

# **Royal Photographic Society Creative Eye Group**

**Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting of the RPS Creative Eye Group, which was held at Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB22 4NE at 10:30 on Sunday 24th February 2019.**

Meeting commenced at 10:30.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

David Balaam  
Cliff Spooner

## **2. Minutes of the AGM 2018**

Proposed by Joan Jordan.  
Seconded by Martin Heathcote.  
Signed off by the Chairman.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Raised by Joan Jordan - the possibility of sending only one copy of the Creative Eye Magazine where there is more than one member at the same address. This has been implemented.

Raised by David Turner - the possibility of implementing a two-tier system of membership, such as used by the Digital Imaging Group. It was investigated, but it was decided that the CEG does not have enough members to make this a viable option.

Raised by Torrie Smith - a suggestion that a budget for the forthcoming year be presented at future AGMs. This has been implemented.

## **4. Chairman's Report**

Moira Ellice (ME) read out her report.

ME thanked Barry Freeman (BF), who stood down as editor of the Creative Eye in May 2018, for all his work over the years.

Steve Varman (SV) took over the role from BF.

David Ryland stood down from the committee in July, although he still looks after the Group's Flickr account.

ME related details over the devastating flood in Smethwick which destroyed most of the Group's print exhibition. ME managed to salvage enough (one print per entrant) to allow it to continue on to Edinburgh.

An electronic version of the exhibition was shown in Lausanne at the Swiss Chapter's meeting. ME thanked Nigel Rea (NR) and Matthew Clarke (MC) for their hard work in the preparation and production of the exhibition.

The Members' Open Day took place in May, as well as two lecture events.

2018 was the introduction of field trips within the Group. Three trips took place, all of these were highly successful.

ME thanked David Harris for his continued support, running the website's Creative Portfolio Group.

The Group's volunteers were rewarded by the RPS on the form of a day's outing in London.

ME thanked all the Group's volunteers and committee members for their help and support during 2018.

## **5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018**

Referring to the printed copies available, Barry Collin (BC) read through the financial accounts for 2018 and projected costs for 2019. He reported a deficit of £358.74 over 2018, mainly due a fall in the number of Group members and the costs incurred over the exhibition damage caused by the flood. BC estimates that this trend will continue into 2019, but with a smaller shortfall.

Martin Heathcote asked if there had been any effort to recover any of the flood costs via Smethwick's insurance. ME stated that this had been raised, but they were unable to offer the Group any compensation. ME detailed the extent of the damage and how it was salvaged.

Mark Percival stated that to be within 5% of breaking even was a triumph and congratulated BC on doing a good job.

Torrie Smith asked about the number of members in the Group. It was stated that this would be covered in the Membership Secretary's Report later in the meeting.

The accounts were proposed by Barry Freeman.

Seconded by David Ryland.

Carried unanimously.

## **6. Subscription for 2020**

It was suggested that there would be no change in subscription fees for the year 2020.

Proposed by Pat Frewin.

Seconded by David Balcombe.

Carried unanimously.

## **7. General Secretary's Report**

Gill Beckett (GB) read her report. She thanked the committee for their patience in her first year of being Secretary to the Group. There were no issues arising.

## **8. Committee Members' Reports:**

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

Bill Coles (WJC) read out the Membership Secretary's Report. The membership numbers have decrease from 494 in January 2018 to 449 at the end of December. WJC detailed the geographical statics of the Group.

WJC stated that he contacts every leaver, but there appears to be mo particular trend in reasons for leaving the Group.

There were no questions.

### **Publication Editor's Report**

SV stated that he had now produced 2 issues of the Group's magazine. He thanked BF for his previous work on the publication.

SV asked for any feedback on the magazine's format to be sent to him.

There were no questions.

### **Social Media Administrator's Report**

SV stated that the Group's Facebook group has 137 members and is very active and is continuing to grow.

SV stated that there is an issue with requests from people to join who aren't on the CEG membership list. He stated that in these cases he waits for the next list and if still not there, he checks with WJC before declining the requests.

RPS HQ have requested that Naomi Galliford (Volunteer Manager) be invited to join the Facebook Group, she has been sent a link.

There were no questions.

### **Exhibition Co-ordinator's Report**

ME reported the results and the history of the 2018 Exhibition, detailing the issues with, and the outcome of the flood in Smethwick. The Wingfield Barns exhibition attracted a large number of visitors.

As previously stated, the Exhibition was shown in Lausanne and it is hoped this will continue.

Iain Blacklaw asked whether a new restriction of 1000 images in Flickr accounts would affect the group. David Ryland said that a new version is coming out that will impose this, but that it doesn't affect us, as our account links to other peoples' sites.

### **Exhibition Secretary's Report**

Matthew Clarke (MC) stated that the entry process and number of images allowed in the exhibition has been changed since 2018. He also stated that changes had been made to the layout of the room and improve the issue of light spill in 2018.

The exhibition has attracted 204 prints and 188 PIs from 68 entrants.

MC stated that we have had a very good entry this year, consisting of 242 PDI images from 61 entrants and 165 prints from 43 entrants.

MC thanked ME and NR for their tireless work and thanked the rest of the committee for their support.

There were no questions.

### **Webmaster's Report**

BC stated that he updates the website [rps.org/creativeeye](http://rps.org/creativeeye) blogs with the Group's events and field trips.

BC stated that the site is mainly photos, as people tend to prefer this to reading text. The website includes slideshows of the exhibition.

BC requested and ideas for improvements to be sent to him.

BC stated that the site gets hundreds of hits, but he'd like to see more.

There were no questions.

### **Event Co-ordinator's Report**

ME stated that the Members' Day in May had been well supported and well received.

ME iterated that 3 field trips were organised by the Group during 2018. These were Houghton Hall in July (organised by Jeremy Rodwell), The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh (organised jointly with the Edinburgh Photographic Society) and Kew Gardens in London (organised by David and Joan Jordan). All three were well supported and very successful. More events are planned for 2019.

Two other events were held in 2018, one in Foxton and one in Smethwick.

A number of events are being planned for this year.

There were no questions.

## **9. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The following nominations were received for the Officers of the Group and the Committee:

Chairman	-	Moira Ellice
Treasurer	-	Barry Collin
General Secretary	-	Gillian Beckett
Vice Chairman	-	Nigel Rea
Assistant Exhibition Co-ordinator	-	Nigel Rea
Exhibition and Events Co-ordinator	-	Moira Ellice
Exhibition Secretary	-	Matthew Clarke
Membership Secretary	-	Bill Coles
Publication Editor/Facebook Administrator	-	Steve Varman
Webmaster	-	Barry Collin
Archivist	-	Barry Freeman

Proposed - Christine Prickett

Seconded - David Balcombe

Carried unanimously.

## **10. Any Other Relevant Business**

No items were raised.

## **11. Date of the Next AGM**

The next AGM will be held in Whittlesford on Sunday 1st March 2020.

The meeting ended in good order at 11:07.