

## **Bristol Photographic Society**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday July 24th, 2024, at the Clubrooms, Unit 13 Montpelier Central, Station Road, Bristol BS6 5EE and by Zoom, commencing at 7.30pm.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

The following members gave their apologies for being unable to attend the AGM: Ashwin Chauhan, Joe Jancar, Anita Fullerton and Janet Oxenham.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM of 2022/3**

These had been circulated to members. Jeff Hargreaves proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the AGM for 2022/3. The motion was seconded by Steve Field and accepted by the meeting.

### **3. To receive the annual report and accounts for 2023/4.**

The Society's annual report and accounts for 2023/4 had been circulated to all members prior to the AGM in accordance with the Society's Articles of Association.

Members were invited to ask any questions about the annual report and accounts. A member, John Chamberlin, asked why the actual deficit in the annual accounts was much lower than the £12,500 figure given to the members at the EGM on April 24<sup>th</sup> this year. The Society's Treasurer, Graham Pears told the meeting that the figure given to members at the EGM was a projected deficit, based on information available at that time. Provision had been made for a large water bill, the possible consequences of a water leak. However, the Water Company had in fact given the Society credit. Provision had also been made for repairs to the building and income from the Society's investments was also higher than originally envisaged. The meeting was advised that, due to the reduced financial deficit in the last financial year, 2023/4, an envisaged reduction in the cost of running the Bristol Salon and a new income stream from the Great Western Photography Exhibition, it might not be necessary to increase the membership fees again in 2024/5. However, the target was that the Society should still aim to financially break even, within the four years, as members had been advised at the EGM.

Another member, David Grierson, asked why the fees for the Society's photography course had been raised. He was informed that a study had been undertaken of the fees for similar courses. As a result of the findings of this study it had been decided to increase the course fee to bring it in line with other courses.

Ralph Snook told the meeting 2023/4 that, as outlined in the annual report, the Society's membership was about 150. The Wednesday programme during 2023/4 had been excellent, with a wide range of speakers and topics. Jay Holbrook was thanked for organising the programme. There had been a number of trips by the Beyond the Wall group and these were well attended. Mike Hall was thanked for organising these. The Digital group meetings had also been well attended. Participants were now meeting at the Clubrooms, although members could still attend via Zoom. In September Ashwin Chauhan was to hand over the organising role to Rachal Domleo, although he would still be helping out. Members were informed that it was Ashwin who had started the Digital Group twenty-seven years ago. The meeting thanked Ashwin for all his work as the Digital Group organiser and as a member of the Society's Council. Ken Clarke was also thanked for his contribution to the work of the Council and for his hard work as PDI Competition Secretary. Ken had performed this role for nine years.

The meeting was advised that entries to the Bristol Salon had increased by 17% in 2023/4. The number of Print entries had increased by 73%. The cost of sending the Salon catalogue to overseas entrants was now exorbitant. A questionnaire had been sent out to those who had entered from overseas. The vast majority of respondents had said they would, in future, be happy to receive the catalogue in a PDF format. This would substantially reduce the future costs of the Salon. The new Great Western Photography Exhibition, organised by Steve Field, was now open for entries.

The meeting was advised that the number of members of the Society who had obtained photographic distinctions was increasing. This success reflects well on the benefit of the Society's programme and the support offered by members of the Society.

Pete Howell proposed the motion that the annual report and accounts for 2023/4 be approved. This motion was seconded by Mike Martin. The motion was then agreed by all members present at the Clubrooms and on Zoom.

#### **4. Election of the members of the Society's Council for 2023/4.**

In accordance with the Society's Articles of Association the members of the Society's Council for the year 2023/4 resigned at the AGM. They were:

David Alderson, Ashwin Chauhan, Ken Clarke, Matt de-Beger, Steve Field, Mike Hall, Jay Hallsworth, Jeff Hargreaves, Vicky Harrison, Derek Hickey, Jay Holbrook, Pete Howell (President), Richard Kay (Company Secretary), Mike Martin, Pete McCloskey, Nigel Owen, Graham Pears, Ralph Snook (Chair), Carol Sykes (Membership Secretary).

The meeting was advised that all members of the Council for 2023/4, except for Ashwin Chauhan and Ken Clarke had agreed to stand for re-election for the Council for the year 2023/4.

Ralph Snook told the meeting that the Council had decided that in future that if a person wanted to take on a particular Club role there was no obligation also to become a member of the Council. The meeting was informed that Rob Stephenson would take over the role of PDI Competition Secretary from Ken Clarke in September, at the start of the new competition season. Rob Stephenson had also been nominated to be elected as a member of the Council at this AGM. He had agreed to be nominated.

The members attending the Annual General Meeting at the Clubrooms and on Zoom then agreed that:

David Alderson, Matt de-Beger, Steve Field, Mike Hall, Jay Hallsworth, Jeff Hargreaves, Jay Hallsworth, Vicky Harrison, Derek Hickey, Pete Howell, Richard Kay, Mike Martin, Pete McCloskey, Nigel Owen, Graham Pears, Ralph Snook, Rob Stephenson, Carol Sykes, be elected as members of the Society's Council for the year 2024/5.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

There being no other business the Annual General Meeting of the Society closed at 7.50pm