



Secretary's Report

Greg Lovett ARPS

Meetings

The Committee meet bi-monthly, all meetings being undertaken by Zoom. We have therefore had 6 meetings since the last AGM. Committee meetings generally last a couple of hours on a Friday evening. I must thank the members of the Committee for their diligence in making the effort to prepare and attend Committee meetings and in particular to turn up on time. While there are inevitably occasional absences, the members of the Committee had all done their level best to attend.

Committee

The RPS's Terms of Reference that govern Nature Group (and all the other Special Interest Groups) are governed. Requires that we operate with an elected committee of 5 officers and 2 elected members. Given the size of the Nature Group and the breadth of activities that we try to provide for our members, our committee is expanded to include a number of non-voting volunteer members

Group Chair	Duncan Locke ARPS
Group Finance Officer	Peter Ward LRPS
Group Secretary	Greg Lovett ARPS
Group Engagement and Events Officer	Ann Miles FRPS
Group Communications Officer	Ian Wilson ARPS
Ordinary Committee Members	Dawn Osborn FRPS
Ordinary Committee Members	Ralph Snook ARPS
Membership Secretary	Christine Holt ARPS
Editor of The Iris	Bruce Kendrick ARPS
	Annie Healey FRPS
	Andre Neves ARPS

This year's Annual Exhibition will be Ralph Snook's last as our Exhibition Secretary. His contribution to the Group in that capacity over the years has been invaluable and he will be a very hard act to follow. We have received some offers of help in this respect and we hope to be able to announce the appointment of a new editorial team for the Iris in due course.

Facebook

The Nature Groups' Facebook Page is moderated by Ian Wilson, Ann Miles and myself. We currently have 425. Members of whom 339 are considered to be active. One rate course of the year 80 people have applied to join the page, 43 of whom met the membership requirement and were allowed to join. We have declined membership of the page to 37 applicants, in each case because they failed to provide confirmation of their membership of the RPS and the Nature Group.

Of those who declared a gender, the membership is 66% male and 32% female.

The membership is largely UK based, 387 members are based in the UK, 7 in Ireland, 4 in the USA, 3 in each of India, New Zealand and Hong Kong. We also have 2 members in Switzerland and a member in each of Belgium, Israel and Gibraltar.

Perhaps unsurprisingly the most popular times to access the page is either over breakfast or later in the afternoon/early evening (UK time).

I am pleased to confirm that over the course of the year we have found the Nature Group Facebook page easy to moderate. Thanks to those who participate in the group we find that comments are generally helpful and supportive even where there are negative points to be made and, most of all, are relevant to our Nature Photography

Image Critique Forum

For those members of the Group working towards the Associate qualification we continue to run the "Towards Associate" image critique forum which provides feedback on individual images. This initiative is intended to be separate from the existing Advice Days and One to Ones (which look at panels of images) but is intended to be complimentary to them.

Our aim with the "Towards Associate" group has been to provide a forum for those taking part to provide feedback which will, over time, help them recognise what constitutes images that meet the criteria needed for inclusion in a panel of images at Associate level. The facility allows those taking part to upload images for positive critique by other members of that closed group. The group includes some individuals who have already achieved either Associate or Fellowship distinctions, who are able to offer advice and guidance.

Inevitably with a forum of this nature most people choose to participate for a limited time, and once they become more confident of what is required for the Associate qualification they will want to step back from membership as they concentrate on their panel submission. As a result there is generally only a short waiting list and I encourage those members who are interested in taking part to email me for further details.

Greg Lovett ARPS

16 March 2026