THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

MINUTES of the meeting held online via ZOOM on Saturday 26 September 2026, 10:00-12:00h

The Meeting was chaired by the President, Simon Hill CPhot HonFRPS

Present

RPS Board of Trustees (Council)
Simon Hill CPhot HonFRPS, President and Chair of Trustees
Carolyn Bloore ARPS, Elected Trustee
Sebah Chaudhry, Appointed Trustee
Sophie Collins LRPS, Appointed Trustee
Alistair How LRPS, Appointed Trustee
David Muiry FIA ARPS, Appointed Trustee and Honorary Treasurer
Joanne Segars OBE LRPS, Appointed Trustee and Deputy Chair
James Weeks LRPS, Elected Trustee

RPS Executive Team
Victoria Humphries, RPS Chief Executive Officer
Anthony Luvera, RPS Director of Education
Nikki McCoy, RPS Director of Finance & Human Resources
Toby Tetrault, RPS Director of Marketing & Membership

Janet Haines, Neill Taylor and Rex Waygood provided technical support
Several members of RPS staff were in attendance (online)

Attendance

At peak attendance there were 203 Members present (193 online, 10 at HERE) compared to last year (2025) where 179 Members were present (172 online, 7 at HERE) which represents an uplift of +18% on the 2025 attendance.

This year 26 Members gave their apologies with 24 assigning proxy to the President and 2 instructing an abstention from all votes. This provided a total Member representation, at peak attendance of the meeting, of 239 (-5% on 2025) which is equivalent to 2.24% (2025, 2.16%) of the total current (September 2026) Membership of 10,683.

A list of all members registered to attend the event, and those giving apologies with proxy to the President (or abstention) is retained on file.

Welcome
The President (as Chair of the Meeting) welcomed all to the Meeting noting that Members were attending from the UK and several overseas countries.

The President informed attendees that the event was being run as a Zoom Webinar and therefore the participants have joined the meeting with their audio and video disabled. Questions on the Annual Report and Accounts have been pre-submitted and any questions not intended to be answered under reports in Item 4 will be answered under Agenda Item 2.3

For the CEO Report, at Agenda Item 4, a Q&A facility will be opened on Zoom for participants to ask questions on the reports provided under 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 The questions will be wrangled by the technical team and grouped according to theme. Answers will be given under Agenda Item 8. Any questions requiring additional research will be answered, by the CEO after the meeting, directly to the member raising the question.

1. Minutes of AGM 2025 (SH)
The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025 were circulated prior to this Meeting. There were no errors or omissions notified prior to the Meeting. There were no matters arising.
The President, as Chair of the Meeting, asked for a vote on **acceptance** of the Minutes.

The result of the vote was:
104 (present) and 24 (by proxy) voted to ACCEPT (128 in total)
2 voted to OPPOSE
21 ABSTAINED

With 128 votes to ACCEPT of 130 votes cast, the Minutes were duly **accepted** as a true and accurate record (with **98.5%** majority).

2. Annual Report & Accounts 2024
In advance of the meeting the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 was published to Members via the RPS website. This year, as previous, the Report was published in electronic form (PDF format) with no printed version.

2.1 Overview (SH)
The President provided an overview of the Annual Report & Accounts 2025, making the following observations in his report to Members and noting that Membership and Distinctions statistics have been reported annually since the AGM 2021:

2.1.1 Headline Direction

1. 2025 was a year of further significant transition, important achievement, and growing confidence in the future direction of the Royal Photographic Society.
2. The successful sale of RPS House was a major strategic milestone, realising £1.9 million and giving the Society greater financial flexibility to invest in its charitable purpose and long-term sustainability.

3. The Society relocated to new offices at HERE in Bristol, marking the beginning of a more flexible and financially sustainable operating model.
4. Throughout the year, the RPS continued to deliver significant public benefit through exhibitions, education, bursaries, awards, publications and community activity - supported by the commitment of our staff, Trustees, volunteers, members and partners.
5. Taken together, these achievements make 2025 an important turning point: a year in which difficult but necessary decisions laid the foundations for a more financially resilient, educationally ambitious and outward-looking Society.

2.1.2 Financial

1. Financial performance improved; we reduced the annual deficit from £758,000 in 2024 to £214,000 in 2025.
2. Total income increased by 14.5% to £1.90 million, supported by stable charitable income and two generous legacies totalling £240,000, while total expenditure reduced by 6% to £2.10 million.
3. At the year end, the Society held net assets of £2.69 million and cash balances of £2.64 million.
4. A new Reserves Policy was introduced to strengthen financial resilience and provide clearer safeguards for the future.

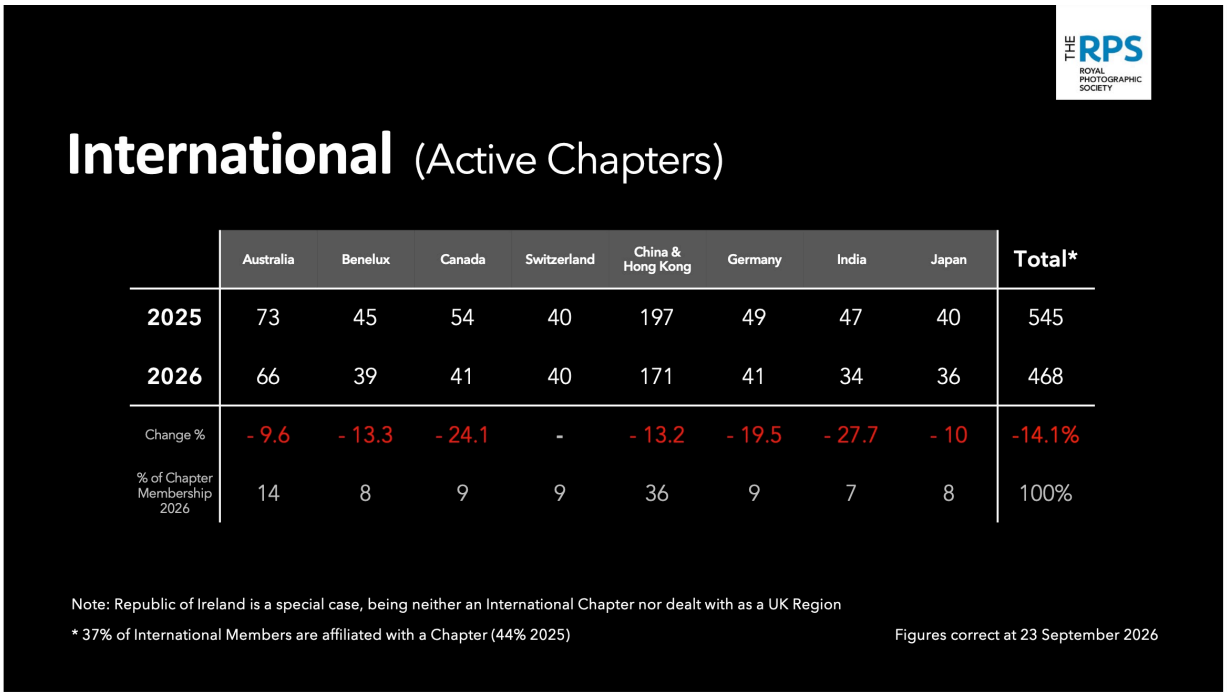
2.1.3 Membership



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Var. (2026)
UK	9317	8974	9035	9237	9819	9487	- 3.4
International	1338	1275	1001	1155	1239	1196	- 3.5
Total	10,655	10,249	10,036	10,392	11,058	10,683	
Change on previous year	- 547	- 406	- 213	+356	+666	- 375	- 3.4%

1. Membership continued to recover, reaching 11,015 at the end of 2025 - the highest year-end total since 2020. During the year, 2,783 new members joined, an increase of 11% on 2024, although improving retention remains a critical priority.

2. The close-out figures for 2025 are provided in the Annual Report. In the 12 months since the AGM 2025, UK membership has fallen by slightly over 4% while international membership has risen by almost two and three-quarter %. The net effect on our total membership, compared to the same time last year, with a net loss of 375 members, is a fall in membership of 3.4%.



	Australia	Benelux	Canada	Switzerland	China & Hong Kong	Germany	India	Japan	Total*
2025	73	45	54	40	197	49	47	40	545
2026	66	39	41	40	171	41	34	36	468
Change %	- 9.6	- 13.3	- 24.1	-	- 13.2	- 19.5	- 27.7	- 10	-14.1%
% of Chapter Membership 2026	14	8	9	9	36	9	7	8	100%

3. While international membership has grown slightly, affiliation with a Chapter has fallen from 44% of all international members to 37%. Mainland China and Hong Kong combined remains our largest international market sector and our most populous Chapter. Although membership of the China Chapter has fallen by just over 13%, it still accounts for over a third of our International Chapter membership. The region holds enormous potential for growing the RPS international membership.

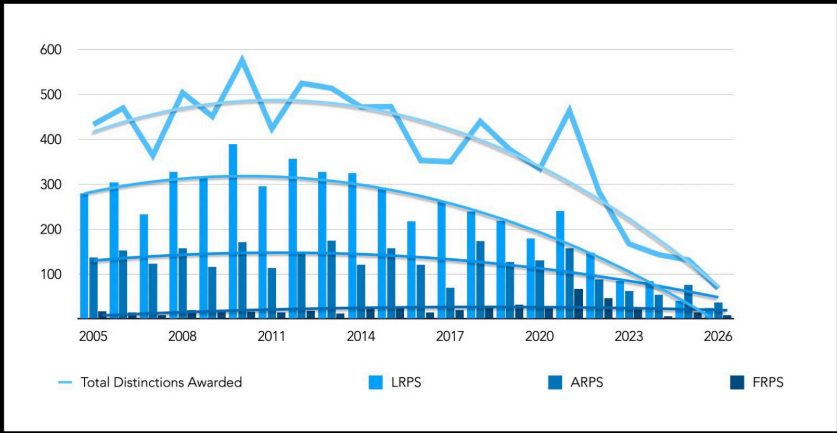
2.1.4 Exhibitions

1. The Society's public reach was considerable. Touring exhibitions welcomed 145,267 visitors, including 64,500 visitors to IPE 166 at Saatchi Gallery and 80,000 to Adama Jalloh's exhibition at the Royal Albert Hall.
2. IPE 167 attracted submissions from 5,233 photographers across 118 countries, with more than 61% of entrants aged between 16 and 45; strong evidence of the exhibition's international reach and its relevance to a new generation.

2.1.5 Education

1. In September 2025, to inform a proposal for the development of a new framework for our Distinctions Programme, we extracted information from our member database to find out how many members held a Distinction. In 2025, 52% of members held a Distinction (excluding Honorary Fellowships). Of those who did not hold a Distinction, over half were either working towards a Distinction or were actively thinking about it.

Distinctions (20 Year Trend)



2. In 2025, to further inform the redevelopment of the Distinctions Programme, we looked at historic data for the past 20 years. This graph was shown at the AGM last year but has now been updated with 2026 figures. Looking at the trend lines of Distinctions awarded, you can see that we are still significantly down on the number of Distinctions awarded when compared to the peak period of 2010-2012 and we are therefore failing to support Members on achieving success on their Distinctions journey.

Distinctions (Applications / Success)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*	2021-2026 Average
LRPS	248 / 132	219 / 108	197 / 84	191 / 84	243 / 97	150 / 62	1248 / 567
Pass Rate %	53	49	43	44	40	41	45
ARPS	204 / 97	174 / 75	155 / 62	145 / 53	123 / 93	148 / 68	949 / 448
Pass Rate %	47	43	40	37	76	46	47
FRPS	106 / 23	93 / 14	102 / 21	80 / 6	120 / 18	19 / 9	520 / 91
Pass Rate %	21	15	21	8	15	47	18
Year Totals	**557 / 251**	**486 / 197**	**454 / 167**	**416 / 143**	**486 / 208**	**317 / 139**	**2716 / 1105**
Pass Rate %	**45**	**40**	**37**	**34**	**43**	**44**	**41**

* Not a full year due to the pause in Distinctions (from June 2026) Table figures exclude Direct Fellowships and Exemptions

3. If we use Distinctions success as a measure of how effectively we are delivering to one aspect of our charitable objective to educate in the practice of photography, the declining success in Distinctions is a trend we must reverse, and this is an ambition of the new programme.

4. During 2025, the Distinctions programme assessed 486 submissions and delivered 272 individual advisory sessions (and in 2026 prior to the pause in assessments in June 2026, there were 317 assessments). Work also continued the most comprehensive review of Distinctions for several decades, with a revised programme planned for 2027.
5. Our wider educational programme delivered 236 workshops to 1,522 participants, with increasing demand for face-to-face learning alongside the Society's established online provision.
6. The RPS Awards recognised achievement across 19 categories. As with Distinctions, work also began on comprehensive review of our Awards programme which was implemented in 2026.

2.1.4 Community

1. Our Regions, Special Interest Groups and seven International Chapters continued to provide an extensive volunteer-led network for learning, creative exchange and community participation.
2. The success of our Community relies heavily on the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, whom we thank for their dedication to the Society.

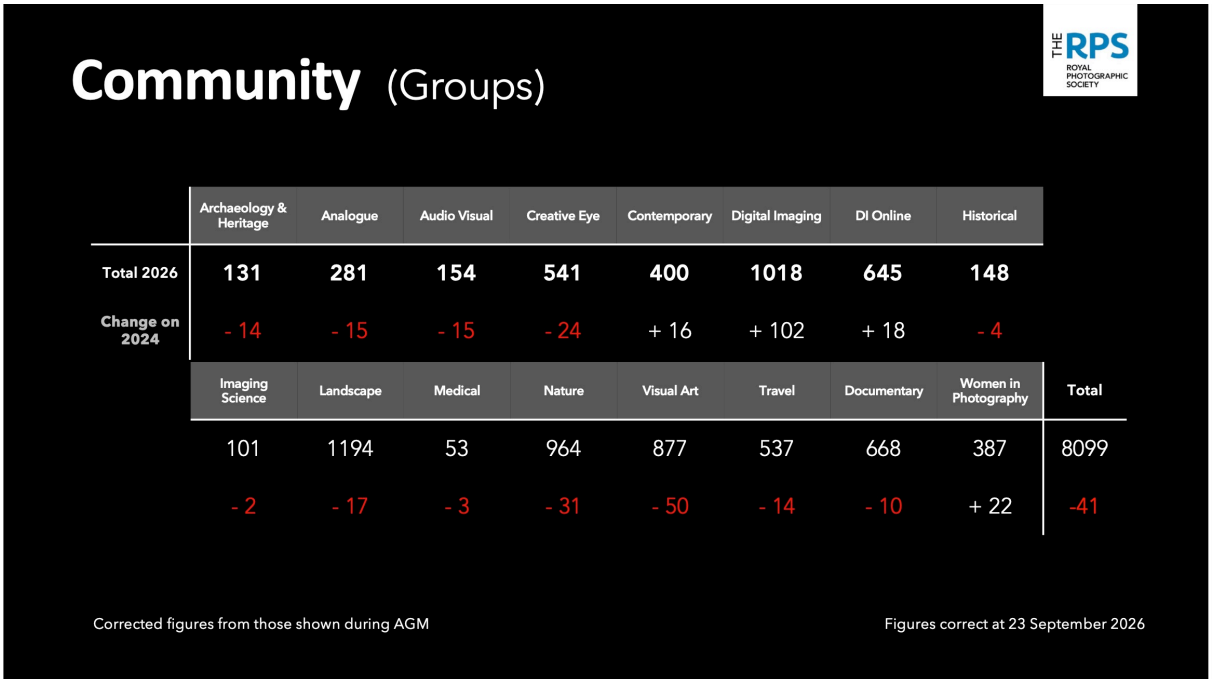
Community (Regions)

	Central	East Anglia	East Midlands	London	N Ireland	Northern	North West	Scotland
Total 2026	718	724	517	1301	94	344	661	702
Change on 2025	- 15	- 72	- 18	- 11	- 11	- 17	- 33	- 12
% of total 2026 UK membership	7.6	7.7	5.5	13.8	1	3.7	7	7.5

South East	Southern	South West	Thames Valley	Western	Wales	Yorkshire	Total
862	861	496	709	694	327	477	9487
+ 18	- 53	- 28	- 41	- 42	- 25	- 24	- 5.6%
9.2	9.2	5.3	7.5	7.4	3.5	5.1	100%

Figures correct at 23 September 2026

3. When we look at the breakdown of UK Regional Membership, we can see that all except the South East Region have seen a small decline in membership. This is a reflection of the fall in total UK membership rather than any de-affiliation of a member with a Region.
4. We have also seen reductions in membership of most of our Special Interest Groups (table shown on next page), the exceptions to this being the Digital Imaging Group, Women in Photography Group and Contemporary Group.
5. The Society's digital community also grew strongly: Instagram followers increased by more than 20% to 74,344, while Facebook followers rose to 73,095



2.2 Treasurer's Report (DM)

2.2.1 Introduction

I have now completed my first full year as Honorary Treasurer. In that time, I have seen some good progress made to address the Society's longstanding financial challenges, as well as a fair number of curveballs with adverse financial implications that continue to hinder our progress.

In the following slides, I will cover the highlights of the 2025 financial results, showing these in context of the recent past, as well as providing some insights for the current year and the financial outlook for the year ahead.

2.2.2 Income

The Society's total income in 2025 was £1.90m, a year-on-year increase of £241k, mainly attributable to higher income from Donations, Grants & Legacies, principally the receipt of two legacies totalling £240k. Income from subscriptions, including Groups & Regions, increased by 9.2% year-on-year to £1.22M. Income from events and workshops, including those organised centrally and by Groups & Regions, declined by 12.3% year-on-year to £256k. Income attributable to distinctions reduced by 10.7% year-on-year to £79k. Trading income reduced from £22k in 2024 to £8k in 2025, mainly due to loss of the income generated within RPS House. Other income sources, including interest income, were broadly unchanged year-on-year.

So, in summary, except for the two generous legacies that I have noted, the Society's income did not increase in 2025, in continuation of the pattern observed in recent years, but for a modest uplift during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Income

Adjusted for legacies received, income remained essentially flat in 2025, compared with prior years

	[£ k]	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SUBSCRIPTIONS	Society	1,020	1,079	1,034	992	998	1,084
	Groups & Regions	119	135	110	135	119	135
	Total	1,139	1,214	1,143	1,127	1,117	1,219
EVENTS & WORKSHOPS	Society	83	151	141	131	111	118
	Groups & Regions	81	116	131	151	181	138
	Total	165	267	271	282	292	256
DONATIONS, GRANTS & LEGACIES		158	153	143	62	23	248
TRADING		17	25	38	41	22	8
OTHER		92	168	116	125	147	114
INTEREST / INVESTMENT INCOME		101	74	51	59	57	54
TOTAL		1,672	1,901	1,763	1,695	1,657	1,898

2.2.3 Expenditure

Turning to expenditure, I can report that overall expenditure reduced year-on-year by 6% from £2.24m in 2024 to £2.10m in 2025, in continuation of the material reduction achieved in the previous year. Expense reductions occurred in all categories, other than increased marketing activity and modestly higher costs attributable to journal production and Society governance. Expenditure in Groups & Regions was 27% lower than the corresponding amount in 2024, and exhibition costs reduced by 23%.

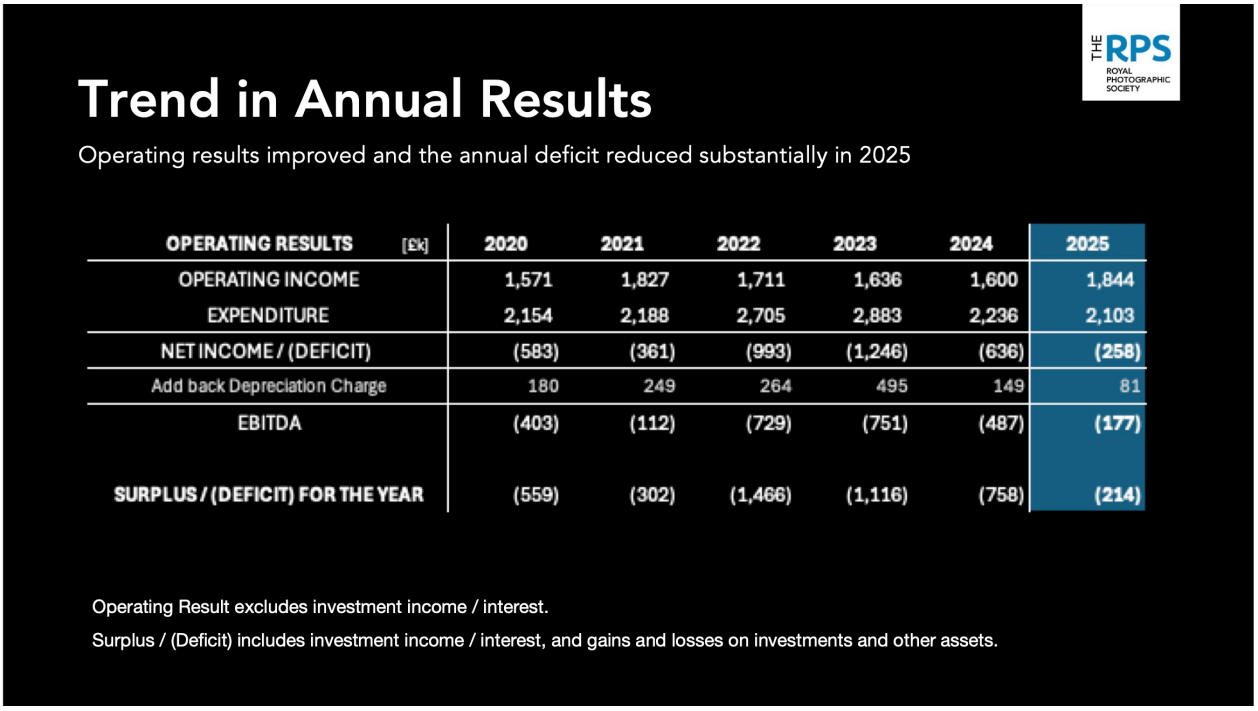
Expenditure

Further expenditure reduction was achieved in 2025, building on substantial cost efficiencies realised in 2024

[£k]	2023	2024	'24 vs.'23	2025	'25 vs.'24
MEMBER SERVICES	524	354	-32%	346	-2%
MARKETING	308	353	14%	399	13%
GROUPS & REGIONS	283	318	13%	231	-27%
DISTINCTIONS	298	244	-18%	212	-13%
EVENTS & WORKSHOPS	515	286	-44%	273	-5%
EXHIBITIONS	202	189	-7%	146	-23%
SOCIETY JOURNALS	314	201	-36%	209	4%
GOVERNANCE	320	219	-32%	227	4%
OTHER	119	72	-40%	59	-18%
TOTAL	2,883	2,236	-22%	2,103	-6%

2.2.4 Trend in Annual Results

Relating Operating Income (i.e. Income, excluding investment income and interest) to Expenditure, we see that the operating deficit reduced materially in 2025, compared with the prior year, to £258k Net Deficit and £177k deficit on an EBITDA basis, the latter excluding the impact of depreciation charges. However, this result was significantly flattered by the two generous legacies totalling £240k that I mentioned earlier, without which the Net Deficit figure would have been nearly £500k: an improvement on the prior year but still well short of where the Society's operating performance needs to be. Including interest income of £54k and asset impairments of £9k, the overall deficit in 2025 was £214k. The corresponding deficit in 2024 was £758k.

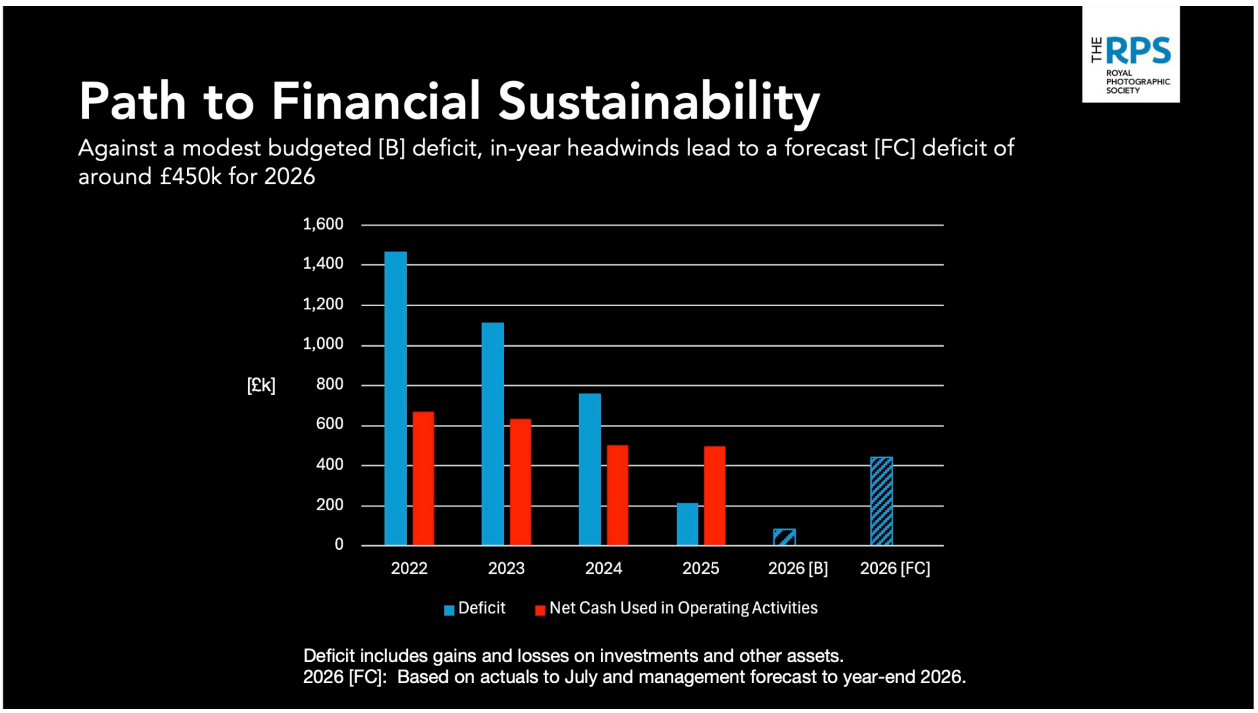


OPERATING RESULTS [£k]	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
OPERATING INCOME	1,571	1,827	1,711	1,636	1,600	1,844
EXPENDITURE	2,154	2,188	2,705	2,883	2,236	2,103
NET INCOME / (DEFICIT)	(583)	(361)	(993)	(1,246)	(636)	(258)
Add back Depreciation Charge	180	249	264	495	149	81
EBITDA	(403)	(112)	(729)	(751)	(487)	(177)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(559)	(302)	(1,466)	(1,116)	(758)	(214)

2.2.5 Path to Financial Sustainability

The chart shows the progression of the annual deficit (in blue) from its peak in 2022 through to the latest result for 2025. Although the trend is in the right direction, the Society continues to operate with an income that does not cover its expenditure, which is not sustainable.
When I gave my report at last year's AGM, I said that management would be tasked with preparing a financial plan for this year that targets operational break-even by year-end 2026. Ultimately, the Board agreed an ambitious but realistic budget that anticipated a modest residual deficit of under £100k in 2026, and with a trajectory for operational break-even in 2027.

This budget is predicated on continued growth in membership, driven in particular by initiatives to reduce member attrition, as well as diversification of the Society's income via growth in non-subscription income sources such as advertising and partnerships. However, the Society has experienced a number of financial headwinds in the year-to-date, which lead to a substantial shortfall in the latest full-year forecast, compared with the budget, and an expected deficit for the year of around £450k.



Membership subscription income will fall short on account of fewer-than-expected members in January and less impact from member retention initiatives than anticipated. And while progress is being made to generate new, additional income sources, these are taking rather longer than anticipated to gain traction.

The decision to pause Distinctions assessments until the new programme is launched in 2027 was made during the year, leading to reduced income from this source. And while this was an entirely necessary action, taken to free up sufficient RPS stag resources to deliver the new distinctions programme, it will inevitably also have an adverse impact on the 2026 financial result.

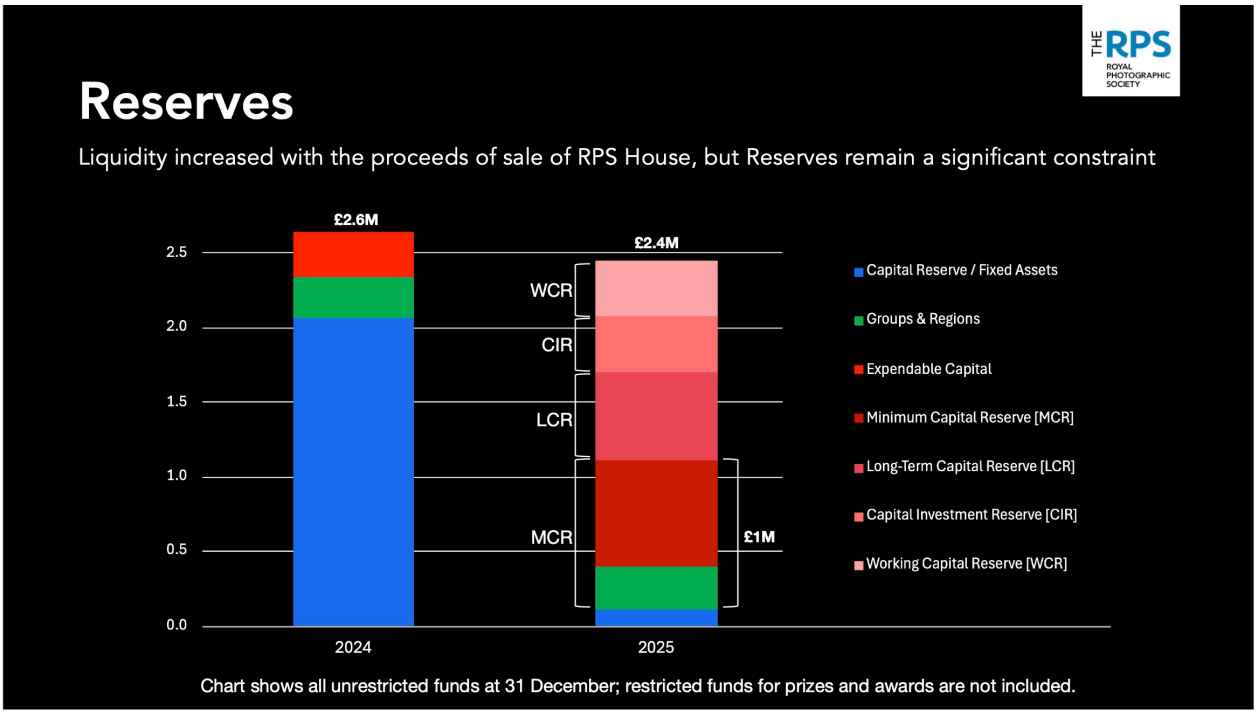
Concerning expenditure, the main source of un-budgeted additional spend relates to legal costs. Regrettably, the Society has been required and continues to incur substantial external legal fees to protect its interests, not least in connection with the inappropriate behaviour and actions of a small number of RPS members.

Notwithstanding the time-limited nature of some of these financial headwinds, the need to take the Society's finances from deficit to surplus next year is arguably more pressing than ever. To this end, the Finance Committee, on behalf of the board, has asked management to consider a range of potential actions to accelerate closure of the income-expenditure gap, as part of its financial planning work for the 2027 budget.

In simple terms, without a material increase in income from other sources, subscription income is itself insufficient to cover the cost of the Society's operations. To balance the books, either the income from subscriptions will need to rise substantially or the Society's operational model (and therefore the offering to members) would need to be pruned.

2.2.6 Reserves

Turning to the Society's reserves, we see that their composition changed substantially between year-end 2024 and year-end 2025, principally as a consequence of the sale of RPS House, which converted a substantial but illiquid property asset (in blue on the left-hand side of the chart) to liquid cash.



The other notable development during the year was the implementation by the Board of a new reserves policy, which provides a clearer designation of the Society's expendable capital (as indicated in various shades of red on the right-hand side of the chart). The policy also introduces the concept of a minimum capital reserve (set at £1M, including the reserves designated to Groups & Regions), falling below which would necessarily trigger a formal financial recovery plan. Further details of the new reserves policy are provided within the Annual Report.

Total reserves reduced by £0.2 million in 2025, on account of the deficit for the year, and will inevitably reduce further this year. Aligned with the new Reserves Policy, the Board approved a new Investment Policy in November 2025. This policy, which incorporates a low appetite for investment risk, given the Society's limited capacity to absorb investment losses, was implemented in Q1 2026 and does not therefore feature within the 2025 financial statements.

2.2.7 Closing Remarks

In closing, I would conclude that while the financial outturn for 2025 does represent continued progress towards putting the Society on a sustainable financial footing, the structural operating deficit has not yet been solved for. As I outlined, actions taken this year to close the income-expenditure gap are not delivering as quickly as planned, and other adverse variances to the budget have been experienced too.

Achieving financial resilience is a core objective of the '26-'28 strategy. To achieve it, I think we need to acknowledge that, as members, we are not currently paying our way and have not been for some time.

That needs to change if we wish to continue to enjoy the current benefits of RPS membership. As I said earlier, the ongoing financial planning exercise for next year's budget is wide-ranging, looking at all options to bring income and expenditure into line.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) that support the Honorary Treasurer and the Board in their financial oversight roles. FinCom benefits greatly from the knowledge and contributions of its appointed independent members. In particular, we appreciate Lachlan French who continues to serve in this capacity, and Vincenzo Albano for his service throughout 2025. Recently, we welcomed four new independent members to FinCom: Mike Gibson, Richard Lacey, Scott Ryan, and Marcello Scenna. In this regard, I would like to appreciate the considerable assistance that I received from Alastair Taylor, Chair of Nominations Committee, with the task of shortlisting and interviewing a sizeable and strong field of candidates for these roles.

2.3 Q&A on Annual Report & Accounts 2025 (SH/DM/SLT)

Note: *Questions to the Annual Report & Accounts 2025 were requested prior to the AGM. The proposed answers were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on 25 September 2025. Questions were either read and answered at the meeting, or incorporated into reports presented to the meeting.*

Following the conclusion of the Q&A, the President, as Chair of the Meeting, asked for a vote on **acceptance** of the Annual Report & Accounts.

The result of the vote was:
104 (present) and 24 (by proxy) voted to ACCEPT (128 in total)
11 voted to OPPOSE
36 ABSTAINED

With 128 votes to ACCEPT of 139 votes cast, the Annual Report & Accounts 2025 was duly **accepted** (with **92.1%** majority).

3. Appointment of Auditors (SH)
Following acceptance of the Annual Report & Accounts 2025, the President, as Chair of the Meeting, asked for a vote to **appointment** Sumer Audit Company Limited as auditors for the financial year 2026.

The result of the vote was:
128 (present) and 24 (by proxy) voted to ACCEPT (152 in total)
6 voted to OPPOSE
17 ABSTAINED

With 128 votes to ACCEPT of 139 votes cast, the Annual Report & Accounts 2025 was duly **accepted** (with **96.2%** majority).

4. Chief Executive Officer's Report (VH)

4.1 Strategic Plan 2026-2029 (VH/JS)
Joanne Segars, Deputy Chair, provided an overview of the Board's developing **three-year strategy** to the end of 2028. Joanne explained that, in response to an increasingly uncertain environment, the Board had chosen a shorter three-year planning horizon and a principle of "less is more", with a focus on a smaller number of priorities that could be realistically delivered and which would provide clear benefit to members and the wider photographic community.

The strategy is structured around **three pillars**:

Supporting Photographers - reflecting the RPS's charitable purpose and its role in supporting photographers to develop, connect and be recognised.
Strengthening the Society - building the capacity, sustainability and capability required to deliver effectively.
Championing Photography - increasing the RPS's wider impact and contribution to society.
The strategy is underpinned by the mission to inspire, educate and connect people through photography.

Victoria Humphries, CEO, outlined the four values intended to underpin the strategy and the work of the Society: **inclusive**, **curious**, **enabling** and **purposeful**. These values are intended to guide how the RPS works with and treats others, how it approaches its work, and the purpose behind that work. Victoria outlined the **strategic roadmap for 2026–2028**. The focus for 2026 is building the foundations, including the launch of the new Distinctions programme; development of the website and brand; work with members and volunteers; strengthening financial forecasting, budgeting and reporting; and improvements to data compliance, cyber security and organisational policies.

The **focus for 2027** will be on **implementing and embedding this work**, alongside the development of a **new education strategy** covering learning and engagement, exhibitions and Distinctions, and further development of **partnerships** and **diversified income streams**. By 2028, the intention is that the work undertaken in the preceding two years will be **embedding and delivering benefits**, including an **improved website** and member offer. Further priorities will include developing **community engagement programmes** through grant funding and improving access to the RPS heritage and collections through acquisition, cataloguing and greater accessibility for research. It was noted that the strategy remained **subject to finalisation and Board approval**, with this expected in the following months. The Board and Executive would report on progress against the strategy and its impact for members and the wider photographic community.

4.2 Education (including launch of new Distinctions Programme) (AL)
Anthony Luvera, Director of Education, presented an update on the RPS Education portfolio, including Learning & Engagement, Exhibitions & Awards and Distinctions. He highlighted learning opportunities through workshops, bursaries and partnerships, including work with Sharp Shots Photo Club. Exhibition partnerships with the Saatchi Gallery, Royal Albert Hall, Royal Geographical Society and Street Level Photoworks were extending the RPS's reach to new audiences. RPS exhibitions attracted nearly 148,000 visitors in 2025, and IPE 167 received submissions from a record 5,233 photographers.

Anthony outlined the redevelopment of the Distinctions Programme following the pause in assessments in 2026. The revised programme would retain LRPS, ARPS and FRPS, with clearer standards and guidance, tutorial support, independent assessment against published standards and criteria, stronger moderation and written feedback for all applicants. A new Resubmission outcome would support applicants whose work was close to the required standard. He confirmed that work already developed by applicants remained valid and thanked Regions, Special Interest Groups and volunteers for the considerable time, expertise and commitment they contribute to supporting photographers and creating opportunities for learning and participation across the RPS. Anthony explained that, following the AGM, information about the new Distinctions Programme would be published in stages from 28 September, with dates, fees and full applicant guidance to be confirmed ahead of applications opening for 2027.

4.3 Marketing & Membership (TT)
Toby Tetrault, Director of Marketing and Membership, presented the Society's marketing priorities and key projects.

Marketing Priorities

Broadening participation
The aim is to welcome photographers of all backgrounds and to engage more with industry on issues such as AI, photographers' rights and copyright. The International Photography Exhibition (IPE) remains a key channel. This year's open call brought in over 100 new members and more than 4,000 new contacts. That audience was notably younger and more international than the current membership: 42% were aged 35 and under, 47% were international, and 15% were students or apprentices. IPE press coverage reached an estimated 1 million views. RPS exhibitions attracted nearly 148,000 visitors in 2025.

Storytelling
The Society plans to bring members' stories to a wider audience in visual and audio formats. Instagram grew by 21% in 2025 with a 5% average engagement rate, and activity will expand to other platforms, including YouTube.

Member experience
The goal is a more tailored and flexible experience, centred on education and community. This will be supported by the new website, member research, partnerships and close work with volunteers.

Volunteers
Thanks were given to volunteers. Improved recruitment, onboarding and training will be a priority for 2027 and beyond.

Key projects for 2026–27

Research
This is the first structured research programme for several years. The survey has received over 3,000 responses, and focus groups are now being recruited. Findings will shape the website, member experience and brand, and will form the foundation of an RPS position on AI. Trustees are also increasing their visibility at events and through the new Trustee buddy scheme with Group and Region volunteers.

Website
An agency was appointed following a thorough procurement process, and the discovery phase is complete. Design and testing will follow, with opportunities for member input. Phase 1 is targeted for launch in Q1 2027. It will focus on improved user experience, navigation and search, and on putting the photographer at the heart of the site.

Brand
The work goes beyond visual identity. It will define who the Society is for, its values, and how it achieves its charitable aims, drawing on insights from across the Society.

4.4 Q&A on CEO Report (SLT)
Questions to the Chief Executive Officer's Report were asked and answered in an open session of the AGM. A record of the questions asked and the answers given are retained on file.

5. Governance (SH)

5.1 Announcement of Board decision to couple the new position of President Elect to the existing Deputy Chair position
The President reported that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held 28 November 2025, the Board resolved to create - or, more accurately, to 'reinstate' - the position of President Elect which was abolished in preference for a Deputy Chair during a Governance Review of 2020.

The reinstated position of President Elect is not an office of the Board but simply a designation for a Trustee who has been duly elected by the membership to assume the office of President at the appointed time.

The President further reported that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held 20 January 2026, there was broad support for the coupling of the position of President Elect with the office of Deputy Chair and this was reported in the *RPS Journal*, July-September 2026.

Subsequent to this, and effective to the date of that meeting, a Resolution to this effect was agreed by the Board.

On behalf of the Board, the President also thanked the Chairs and the members of the various Board sub-Committees that bring expertise to the governance role and feed into the proceedings of the Board.

The President reported that the position of Chair of the Science Committee became vacant in January and recorded his thanks to Hugh Turvey who chaired the Science Committee but had to step down due to increasing professional and personal commitments.

The President asked anyone who feels they would like to take on the role of Chair of the Science Committee to contract the CEO.

5.2 Announcement of changes of personnel on the Board of Trustees and Board Sub-Committees

The President reported on changes to the Board of Trustees. At the close of the AGM 2025, Sophie Collins was re-appointed to the Board to serve a second term, and Alistair How and Joanne Segars joined the Board as Appointed Trustees each for their first term.

During the course of the year, Victoria Forrest ceased to be a Trustee which provided a vacancy for which the Society held an election; the result of that election is announced under AGM agenda item 5.3. The President concluded by record his thanks to his Trustee colleagues for the time and effort they put in to their role as Charity Trustees.

5.3 Announcement of result of election for a new Trustee

The President reported on the election of a new Trustee.

Following an election process managed by the RPS Nominations Committee (under the Chair of Alastair Taylor ARPS), **Angela Nicholson ARPS** has been elected as Trustee to serve for a term of three years from the close of the AGM 2026 until the close of the AGM 2029.

The President thanked all candidates for their interest in standing for election and reported that further vacancies would arise next year when several Trustees reach the end of their tenure.

5.4 MOTION to appoint Joanne Segars OBE LRPS as President Elect to take office as President from the close of the AGM 2027

The President put a Motion to the Members to support the recommendation of the Board to appoint **Joanne Segars** OBE LRPS, Deputy Chair of Trustees, as President Elect to take office as President from the close of the AGM 2027 and to serve in that capacity until the close of the AGM 2029.

The result of the vote was:

108 (present) and 24 (by proxy) voted to ACCEPT (132 in total)
7 voted to OPPOSE
13 ABSTAINED

With 132 votes to ACCEPT of 139 votes cast, the MOTION to elect Joanne Segars OBE LRPS as President Elect was duly **accepted** (with **95%** majority).

Following the announcement of the result of the vote, Joanne Segars addressed the meeting:

"Thank you Simon, and thank you to Members for your support. It is a tremendous honour and privilege to be elected as President Elect of the Society, your next President after Simon, and only the fifth woman to hold the role. It's role that I do not take lightly. And I give my commitment to making it a success. Of course, they'll be big shoes to fill when the time comes, following on from Simon who's given - and continues to give - so much to the Society.

You've heard today some of the challenges we're facing – challenges to our finances and membership and our plans to address those. There's no getting away from those. We have to lean into them - and there may be some difficult decisions along the way.

But I firmly believe we have real opportunities too. And we shouldn't lose sight of those either.

- They're the opportunities to refresh our member offer so we can be more relevant to more members - and to younger photographers too;
- They're the opportunities to ensure there's something for everyone up and down the country and across different interests;
- And the opportunities to reach and support even more of the photographic community.

With 9.5mn people in the UK saying they've got an interest in photography, they're big opportunities and ones we shouldn't squander. For me, that's rooted in us supporting each other to learn, grow and share knowledge. It is, after all, what brings us together – that love of photography and that passion for learning … and we certainly shouldn't lose sight of that.

So, over the next year I'm committed to working to ensure there's a smooth transition from Simon to me; and to delivering success of the strategy you heard about earlier, including the new Distinctions programme which I am really excited about.

But I also want to hear from you. So I want to get out and about to meet members - and the wider photographic community - so that together we can build towards those ambitions I've talked about.

Thank you once more. It really is a true honour."

6. Announcement of Member Awards 2026 (SH)

The President introduced the announcement of Member Awards 2026 by reminding Members that they can nominate any volunteer, member, or non-member for a President's Commendation, an award instituted in 2016 by then-President Walter Benzie HonFRPS.

The 2026 recipients of the RPS Fenton Medal (with Honorary Membership) and President's Medal (also with Honorary Membership).



The Fenton Medal, instituted in 1980, is awarded in recognition of dedicated service and valued voluntary contribution to the Society in supporting its activities, its community, and the advancement of its objectives. It may be awarded to Members or non-Members. As a historical note, the award is named for Roger Fenton, one of the founders of the Society and for several years its Honorary Secretary.

This year, the Board of Trustees has confirmed the award of the maximum of four Fenton medals; to Howard Klein, Katherine Maguire, Neill Taylor, and Sue Wright.

Howard Klein LRPS is the Volunteer Engagement & Events Officer for the RPS Landscape Group.

Katherine Maguire ARPS a dedicated volunteer to both the RPS Benelux Chapter and the RPS International Chapter.

Dr Neill Taylor LRPS has been an active volunteer for the Digital Imaging Group since joining the committee in 2020.

Sue Wright has been Chair of the RPS Women in Photography Group since 2020.



The RPS President's Medal (instituted in 2023) is awarded in recognition of dedicated service and an outstanding voluntary contribution to the Society, over a sustained period in supporting its activities, its community, and the advancement of its objectives. Previous recipients of the President's Medal are Paul Mitchell (2023), Mervyn Mitchell (2024), and Elaine Herbert (2025). The recipient of the President's Medal 2026 is Gilly Read.

Gilly Read FRPS has had an active involvement with the RPS's Historical Group as a member, group committee member, and in her current role of chair, which she has held since 2019.

7. President's Address

The President delivered his annual President's Address - under the title *"The Triple Helix of Photography"* which explored the 'purpose' of photography by drawing on themes that were discussed during the AGM. The full text of the Address will be published, together with a report of this meeting, in the *RPS Journal* Vol.167 No.1, Jan-Mar 2027.

Thanks

Prior to closing the Annual General Meeting 2025, the President thanked Members for attending and participating in the Annual General Meeting; outgoing Trustees for their service on the Board (Council); David Muiry FIA ARPS, Victoria Humphries, Anthony Luvera, Nikki McCoy, Joanne Segars, and Toby Tetrault for their contribution to the meeting; Janet Haines, Rex Waygood and Neill Taylor for facilitating the Meeting; the Trustees and Staff Team for the work they have done over the preceding twelve months and will do over the coming twelve months; and the Volunteer Team without whom the RPS would not be able to function. The President concluded by welcoming Angela Nicholson ARPS as an Elected Trustees, who will now take up her role on the Board of Trustees.

Advance Notice of Date of Annual General Meetings 2026 and 2027

The **Annual General Meeting 2027** will be held on Saturday **25 September 2027** immediately following which there will be the handover of the Presidency from Simon Hill CPhot HonFRPS to Joanne Segars OBE LRPS.

The **Annual General Meeting 2028** will be held on Saturday **23 September 2028**.

Simon Hill 26 September 2026