

# WIMBORNE MINSTER Cine & Video Club

## Newsletter No. 15

April/ May 2012

### From the editor

This has been the month of the BIAFF week at Weymouth, films from which were shown to us one evening. An interesting evening with David Crout. An excellent six entries for the Last Competition, and two interesting nights from

our own resources. A question and answer evening and another of films from the archives. Taking us up to the last meeting of the year our AGM.

I wish you all a happy summer break



*Marion Westcott editor*

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### The BIAFF Weekend



*'Gary takes part in a little after dinner 'mind reading'.*

The British International Amateur Film Festival is hosted each year by one of the 8 IAC regions. This year it was the turn of Southern Counties (SoCo) and Weymouth was the chosen venue. The Hotel Rembrandt was the location for the weekend event. WMCVC was one of the SoCo clubs selected to operate one of the four mini-cinemas running on the Saturday.

On Sunday, SoCo presented a day-long programme of the BIAFF winners in the main cinema. Our remit was to field a team of four on the Saturday and to run four screening sessions throughout the day. This called for a jaunt to Wey-

mouth on the Friday, with our projection and control equipment, to set up for an early start next day. Unfortunately, one of our team was prevented by ill health from accompanying us so the rest of us spent a busy afternoon positioning, connecting and testing the gear, and sticking yards of Gaffer tape to the plush carpeting. Despite a couple of inevitable glitches involving electrical connections, a successful set-up was achieved and we all came home.

An early start on the Saturday got us to Weymouth in good time to make ready for the screening at 9.30 am. Both of the morning sessions went smoothly with Ray at the controls. He had previously transferred all of the DVDs to a media player which made running the show much simpler. Terry acted as doorkeeper/usher and I was house light monitor.

A welcome lunchtime break saw us ensconced in a local hostelry enjoying monster sausage & bacon baguettes! Back at our stations, and the first

afternoon session went seamlessly, with our mini-cinema about half full. The final period, with a full to overflowing audience, did produce a hitch. Part-way through the screening our projectionist inadvertently pressed a wrong button on the remote with the result that the programme defaulted back to the start. Hastily fast-forwarding a couple of times, the problem (the only one all day) was soon resolved! Saturday's Gala Dinner was a notable success. Seated on four long tables, the 200-plus diners enjoyed a pleasant 3-course meal. This was followed by the formal part of the evening, toasts and speeches. Our President, Michael Medwin, was guest of honour and his speech was pithy and humorous and included a Montague Jack plug for WMCVC.

A long but successful day ended at about 11 pm. A nice bonus for us came in the form of a cheque, issued by the IAC, for expenses.

*Gary Court*



*The Club's team in the Jean-Pierre Jeunet room.*

The representative team from Wimborne was slightly depleted in numbers, due to the incapacity of both Sid and then also of his replacement Chris.

We were pleased to see one other member from our Club

during the Saturday session, & we all felt that the rest of the Members missed a really good day.

Because there were just the three of us to operate our allocated Cinema, we were rather tied to that room when the show was under way, which meant that we didn't get to see any of the films being screened in the other three rooms, but what we had to project was 23 very well-produced films, from around the world, varying in length from one minute to 38

minutes.

There were absorbing documentaries, light-hearted films to music, and some very deep, almost disturbing dramas. One or two had serious twists at the end, and so many of them I would love to have been capable of producing. Certainly very inspirational.

If these were just the second-best films, I look forward to seeing some of the winning entries, hopefully in the Club programme for next year.

*Terry Hopwood*



Michael Medwin tells an amusing anecdote.



Eric as Festival Officer welcomes visitors from South Korea.



Romy Van Krieken, Mike Shaw, Trevor Williams, Trevor Matthews and Sam Brown

## 20th April



*David Crout*

For those of you (not many) who did not attend the club house on the 20th of April you missed a very enjoyable evening. David Crout gave us a talk on the steady cam.

David's love of his work came over with his enthusiastic and interesting presentation. David has been a cameraman for twenty five years, first working with the BBC but now is freelance. He told us that he was happy with using film but like us all had to move on to video as it

became more popular. He now teaches the art of using a steady cam but is still learning himself.

David explained his camera had to be perfectly balanced to achieve the perfect shots, and although the equipment is very heavy, weighing around 70 kilos, but handles well if set with the balance on his centre of gravity.

Using the steady cam takes a lot of energy and David told us he has the record for the longest continued use for one take at forty seven minutes.

The person holding the steady cam is not the only operator, several other people are keeping it working by remote control and he is also followed by an assistant who is telling him where he needs to aim his camera. It seems an extremely demanding occupation both mentally and physi-

cally and David praised everyone he worked with for making his job easier.

David explained, in answer to a question, that it can't be used in helicopters but can be used in cars or on the back of trucks. He then related an encounter when filming a charging rhino. To ensure that the rhino charged, the back of the truck he was filming from had been painted to look like an attractive female rhino. (Rhinos do have poor eyesight.)

The audience were enthralled all evening. The tea break was the longest I've known as all the men wanted to have a look at the equipment. David is one of the best speakers we have had at the club and he has promised to return..

## 27th April

We continued our celebration of the BIAFF weekend at the clubhouse on the twenty seventh of April when Ray Joyce presented an evening of some of the films.

The clubhouse was full to overflowing. The first film shown was a history of the building of air planes at Coventry. This film kept the interest of

even those of us that are not that interested in planes. This surely is the making of a good film.

The second was a drama documentary with a twist to the story of the Titanic. Four films were shown before our break.

Continuing after the break Ray showed some of the winning entries. All were of a very high standard, the photog-

raphy and editing was excellent and the imagination for the plots was inspiring. There was not time to see all that Ray had planned but it's hoped that there will be some time in the future.

Those of us who did not attend the weekend have missed a really entertaining event.

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## FILM OF THE YEAR: by Gary Court



### *THE PATRON'S CUP for BEST PHOTOGRAPHY.*

This is the first of an occasional series of articles about the four prestigious trophies awarded each year at the Annual Dinner. **The patron's cup for best photography.** This trophy was donated and presented by our Patron, Ossie Morris, OBE and was first awarded in 1985 to G. Robinson. The trophy's engraved

winners list runs continuously, except for a break in 1986, through to the present day and includes a host of names well-known to most members. It's the longest-standing of our present tranche of awards.

For those newer members who may not know Ossie, he worked in the film industry from early age, starting part-time as a projectionist at his local cinema. His formal career started at the very bottom of the ladder in the early 1930s at Wembley Studios. He graduated to camera assistant when, at outbreak of WW2, he joined the RAF and was commissioned as Flight Lieutenant piloting bombers, during which time he was awarded the DFC and AFC.

Post war he joined Pinewood Studios and, in 1949, became a Director of Photography (in this context, D of P is second in command to the Film Director).

As his career advanced his name was credited in such outstanding films as *Moulin Rouge*; *Oliver*; *Goodbye Mr. Chips*; *Scrooge*; *Fiddler On The Roof* and many more, all of which granted him membership of the British Society of Cinematographers.

Upon retirement Ossie came to live in Dorset and, in the early 1980s, he honoured the club by becoming our Patron. Owing to his diminishing health we don't see much of him nowadays but he's there in the background staunchly supporting our club.

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## May 5th.

The last competition.

We had six films to show for the last competition. Competition nights are getting more entries at last. It was good to see films from some different names, I hope this will keep up next season. You may not have got a first placing but we all enjoyed your efforts and I hope any comments from the assessors helped and next time you get that first place.

Shown first was, **Day On A**

### **Square Rigger** by **Keith Smith.**

This film had a good opening shot but it was felt that it could have been longer, there was not time to read it all. An informative enjoyable film, needed more cut aways and maybe music would have enhanced it.

Next we saw **A Not So Dull Day Out At Didcote** by **Gary Court.** Here we had steam trains, an enjoyable, interesting film, a good length, a little shaky at times but with a good com-

mentary.

Then we had **Let's Go Plant A Tree** by **Rory Morrison.** We were taken to the New Forest to see the planting of trees in celebration of the Queens jubilee. Again a good length film with good close ups. The commentary got a bit confusing at times but very informative.

**19th Century West Country merchant Sailing** by **Maurice Henegan** came next. This was about the building of wooden

boats. A well constructive work with good opening scene, some shots to long, an enjoyable, informative film.

Next was **One Man And His Dog** by **Brian Cope**. A ploughing contest. Excellent camera work with cut aways in appropriate places. We needed more information on location and the scoring system, and who owned the dog.

Last but not least was, **My First Steam Train Ride** by **Trevor Williams**. A lovely entertaining film on a child's view of her fist ride on a small train. The commentary spoken as a child worked well, a few cut aways were needed but a very enjoyable amusing film.

**1st. My First Steam Train Ride, by Trevor Williams.**  
**2nd. 19th Century West**

**Country Merchant Sailing, by Maurice Henegan.**  
**3rd. A Not So Dull Day Out At Didcote. By Gary Court.**

Terry ended the evening showing us the finished skit of Janet giving Gary his just deserts filmed earlier in the year.

We then watched his film of a trip to the Antarctic.

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On the 11th of April we were expecting a quest speaker Ashley Rowe, but due to other commitments he could not make it so we had a very informative question and answer forum at the club house.

In due time Trevor Guess will produce the results of this

evening for the news letter so we can all benefit from the advice given by our in house experts.

On the 18th Ray Joyce presented films from our archive. We now have most of the films made by the club members, going back for many

years, stored in one place ready to view at any time.

This was an enjoyable evening, and we saw how young some of our members use to be.

We would all enjoy another evening like this.

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#### **40th AGM**

Our AGMs are never boring and this one was no exception. Gary took the chair for his first as chairman. Chris was away sailing in the Mediterranean, so we had the pleasure of our past treasurer, Sid, to give us the annual treasurer's report, telling us that the clubs is doing well financially and also with the number of members.

Subscriptions and the price of our tea will stay the same for the next year. If you pay your next

years subscription by the 30th of June, a single will save a pound and a couple will save one pound fifty. Your committee remains the same, all members were re-elected. A list of these names will be placed on the notice board in the club house.

It was also decided that a list of all members names, emails and phone numbers be circulated to all members. There will be an opt out clause of this if

you do not want your details included.

Our Fixed Theme competition next year is A Day In The Life Of..... A wide scope here so lots of entries please.

With all the formalities over we enjoyed the drinks and nibbles provided by Terry.

I wish you all a good summer. Our next season starts on the 7th of September

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Please send your letters of praise, complaints, problems suggestions for changes to our meetings, or any encounters

that you would like to share with the members.

Please send them, with photos if any. To

***m.westcott1@sky.com.***

**Web site <http://wimbornevideoclub.com>**