweden and Ireland.

The prints were mounted by Moira Ellice and Veronica Worrall and looked great at the exhibition as there was a uniformity.

Sixty-five of the prints from the exhibition were shown at the Apex Gallery in Bury St Edmunds from Tuesday 16 August – Sunday 18 September 2022.

A slideshow of the complete exhibition (136 prints) was installed on the gallery's big screen TV, which was very well received.

The complete exhibition (136 prints) was on display throughout November at the Edinburgh Photographic Society. Arrangements were made to display the Digital Exhibition slideshow on a TV in the entrance hall, also, projected in one of its event rooms at 'Open Weekends'.

All the award winning and other accepted prints were published in the Creative Eye magazine issue 88.

2022 Digital Exhibition

For the 2022 exhibition, Members were invited to submit up to four images each with one being selected from everyone for inclusion in the final slide show on the Creative Eye website and will also be printed in the first issue in 2023 of the Creative Eye magazine.

We received 466 images from 118 members. The Selection Panel discussed the merits of all images, chose one image from each member for the Exhibition and decided on ten images to receive one of the awards. These were the Commended, Highly Commended, the three Selector's Awards, and finally a RPS Gold Medal for the best in the whole Exhibition. It was a tough selection process which took over nine hours to complete due to the images being of such high quality.

The Selectors were Athena Carey MFA ARPS, Simon Leach FRPS and Viveca Koh FRPS.

The Digital Exhibition is now on the Creative Eye website and will also be shown at photographic societies including Edinburgh and Smethwick.

Online Talks

Jan Harris organised and hosted a programme of online talks and workshops, and she helped run the Members' Day in June.

The talks held were:

Joe Houghton, Lightroom Live, 8th January 2022

Ruth Grindrod, Colour, Tones and Textures, 5th February 2022

Iñaki Hernández-Lasa FRPS, FIPF, Architectural Photography, in search of the "genius loci", 10th September 2022

Linda Wevill, "Expressing Creative Vision", about creative techniques and her 2 FRPS panels, 26th November 2022

James Kerwin, "Sands of Time", 28th January 2023

Steve Geer FRPS (and friends) present a discussion on "The P2 Project - Poetry and Photography" on Saturday April 22nd 2023

Members' Day

The 2022 Members' Day, organised by Moira Ellice and Jan Harris, was held on 26th June. It was well attended with 117 participants joining the event.

Talks were given by:

Steve Varman LRPS 'Creative and Eclectic'

Margaret Rainey FRPS 'City Impressions'

Julie Cowdy ARPS 'The gift that keeps on giving'

David Jordan FRPS 'Adventures with Infrared'

David Harris ARPS 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees'

Wendy Irwin ARPS 'Mixing Art and Photography'

Steve Geer FRPS 'Imagining Reality'

Mike Kwasniak FRPS 'The Accidental Fellow'

Moira received many messages of thanks, and one non-member was so thrilled with the day, she said it was the best RPS event she has attended for years.

Field Trips and Photo Walks

Rebecca Johnson LRPS was Coordinator of Field Trips and Photo walks from November 2021 until she had to give up the role at the end of 2022.

Walks which took place in the last year were:

March 2022 - Spitalfields and Brick Lane Photo walk, led by Roger & Angela Ford

April 2022 - Kew Gardens visit, led by Dave & Joan Jordan

July 2022 - Brian Titchiner lead a Photo walk in London (from Three Mills to Trinity Wharf)

October 2022 - Robin Myerscough lead a Photo walk in Norwich, on a date that coincided with an Exhibition by the local Camera Club in the Cathedral.

Creative Eye Portfolio Group

Membership of the group, which is run by David Harris, has been stable in the last year. We currently have 13 members, with all thirteen currently active. This is probably at about the right level for a single group.

The exchange of images and written comments each month is continuing, as is the group Zoom meeting every 8 weeks or so. Some members seem to prefer the written comments and some prefer the Zoom format, some enjoy both equally!

Group Website

Steve Varman continues to run the group's website with great success. The site contains a wealth of information about the group including news items, events, the print exhibition, the digital exhibition, the members' day, documents and details of members' websites. I recommend this site to all those who wish to know more about the group and its activities.

Facebook

Our Facebook group, administered by Margaret Rainey. With 290 members it is very active and is a great place to share your images for comment as well as to exchange ideas, find out what is going on in the Group.

Flickr Group

The group has a Flickr site which until recently was looked after by David Ryland. Currently it has 68 members. I'm very pleased to say that Clive Watkins has taken over responsibility for the group.

Thanks

I would like to end this report with a very sincere thank you to all our volunteers. They are essential to making the group the success it is.

Although I am stepping down as chair at this AGM, I will continue to edit Creative Eye magazine and I look forward to working with the group and its members in future.

Dr David F Cooke FRPS

Appendix 2

RPS Creative Eye Group Finance Report 2022

2022 was a transitional year for the Group, coming out of the revised operational pattern established during 2021.

Our income is solely from member subscriptions and online talks. Membership subscriptions showed an increase of £416.67 over the previous year. Income from non-members attending online talks was £516.00 against a speakers' cost of £405.40

With the resumption of face-to-face events, we held very successful print and digital exhibitions at a cost of £1348.70.

Various software for talks and meetings was upgraded or renewed and a large hard drive was bought to process current and future digital exhibitions.

Although members volunteer their time for field trips, we pay expenses in line with RPS guidelines and the field trips cost £263.29.

Of course our biggest expense is the Creative Eye Magazine and in 2022 we published three issues including a 48 pager featuring images from the print exhibition. When we worked out our 2022 budget, we did not anticipate the large increase in postage for sending the magazine to the membership. For 2022 we still intend to produce three issues with a careful eye on production and postage costs.

Taking all income and expenditure into consideration we made a small loss of £196.60 for 2022.

There is one item on the balance sheet I need to explain. Due to operational issues, we did not receive details of the income from subscriptions and online ticket sales for the period July to December 2022 until early March 2023. This amounted to £4854.02 and was not included in the Bank Balance at 31st December 2022 so we have shown it on the Balance Sheet as held by HQ. This money has now been allocated to the Creative Eye Group bank account.

The creditors shown amounting to £2296.17 were amounts that were accrued in December 2022 but did not appear in the account until January.

Appendix 3

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - CREATIVE EYE GROUP
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st December 2022

<u>2021</u>		<u>2022</u>
£	Income	£
9,290.13	Members' Subs	9,708.80
340.00	Life Members' Subscriptions (Paid annually in arrears)	340.00
1,072.00	Online Talks	516.00
<u>10,702.13</u>		<u>10,564.80</u>
	Expenditure	
6,226.75	Creative Eye Magazine printing (£4557.02) & postage (£3163.80)	7,720.82
741.52	Exhibition	1,348.70
512.78	Postages	504.51
797.70	Zoom Meetings (Software £518.68 & Speakers £405.40)	924.08
62.88	Field trips	263.29
30.00	Miscellaneous	-
29.37	Recoverable/Irrecoverable VAT TBA	-
<u>8,401.00</u>		<u>10,761.40</u>
<u>2,301.13</u>	Excess/(Loss) of Income over Expenditure	<u>(196.60)</u>

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - CREATIVE EYE GROUP
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

£		£
11,760.60	Reserve as at 1st January 2022	14,061.73
	For year ended 31st December 2022	
	Income	10,564.80
	Expenditure	10,761.40
2,301.13	Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	(196.60)
<u>14,061.73</u>	Reserve as at 31st December 2022	<u>13,865.13</u>
13,008.42	Assets: Bank Balance at 31.12.22	10,967.28
-	Bank balance - held by HQ	4,854.02
714.04	Debtors: December subscriptions	-
340.00	Debtors: Life member subscriptions	340.00
-	Creditors	(2,296.17)
-	Total assets	
(0.73)	Liabilities: VAT and others	-
<u>14,061.73</u>	Net assets as at 31st December 2022	<u>13,865.13</u>