

The Royal Photographic Society Creative Eye Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on 13 March 2025
Via Zoom

Meeting commenced at 10.30 with 19 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM

Proposed by Nigel Rea, seconded by Moira Ellice.

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 2024 were reviewed.

The Accounts & Report were proposed by Steve Varman, seconded by Mike Farrance.

The membership fee will remain the same for 2025 but may have to increase in 2026.

6. 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 –	19 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Secretary –	19 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Treasurer –	19 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against
Committee Members –	19 For, 0 Abstentions, 0 Against

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next AGM will be held on 22 March 2026 via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 11.08.

Appendix 1

Chair's Report for AGM 2025 – Clive Watkins ARPS

Membership

Membership of the Group during 2024 has grown to around 550. This is very encouraging and coincides with high profile RPS social media campaign.

Creative Eye Magazine

Moira Ellice ARPS, together with help from Steve Varman in the role of designer, and Patricia Tutt as editorial assistant, have published 3 excellent magazines in 2024. Moira continues to source fantastic articles from our members and from the wider world of creative photography. This year we also published the first edition of our new eZine with Steve Varman's technical and publishing expertise.

After many years as magazine designer, Steve is now taking a well earned break from the designer job. His work establishing a style and template for the design has meant that the handover to Lester Bennett at Keith Avis has been seamless.

2024 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 460 images from 121 members, that's a fantastic 20% increase in participation on the previous year. The Selection Panel, Simon Ciappara FRPS, Laura Shimili Mears and Richard Brayshaw 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 another tough selection process starting early and finishing previously close to tea time!

The Digital Exhibition slideshow was uploaded onto the Creative Eye Group website and still there for everyone to admire.

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. This is a massive undertaking each year but one that we all appreciate and value. Thank you David.

Online Talks

Your committee are taking it in turn to arrange speakers for our online Zoom talks. It is my job to find the next speaker for June. The bar has already been set very high and the pressure is on!

Online talks held in 2024 were:

Joe Houghton – Photography in an AI World, 24th March 2024
Vanda Ralevska – Looking Beyond A Single Image, 24th June 2024
Nik Szymanek – Photographing the Night Sky, 9th December 2024

Online talks in 2024:

Stand Farrow FRPS gave an excellent presentation ‘Abstract Photography’ on 6th February 2025

Members’ Day 2024

Our Members’ Day organised was held online on Sunday 17th November.

Talks were given by:

Martin Knight – ICM/Multiple Exposure
Irina Petrova – Microscopic Macro and Sci Fi
Honey J Walker ARPS – Are you next to an Angel?
Clive Watkins ARPS – Blackpool Characters
Steve Varman LRPS – Coffee and Biscuits: Live Composite Editing
Donn Delson – An Elevated Perspective

The event was once again well received in its new wintertime slot and we received many messages of thanks and support.

We are already planning this year’s members day, but the clue is in the title – we need **you, our Creative Eye members**, to volunteer to do a short slot on something you are working on. Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

Field Trips and Photo Walks

Graham Lingley led a photowalk in Ipswich on 15th June 2024, which although wasn’t particularly busy, did provide an opportunity for members in Easy Anglia to meet up.

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 300 members it is increasingly active with several posts a week. It 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. There isn't a lot happening in there but please feel free to post your images if you would like to stay off of Facebook.

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.

Appendix 2

RPS Creative Eye Group Finance Report for 2024

After a period of operational issues within the RPS HQ accounting systems during 2022, we managed to achieve an accurate position with the 2023 accounts and are using these as the basis for the 2024 accounts.

The Creative Eye Group income is solely derived from member subscriptions and online talks and our membership is spread across the UK and worldwide.

Because there is sometimes a delay in reporting the income at the end of the financial year we traditionally use membership subscriptions from December the previous year to November of the current year and add the Life Members' subscriptions from the previous year.

For 2024 the income was £9399.09 comprising Membership Subscriptions (£8893.00) Life Members' Subscriptions (£289.00) Online Talks (£193.00) and a VAT Refund of £24.09. This was an increase of £536.70 over 2023.

The income from non-members attending online talks was £193.000 against a speakers' cost of £490.00.

We held a very successful digital exhibition in 2024 but no print exhibition. Expenditure costs of £480.24 included Exhibition Medals and Certificates

Various software for talks and meetings were renewed at a cost of £203.88

There were no expenses for field trips and postage to members was £501.99.

By far our biggest expense is our flagship and excellent Creative Eye Magazine. In 2024 printing costs were £3649.82 and postage was £3962.07. We intend to continue to produce three issues a year with a careful eye on production and postage costs.

At the start of 2024 we were unaware of the discussions taking place by which RPS HQ were intending to reduce the excess amount of money held by the Regions and Groups and use this to help support the financing services provided to them from HQ.

An overall sum was decided based on Membership numbers and a Management Fee for the Creative Eye Group was assessed at £841.08 for 2024 and this was withdrawn from the account in December.

There will be a continuing monthly management fee of £140.58 throughout 2025. Taking all income and expenditure into consideration, including the RPS Management Fee we made an operating loss of £747.90 for 2024. Our Net assets at 31st December 2024 were £12810.58, down £704.33 from the December 2023 figure of £13514.91

Nigel Rea
Treasurer CEG

Appendix 3

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - CREATIVE EYE GROUP
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st December 2024

<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>
£		£
8,475.39	Income	
289.00	Members' Subscriptions December 2023 to November 2024	8893.00
98.00	Life Members' Subscriptions December 2023	289.00
	Online Talks	193.00
	VAT Refund	24.09
8,862.39		9399.09
	Expenditure	
7,477.56	Creative Eye Magazine printing (£3649.82) & postage (£3962.07)	7611.89
263.20	Exhibition Medals and Certificates	480.24
	Printing & Stationery	17.99
303.14	Postages	501.99
706.37	Zoom Meetings (Software £203.88 & Speakers £490.00)	693.88
	Field trips	
	RPS Management Fee	841.08
8.94	Recoverable/irrecoverable VAT	
8,759.21		10147.07
103.18	Excess of Income over Expenditure	-747.98

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - CREATIVE EYE GROUP
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

£		£
13,897.00	Reserve as at 1st January 2023	13411.73
	For year ended 31st December 2024	
8,862.39	Income	9399.09
8,759.21	Expenditure	10147.07
103.18	Net surplus (or - deficit) for the period	-747.98
14,000.18	Reserve as at 31st December 2024	12663.75
	Assets:	
12,400.96	Bank Balance @ 31st December 2024	11,696.63
824.95	Debtors: December 2024 subscriptions est	824.95
289.00	Debtors: Life member subscriptions Dec 2024 est	289.00
-	Prepayments	
-	Recoverable VAT	
13,514.91	Total assets	12,810.58
-	Liabilities: VAT and others	
13,514.91	Net assets as at 31st December 2024	12,810.58

Nigel Rea, Treasurer
12th February 2025