

WIMBORNE MINSTER Cine & Video Club

Newsletter No. 18

December 2012

From the editor

We have had two comps since the last news letter. The fixed theme and video to music. Barbara was unwell for her night so we had a, "solve your problems night".

Stuart Cully gave an insight to the video on stills cameras and Stains Video Makers sent us a varied and interesting

programme for the 23rd November which carried over for the next week as our scheduled speaker Nick Bamford had trouble with flooding and couldn't make it to us. This is the last news letter for 2012, so I wish you all a happy Christmas and new year.



Marion Westcott editor

2nd November.

There were several empty seats for our The Fixed Theme competition and only three entries. This subject was voted for by you at the end of the last season, so why were there not more entries?

The three entered were from the stalwarts that keep our competition nights going, Trevor Guess, Terry Hopwood and myself. We need to see more people entering our competitions. Our club exchanges videos with other clubs and we enjoy the films they send us, so let us send

them some with new names of our members.

The Fixed theme was A Day In The Life Of... The entries were **First: Shot By Trevor Guess.** This was an amusing idea about the use of his Power shot camera. Comments were: good commentary and music, too much black video but very entertaining.

Second was by Marion Westcott. A Baby Rhino. Another attempt by me at animation. Comments, different. Good opening, good story, timing could have been better.

Third. Terry Hopwood's

Bottle. A story of a bottle of wine full when purchased to its eventual end in the recycle bin. Comments, theme maintained throughout, crisp focus, excellent close ups.

With only three entries there was a lot of evening left. Chris ran a film from our archives made by David Barns about a holiday to New Zealand. Trevor G filled the second half admirably with film from a trip he'd taken in 1998 to Kathmandu. Trevor had captured the atmosphere of the place very well.

9th November

It seems that we have a club that doesn't have any problems with their video or film making. Due to the planned night having to be postponed because Barbara was unwell, we had a question and answer night. Not many members came along and there seemed to be only one problem, which was why footage taken on the two cameras

used on my skit night, when captured to computer, was so different from each.

The evening turned into a demonstration of the new blue-tooth microphones we now have for use by club members.

Chris informed us that there are now two emergency torches set up near the doors for use in

any event that results in an evacuation of the club house.

Trevor Williams presented a cheque for £100 from the Ringwood Musical and Drama Society for the filming of their production of Titanic, the Musical. Several members of our club participated on this project.

16th November.



Stuart Culley

Gary informed us that our Film of the Year, *Back On Track*, made by Group 3, that's Gary Court, Trevor Guess and Doug Redpath, came third in the IAC Top Club Competition this year. Well done the three.

Tonight Stuart Culley came along to give us a talk and a very interesting talk it was.

Stuart is a photographer who works for Robert White of Poole. He was a stills photographer until he discovered video on the SLR cameras.

He explained to us the advantage of the ability to obtain better depth of field on an SLR camera than you can on a video camera. Stuart then demonstrated this with film he had made of lenses showing just how the eye could be concentrated on a small area of the picture.

We were also given some of his secrets for getting smooth movement on the object in his films, not an expensive piece of equipment but string wrapped around his tripod.

We had lots of tech talk about lenses, shutter speeds, apertures and frame rates. The importance of audio was also covered, the need to use a clapper board and tips on how to be a director.

Stuart then produced his hand held stabilising equipment. This took our attention, we all have a problem in situations when we can't use a tripod. He then showed us film taken using it. Not only smooth filming but from several different angles. A very interesting evening although most of us could not believe that someone who looked so young could have so much knowledge.

23rd November

Tonight we had films from Staines Video Makers. Before we started our journey with them Gary informed us that with our help by voting, Heather Bell's project with Durlstone castle restoration had come first for a lottery award. Also that the club has purchased three LEC lights and a new green screen.

Our tour with the Staines Video Makers started with a whirlwind tour of a Mercedes-Benz. We then had "A Change Of Direction", a very amusing drive in a family car with a husband and wife heading off to the supermarket.

Then it was off to Bushy Park with a different mode of trans-

port as we saw how the disabled, on bicycles attached to another, are given a chance to ride along, something they could not do alone.

For the next film we were sailing down the River Thames, on a raft as we learnt about the Shepperton raft race with staff from the Battersea Dogs Home, who finished the course and didn't fall in. A family holiday came next at the luxury Crystal Springs in Barbados. This was rather long but all enjoyed themselves.

Back home on a school sports ground we watched as an attempt was made, and broken, on the longest flying

rocket record. We celebrated the royal wedding at a very happy and friendly Richmond Road in Staines.

Off to Switzerland next for three nights at an interesting "Fastnacht", where people walked through the town playing pipes and drums in grotesque masks. Back home again we had a quick abseil down the side of a church.

We had not seen all the films sent but time ran out so we ended with an amusing animation about a circus.

Staines has sent us a varied and entertaining programme which we all enjoyed.

30th November.

Nick Bamford our speaker was unable to give us his presentation on the 30th of December. Instead we continued our journey with the videos that Staines Video Makers sent us.

The first was a pleasant film about the Isle of Wight. Next

we had domestic disharmony with a nagging wife and a husband who had had enough and set out to deal with the problem once and for all. A very funny punch line at the end had us all laughing. We then had a film called "Life

Cycle", it was a good idea but clips used did not really flow together.

Off to America for a musical trip of Nashville. This showed that America is not all Glitz and Glamour. The last film was a relaxing cruise up the River

Douro in Portugal, stopping to visit vineyards and historical buildings.

All the films from Staines Video Makers were entertaining and interesting to watch.

After our tea break one of our members, John Davies, showed

8th December.

The club house was full for the Video to Music competition and didn't we all enjoy it? We had nine entries so well done all who contributed. The first film shown was my entry **Up Up and Away** footage taken on a balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings in Egypt: Comments on this were, good edit, the music fitted the video well, some shots could have been cut tighter.

Next we were again flying with **Fly Like An Eagle** by **John Davies**. A cable car ride over lovely scenery in Austria. The assessors thought that the music was not appropriate for the film, too strident for the peaceful landscape. The filming good with excellent close ups, was pleasant to watch.

Third on the list was unfortunately disallowed as it did not comply with the rules of the competition in as much as it had a sound track that was recorded for the video and not a piece of music, chosen completely independently of the content of the filming. This set off a long discussion about the

us a film he had made in 1996, titled Horton Estate Vineyard, this took us through the year of growing grapes and the making of the wine in the vineyard at Horton near Wimborne. A very well made and interesting film.



rules. It seems that some people didn't understand the concept of the different way of making a film, that is first choosing your music and then put appropriate visual content to it. Normally you have done your filming and use this footage and sound, to make a movie, then add a compatible sound track.

The next entry shown was a very peaceful **Morning Has Broken**, by **Rory Morrison**. An interesting film, again good close ups and lovely moody shots. Very appropriate for the music. Number five on the list was **Autumn At Kingston Lacy** by **George Beesley**. Another relaxing film set around the grounds of a stately home. The photography on this was excellent, a very enjoyable film. The music fitted well but we were not informed, on the film its relevance to the title.

We then had **Top Of The World** by **Guy Langdon**. showing scenes from Spitsbergen. Guy is new to us so well done for entering our competition. Assessors thought lovely visuals, acceptable use of stills but

too many. Next another from **Guy, Marie Claire**. Enjoyable but again it was more of a slide show than a film.

The penultimate entry was from **Ray Joyce, Ghost Town**. This took us to America to explore a deserted gold mining town. The sub titles helped us to know what was happening, footage was excellent and the music fitted the visual content admirably. The last film, again by **Ray**, was **Tin Lizzie**. This gave the machinery buffs their fix for the evening as it was about Vintage Ford Cars. Again the music was just right for the video and the mix of old footage from the 1960s with present day worked well.

1st was Up Up And Away by **Marion Westcott**.

2nd. Morning Has Broken by **Rory Morrison**.

3rd. Ghost Town by **Ray Joyce**.

The standard of all the films tonight was excellent and we all enjoyed the evening. Well done all who entered, lets keep these high numbers of entries, for all competitions.

Notes From The Chair

Film Of The Year Judging.

Each year around September/October time our previous season's competition entries are judges for the Film Of The Year awards. Films eligible for the awards are those achieving first and second

places in our monthly competitions. For some years now we have invited the same three judges to assess our work. They are Phil Marshman from Frome, Brian Lacey from Bournemouth and Mike Power from Southampton. Between them they

have a wide range of expertise and can be relied on to give careful and unbiased consideration to all of the selected entries.

On Saturday 20th October it was, for the second time, my pleasure to welcome these

three to the clubhouse for the judging session.

I drove the media player and, thankfully, all went smoothly! There was one glitch when, instead of the programmed video, one from two seasons ago leapt on to the screen. My brain cell finally slipped into action when I realised that I had chosen a 2010/11 film from the media player index. The matter was quickly resolved and the correct entry was shown.

Some serious discussion among the judges followed the screening and they finally arrived at their selections for the Best Use Of Sound, Best Edit, Best Photography, and Film Of The Year. Quite often the video selected as Film Of The Year is not necessarily drawn from the other three categories, and so it was this time. The four trophies, together with the 7 "Rorys" for the monthly compe-

tion winners, will be presented at our Annual Dinner & Awards Presentation night on Friday, 22nd February 2013 in the Ashley Wood Golf Club. That's when the winners' names will be announced.

Judging - Continued:

We seem to be in popular demand for judging other clubs' competitions. We recently judged Frome's annual competition, then took a trip to Weymouth to judge their "Ridgeway Cup" battle with Frome. More recently we judged one of Southampton's competitions. All very exciting but a bit of a strain on our club members who have been coerced into acting as judges!

Club competitions:

Your Committee has passed a resolution to change the competition rules to allow for a minimum of two entries instead of three. This resulted from

concern expressed about the potentially low response that we get. Fortunately, after an expected two entries for the **Mini**, we ended up on the night with four. Not brilliant, but better than none! The **Fixed Theme** comp scraped through with just Three entries. I'm not sure why we get so few. I imagine it's because most members just don't make movies or, if some do, they're afraid to expose themselves competitively. This is a pity because the best way to raise your filming standards is to show your movies and take on board fellow members' comments and advice. Perhaps we should have more informal film viewing nights. I'd like to know what your thoughts are on this.

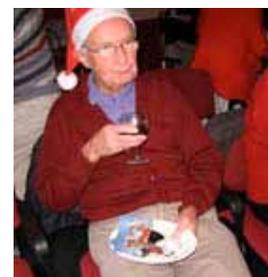
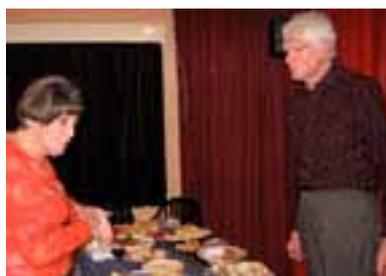
Gary Court



The Christmas party.



Thank to all who provided the excellent food and Terry and his wife for all their work in making our Christmas party a success.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Please send your letters of praises, 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>