



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is on Sunday October 16th, 4pm, at Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH. All regional members are entitled to attend.

[This newsletter is published on paper after the event, but on-line in advance.]

Agenda:

1. Receive the Minutes of the previous AGM held in January 2011 (as postponed from October 2010),
2. Receive the report of the Regional Organiser (printed in this newsletter),
3. Receive the report of the Regional Representative to the Advisory Board (printed in this newsletter),
4. Receive the report of the Treasurer (provided at the meeting),
5. Elect the Regional Organiser, the Regional Treasurer, and the Committee.

[The Regional Representative to the Advisory Board for the period October 2011 to September 2013 was elected in January 2011. The next election to this post is expected to be in October 2013.]

7. Any Other Business

REGIONAL ORGANISER'S REPORT

This report is a review of regional activities for the period since the last such report of October 2010.

A separate statistical return is made to the Society for each year ending December, for inclusion in the Trustees' Report presented at the Society's Annual General Meeting. For calendar year 2010, the statistical return showed event attendance by 207 people, and 570 hours worked by our volunteers.

The Regional Organiser is now elected annually, or in practice at each AGM. Although the last election was in January 2011, the post along with that of the Regional Treasurer and the Committee are all to be elected at the meeting on October 16th.

The role of Regional Representative to the Advisory Board is distinct from that of the Regional Organiser. In particular, the Regional Representative is elected only every two years, to synchronise with Council and Advisory Board elections, and there is a limit of four two-year terms. We last elected our representative in January 2011 to hold office for the period ending September 2013.

The Committee had been meeting at the end of each event, but this has been revised to a major planning meeting in February, with updates at the event in July and by e-mail. The Committee reviews progress, is informed of discussions held at the Advisory Board, and plans events. Discussions continue outside the meetings, and the Committee has run the main events either as a whole or on a representative basis.

The Committee is grateful to Erica Einon, and Elizabeth Fletcher for their assistance on various occasions.

20 people attended for distinctions advice at Amersham in January 2011, where the advisors were Chris Palmer ARPS, Vanessa Slawson FRPS and Steve Smith FRPS, assisted by Nick Scott FRPS. There were a further 26 observers.

20 people attended for distinctions advice at Lacey Green in July 2011, where the advisors were Monica Weller ARPS, Trevor Gellard FRPS and Paul Foley FRPS. The meeting was attended by the President Mrs Rosemary Wilman HonFRPS. There were a further 19 observers. Car park limitations at Lacey

Green mean that we will not allow quite so many observers for future events at this site.

Requests for distinctions advice continue with advice spaces booked up months in advance. Capacity is up to 21 people for advice per event, but cancellations are received.

Committee member Max Pickering led for the Society at the Bucks County Show on 1st September 2011. This involved sharing a display stand, and assisting with the photographic competitions as part of the show's craft displays.

11 people attended for Fellowship advice at Lacey Green in September 2011, where the advisors were Roger Reynolds HonFRPS, Nick Scott FRPS, assisted by Vanessa Slawson FRPS. Jill Pakenham FRPS showed her recently successful FRPS panel in Nature. There are no observers at Fellowship advisory days.

The Committee has agreed, and the Society has accepted, that the region will run a Fellowship advisory day annually, and this will move from September to March. The next day is at Lacey Green on Sunday March 25th 2012.

The annual print exhibition is due at Amersham on 16th October 2011. The event is fully booked. The Committee reviewed the format following the need to cancel the 2010 event. The afternoon has been changed to presentations by a Special Interest Group, which in 2011 is from Imaging Science. The Committee will be negotiating with a separate Group each year so that the joint meeting format is maintained.

A list of local events was published on the web site to encourage informal outings. Committee member Carole Niven also published availability of tutorials and walks.

The Region has actively maintained its pages on the Society website, including advertising of upcoming events, reporting on completed events, publishing current and past newsletters, and other administrative information. Those with web site accounts can access the member's area of the web site, and can post a portfolio of work. Personal account holders have mostly been assigned to their region and groups, so that portfolios appear in the relevant places on the site.

Further work is in hand to improve the indexing of portfolios for rapid display.

The Society reviewed the style and use of mentors within regions, and decided to terminate all such schemes, after determining that the take up was minimal. The Society offers advice to help applicants succeed at distinctions, but does not now offer a mentoring service for general photographic development. Those who had previously offered to be mentors within our region have been thanked for their services over past years.

The Society has developed a standard presentation which can be given to camera clubs or colleges, and this has recently been refreshed. The main part deals with the distinctions process and is illustrated with numerous examples of successful work. The second part deals with the Society's organisation. This presentation has been given twice during this report period, and further bookings are invited. The Region's funds are used to pay all the expenses, so that the presentation is offered free.

The Region has just over 1000 members, and is one of the large Regions in the Society. There is about a 10% turnover per year, with members joining, leaving, or moving between regions. The Regional Organiser receives updated membership information on a monthly basis. Welcome letters have been sent to new members.

Newsletters were published in Nov-10, Apr-11, and Jul-11. These months are a regular cycle, fitting with our main events. Printing and circulation were managed via EC1 Publications and the RPS Journal. Newsletters will appear on-line as soon as they are sent to the printer, which is typically at the start of the month before paper publication ie, October, March and June.

An e-mail broadcast list has been maintained for camera clubs and colleges within the region. Approximately half of clubs are members of the list. Events have been advertised several times during the year.

Mark Buckley-Sharp

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Since October 2010, the Advisory Board has met on two occasions, in March and September.

Liaison with government has increased, with discussions on copyright and on terrorism stop & search powers.

Both the News and Members areas of the web site were improved in early 2011. A recent change is a search for events by postcode. These changes are funded by web advertising, which limits the rate of change. Improvement to the display of members' portfolios should follow.

A web-based exhibition facility has been designed with the help of a legacy, and will be used as part of the Cultural Olympics 2012.

Work has continued on evolving the distinctions processes, and many of these changes have been reported in the Journal. A major change has been the completed review of 'Multimedia & Narrative', with the principles published in the Journal, and the detailed criteria published on the web site ready for the new arrangements to start next April.

Distinctions applications have increased significantly, and more resources have been put into servicing the demand.

There will a Portfolio Three book, and planning work has started.

The Photographic Marketing Association is running a National Photographic Month in Jun 2012 on the themes of both shooting and retaining images.

The new President, Council and Advisory Board took office in September, as did the Society's new Director General, Michael Pritchard FRPS.

Otherwise, the Board spends some time in discussion sessions on various strategic topics.

Mark Buckley-Sharp

REGIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The report covers the period ending September 2011, and will be provided in full at the regional AGM. The main feature of the report is that the balance of available resources is approximately £7700.

Mary O'Connor

ANNUAL PLAN

The Committee has decided that our normal annual programme will be:

January: Distinction Advisory Day at Amersham.

March: Fellowship Advisory Day at Lacey Green

July: Distinctions Advisory Day at Lacey Green.

August: Supporting a stand at the Bucks County Show.

October: Regional Members Exhibition and Joint Meeting with a Group and AGM.

The advisory day schedule is agreed with the Distinctions Department and supports the increased requirement for advice.

It will be appreciated that this level of activity requires input in both administration, and in the time of Committee members to run the events.

MISCELLANEOUS

If you are holding a personal exhibition, or you know of other relevant photographic events, then send details to the Regional Organiser for publication on the web site.

As always, we need to continue recruiting to the Regional Committee. If you are interested to know what is involved, please contact the Regional Organiser. The duties are not too onerous, and there are some benefits.

EVENTS BOOKING

All events require prior booking. The current availability of places is always shown on the web site.

Please make booking requests by e-mail, and places will be confirmed by reply. Payment is always made on arrival.

If e-mail is not possible, then please supply the required information and your telephone number by post, and places will be confirmed by telephone.

Contact details:

Mark Buckley-Sharp, 9 Wellacre Road,
Harrow, HA3 0BN
020 8907 5874
mark.buckley-sharp@tiscali.co.uk

EVENTS PRICING

Permission has been given for events to have a price differential for members versus non-members.

Where this applies to Thames Valley events, which are all paid for on arrival, a discounted members' rate will apply **ONLY** on production of a current membership card.

DISTINCTIONS ADVISORY DAY Sunday 22nd January 2012

at

Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre,
Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH
9.30am for 10am start. Until approx 4pm.

Advisors: Colin Harrison FRPS, Vanessa Slawson FRPS, Ray Spence FRPS.

Full for advice. Places available for observers.

When booking for LRPS advice, state the medium (prints or projected digital). When booking for ARPS advice, also state the panel (eg, Visual Art, etc).

The price for advice is £20 (discount to £15 with a current membership card). The price for observing is £10. Observers must not bring any work or seek informal advice at the event.

Refreshments provided. Bring packed lunch.

FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY DAY Sunday 25th March 2012

at

Millennium Hall, Main Road, Lacey Green,
HP27 0QN

9.30am for 10am start. Until approx 4pm

Advisors: Roger Reynolds HonFRPS, Nick Scott FRPS, with Vanessa Slawson FRPS.

(At 5th October), Places available for advice. No observers.

Only those holding ARPS are eligible to attend.

The price for advice is £30. Refreshments and lunch are included.

DISTINCTIONS ADVISORY DAY Sunday 8th July 2012

at

Millennium Hall, Main Road, Lacey Green,
HP27 0QN

9.30am for 10am start. Until approx 4pm

Advisors: tba

Places available for advice. Places available for observers.

Pricing and refreshments arrangements as for January.

LIAISON BETWEEN RPS & PAGB

It is the policy of both the Society and the Photographic Alliance that there should be active cooperation between Regions of the Society and Federations of the Alliance.

Thames Valley is most closely associated with the Chilterns Association, but also takes in parts of the East Anglain Federation and the Surrey Photographic Association. Where any of these organisations is running a special event, then they should make contact to allow for wider publicity.