



Chair's Report - 1 October 2022 - Edgar Gibbs FRPS

I have been a member of the RPS AV Group Committee for more years than I care to remember. I was elected as Chair in October 2019, and prior to that I was Vice Chair for five years. Some of you will know that this has been my last year of being Chair of the Group. I am proud to have been your Chair and during my period of office I have had excellent support from the Committee.

As well as reporting on those things that have happened in the last twelve months, I have also included elements of the period when I was Chair over the last three years. When I stood for Chair and you voted me in, I had a few things in mind that I wanted to achieve and I am pleased that I have been able to do them, again with the help and support of an excellent Committee.

I was very keen on making our Group look professional, and I have been very grateful to Andrew Gagg FRPS, for using his skills to introduce some great graphic design. We now have letter heads, email header designs for the Group, graphics for the National Audio Visual Championship (NAVC), graphics for the International Audio Visual Festival (IAVF), a background for Zoom events, and our environmental contribution within the RPS, so thank you Andrew. The graphics are shown at Appendix 1.

Another element that I wanted to introduce was an electronic newsletter, which would be available free of charge to anyone who wished to receive it. All that is required is for anyone interested is that they ask in writing to be included on the mailing list to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements of the RPS. Andrew not only designed the header but also suggested the title of AV News e-xtra, which my spell checker always questions! When the Committee approved the publication of an electronic newsletter, Martin Addison FRPS volunteered and took charge of AV News e-xtra and whenever we needed to send one out, Martin put it together as Editor. He has made a great job of this, and to date has produced twelve editions, including a Christmas Special, and a Distinctions Special. It keeps readers aware of what is going on locally and worldwide, contains time sensitive information such as results, but not the in depth articles contained in AV News, so thank you Martin. Examples of AV News e-xtra publications are shown at Appendix 2.

Sheila Haycox ARPS has been brilliant with both the website and the "broadcasts", which is the method that the RPS uses to send out information by email, including AV News e-xtra, liaising with Alan Hitch, RPS Data Manager. There are lists for RPS AV Group Members, AV News Subscribers, IAVF interested parties, and more. Sheila has taken on board another of my ideas, which is to have a website that has archive material. You only have to visit the website www.rps.org/av to see how much information is on the AV Group page. Thank you, Sheila, for all your help and enthusiasm.

When Covid and lockdown arrived in 2020, skills in using Zoom were needed by everyone. As well as taking on the role of Vice Chair, Ian Bateman FRPS has authored articles about optimising AVs for Zoom, the best settings for mp4s and the VLC media player, plus definitive information about copyright. These items of information benefit everyone in the AV Community and can be found on the AV Group page of the RPS website. Thank you, Ian, for your important input to the success of showing AVs over Zoom and your support as Vice Chair.

As Chair of the Group, I have attended the RPS Members Committee (MemCom), formerly the Advisory Board, keeping the profile of the AV Group to the forefront. Latterly, these meetings have been attended by Alastair Taylor ARPS, whose understanding of the workings of the RPS has been enhanced by being a member of the RPS Nominations Committee (NomCom). His contribution to the RPS has been acknowledged by the RPS President, Simon Hill Hon FRPS. Alastair was Chair of the NAVC organising committee, held in September 2022 and it was great that Simon was able to attend the final session, when he addressed the audience and presented the awards.

During my period as Chair, I have seen the AV News, under Alastair's editorship and Andrew's watchful graphical eye, go from strength to strength. I particularly like the "AV Lives" articles that Alastair has introduced, and the overall design is top class. Prior to it being printed, Alastair sends me the draft copy to read. However, I do get frustrated by wanting to talk to people about the contents but cannot, until it is published, as I have only seen the draft. At this point I would like to thank Linda Gibbs, Bev Tyrer, Malcolm Imhoff FRPS, Jenny Gee LRPS and Malcolm Gee ARPS, who have volunteered to take it in turns to proof-read it, plus of course Alastair for editing it and to those who have contributed to making it the successful publication we look forward to reading.

Some years ago Martin Fry FRPS organised an AV Advisory Day in Gloucester, which was well attended and very successful. The Committee, buoyed by Judith Kimber FRPS being awarded her Fellowship in Film in 2021, decided to put on an Advisory Day for AV productions only. We chose the Tony Troman Theatre in RPS House to hold a hybrid event (Zoom and in person). Ian Bateman FRPS was the Panel member who gave official advice, but Richard Brown FRPS, Howard Bagshaw ARPS and myself were called on to provide additional comments. Ian and Sheila got to grips with the technology, Martin Addison FRPS acted as master of ceremonies and the day went very smoothly. So thank you to all those involved, for making it a successful day, plus the authors who submitted their productions for advice.

The role of Treasurer has been carried out very capably by Alastair Taylor ARPS, who has also been part of the revisions being progressed by staff at RPS House within the finance area. Alastair's input has been well appreciated and I would like to thank him for his contribution in this respect.

So far, I have not mentioned Keith Watson LRPS, who has done a sterling job as Secretary and has kept us on the straight and narrow. Firstly, thank you Keith and secondly my apologies for needing to be chased up too many times for my reports and approvals. Keith also spread his wings in being a valued member of the NAVC Team along with Malcolm Imhoff FRPS and Peter Warner ARPS, with Alastair as Chair. Everyone enjoyed the very successful in person event particularly seeing AVs on the big screen, hearing the big sound and meeting up with AV friends, some for the first time in three years.

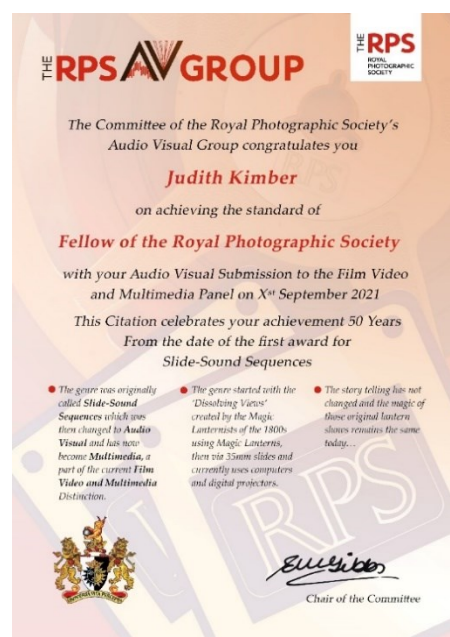
The next thing I wanted to implement was to create an archive on the AV Group page of the RPS website, starting with all the results for the NAVC. This expanded to the programmes which has been very well received. Encouraged by this success, the next thing to tackle was archiving the IAVF programmes and results. This has been invaluable in being able to look back at the entries for these events. Members of the AV Community can now look at these and reflect and review the many AVs that we may or may not have seen over the years.

Some years ago, we were walking around Hay on Wye, the place famous for the numerous bookshops, and probably much to Linda's dismay, I bought some old copies of AV News. In fact, when stood on a bookshelf they measure about eighteen inches in length! Since then, I have inherited a number of AV News magazines from Sir George Pollock Hon FRPS, Joan & Peter Deacon and Richard Tucker FRPS. It is my intention to prepare a list of duplicates so that anyone who would like one of the spare copies can let me know.

One day I decided to go through each of the AV News I had in my possession in order to draw up a list of all the people who had held positions on the Committee since the formation of the RPS AV Group. With additional help from Richard "I was there" Brown FRPS, we now have a good archive on the AV Group page of the RPS website. Another AV Group Archive I have set up is a Drop Box of AVs from those who have passed away, as sadly I have written too many obituaries in the past few years, but want to preserve the AVs produced by these authors, which will be accessible. Work continues on this initiative.

On the theme of information, Peter and Sheila took on quite a task in trying to get a map of the UK populated with both AV Speakers and AV Judges. It was an excellent idea and disappointingly, Peter did not receive as much support as he needed from the various clubs and organisations. As previously mentioned, Peter was also a member of the new team that organised the NAVC this year. He took on the role of front man or master of ceremonies and did an excellent job, keeping us all informed and on time, in a friendly "head teacherly" manner. Peter has indicated that he will be stepping down from the Committee at this AGM and I would like to thank him for his help and support.

The next item that I have been pursuing for at least five years, if not longer is trying to reinstate an RPS Audio Visual Distinction, as opposed to a distinction under the umbrella of the multimedia element of Film Video and Multimedia. I have tried and tried and tried, but I have not met with as much success as I was hoping, particularly as 2021 marked 50 years since the first award for Slide-Sound Sequences. It was also a special year as Judith Kimber FRPS was awarded a Fellowship in Film. The Group presented her with a specially designed certificate, designed by Andrew. Unfortunately, there were no other successful applications at any level as they would have received a 50 year certificate as well. Not wishing to give up, I hoped to make some progress when the RPS President, Simon Hill Hon FRPS, attended the 2022 NAVC. Over lunch I sat with Robert Albright FRPS and the President, and set out my case for a reinstatement of the RPS AV Distinction. Simon was very receptive to the idea of an AV Distinction and recalled the time when he and his Dad were making some AVs in the days of Kodak Carousels. Importantly, Simon understood the differences between Film and Audio Visual. As requested, I have sent him a draft proposal and I think it is probably the best chance we have had in the last five years of achieving this objective. So yes, there is a potential chink of light at the end of the tunnel, and I look forward to hearing the outcome when the President puts forward the proposal at the RPS Board meeting on 17 October 2022.



On reflection I have very much enjoyed my time as Chair. As well as the activities I have already highlighted, I have also been the Festival Director of two in person IAVF events, held in Cheltenham, continuing the changes I introduced as Chair of the 2015 NAVC organising committee, when the organisers' involvement with accommodation was removed. I also changed the IAVF awards to give the Jury more flexibility, which was well received and reintroduced FIAP Patronage. Latterly, with the Committee's approval, the IAVF Grand Prix Winner's board has been corrected and refurbished. Thank you to Richard Brown FRPS, Andrew Gagg FRPS, Keith Leedham FRPS, and Marc Jennings, of www.theundercard.co.uk for their input in getting the board updated. Incidentally, the RPS President is very keen to get both the Grand Prix Winner's board and the George and Doreen Pollock Trophy displayed in RPS House.

In 2020 I directed "An International Audio Visual Retrospective", with my selection of digital classic AVs, IAVF Grand Prix winners, and other medal and IAVF award winners from the years 2002 to 2018. There were 64 AVs shown from thirteen countries and I would like to thank those authors who responded so positively to my invite to have their AVs shown. Due to the pandemic, the weekend event was shown over Zoom, but it was very well attended, and I received great feedback.

Last year, I directed the 2021 IAVF, which was held via Zoom. It went really well and my thanks to the Jury, Howard Bagshaw ARPS, Musse Anger and the sadly missed Graham Sergeant FRPS. They did a sterling job, having to discuss the entries and deciding the results over Zoom, prior to the Festival weekend. I would also like to thank Andrew Gagg FRPS, Keith Leedham FRPS, Jill Bunting and John Smith for all their work on the Festivals and Retrospective, as well as Linda Gibbs for her substantial contribution to these events. I would also like to thank Alastair for dealing with the finances and who, together with Sheila looked after the bookings and managed the Zoom "waiting room".

Last but not least I could not have carried out the role of Chair, without the support of my wife Linda, and would like to record my thanks to her for her unwavering support and patience.

Edgar Gibbs FRPS
Chair of the RPS AV Group
October 2019 to October 2022

RPS AV Group Graphics

DESCRIPTION

GRAPHIC

The RPS AV Group
General Header



AV News e-xtra
Header



The RPS International AV Festival
General Letterhead



The RPS International AV Festival
Festival News Letterhead



The RPS National AV Championship
General Header



The RPS National AV Championship
News Header



Environmental Group
Header



DESCRIPTION

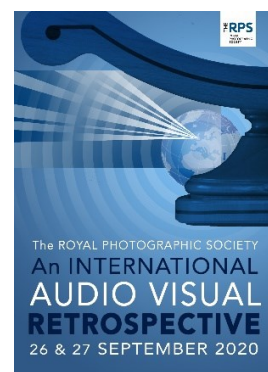
The RPS AV Group
Zoom Background

An International AV Retrospective
Zoom Background

An International AV Retrospective
Letterhead

The RPS International AV Festival &
An International AV Retrospective
Programme & Catalogue Covers

GRAPHIC



Examples of AV News e-xtra Publications



PDF Documents

Please click on the issue you wish to view

- Issue 12 - AV News e-xtra - July 2022
- Issue 11 - AV News e-xtra - April 2022
- Issue 10 - AV News e-xtra - March 2022
- Issue 9 - AV News e-xtra Xmas Special December 2021
- Issue 8 - AV News e-xtra October 2021
- Issue 7 - AV News e-xtra June 2021
- Special Edition - AV News e-xtra Issue 6
- Issue 5 - AV News e-xtra
- Issue 4 - AV News e-xtra Xmas Special
- Issue 3 - AV News e-xtra
- Issue 2 - AV News e-xtra
- Issue 1 - AV News e-xtra



AV News e-xtra Issue 12 July 2022



AV News e-xtra Issue 11 - April 2022



AV News e-xtra Issue 10 - March 2022



AV News e-xtra Issue 9 Xmas Special December 2021



AV News e-xtra Special Edition Issue 6 - March 2021