

The REGNUM CROUCH GROUP of Photographic Societies in West Sussex

Minutes of the AGM held on 10 April 2012 at East Worthing Community Centre at 7:45 pm.

Present :

Committee : Ron Shanks (Treasurer and member of Littlehampton); Neil Henry (Secretary and member of Horsham) + Cliff Carter (co-opted as chairman and member of Steyning)

Plus club members, as follows:

Jean Shanks (Littlehampton); Mike Davison (Chichester); Brian Stone (Henfield);
Maureen Martin (Worthing); Alan Humphries (Southwick); David Leach (Steyning);
Mike Williams (Steyning); Alec Pelham (Mid-Sussex); Peter Heath (Horsham)

1. Apologies for Absence :

Tony Jones (and others un-named from Midhurst); David Barrett (Henfield)

2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM, - held on 18 April 2011 were circulated and approved.

3. Matters Arising - none

4. Chairman's Report Since the resignation of Ken Rippengale, following him ceasing to be a member of a club in the Group, the post of Chairman has been vacant. As there was also a vacancy for Vice-Chairman, there was no natural succession. Cliff Carter agreed to be co-opted as a member of the Committee and although not 'Chairman' undertook to chair this meeting. Cliff recorded his thanks to the host clubs of last season's contests and also to Martin Tomes for his invaluable work on the Regnum Crouch website.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ron presented his written report and circulated a copy of the audited accounts, which was accepted. The main points are as follows: The number of individual members of the participating clubs showed another increase: from 727 at the last AGM to 811 as of 31st March 2012. Fees charged by judges were still within the £75 maximum agreed at the last AGM, however there may be increases for the coming season, due to travelling costs. The Group's funds totalled £961.98 – only about £15.00 increase on last year – making it likely that expenditure would exceed income in the next season. Consequently, Ron proposed an increase in the subscription for the 2012/13 season to restore parity: Subs are due after the AGM, each year, and a proposal that these will be £10 per club plus £0.20p per member (as at 01/04/2012) was carried unanimously. This is an increase of £0.05p for each club member. One question was raised on the balance sheet concerning the lack of an entry for hall hire for last year's AGM. This was clarified in that no billing has yet been received for that event. Ron recorded his thanks to John Holmes who audited the accounts for yet another year.

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. There was an issue raised by several member clubs about apparently similar images in successive contests, entered by Chichester club. This was taken up with the club by Ron who read out his letter and offered a face-to-face meeting. He reported that the differences had been resolved by e-mail exchanges. The Group would like to encourage new photography, rather than rely on repetition of similar successful competition entries. Neil recorded his thanks to Ron and Cliff, who had kept the 'show on the road' whilst he was recently indisposed. Anticipating the next item on the agenda, Neil referred to the rules in the event of the dissolution of the Regnum Crouch Group.

7. Election of Officers

Prior to the AGM, no nominations had been received for any post on the Committee. It seemed that no-one, from over 800 individual club members was willing to step forward. Discussion followed in which it was suggested that the typical member of participating clubs knows little or nothing about the Regnum Crouch Group. There was a need to spread the word. Neil assured all

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that notices were distributed via club secretaries or other nominated persons and that any failure to communicate the contents was most likely at club level. Members present undertook to follow this up. Cliff Carter reluctantly accepted nomination as Chairman for the new season, but emphasized that it would only be for the one year! Alec Pelham (Mid-Sussex) volunteered for Vice-Chairman. Ron Shanks and Neil Henry agreed to stand for another year as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

The Committee for the 2012/13 season is therefore:
Cliff Carter (Chairman); Alec Pelham (Vice-Chairman);
Ron Shanks (Treasurer) and Neil Henry (Secretary)

The meeting also confirmed John Holmes as auditor. 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 811, it was long overdue for member clubs to put forward nominations for the Committee, which at present were drawn from only four out of the eleven clubs.

8. Rule Amendments

The Committee proposed that:

One member from each of the Host Clubs for the year following the AGM should be co-opted to the Committee.

After commending the thoroughness of the 'Guide Notes for Host Clubs' it was questioned whether additional committee members were really necessary. Nevertheless the proposal was accepted unanimously and will be incorporated into the rules. Alan Humphries put himself forward as the representative for Southwick Camera Club.

Mike Williams (Steyning) proposed :

The removal of the three year time limit on images produced for both digital (Rule 6) and Prints (Rule 5)

Their rationale was to bring Regnum Crouch into line with the competition rules of the Federations. (The Regnum Crouch Group is not a 'Federation' – rather an alliance of clubs in West Sussex). Much discussion followed with the two Steyning members presenting their arguments. The committee argued that one of the objectives of this Group was to encourage new work and the present rule was not discriminatory. The proposal was not carried with voting 10-2 against

9 Print and Projected Digital Image Contests

Bognor and Mid-Sussex were both congratulated on their respective events, both of which ran very smoothly. A point was raised about Print Contests and the visible difference in quality between the large projected image of the print and the original on the easel. It was pointed out that it was the image on the easel that was being judged and the larger projected image was only to enable those towards the back in the hall to see more clearly. It was not a requirement in Print Competitions to project the images. A further comment was made about judging the images in different lighting conditions. Neil pointed out that the judge should reasonably be expected to ensure that images submitted for judging can be viewed in appropriate conditions and should have access to suitable lamps and / or calibrated monitor for the purpose. The next Regnum Shield Print Contest, hosted by Southwick Camera Club, on Thursday 15 November 2012. The judge is Glyn Bareham. The next Crouch Shield Projected Digital Image Contest will be hosted by Chichester Camera Club on Monday 18 March 2013. The judge is Tony Riley.

10 Any Other Business

In response to a question from David Leach, It was clarified that the Committee typically meets only about twice each year, as much of the business is conducted on e-mail. The Committee selects and appoints a judge for each contest , after liaison with the host club . The host clubs book the venue and makes all the arrangements. The Committee fund the judge's expenses.

Meeting closed at 20:40