

The REGNUM CROUCH GROUP of Photographic Societies in West Sussex

Minutes of the AGM held on 18 April 2011 at East Worthing Community Centre at 7:45 pm.

Present :

Committee and eight representatives from eight member clubs, as follows:

Cliff Carter (Chairman and Steyning), Ken Rippengale (Vice-Chairman and Littlehampton), Ron Shanks (Treasurer and Littlehampton), Neil Henry (Secretary and Horsham) ,

H.Davidson(?) (Chichester); Brian Stone (Henfield); Cyril & Cynthia Levett, R B (Worthing); Mike Williams (Steyning); Alec Pelham (Mid-Sussex); Rob DeRuiter, Paul Day (Bognor)

1. Apologies for Absence :

Eleanor Coate, Ginny Birkett (Horsham).

2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM, - held on 26 April 2010 were circulated and approved.

3. Matters Arising - On the question of similar images submitted in successive contests, it was acknowledged that this is very difficult to police and requires the cooperation of all members. On admission charges to contests when sponsorship for the venue costs had already been noted (raised by Midhurst) - It was acknowledge that each contest represented a major effort by the host club and a need to cover costs. Sponsorship cannot be guaranteed, especially in the present financial climate, and a flexible admission charge determined by the host club.

4. Chairman's Report Cliff presented his written report and circulated copies. The main points are as follows: The Regnum Shield Print Contest was very well organised by Storrington CC, but the judging by Bryan Powell was most disappointing. Following numerous complaints from clubs and individuals, the matter was referred to SPA (=Surrey Photo0graphic Association) as the judge's leading body. Congratulations to Horsham PS as winners and to Ian MacWhirter for the best print.

The Crouch Shield DPI Contest was hosted by Littlehampton CC, also at the Steyning Centre, to a very high standard. Judging by Chris Palmer was excellent and his critique was well received. Congratulations to Steyning as winners and to Rosie Armes (Chichester) for the best image. The Crouch Shield had not been returned for this event by the previous winners (Chichester) so could not be formally presented on the night. Both contests benefitted from the generous support of Park Cameras. The website has been constantly updated by Martin Tomes, to whom thanks were due.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ron presented his written report and circulated a copy of the audited annual accounts. which was circulated and accepted. The main points are as follows: The per-capita fees continued to show a steady increase in club membership: from 578 in 2008, 702 in 2009 to 727 at the time of this AGM.

Judges' fees and travelling expenses have shown an increase – undoubtedly due to fuel costs. Following the Auditor's advice, last year, it was decided to set a maximum of £75 for any one competition. So far this has not proved to be too restrictive, but may have to be reviewed later. To date, none of the Committee members has claimed travel expenses although it is likely that this issue will arise during the year. Should any claim arise, these will be paid using the same PAGB guidelines applied to judges. The Group ended with a healthy balance of £1028.86 so no increase is proposed in annual subscriptions. For the year ending 31 March 2012, the subs should remain at £10 per club and £0.15 per club member. The Auditor, John Holmes, found a trifling 9 pence discrepancy in the accounts which will be carried forward to next year. He was thanked for his work and helpful suggestions. The Treasurer's report was accepted and carried unanimously.

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave a brief verbal report. The majority of correspondence is now by e-mail and principally concerned notices of and queries about Regnum Crouch events. Neil noted that club officers are subject to change, especially after an AGM. and asked the members present to verify their clubs' contact details. Several alternative contacts have been recorded for each club, to ensure that messages get through somehow to the correct person. Neil had had some difficulties with e-mail when his PC crashed, so some of the alternate contacts were lost.

7. Election of Officers

Cliff Carter is standing down as Chairman, but was persuaded to remain as an ad-hoc committee member. Since no nomination had been received, the Vice-Chairman, Ken Rippengale, agreed to take on the role. The role of Vice-Chairman is now vacant. The remaining two Committee members agreed to another term.

The Committee will now be:

Chairman = Ken Rippengale (Littlehampton); Treasurer = Ron Shanks (Littlehampton)

Secretary = Neil Henry (Horsham), ad-hoc member- Cliff Carter (Steyning).

The meeting also confirmed John Holmes as auditor and gave a vote of thanks. Neil indicated his wish to stand down at the end of next season and asked for members to consider nominations for Secretary for April 2012. Martin Tomes, in his role as webmaster, will be co-opted to the Committee, when necessary. The incoming Chairman commented that with a membership of 727, it was long overdue for member clubs to put forward nominations for the Committee, which at present were drawn from only three out of the eleven clubs. This suggested that the future of the Regnum Crouch Group was in jeopardy.

8. Rule Amendments

One Rule Amendment was proposed by the Committee and accepted by the meeting:

Committee members will be permitted to claim reasonable car mileage expenses when travelling to committee meetings or on other Regnum Crouch Group business. This will be incorporated into the rules for the website.

9 Print and Projected Digital Image Contests

The next Regnum Shield Print Contest, hosted by Bognor Regis, at St.Mary's Centre, Felpham on Tuesday *16 November 2011. The judge is Caroline Colgate. The next Crouch Shield Projected Digital Image Contest will be in March 2011, hosted by Mid-Sussex on 12 March 2012. The judge is Clive Tanner.

Cliff reported further on the Bryan Powell affair and the communications with SPA. A general discussion ensued and all agreed that it would be unreasonable to expect a host club to provide a senior judge with suitable lamps and / or a calibrated monitor with the images for judging. A judge should reasonably be expected to ensure that images submitted for judging can be viewed in appropriate conditions.

10 Any Other Business

Two terms are in current use to describe digital images – DPI and PDI. It was agreed that PDI = Projected Digital Image would be used by the Group, to fall into line with other photographic bodies.

Alec Pelham raised a warning about a Canon Digital Projector at his club (Mid-Sussex). A broken pin in a 'D' plug connector caused profiles to be corrupted.

Neil confirmed that printed labels will be prepared for Bognor Regis hosting the Regnum Shield Contest.

- Post meeting note: date corrected to Tuesday **15** November

Meeting closed at 20:50