

Minutes of the Digital Imaging Group's 15th Annual General Meeting Smethwick Photographic Society Clubrooms 10.30 am, Sunday 13th March 2011

1. Introduction

The Chairman, Clive Haynes, opened the meeting at 10.30 am and welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Committee Members Rosemary Wilman (ex-officio), Bob Pearson and Dr Barry Senior. Apologies were also received from members Ian Ledgard, Jim Marsden, Ian Wilson, Margaret Salisbury and Janet Haines.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on the 18th April 2010

These were accepted as a true record.
Adopted followed by a show of hands.

4. Matters Arising

Alan Cross asked if the results of the members' survey had been published. Clive Haynes said that they had been considered by the Committee and that further exploration of what was needed would be carried out with a view to publishing the results and the action the committee was proposing to take in response to the survey.

5. Chairman's Report

Clive Haynes read his report that follows in full as Appendix 1.

Questions to the Chair: One member suggested that it would be a good idea to have stick-on name badges at the AGM to help people get to know each other. Clive Haynes replied that he thought that was a good idea and that badges would be available at future AGMs. In response to a question as to whether the Print Exhibition and DPI Competition were intended to compete with each other, it was explained that that two events were intended to be complimentary and to encourage more members to take part.

Members specifically asked that the Committee and Group's thanks to Clive Haynes for his work as Chair over the last six years should be minuted.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Elizabeth Restall, gave her report, which is given in full at Appendix 2, together with the detailed balance sheet, Appendix 3.

Questions Arising: The Treasurer was asked if the Group had any capital assets. It was confirmed that the Wessex Centre and the Thames Valley Centre did have some projection equipment. In response to a query about the charge for entry to the Digital Projected Image competition, it was confirmed that there would be no entry fee for the 2011 competition to encourage members to enter.

Adoption of the Accounts: Proposed – Peter Roberts; Seconded – Alex Dufty; adopted by show of hands.

7. Adoption of the Constitution

Adoption was proposed by John Margetts and Seconded by Bob Brasher. Adoption was approved by a show of hands

8. Election of Officers

Committee members standing for re-election

Chairman:	Dr David F Cooke
Secretary General:	Bob Pearson
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Restall
Members:	Alex Dufty
	Anthony Healy
	John Long
	Dr Barry Senior
	Graham Whistler
Nominations:	John Margetts

Proposed – Sheila Roberts; Seconded – Glenys Taylor. The Committee was elected en-block by show of hands.

9. Any Other Business

John Scotten asked if the Committee could consider renaming the Group. There was a second statement from the floor that there shouldn't be a change of name. The Committee will consider if a change of name of the Group is appropriate.

10. The Date and Time of the Next AGM

Sunday, 11th March 2012 at Smethwick Photographic Society Clubrooms.

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report

Clive R. Haynes FRPS

Once again it's my pleasure to report that the Group continues to enjoy a large and increasing membership. We maintain our position as the largest Special Interest Group within the RPS, with around 10% of the total Society membership belonging to DIG.

Your committee continues to work hard on behalf of the membership and throughout the year and we hold committee meetings, make e-mail exchanges, 'phone calls and when necessary, use telephone conference-calls.

DIGIT

Our journal 'DIGIT' is a wonderful asset and remains a sparkling jewel in the DIG Crown. This well-respected journal is only made possible by the tireless efforts of our Editor David Cooke. For their work behind the scenes we thank our eagle-eyed proof-readers, Elizabeth Restall and Janet Haines. DIGIT wouldn't be possible without our contributors and we owe them a debt of gratitude for a diverse and stimulating input. Whenever I make copies of DIGIT available at lectures and workshops they are avidly taken up.

Website

At last the DIG website has reached a more stable plateau. The pages function well with just the occasional glitch. However, the committee is aware that additional feature areas are required and we are in discussion with RPS HQ about how some of our ideas can be implemented.

John Long continues his role of much-needed support for the website, including handling publicity, uploading information, preparing bulletins and overseeing Forum and Folio activity.

e-Newsletter

Bob Pearson continues to despatch these useful electronic e-mail bulletins from time to time to keep our membership up to date with current activity and forthcoming events.

Regions

Our regional Centres successfully maintain contact with our membership on a regular basis with programmes of events, meetings, demonstrations and lectures.

We pay tribute to our team of enthusiastic team of Digital Imaging Group Centre Organisers and to everyone who helps behind the scenes. Our DIG Centres provide a valuable service to the Group and its membership.

This year we have witnessed the decline of the Yorkshire Centre and the emergence of the Eastern Centre, based around Cambridge. For this latter initiative we thank John Margetts LRPS for his enthusiasm and determination to make it work.

We continue to be hopeful that some experienced members will emerge and offer to organise a DIG Centre in the parts of Britain that we have yet to reach. This would be of great benefit those members who are at a distance from the existing DIG Centres.

Exhibition

Our Annual Print Exhibition of Members' Work was once more popular this year, and the touring Exhibition organised by Alex Dufty was also a great success. Alex is always diligent, ensuring that the exhibition schedule remains firm. The Exhibition DVD with an insightful commentary by Robert Albright FRPS, was mailed to all members with DIGIT. For DVD mastering and supervision of duplication we're once again indebted to Graham Whistler.

Events Internal & External

In March, we once again had a presence at the 'Focus on Imaging' exhibition at the NEC when, as part of the RPS series of talks, in my role as DIG Chairman I gave, a short lecture.

'Portrait, Fashion and Nudes' - Workshops

We had two Digital Portrait, Fashion and Nudes Workshops at Cheltenham Film and Photographic Studios. Graham Whistler organised the event which he ran jointly with Simon Walden from the studio. Such was its popularity that another workshop is planned.

The Art of Photography from Plate Camera to Computer

In October, Jim Buckley curated this splendid exhibition of work at the River Barn Gallery which compared and contrasted earlier forms of photographic art with examples from today's exponents. Our grateful thanks go to Jim for his tenacity and hard work which ensured the success of this exhibition.

Think Photography 2010

In November, as part of the RPS 'Think Photography' exhibition at 'The Public', Sandwell, Birmingham, the DI Group had a major presence. Many thanks to everyone who manned our stand and helped during the two-day event. The exhibition resulted in several new members for the group. '.

Portfolio Two

The RPS 'Portfolio Two' book is splendid and the DI Group was pleased to be represented with a feature embracing both the Group and infrared imaging. I was very happy to be invited to contribute the text and to make suggestions for the inclusion of members' images.

IR 100 - Celebrating the Centenary of Infrared Photography

2010, marked the 100th anniversary of the first paper that was presented, complete with illustrations to RPS, on the subject of 'Photography by Invisible Rays' by Professor Wood in 1910. I liaised and cooperated with Andy Finney and the RPS, Fenton House to help with the staging of the IR 100 Exhibition. It celebrated the wide spectrum of imaging applications contributed by infrared photography, from thermal imaging to medical research, from astronomy to pictorial photography.

DI Group Projected Images Competition

The Group is grateful to the enthusiasm and hard work contributed by Maureen Albright and her DIG colleague, David Cooke which ensured that this first DPI competition was an outstanding success.

Support and Enthusiasm

All the above activities wouldn't be possible without the unstinting enthusiasm of the committee. I've mentioned some members already; however, our day-to-day activities are only made possible by key members. Bob Pearson as Group Secretary, deals with numerous queries and enquiries, liaises with the RPS HQ in Bath and manages the e-Newsletter mail-outs. Bob's methodical approach and attention to detail keeps us all on track.

Elizabeth Restall as Group Treasurer continues to keep our income and expenditure in good order: she is always vigilant and from time to time alerts us to any problems that arise or trends that look unfavourable.

Tony Healy, our committee representative in Australia, maintains regular contact by e-mail and 'Skype' and makes a valuable contribution to our discussions.

As Past President of the RPS and Previous Chairman of the DI Group, Barry Senior, retains a close interest in our activities. Barry's experience, ideas and insights are always valuable. Indeed, Barry was instrumental in overseeing the content of the DIG constitution in close liaison with RPS HQ.

One final item to bring to members' attention is the continuing attendance at RPS Advisory Board meetings of John Long and Maureen Albright. John is the DI Group Representative and Maureen Albright attends as one of the six Representatives elected by RPS members. We thank them for this duty, serving as it does to keep our groups in close contact with the heart of the RPS.

It was regrettable that during 2010 Maureen Albright found that she was unable to continue as a committee member. Maureen has contributed so very much to the well-being and success of the Group that it was a great pity that she was unable to continue as a most valued member of the committee. Thank you Maureen for your long service to the DI Group.

I'm retiring as Chairman this year. I've enjoyed my stint but it's time to pass the baton to my successor, to whom I wish every success. It's a great job with a great team and you'll enjoy it too.

Before I ask Elizabeth to bring us up to date with the financial situation of the Group, I wish to briefly look back over my tenure as Chairman these past five years.

Looking Back

2006 and shortly after I took over the role as Chairman, we lost two seminal and irreplaceable stalwarts of the DI Group and practitioners at the frontiers of photography, Barrie Thomas FRPS and Eddy Sethna FRPS died within a days of one another. In that year Glenys Taylor ARPS was our Secretary and Jim Buckley was Editor of 'DIGIT'. 2006 also saw the finalé of our large-scale events, 'D-Day', held in Rugby.

2007 marked another 'first' for the Group when we produced, with the skilful eye and hands of Graham Whistler FRPS and his colleague, Gordon Rushton, our Annual members' Print Exhibition on DVD, with a commentary by yours truly. This year also saw our fully-subscribed Portrait and Digital Workshop event at West Dean College in Hampshire with Graham Whistler and myself as co-tutors.

2008 One of the highlights of the year was 'Photoshop-4-Photographers' a 'road-show' featuring Photoshop guru, Terry Steely. This was a real sell-out event. Also that year, the Portrait Workshop was again organised at West Dean College.

2009 The Group promoted a visit to India with Graham Whistler FRPS as coordinator and facilitator for photographers. Members and guests enjoyed the 'Indian experience'. This year witnessed the first of our e-Newsletters to Group members and we thank Bob Pearson for establishing this. Later in 2009, we enjoyed the 'Reality and Illusion' lecture as part of the RPS Visual Literacy initiative.

Also that year, the Group began the migration of its website from the much-envied original web facilities originated by Bill Henley and designed by his talented son, Ian, to a centralised site under the auspices of the RPS in conjunction with web and Internet specialists, Omni.

2010 – Well I've already covered the highlights.

Now it's time to hand over to Elizabeth for the report on our finances.

Appendix 2

Treasurer's Report on the Income and Expenditure Account 2010

Elizabeth Restall LRPS

The Committee has approved the accounts before you for the year ending 31st December, 2010, and a copy has been sent to the RPS with supporting documentation. Today, I hope you will adopt them formally.

Some of the items listed need explanation, so I will start with Income. Life Membership subscriptions were not received until January so are not included, but they amounted to £824.97. Also, bank interest for the final quarter was not received until January, and that amounted to £50.59.

For the first Cheltenham Studio Workshop last April, deposits totalling £1,400 were collected in 2009, so the total income for the event came to £4,235.70. When the event was planned, early in 2009, the Committee was unaware that VAT had to be paid on ticket sales and consequently that was not budgeted for. In the event we made a net loss of £292.76.

The second Cheltenham Studio Workshop in October was administered in a different way. With the approval of the RPS, the Cheltenham Film Studios undertook all the administrative work and paid the DI Group a commission of £300. In addition, Graham Whistler took along a couple of boxes of his unwanted photographic books and auctioned them. We made £36 very quickly.

One hundred and eighteen people entered the Digitally Projected Images Competition which made a net profit of £277.04. The Committee has agreed that for this year's competition no entrance fee will be charged.

Turning to Expenditure, the invoice for the Autumn DIGIT production was not received until the beginning of this year, so does not appear in these accounts. That bill amounted to £2,241.92.

Think Photography was a weekend event organised by the RPS at a venue in West Bromwich and our expenditure here was on travelling and subsistence for sufficient members to man the DI Group's stand over the two days. We displayed a number of last year's exhibition prints and showed the competition images on a monitor as well as handing out copies of DIGIT. Encouragingly, the stand was kept very busy on both days and we recruited quite a number of new members.

You will see in the Balance Sheet that, compared with 2008, the balance at the end of last year was looking quite healthy and has put the Group back on to a firm footing again.

I have listed here for the first time the VAT to be claimed back and the amount to be paid on the ticket sales for the three events held in 2010. We shall make a small loss on that.

Finally, under Regional Centres, you will see that, sadly, the East Midlands Centre closed in June last year, and that nothing has been heard from the co-ordinator of the North West. Otherwise the other Centres are operating well in financial terms.

This concludes my report.

**Royal Photographic Society
Digital Imaging Group**
Income and Expenditure Account as at 31st December, 2010



1. Income and Expenditure

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions	£13,415.12	Committee Expenses:	
Life Membership 2010		Travelling/Subsistence	£1,728.63
VAT Refund 2009	£384.97	Postage/Stationery	£298.65
AGM 2010:		Cartridges	£69.47
Fees	£545.00	AGM 2010:	
AGM Lunches	£133.00	Beverages	£25.00
AGM Return Postage	£121.76	Room Hire	£75.00
Permajet Advert	£200.00	Lunches	£154.00
		Lecturer & Judges Expenses	£186.00
		Medal and Ribbons	£16.00
Bank Interest	£86.15	DVD Production	£837.80
		Cheltenham Workshop 1	£4,255.91
Cheltenham Workshop 1	£2,835.70	DPIs Competition	£240.03
DPIs Competition	£505.00	Winter 2009 DIGIT	£2,069.72
Cheltenham Workshop 2	£300.00	Spring 2010 DIGIT	£2,158.48
Sale of Donated Books	£36.00	Address Carrier Sheets	£195.34
		Summer 2010 DIGIT	£2,191.12
		Autumn 2010 DIGIT	
		Think Photography	£515.95
TOTAL	£18,562.70		£15,017.10

2. Balance Sheet

	2008	2009	2010
Brought forward previous year	£3,421.67	£3,768.67	£10,028.44
Income	£11,553.80	£17,794.91	£18,562.70
Total	£14,975.47	£21,563.58	£28,591.14
Expenditure	£11,206.80	£11,535.14	£15,017.10
Balance	£3,768.67	£10,028.44	£13,574.68
Balance comprises:			
RPS Account	£5,481.43	£10,083.04	£13,776.72
Unpresented cheques	-£1,712.76	-£54.60	-£202.68
Total	£3,768.67	£10,028.44	£13,574.68
VAT to be claimed for 2010	£816.57	VAT to be paid on £545	£111.17
		VAT to be paid on £4,235.70	£630.85
		VAT to be paid on £590.39	£87.93
	£816.57		£829.95

3. Regional Centres - Account Activity

Region	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/fwd	Comments
Wessex	1,059.41	£460.80	£598.61	
Yorkshire	£613.73	£550.32	£326.25	
Western	£340.37	£248.02	£277.35	
Thames Valley	£2,159.71	£1,371.48	£2,366.83	
Midlands	£2,918.00	£1,969.00	£2,615.52	
Southern	£97.50	£90.00	£238.46	
East Midlands	£105.76	£105.00		£0.76 Centre dissolved 19/06/2010
North West				£743.78 As at 31/12/2009

Elizabeth Restal Treasurer, RPS Digital Imaging Group