

The Regnum Crouch Group of Photographic Societies in West Sussex

Minutes of the AGM held on 26 May 2016 at the Evangelical Church Hall, Henfield at 19:30 hours

Present: L. Brook, G. Stafford (Worthing); G. & B. Lawrence (Steyning); C. & L. Green (Littlehampton); V. Carter (Henfield) plus Committee Members: Cliff Carter (Henfield), Alec Pelham (Secretary and member of Mid-Sussex and Henfield), John Peters (Treasurer and member of Mid-Sussex) and Neil Henry (ex-officio secretary – not affiliated to a member club) Summarised as committee of 3 plus 7 representatives from a total of 5 (of 8) member clubs, plus one observer. (i.e. Storrington, Southwick & Chichester were not represented)

Alec Pelham acted as Chairman of the meeting. Minutes were taken by Neil Henry.

1. Apologies: Unspecified members (Storrington and Southwick); Mike Williams (Steyning)

2. Minutes of the last AGM - As the 2015 AGM was aborted due to lack of a quorum, the last AGM was held on 08 April 2014. After correction of the 'per-capita' amount subscriptions (from £0.20 to £0.25), the minutes were accepted by the meeting. A Special General Meeting (SGM) was held on 21 August 2015 to discuss the options for the future of the Regnum Crouch Group. No minutes were circulated, other than the votes for the tabled resolutions.

3. Matters Arising from the SGM - The Member Clubs voted to adopt 'Resolution A', as follows:

- *Each member club will appoint an individual from their membership with responsibility for Regnum Crouch who will be responsible for all communications with the Secretary and Treasurer of the Group.*
- *The chair of the Regnum Crouch Group for any year will be the representative of the member club due to host the Print Competition 24 months after the date of each AGM.*
- *The Vice-Chair of the Regnum Crouch Group for any year will be the representative of the member club due to host the PDI Competition 29 months after the date of each AGM*

Although one member club was not represented at the SGM, a lively discussion confirmed that the Regnum Crouch Group should continue.

4. Acting Chairman's Report - Alec recalled that it had been a strange year with the uncertainty about the future of the Group and reported that nothing concrete had come from the above resolutions. Neither Chairman nor Vice-Chairman had been appointed to the Committee. On the brighter side, both competitions had been successfully run and thanks were due to the organisers at Henfield (Prints) and Southwick (PDI). Thanks were also due to Cliff Carter who had liaised with all concerned and contributed greatly to the outcome. The judge at the PDI contest, Wayne Grundy, was acknowledged to have an unusual method: marking everything between 17 and 20. Fortunately, it did produce a clear overall winner.

5. Treasurer's Report - John circulated a Balance Sheet of the year's accounts and a budget for the following year based on present estimates of costs and receipts, in the event that the Group would have to find funding for the competition venues. Although two clubs, Bognor Regis and Midhurst, had not re-joined, income held up over the year with a surplus of £85. This was largely due to the PDI judge, Wayne Grundy, asking for only a notional £5 expenses instead of the average £75 for judges' fees. If the Group had to fund the venues, the per-capita subscription would need to be increased by 50p to £0.75 to achieve a small surplus. A question was put 'What are the funds used for?' and it was stated that although they have accumulated over the years, it was a consequence of not making a loss and building up a buffer to be able to make funds available should a host club not make a surplus on a competition. If the Group starts to pay for venues, this buffer would disappear in less than five years. Host clubs should expect to make a profit on their competition by charging a modest admission fee to members of other clubs attending.

The accounts were proposed, seconded and accepted by the meeting.

6. Secretary's Report - Alec gave a brief verbal report only, noting that he couldn't take the minutes and chair the meeting at the same time. Cliff added an appeal for member clubs to update their contact details after their respective AGMs.

7. Election of Officers - deferred to after Item 10 on the Agenda.

8. Rule Amendments & Proposals - none tabled by the Committee. Others considered as AOB below.

9. The Competitions (agree new rota) - A new rota needs to be installed for the remaining eight member clubs. Thus far, it was confirmed that Storrington will host the DPI contest in 2017. The Print Contest (Nov 2016) is not yet hosted, although Alec will approach Mid-Sussex to tie it in with their club programme. It was suggested that Littlehampton would host the 2017 Prints, Chichester the 2018 PDI and Worthing the 2018 Prints. All of which are subject to confirmation. Cliff can only book a judge when a date and venue is confirmed for each. It was noted that judges and venues are often booked up well in advance and that a lead time of at least eighteen months was formerly agreed by member clubs.

10. Any Other Business and Resolutions from Member Clubs - Six resolutions had been submitted – all from Mike Williams of Steyning – and appeared on the agenda as follows: (in italics)

- *An acceptance by member clubs to revitalise competitions and seek views from the Regnum Crouch membership on how this can be achieved.*

It was agreed that advertising the event through local media could be funded by the Group and that the current six image entries should be increased to eight. The Committee will seek to encourage lapsed member clubs to re-join the Group and to approach other clubs in West Sussex (e.g. Middleton-on-Sea, Crawley Down, etc.)

- *That a three year rota as detailed on the Regnum Crouch website is adhered to. Clubs listed to host competitions are to provide both Chairman and Vice-Chairman.*

Since the rota is not yet agreed and no nominations have been received for Committee, this was felt to be impractical, at least for the present, and the resolution declined.

- *The cost of hiring a venue for future competitions be funded from the Regnum Crouch account and not paid for by the hosting club.*

The implications were already stated in the Treasurer's report, above, and were discussed further at some length. Declined by 6 to 2 vote against.

- *That the competition rules provide a system whereby there is an outright winning club for all competitions. i.e. no equal first places.*

It was agreed that there should be no more 'equal firsts' and that the judge would be asked to 'count back' the number of 20s, 19s, 18s etc. and, if needed, award a 'bonus point' to one image, as a casting vote.

- *That it is a condition that clubs entering prints or images to any Regnum Crouch competition will have representatives attending on the day of the event. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.*

It was agreed that there might be valid reasons for non-attendance (e.g. in emergencies). Disqualification was seen to be risky and might result in a member club withdrawing from the Group. Declined.

- *That the Annual General Meeting be held on the same day as the PDI competition; either immediately before or after the event. Alternatively an evening where there is no conflict with any club's scheduled meeting.*

Overall timing of the AGM was not consistent and depended on the number of issues for discussion. A fixed date for the AGM on the first Friday in May was agreed unanimously.

7. Election of Officers - As there were no nomination to Committee, the incumbents will remain, although this must only be a temporary measure: Vacancies for both Chairman and Vice-Chairman; Alec Pelham as Secretary; John Peters as Treasurer and Cliff Carter as a supernumerary member.

Meeting closed at 21:20