

# The Royal Photographic Society Creative Eye Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held on 24 March 2024  
Via Zoom

Meeting commenced at 10.30 with 38 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Susan Brown, Janet Gibson.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

Proposed by David Rutter, seconded by Ernest Wright.

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 2023 were reviewed.

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 –	38 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Secretary –	38 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Treasurer –	38 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Committee Members –	38 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next AGM will be held on 23 March 2025 via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 11.08.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Chair's Report for AGM 2024 – Clive Watkins LRPS**

#### Membership

Membership of the Group during 2023 was around 530. There has been a drop off in numbers over the last couple of years in line with overall RPS membership.

#### Creative Eye Magazine

There were three issues of the Creative Eye magazine published in 2023.

After editing two issues of the magazine, David F Cooke FRPS stepped down from the role at the end of May and handed over the reins to former Group Chair, Moira Ellice ARPS. Moira, together with help from Steve Varman in the role of designer and Patricia Tutt as editorial assistant, have subsequently published 3 excellent magazines.

#### Exhibitions

Due to the logistical issues in collating, mounting, framing, and exhibiting a print exhibition, the Committee decided that the Group would only have a digital exhibition in 2023.

The 2022 Print Exhibition continues to be exhibited in various locations around the UK.

#### **2023 Digital Exhibition**

Members were invited to submit up to four images each, with one being selected from everyone for inclusion in the exhibition slideshow and in the Creative Eye magazine, which was published in November.

We received 394 images from 102 members. The Selection Panel, Linda Chapman, Linda Marshall FRPS and Chris Palmer FRPS, discussed the merits of all images, chose one image from each member for the Exhibition and decided on twelve images to receive one of the awards. These were a RPS Gold Medal, a Silver Medal, and a Bronze Medal; three Selector's Awards; and finally, three Highly Commended and three Commended Awards.

It was a tough selection process which took over nine hours to complete, due to the images being of such high quality.

The Digital Exhibition slideshow was uploaded onto the Creative Eye Group website and has been shown at photographic societies including Edinburgh and Smethwick.

I would like to thank David Rutter FRPS for all his hard work in curating the Exhibition, appointing the Selectors, running the Selection Day, and producing the slideshow.

## Online Talks

Jan Harris organised and hosted a programme of online talks and workshops in 2023 but has now decided to stand down from the role. Thank you, Jan for all your efforts over the years to secure quality speakers as well as facilitating their fascinating talks on Zoom for the Group.

Online talks held in 2023 were:

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

Andy Gray – ICM: My Camera as my Brush on Saturday 24th June.

Linda Bembridge FRPS - ‘Make Believe – The Story Behind the Project’ on Saturday 7th October.

Online talks in 2024:

Simon Street FRPS gave an excellent presentation ‘(Even) Better Monochrome’ on Monday 19th February.

## Members’ Day 2023

Our Members’ Day organised by Moira Ellice was held online on Sunday 19th November.

Talks were given by:

Steven Whittaker ARPS ‘Your Eyes and Your Health’

David Townshend FRPS ‘Reimagined’

Nicola Bolton ARPS ‘Is it any good and who cares?’

Gerry Coe FRPS ‘iPhone Photography’

John Humphrey FRPS ‘Creative and Experimental Photography’

Julie Holbeche-Maund ARPS ‘Fine Art Glamour Photography’

The event was well received in its new wintertime slot and Moira and the presenters received many messages of thanks and support. I would like to add my thanks to Moira, and to Steve Varman, who stepped up to run the Zoom session in my absence.

## Field Trips and Photo Walks

Our next Photo Walk is being led by Graham Lingley in Ipswich on 15th June 2024. Please book through the website if you are interested.

The Group is currently lacking a coordinator for field trips and photo walks.

The RPS is encouraging special interest groups (SIGs) to work with the regions in providing events that are in your locality, but also encompass the interests of each group.

If you are interested in being a Creative Eye Group representative for your region, please get in contact with me.

### Creative Eye Portfolio Group

Membership of the Portfolio Group, 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, including news items, events, the digital exhibition including slideshows, the members' day and event recordings, 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 is being administered by Ray Duffill and myself.

### Thanks

I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee who put in so much of their time and effort to ensure the Group continues to offer you value for the subscription you pay.

We would like to continue to grow the activities and opportunities we provide.

This requires help from the membership, not only in terms of content but also with the logistics of organising events and activities. Please do contact any of the committee if you feel you have something to offer as a volunteer.

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here is change coming across the RPS voluntary sector which it is hoped will make it much easier for our members to get involved and to contribute to the success of not just the Creative Eye Group but also to the wider RPS.

## Appendix 2

### RPS Creative Eye Group Finance Report for 2023

The 2022 accounts covered a transitional year for the Group and included some figures that were advised following operational issues with the HQ reporting systems.

Basically, the income figures for the second half of 2022 weren't added to the Group accounts until the first few months of 2023. This required a post-publication adjustment to the Income and Expenditure account we published for

2022 and the 2023 accounts now reflect an accurate position which has been approved by the RPS.

Our income is solely from member subscriptions and online talks. Membership subscriptions on the adjusted accounts show a decrease of £780.01 over the previous year. Income from Life Member

Subscriptions decreased from 340.00 to 289.00 and the income from non-members attending online talks was £98.00 against a speakers' cost of £431.69.

We had a very successful digital exhibition in 2023 and without a print exhibition, our expenditure costs reduced from £1348.70 to £263.20.

Various software for talks and meetings were renewed at a cost of £274.68

There were no expenses for field trips.

By far our biggest expense is our flagship and excellent Creative Eye Magazine. In 2023 printing costs were £4102.23 and postage was £3375.33. We intend to continue to produce three issues a year with a careful eye on production and postage costs.

Taking all income and expenditure into consideration we made a small profit of £103.18 for 2023.

Our Net assets at 31st December 2023 were £13,514.91.

Nigel Rea

Treasurer CEG

## Appendix 3

### ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - CREATIVE EYE GROUP Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2023

2022		2023
£	Income	£
9,255.40	Members' Subscriptions	8,475.39
340.00	Life Members' Subscriptions	289.00
516.00	Online Talks	98.00
<b>10,111.40</b>		<b>8,862.39</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
7,720.82	Creative Eye Magazine printing (£4102.23) & postage (£3375.33)	7,477.56
1,348.70	Exhibition	263.20
-	Printing & Stationery	-
504.51	Postages	303.14
924.08	Zoom Meetings (Software £274.68 & Speakers £431.69)	706.37
263.29	Field trips	-
-	Miscellaneous	8.94
<b>10,761.40</b>		<b>8,759.21</b>
<b>(650.00)</b>	<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>103.18</b>

### ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - CREATIVE EYE GROUP Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

£		£
<b>14,061.73</b>	Reserve as at 1st January 2023	<b>13,411.73</b>
	For year ended 31st December 2023	
10,111.40	Income	8,862.39
10,761.40	Expenditure	8,759.21
(650.00)	Net surplus (or - deficit) for the period	103.18
<b>13,411.73</b>	<b>Reserve as at 31st December 2023</b>	<b>13,514.91</b>
	<b>Assets:</b>	
15,821.30	Bank Balance	12,400.96
340.00	Debtors: December subscriptions	824.95
-	Debtors: Life member subscriptions	289.00
-	Prepayments	-
(2,749.57)	Recoverable VAT	-
13,411.73	Creditors	-
	Total assets	13,514.91
<b>13,411.73</b>	<b>Net assets as at 31st December 2023</b>	<b>13,514.91</b>

Nigel Rea, Treasurer  
9th February 2024