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# Border Post

Journal of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

**With the advent of our AGM only just around the corner your committee has been busy deliberating on the state of the club's finances, which do not, incidentally, directly fall under the remit of that other Gordon with similar things on his mind!**

On the face of it our club's funds are in good shape but when looking back over the last few years, the trend is such that our reserves are dwindling at the average rate of £950 per year. It may be argued that the club is therefore supporting its membership; surely it should be the other way round? Of late, we have come to enjoy excellent new premises and a glossy and colourful Border Post which both combine to enhance the club's image. These improvements are very much appreciated by all concerned but come at a cost and do not help the current situation, with hall fees now being doubled and Border Post quadrupled. Our projections for 2009, if we do nothing, point to a deficit of £830.

The last time club subscriptions were increased was 8 years ago when the single member's fee was increased by £3 to its current rate of £24. A review was undertaken in 2005 but at that time

donations to club funds from 3rd party filmmaking were particularly good.

Within committee it has been suggested that a club film about Farnham is well overdue and once completed could form the basis of a public show with beneficial spin offs in a number of ways. Your thoughts on this would be most welcome. Mindful also of the current recession it is proposed to limit a subs increase for full members to £1 at the present time. Cheaper options for Border Post have been seriously considered, but little benefit evident so its present form continues to be strongly favoured. The option of supplying some members with a pdf copy by email as an alternative to receiving a hard copy is to be explored and would help considerably with both printing and postage costs. The cost of insuring our equipment for theft and accidental damage is considerable and grossly out of proportion with the present book value, so policy renewal is not being recommended.

In the event that the worst should happen with respect to loss or damage please be assured that the club will undertake to meet the costs. Other economies considered by the committee concerned

catering and in this context it was decided that the annual summer social should be self-financing. On the income side we would hope to gain more from donations arising from the numerous film shows given during the year and to institute a monthly club raffle.

If the preceding suggestions are acceptable, and prove to be fruitful, then the predicted deficit for 2009 could possibly be reduced to a much more acceptable level of £100. Details of the projected club finances can be found on the club notice board. And that ends MY budget statement.

Once again I must draw your attention to some forthcoming committee vacancies. We currently need volunteers and formal proposals for the positions of Social Events Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Vice Chairman. I should perhaps point out that being V-C does not necessarily mean you become Chairman but if so, it's an annual re-election with a limit of 3 years. Please think hard about offering your services as **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU**.

Finally, a Happy Christmas to You All.

**Gordon Sutton**

## ALBANY COMPETITION

John Widdecombe, Gordon Sutton, Sir Paul Holden, Dick Hibberd, Neil Cryer and Rita Wheeler were the six members who took part in a Brain Storming session for the Albany Competition, which Sir Paul organised. New member Don Bray was due to come but sent his apologies.

The theme for 2009 is "The Clock Is Ticking". There followed a lively discussion in which we had time bombs, clocks, calendars, only

a few months to live ..... the ideas kept coming.

After lengthy debate two of the ideas worked and have been developed into scripts. The Albany Competition is due to take place on Sunday 19th April in Chichester. The competition film has to be submitted by March.

Anyone interested in getting involved please speak to Dick Hibberd or Sir Paul Holden.

**Rita Wheeler**

## NEW HOME WANTED

Hi all, I'm an ex-member (and past chairman) of SBFVM and David Jackson has suggested I use Border Post to find someone who may still use Hi-8 equipment. I have a couple of dozen Hi-8 camera tapes which anyone is welcome to if they think they can be of any use.

All have been used just once. As I have given up fillm making, they are of no use to me and will just be dumped if no one wants them.

If somebody is interested, then I can probably rake out other hi-8 bits and pieces rather than throw them away.

**Ron Clements** ([barbron@tiscall.co.uk](mailto:barbron@tiscall.co.uk))

# CLUB MEETING

For the November meeting of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers, Gordon Sutton was the presenter in his capacity of outgoing chairman. His theme was archival reminiscences. All the films were relatively early and had been shot on film, although for the purposes of the projection, they had been transferred to electronic format. Such a transfer process is always tricky but Gordon explained his method, and the results were certainly impressive.

Members first heard how, as a schoolboy, Gordon was introduced to film-making by his father with a film of a train journey from Bournemouth to Southampton, shot from the train driver's perspective and completing the journey in a couple of minutes! The Secret? Well his father worked on the railway as well as being a key member of



a local film-making club and from a family not unused to the entertainment business!

The second film had particularly superb commentary by Gordon's uncle, Douglas Horner, the voice behind the 1950's Larry the Lamb children's radio character. The film showed scenes from a traditional country market in the 1950s, with a town full of cows, calves, sheep, and pigs, and more. Many shots were close up and in sympathy with the cattle, so viewers could almost feel and smell the cattle as they were jostled about to come under the auctioneer's hammer.

Gordon's next film was of water skiing,

followed by a flying saucer spectacular in which the saucer landed in Bagshot! Members then saw the saucer being given a police escort to arrive at a carnival where it raised money for a local charity – a nice interweaving of science fiction and fun for the local children.

To conclude his archival reminiscences Gordon showed another spoof with local hero 'Sir Barnes Wallicus' designing a chariot for what turned out to be a local pedal power race between home-made, human-powered contraptions of all shapes and sizes. The build-up to the finale was gripping, with pit stops and last minute frantic repairs to keep the contraptions in the race.

After the refreshment break, for which Gordon and his wife Pam provided a delicious spread of refreshments, Gordon showed a short version of the film of his daughter's wedding for which various club members had helped with the shooting.

**Neil Cryer/Pennyj**

## CLUB FILMS SHOWN AROUND AND ABOUT

Once again, our now regular film shows have been well received by the Good Companions in Rowledge (annually, with the help of Paddy Haines), and by Clare Park residents, (quarterly, with the help of John Widdecombe).

The programme for the Good Companions on November 4th contained The Enchanted Garden, The Last Hunt, Gannett Beach Adventure, Vera's Second Wake, Panburi Rain, Bird Watching, and A Short History Lesson.

A letter of thanks from the Secretary included: "As usual, we were all full of admiration for the makers of all the films. The one about Rain was a cause of great comment and discussion in the kitchen afterwards!" A similarly effusive letter from the Chairman said: "We really do look forward to your visits – you always produce such an interesting programme. I hardly dare ask, but ask I shall, if you would be willing to come again next year?" (Actually, this is now already booked for 3rd November 2009 in our two diaries, and in the SBFVM Equipment booking list maintained by David and Pauline Tate!)

The programme for Clare Park Residents (and some visitors, including Mary Dove) on November 13th comprised three 2008 Films-in-an-Evening to the theme of "Be Prepared": Old Habits Die Hard, Blond Fancy, and Just in Case; Eddie Trussler's nostalgic film about Odiham Church Michael Winds the Clock; two of Alex Dove's films

borrowed from Mary's archive collection Above the Clouds and Kaleidoscope; an earlier F-in-E Little and Large; the wonderful Weald and Downland Museum Club Day Out film, by Ron Clements and David Longley, Patterns and Textures; a World Premiere showing of my 2008 Club Competition entry Grain Processing

completed the previous Friday; and my latest Clare Park Newsreel Autumn 2008 which finished editing on the preceding afternoon!

Both shows are very popular with their audiences; and they both received full house attendances, which are a great tribute to our Club filmmakers, whose efforts I take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging, with my best thanks.

**Paul Holden**

### LOOKING FOR ACTORS?

We have contacts with an organisation which puts actors in touch with filming projects. They are quite happy with situations where no payments are made but in that case the actors will be wishing to add to their show reel that they use to promote themselves.

### WHO AM I TO JUDGE!

After attending 3 judging training sessions organised by Penny I felt a little more prepared to assist Mike Sanders and Dick Hibberd in judging the recent Portsdown and Chichester inter-club competition. Thank you Penny, the training sessions were a great help for me, and I'm sure for everyone who attended them.

So, on 12 November Mike, Dick and myself arrived at the Chichester club room on a bitterly cold night where the chairman soon made us most welcome.

Each club had three films to be viewed. First up was 'Getting On Track' about building a model railway in the garden; second was 'Reed It Rite' the art of thatching a roof; third 'The Prologue' based on the Tour-De-France cycle race; fourth 'For King & Country' the interrogation of a British POW; fifth 'The Canal' life in and along a canal; and sixth 'The Dinner Party' an Albany winner last year.

1st was 'Getting On Track', 2nd was 'For King & Country', and 3rd was 'The Canal'. Portsdown were the well deserved winners beating Chichester by just one point, 11 points to 10.

The three wise men were presented with a bottle of wine for their services, and were encouraged throughout by Penny and Jean, for which we were grateful. Thanks also to Mike for driving us all to Chichester.

**John Widdecombe**

# NORTH v SOUTH SOUTHERN HEAT

On Sunday 23 November Ian and I travelled over to Farnborough, Kent to meet Gordon and Pam in a local pub for lunch, then on to the North v South Southern Heat in the Farnborough Village Hall, hosted by Orpington Video and Film Makers who did their usual great job with the organisation and refreshments.

There were 15 entries from the South, and apparently 14 from the North for their heat. Five from each go through to the Final, the Southern ones being chosen by a panel of three, two experienced movie makers from southern clubs, Ray Puleston from South Downs, Richard Mercer from Haywards Heath; and Roy Haynes, a journalist from BBC World Service News who has a special interest in the use of sound.

On the whole, the standard was high. All the films had something to commend themselves, be it acting, editing, or camerawork, and any visiting amateur video maker would find something to learn by being there. Also, on occasion, what not to do. There were a couple of films that were too long, needing a stronger hand in the edit, and a couple not really on the theme 'Be Prepared' - a charge that was levelled by one judge against a Surrey Border entry, Blonde Fancy. There was a mixture of short snappy funny films, some longer ones that were also basically comedies, and a few documentaries around the theme.

There was the usual audience vote, and as ever, the average audience choices did not closely match those of the judges. In fact

only two of the judges choices were also audience choices, and the two Surrey Border films sadly did not register with the audience. Three of my favourites were chosen by the judges. The audience winner who most tallied with the judges managed four matching films.

I think the judges choice is tempered by trying to have a mixture of types, and lengths, going through; none of the documentaries were chosen by the audience, or by me, but one was the judges second choice, Practical Solutions by WAVE, an interesting film if you have walking difficulties or are involved with people who do, on how to adapt your house, garden and lifestyle. Another documentary was purely about the Scouts, past and present, and had some interesting facts new to me, the early part of the film making use of historical stills, and ending with film from an international Jamboree. The third was an extremely well filmed and edited 'fly on the wall' film of a few days in the life of the local constabulary, which unfortunately suffered, in my view (and that of many of the audience I chatted to), by having no narrative to tell us exactly what, and why, we were watching.

The longer comedies I thought suffered from just that, being too long. However two of these were chosen by the audience, and one of those also by the judges, an offering by the hosts, Orpington, Gnomeman's Land, an amusing and well filmed story about a henpecked husband and his wife's garden gnomes. (And if that doesn't whet your

appetite to see it....) The other audience choice was a very good bit of film making and acting, about two odd job men making a crust from somewhat gullible housewives, but I felt that a different punchline had been tacked on the end to make it fit the theme more closely, and there's probably another, better, film, with the real ending, waiting to be seen.

The audience favourite didn't even make the judges list, possibly because it didn't really fit the theme, however good the joke. The audience second favourite was the judges winner, Situation Vacant, a super film from Derby Moviemakers about a lady having a job interview, where she prepared herself by imagining it was a game show, and carried that over into the interview itself with amusing results.

The judges fifth place went to one of the short sharp comedies, also a favourite of mine, Write it Down, also by Derby. The South hasn't won in four years, if either of the Derby films takes the overall prize, will we southerners be told we had to redraw the boundaries in order to win?

The judges fourth choice was the Surrey Border film from the OddBods, Just in Case. I hope to be there again on Sunday 25th January to support it and Surrey Border in the Final, once more in Farnborough Village Hall, and would be pleased to have as many of you as possible for company. You can be assured of a good afternoons viewing.

**Gillian Gatland**

## LEARNING ZONE

So what does a judge look for in a video competition?

### The Title/s and credits

Are these good titles and credits?

Titles too big, (-1) They can be read but look amateur.

Titles too small, (-2) They can't be read. Clearly understood. (No +s here, They should be.)

Too complicated for the eye, or brain maybe, eg: A very highly commended film shown at the Maltings had a long title and credits jumbled with a mixture of upper and lower case which led to confusion, letting the film down.

The latest fashion ? No.

His own gimmick, Yes. (-3?)

Am I instantly taken in to the film by the titles, or at least curious? There could be Brownie points here, a definite +

Are the titles too long?

Oh dear! How long do we have to wait?

They should be just long enough for everyone to read, but not twice. (-)

Are the titles too short.

"Oh Dear, I didn't get the name? Now what do I do!" (-)

Were the titles smooth? ie. Did they fade in and fade out, (good) or did words jump all over the place? (-)

Did each word show for exactly the same time?

If effects were used were they done well? (+)

Or were they overdone? (-)

Does the colour tone in with the following shot?

Was sound introduced over the titles?

Was it in the right place? Did it fade in?

Were the title and credits exciting? Yes! (+)

NOTE: A judges report usually comments on the titles.

**Next month we shall learn about Opening and General Shots.**

## NEW SBFVM NOTICEBOARD

Fred Hawkins is responsible for the Noticeboard on each club night.

Sometimes members do not get a chance to actually look at the notices during busy club evenings, or because they are away. So in future, if there are relevant notices regarding training, requests for film crews, brainstorming etc., Fred will send out a blanket email to all members to keep them informed.

**Do not contact Fred.**

**(As you can see, he is currently taking a break to concentrate on next years Training schedule.)**





**MEETINGS** are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm

New members are very welcome, either phone 01252 717877 or turn up at the door!

St Joan's Centre is 200 yards south of Farnham station and is in the grounds of St Joan's Church. The entrance to the church is by a narrow road opposite the junction with Alfred Road, and St Joan's Centre is to the right of the church. There is ample parking.



## COMPETITIONS

All details and entry forms of the following competitions can be found on the IAC website.

Competition	Closing Date	Festival Date
BIAFF	31 January 09	BUT GET YOUR FILMS IN NOW!
April entries are open now and much appreciated as early as possible		
Frome 5 minute	28 January 09	5 April 09
Croatian 1 minute	18 April 09	30/31 May 09
Surrey Festival <i>(see notice board)</i>	15 December	18 January 09

**Surrey Film Festival** is inviting everyone to send in their entries for the festival by the 15th December. The festival will be held at The Electric Theatre, Guildford, on Sunday 18th January 2009.

### A note for your diary

Just to let you know that next year's **Albany Competition** will be held on Sunday 19 April 2009 at the Newell Centre Hall, Chichester. (Same venue as this year). Doors open at 2:00pm for show to start at 2:30pm. We would expect to finish around 6:00 to 6:30pm

**21-29 March 2009 FIFA (Wildlife) Festival.** Held at Albert in Northern France.

## CLUB DATES

- 2 Jan** Spot the Difference - comparing prize winning films
- 6 Feb** AGM + 'Kit and Gadgets' by Peter Matthews, and 'Animation', by Sally Maltby
- 3 Apr** Music Edit Exercise

## DIARY DATES

- 7 Dec** Christmas Lunch
- 18 Jan** SF-VF 'The Surrey'
- 19 Apr** Albany Competition, Chichester

## MISCELLANY

- Ever needed the internet on your laptop when away from home. You can buy a mobile broadband stick from T-mobile and pay £2 for odd days that you need it. Just top up like your pay-as-you-go mobile phone.
- Volunteers are needed to take over the equipment bookings while Pauline and David are away. Please see Rita or Gordon if you can help out with this.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: