

Minutes of the AGM held on 16 April 2013 @ East Worthing Community Centre at 19:45

Present: David Barrett, Brian Stone(Henfield), Jan & D Arnold (Southwick), Maureen Martin, Keith Harris (Worthing), Steve Hickmott , Mike Williams (Steyning) plus Committee Members: Cliff Carter (Chairman & member of Steyning and Henfield), Alec Pelham (Vice-Chairman and member of Mid-Sussex), Ron Shanks (Treasurer and member of Littlehampton) and Neil Henry (Secretary and member of Horsham)

1. Apologies: Mike Davison (Chichester), Bill Brooks, Rob deRuiter, Paul Day (Bognor Regis, Eleanor Coate, Peter Heath (Horsham), Karen Bennett (Midhurst)

2. Minutes of the last AGM - (held on 10 April 2012) – were circulated and approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes – none

4. Chairman's Report – Cliff circulated a written report which included the following:

The past season's competitions have been very successful with Southwick running the Regnum Print contest, with Glyn Bareham as judge, and Chichester hosting the Crouch Shied DPI contest, with Tony Riley judging. The Chichester event was generously supported by Sussex Camera Centre, as an extra bonus. Thanks were expressed to members of the Committee and to Martin Tomes as webmaster and John Holmes as auditor. An appeal was made to member clubs to support the Group by putting forward volunteers for the Committee. During the past year, two former Regnum Crouch stalwarts, Don Mitchell and Ken Rippengale had passed away. Don was an inspiration to many photographers over the years with a wicked sense of humour. Ken was the chairman of the Group in 2011. Both will be missed by many camera club members and friends.

5. Treasurer's Report - Ron distributed his report and a balance sheet for the past season. The 'per capita' fees from member clubs show a fall in overall membership from 811 to 788. The fees were increased at the last AGM, so this meant a small increase in receipts over last year's figures. As forecast, the fees charged by judges have increased, although the maximum set three years ago has not been restrictive. The Committee may need to consider increasing the amount in the future. The Group ended the year with a healthy balance of £994.68 although the excess of income over expenditure was only £36.60. John Holmes has audited the accounts for the last thirteen years and does not wish to continue. The Group is grateful to him for his meticulous attention to detail. Consequently, a new auditor will be needed for next season. As for myself, I have lost track of the number of year served on the Committee and feel it is time for a change. He has been Treasurer since 2007 and was serving in other positions well before that. Applications for both Treasurer and Auditor are invited.....

6 Secretary's Report - Neil gave a brief verbal report. Most of the communications tend to be via e-mail. There is a continual problem maintaining an up-to-date contact list for the member clubs, especially as personnel changes after AGMs etc. Similarly, contact details on the links from the Regnum Crouch website are rarely updated. In preparing for this AGM, several e-mailed communications were returned as 'undeliverable' and those represented here tonight are invited to check that the correct details are held. Although not for as long as Ron, He, too, had served on the Committee for a number of years and would like to step down as Secretary.

7. Election of Officers – Of the four posts on the Committee, only the Chairman had been nominated, and that was by the Committee itself. Since the current Vice-Chairman moved up to take the chair and the posts of Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary have received no nominations. The incumbents agreed to continue as interim Treasurer and Secretary in the

hope that volunteers would be forthcoming. Cliff Carter agreed to be co-opted as a Committee member when necessary. The Committee for 2013/14 is therefore:

Alec Pelham (Chairman); Ron Shanks (interim Treasurer) and Neil Henry (interim Secretary) with a vacancy for Vice-Chairman. Maureen Martin agreed to be the delegate from competition host club Worthing. This 'election' was followed by a discussion on volunteering in general and it was urgently noted that more support was needed from member clubs if the Regnum Crouch Group is to continue. The Chairman noted that we will try to fill the vacant positions during the next few months. It was generally accepted that the two annual contests were well regarded and supported by the member clubs. Mike Williams suggested that we should merge with the Sussex Photographic Federation (SxPF) although this would mean a departure from the Group's roots in West Sussex. Neil declared an interest as a committee member of SxPF and stated that the aims of the two organisations were not the same: The Regnum Crouch Group existed as an alliance of clubs in West Sussex to promote new work; Whereas the SxPF covered both East and West Sussex and ran similar competitions for prints and PDI which did not clash with our own. The SxPF was not recognised as a 'Federation' by the PAGB and its member clubs were affiliated to SPA (Surrey), KCPA (Kent) or Southern Federations for PAGB purposes. Alec agreed that the real need was to get more from the member clubs and proposed visiting each in turn to explain our situation and hopefully gain some support. He reminded the meeting that the host club would expect to make a significant contribution to its own funds from running a competition. He also noted that many individual club members knew nothing about the Group and this needed to be addressed. Cliff added that there were other advantages in that the Regnum Crouch website could be used to advertise club events - e.g. key lectures and competitions – to a wider audience.

8. Rule Amendments & Resolutions No formal amendments received. Although not part of the 'Rules' as such, the Committee proposed making some additions and clarifications to the 'Guide Notes for Host Clubs' and their draft was circulated and accepted. Cliff had prepared a pro-forma for a logical file naming sequence as a spread-sheet. This will fit in with whatever software is used by host clubs and will enable easier transfer of results by the webmaster. Details will be put onto the Regnum Crouch website soon.

9. Competitions – The next print competition is to be hosted by Steyning on 06 November 2013, with Gerald Kitiyakara confirmed as judge. In 2014, the DPI contest will be hosted by Worthing on 11 March and the print event will be hosted by Midhurst in November. Other details will be posted on the website when confirmed.

10. Any Other Business - Mike Williams raised the point that Steyning had fully expected to be placed 2nd after tying on marks with Chichester in the recent DPI competition and asked if a solution could be found to clubs scoring equal points. He suggested that the club with the most '20's should be declared overall winner and was concerned that trophies could be mislaid if they were shared by joint winners. The Committee noted that this was a rare occurrence and did not feel that this was a difficulty, although it will be put to all member clubs to determine if a rule change is needed. It was confirmed that the DPI rules allow for the 'natural resolution' of the host club's projector in determining file size for optimal projection. Alec suggested that a rota could be added to the rules (in the same way as for hosting competitions) for host clubs to put forward a representative for committee, although he would prefer to persuade the host club to nominate an attendee.

Meeting closed at 21:15