

Notes on the RPS SE REGION AGM held on Sunday 19/09/2021 at 1000

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies - Diane Walker-Cleveland & Paul Stillman
2. Minutes from AGM 2020/02 - posted online and there were no questions. Minutes accepted as a true record of the event by online poll 12 yes/4 abstentions
3. Finance report - see appendix 1. Accepted as a true record of our finances by online poll 12 yes/4 abstentions
4. Regional Organiser report - see appendix 2
5. Election or approval of officers - see appendix 3. All officers voted en bloc by online poll of 17 yes/2 abstentions
6. Any Other Business - there were no items of AOB
7. **Shooting Hyper-Local:** a talk by Stewart Wall, MA ARPS PGCE - a fascinating talk on Stewart's approach to photography. The links Stewart mentioned are in the pdf entitled **2021 AGM notes without appendices with info slides**
8. **The Power of Photography: Transforming young lives** - a talk by Andrew Page, CEO and founder of Positive View - another interesting talk on how Positive View are helping young people in the SE. The link to positive view is in the pdf entitled **2021 AGM notes without appendices with info slides.**
9. Stewart Wall's choices from our **online exhibition** - the slides are in the pdf entitled **2021 AGM notes without appendices with info slides.**
10. **Close**

Comments and questions during AGM

1. There were 24 members of the RPS present online
2. The question was asked: Are we quorate? Stewart said he thought we only needed around 10-12 members to be so, however this will be checked
3. The question was asked: how much have we spent on Zoom licences? Roger did reply with a figure of 2 licences at c. £145 each, which is c. £290

Appendices

Appendix 1: Finance report

Summary of income and expenses from January 2020 to date

Expenditure	2020	YTD To 31st Aug 2021
Lecturers fees & expenses (note 1)	£7,680.00	£8,435.00
Venue costs (note 2)	£496.00	£620.00
VAT	£100.56	£201.96
Expenses	£1127.10	£413.94
Total Expenditure	£9403.66	£9,670.90
Income	2020	YTD To 31st Aug 2021
Workshop Tickets (note 3)	£17,540.00	£13,535.00
VAT Refund	£53.70	£92.41
HQ Funding	£1,245.55	£1,180.30
Total Income	£18839.25	£14,807.71
Bank Summary	2020	YTD To 31st Aug 2021
Opening Balance	£4,871.83	£14,307.42
Cumulative income	£18,839.25	£14,807.71
Cumulative expenditure	-£9,403.66	-£9,670.90
Closing Balance	£14,307.42	£19,444.23
note 1	2021 includes £15 bank charges	
note 2	2021 includes storage costs for 2021	
note 3	2020 includes £10 from a LRPS advisory day	
note 3	2021 includes refunds due to cancelled workshops	

Graham was our treasurer in 2020 but since the beginning of 2021 John has taken over the function as acting treasurer. With the advent of centralised control by RPS HQ finance, the role has been reduced in scope.

No cash payments were taken or paid throughout the period under review. RPS HQ Finance handle all financial transactions on our behalf

2020 was an exceptional year with the pandemic forcing us to cancel all face to face workshops after March but we were able to switch a number of these workshops into an on-line form that proved remarkably successful.

The Pandemic hasn't gone away so far in 2021 but we have started to offer face to face meetings towards the end of the year.

The resulting expenditure profile has therefore changed dramatically,

Lecturers' fees which were £1655 in 2019 have shot up to £7680 in 2020 and £8435 to end August 2021 as we continue to expand our range of online workshops.

Our venue costs have changed from £5191 in 2019, down to £496 in 2020 but up slightly to £620 so far in 2021, which now includes storage costs.

VAT Charges were £100 in 2020 and so far, this year are £201 in line with our expenditure.

Expenses including mileage and food and drink of £3506 in 2019 went down to £1127 in 2020, and have gone down again in YTD 2021 to £413

There was no expensed capital in 2020, nor so far in 2021, unlike 2019 which saw the purchase of a new projector and PA system

Overall our expenses in 2019 were £10366, but without travel and venue costs, were down in 2020 to £9403. With 21 YTD sitting at £9670, it is likely to exceed the 2020 total by year end.

The pandemic offered us an opportunity to create new online workshops and courses, which seemed to fit in with the needs of you, our customers, and allowed us to extend our reach and to be able to replicate the courses, allowing more and more of you to benefit from them. As a consequence,

Our workshop ticket sales went up significantly from £7695 in 2019 to £17540 in 2020 and YTD £13535 in 2021 so overall income rose from £12139 in 2019 to £18839 in 2020. We are in line this year for a similar December position with income at £14807 at 31st August 2021.

Our bank summary therefore at the end of 2019 stood at £4871, which included the purchase of a new projector and PA system and finished 2020 at £14307 and our 31st August balance stood at £19444.

These are the figures agreed with RPS HQ Finance (Nikki McCoy, Finance Director)

Appendix 2 - RO report

Hello, and I hope you have managed to read this report online

I have taken the step of following the Finance report so I can let you know our thoughts on the financial position.

I have split the report into a number of sections, and because there was no AGM in February, I will be reporting on the period from around March 2020.

2020 Reaction to Covid

Of course, you all know what happened in March 2020; one of the biggest events of this century that has seen almost no-one unaffected unless you live in North Korea.

In March 2020 we had planned a Face-to-Face Photoshop workshop when the world changed. Roger Crocombe, Graham Keatley quickly set up some discussions with Celia Henderson about presenting online via Zoom.

The rest is history and the statistics are quite remarkable.

- Celia Henderson will be starting series 7 of her **Flowers and Photoshop for the Creative Photographer** in November. Each series has 3 lots of 9 workshops, with 20 people per workshop.
- Each workshop is 1 hour 15 minutes, so roughly speaking, RPS SE, through Celia, have provided over 200 hours of tuition to around 150 people to date
- Celia has also presented an Advanced course to another 20 people
- Roger, not content with organising the workshops, has also presented courses around Lightroom and Printing with Lightroom and Photoshop. These have been tremendously popular and Roger gives his time for free, which has contributed to our positive balance.

Change of Regional Organiser

In December 2020, our previous RO, Bruce Broughton-Tomkins, resigned and I took over. We also lost a number of our committee members around the same time. This meant we were down to 4 people on the SE committee.

Working with DIG

I co-opted Melanie Chalk, who was and still is a member of the DIG special interest group, onto our committee.

We made a decision to use DIG as a way of advertising and running nearly our online workshops, except for the Photoshop, Lightroom, Printing and Advisory ones, outside the region. We have therefore worked very closely with DIG and I believe this has been a very successful example of the cross pollination that the RPS HQ have talked about.

Melanie facilitated around 4 more courses from Roger, ranging from:

ICM on the shoreline to Making your own Xmas cards. The latter is going to a free offering in November.

Melanie has also facilitated Celia to run a lot of shorter courses through DIG, most of which sell out in very short time. These range from:

Brushes Lunch and Learn

Textures Lunch and Learn

Introduction to Brushes, Patterns and Textures in Photoshop

More Brushes, Patterns and Textures in Photoshop

Photoshop Essentials

Starting in November, Celia is starting some new short, sharp courses we call **ByteSize**. All 5 are again around Photoshop learning.

Libraries, Selections, Templates and Layouts, Gradients, and finally Filters.

Again, the statistics are remarkable. I estimate Celia has delivered around 60 hours of workshops through Zoom to another 300 people. The country is now far more knowledgeable about Photoshop and Lightroom thanks to Roger and Celia.

We also advertised through DIG more courses for us, with a whole host of well known names:

Joe Houghton on Street photography/Lightroom and Mono Conversions

Polina Plotnikova on Demystifying the Lensbaby and Mastering your Lensbaby

Glenys Garnett on Developing a Creative Approach to Photography

Robert Canis on Passion Projects In Nature & the Landscape

Steve Gosling on Order and Design in Landscape Photography

Philip Bedford on Long Exposure on the Sussex Coast

Valda Bailey on Photographing Beyond the Imagination

Alex Hare on Project Photography and Storytelling

Nigel Goldsmith Smartphone photography (the missing manual)

Other workshops in the SE

We have also run 3 **Online LRPS advisory days** with Stewart Wall as the advisor. Thank you, Stewart, the feedback was really positive.

Sukhy Hallait also ran Meaningful Portraits at Home.

The last event I should mention is a brilliant talk by Hans Strand called **Forces that Create and Mould the Land**. This was a free to attend talk, by a world-renowned photographer. It was a way of thanking the many hundreds of people who have supported us over the last difficult period. Once again, thank you.

Where do we go from here?

I have already mentioned the ByteSized courses that are in the pipeline. These are online, so one thing I can say is that we will continue to offer workshops online.

We are arranging F2F courses and the first of these, a **Tree Workshop** in November, is already sold out.

I see the future in terms of offering workshops, talks, courses, call it what you may, is therefore a hybrid of both online and F2F.

As the country comes back to normal, we will run more Distinction Advisory days F2F, but again, I see this as a hybrid mix of online based and centre based.

Finance

As Roger has just pointed out, the most significant item is the happy position of having a very positive bank balance. This has happened because:

- The Photoshop courses were filled to 100% capacity, despite a budgeted aim of around 80%
- We also charged a premium to non-members, not expecting many at all, but in fact 25% of attendees were non members
- As I mentioned earlier, Roger generously gave his time for free
- The online advisory days required no expenses as again Stewart, the advisor, gave his time for free

We, as a committee, have been looking at ways to use this, and ideas around helping young people through photography were what we had in mind.

Earlier in the year, along came the RPS strategy of **Photography for Everyone**. At an RO's meeting around the same time of year, I suggested using some of our positive balance to help meet some of the objectives set by **Photography for Everyone** and it was received positively.

We were still contemplating, when Evan Dawson, CEO of the RPS, put me in touch with Andrew Page. Andrew is the CEO and founder of **Positive View**, which is an organisation that helps disadvantaged young people through photography.

We met with Andrew and, in a nutshell, it seemed like we were destined to work together!

We are at a point now where we are discussing ways that we could help Positive View as there are so many synergies between what they do and the RPS do.

This is screen grab of Evan presenting the strategy to ROs and Chairs of the various member's groups. I believe it sits very well under **Making Photography** and **Sharing photography**. Andrew is the second of our guest speakers today and he will spend some telling you about his work with young people and photography shortly.

THE RPS
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Photography for Everyone

- 1. INSPIRE**
"See Photography"
 - 1.1 Exhibitions
 - 1.2 Awards
 - 1.3 The Journal
 - 1.4 (New) RPS Collection
 - 1.5 Campaigns and Public Initiatives
 - 1.6 "Photographer Laureate" and high-profile photographer partnerships
- 2. CREATE**
"Make Photography"
 - 2.1 Learning programme for everyone to improve their skills
 - 2.2 Distinctions, Bursaries and Qualifications
 - 2.3 Communications - Photography for everyone - throughout the world - the photography "journey"
 - 2.4 ... initiatives : National photo day, celebrity partnerships and creative challenges
 - 2.5 **Photography and Mental Health - photography for specific disadvantaged individuals and groups**
 - 2.6 RPS House - interactive experiences, workshops, engaging with local community
- 3. CONNECT**
"Share Photography"
 - 3.1 Regions - volunteer-led local communities
 - 3.2 Specialist Groups - specific areas of photographic expertise/interest
 - 3.3 Chapters - international community and role
 - 3.4 Competitions
 - 3.5 COVID-19 - opportunity to support people who are isolated or restricted
 - 3.6 **Young photographers - new community to develop and support**

Thanks, and please volunteer

This job has been challenging, but it is interesting, fulfilling, rewarding and you get to meet a varied spectrum of people.

The committee we have is a great team and I would like to say thank you to them all. They are all happy to stay on in their current positions, and hopefully will be ratified in a few moments. We would like a couple more passionate people to help out, so, if you have something you feel you could contribute, then please talk to us, by emailing me at southeast@rps.org.

Finally, the SE regional committee exists to serve its members, communicate with other groups, communicate with RPS HQ and find ways to work better.

I think we have changed significantly for the better over the last 18 months and that has only been possible with your support. So, my thanks to you, the SE members and all those others in the UK.

John Gough 14/09/2021

Appendix 3 - Approval of all committee

The following members were elected unopposed:

Election of Committee	Post	New or in current position from last AGM
John Gough	Regional Officer	New
Roger Crocombe	Vice RO and event coordinator	Current
Paul Stillman	Committee member	Current
Jan Beesley	Web Editor	Current
Melanie Chalk	Committee member and DIG rep	New
Celia Henderson	Committee member	New
Committee member - currently unfilled	Event co-ordination	
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