

BRISTOL FILM & VIDEO SOCIETY MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The meeting was held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 at The Pavilion, Elm Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire commencing at 7.40 pm

Tim Smart as Chairman opened the meeting and gave a welcoming address.

Apologies for absence: received from Steve & Jane Andrews.

2016 AGM Minutes: The minutes from the previous year were approved.

The Chairman's Annual Report: The Chairman presented his report of the club's activities as follows:

'We have had another very full year with a ton of club activities and an amazing array of prizes and accolades:

So, firstly, just to talk about our film productions going through this last club year:

In **February 2016**, Bob Bennett created **BRISTOL THROUGH A LENS**, a film which Bob modestly says, "was glued together almost exclusively from club archive footage". It records for posterity over 80 years of the club's history.

And then - a whole lot happened in **March**:

- We had 10 entries into the spring competition, and in the newly revised categories, the Thalia Goblet was won by Dane Rayment with **Shake4Mike** in the quickie competition, and Steve Andrews won the Jack Baker Trophy in the ten minute competition with **Travels in Asia**.
- Club film **Bristol Revisited**, was awarded four stars in The 2016 Institute of Amateur Cinematographers British International Amateur Film Festival (BIAFF). **Bristol Revisited** dipped heavily into an old black and white club film from 1956 - **Western Gateway**, which was restored for the purpose by Julian Baldwin and John Cockwell.
- Super busy director of **Bristol Revisited** Gordon Young also won 3 stars each in the BIAFF competition for 3 more of his own films - **Pyrotechnic Pageant**, **It could have been so different** and **An Italian Dream**. The latter also won first prize in the Tiverton Camcorder Club Challenge Shield Competition.
- We organised and indeed, for the second year in a row, we won the Gloucester inter club Film competition, with **Requiem for Caffeine** continuing to show its quality, and gaining not only the Ray Toleman Memorial Trophy for First place but also the Vale Trophy for Best Sound.

In April

- Malcolm Stephens was runner up in the holiday/travelogue section of the Frome Five Minute film Festival with **Tranquil Waters**.
- Later in April, we held official club premieres of three of the Society's latest productions - **Don't Call me Baby, Thicker than Water, and Bristol Revisited**.
- And then, super super busy Gordon Young hired the BRISTOL RECORD OFFICE! and showed **Bristol Revisited** and **BRISTOL THROUGH A LENS** in a public event to so many people that they ended up sitting on the steps!
- And finally in April, the 16mm 1956 original of **Western Gateway** was handed over to The Bristol Record Office for safe keeping. It was the final club production originated on film to be digitised by our archivist Bob Bennet, and added to all the others from our archive that are stored on their shelves.

In May

- **Bad News** - We heard of the passing of one of our longest standing members, **Doctor John William Howden**. John was a pioneer in the club of a piece of CGI software called **Blender**. From the moment he discovered it, he started winning club competitions with animated films with intriguing titles like **Blockhead** and **A Load of Old Cobblers**, and with Blender he created amazing CGI effects for some **club** films - a drawbridge and windmill for **Uncertain Proof**; a horse drawn cart and fully functioning beam engine together with a windmill for **Clarkson** and, most recently, the tidal clock for **Tide and Time** - one of the **City Docks Films in 2015**. His tour de force was a computer animation of the Box Roman Villa for the Box Archaeological and Natural History Society. John will be sorely missed.
- On a brighter note in May, Patrick de Landre-Grogan created two video tutorials - **What is a Decibel?** and **Balanced audio**.

Then in June

Archivist Bob Bennett passed a monumental landmark - by uploading the 100th film from our library to the club Vimeo pages for all the world to see.

In September

Requiem for Caffeine was placed second in the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers (IAC) / Southern counties (SOCO) DOLPHIN 2016 competition.

In October

Don't call me Baby was placed second, and won the award for best editing in the IAC / SOCO regional annual competition, and **Thicker than water** won the best club entry.

In **November**, Seven excellent films were presented to a full house in the club's Annual Trophy competition.

Our special guest adjudicator was professional filmmaker, Paul Smith who judged all the entries and presented the Annual trophy to Gordon Young for **An Italian Dream**.

In **December**, **Don't Call Me Baby** was COMMENDED in the IAC North Versus South competition.

Over the year

• We have also learned that Diana Taylor's film **Once in Whitley Bay** had been selected for three prestigious International film festivals:

Zebra International Film Festival, Berlin
The OBheal International film Festival, Cork
Portobello Film Festival, London

And another of her films, **Cuba - Sun, Sex and Socialism** was selected for the Latino and Iberian American film Festival at Yale, USA, and in the human rights competition of the Baghdad International Film Festival. We have now also heard that it will be shown in the National Theatre, Amman, Jordan and also in at least 14 further international and major human rights festivals.

All this recognition is great news for the club, and something that everyone who was involved in any of the films should feel very proud of.

But that's not all - the club has been incredibly busy with its other activities too!

At our twice monthly evening meeting in **April** we launched a radical new approach to making a club film that could involve all club members and we encouraged them to try something new. The intention was to make a **drama** and a **documentary**, and then tailor the club's activities over the following year to support the evolution of the film. So after brainstorming ideas from club members we ended up doing both in a **docudrama** about **the Bristol Downs!**

Following that decision, and thanks to **Graham Egarr's** extremely hard work as programme secretary, we then had club evenings where we did detailed planning and script fine tuning, where we studied how to film a documentary, where we listened to how a multi award winning Internet TV drama

series (**Horizon**) was written and shot in Bristol. We studied and practiced moving a camera. We held live auditions for the parts in **The Downs** film. We learned about recording sound, how to apply sound effects, visual Effects and music, and we learned about the job of a DOP, and about editing.

We went to the downs for a recce, and a technical rehearsal, and then we shot the film in September. And although the editing is not quite finished, we will be able to see a rough cut this very evening.

In **December**, 5 members of our club filmed a JUNIOR DRAGONS DEN EVENT at the Bristol Hotel as part of the Community-Apprentice Programme.

In addition to that, this year, **2017** we have done a green screen recording for a new film of a poet to be set against a coffee shop back drop, and have planned an extraordinary experimental film day that will take place next month.

And we have learned about a new piece of mobile phone technology - the OSMO mobile.

Also this year, we have already completed filming of our first club film - **Convent Close**, despite the indisposition of 3 key crew members. It is now in post-production.

The first draft of a **new club promo** film is out for comment.

The club does so much because of great team work, so well done everyone who contributed in any way to our films or our meetings in these last 12 months.

Supporting all the clubs activities is... **The website** - This year, it is now 20 years old! Mike George continues to do a fantastic job to keep it fresh and up to date, including changing our service provider in September because we'd got fed up with being hacked!

Facebook and twitter - Many thanks to Sue Cockwell for keeping these up to date in a way that we have never achieved before!

This is so important because it is likely to be one of the key routes to gaining new, younger members of the club.

Finally, **The archive** -

We now have 105 films available on Vimeo, with links from our website, and we continue to draw an audience from over 60 countries! Many many thanks to Bob Bennet for his diligence as archivist over the last 8 years. He has now stepped down and Caroline Heatlie, aided by Jane Andrews has now agreed to take over.

Finally, I'd like to really thank all the hard working members of the committee this last year. It is so important that we all continue to strive to make this club what we all want it to be. All your ideas and support are absolutely essential'.

Finances: The Society Treasurer presented his report as follows:

'I'll start with my usual opener that 'You've all had a chance to look over the Statement of Accounts'. The format is the same as usual, so I hope you have had no problems in finding your way around it.

As you know, I try to ensure that our income covers our costs for the year, and hope to have a little bit in hand. As you can see, we haven't made it this year. We are some £353 down this time overall, although we have spent £295 on various productions during the year which in effect comes from a 'separate pocket'. So the year on year loss comes back to around £93. Better, but still a loss. However, it isn't difficult to see the reason for the difficulty and that is the drop in membership numbers. This has been a trend over the last couple of years. We've gone from 52 two years ago, to 41 last year to 33 this year. We are not alone in this. All over the country clubs are having a very difficult time, with many of them closing down completely. At least we are still here! I say we may not be thriving, but we are surviving!

Fortunately we have a comfortable cushion with a healthy bank balance built up over the years, and I have had to dip into that a bit this year. You will be pleased to hear that I'm rejecting the knee jerk reaction to increase the subscription rates because I feel that may have diminishing returns. We run the risk of putting off those members who only come irregularly. I think that we should be concentrating our effort into attracting new members to get us back into the black.

There is one change that I would like to propose however, and that is to reinstate the charge for coffee. At present the provision of refreshments is a direct outgoing, which I would like to turn round. We used to pay for the coffee up to a couple of years ago, and only made it free when we had the big subscription income. So, I would like to bring back a charge of 50p for coffee in future. This should change an outgoing into an income stream. I hope you will agree to this.

There is one other change that I would like to put before you, although we will not be able to act on it tonight. This was suggested only at the last Committee meeting, and due to the time scale there has been insufficient time to let everyone know about it in time before the meeting, and since it involves a change to the rules, we will have to postpone until a SGM later on. However I will put it to you to get your opinions. As you know at present, our subscription year runs from the date of the AGM with a reduction in the fee if someone joins more than half way through the year. It was suggested that we change to a system whereby everyone has an individual renewal date on the anniversary of their joining. This is felt to be a fairer system all round. For the majority of you this will mean no change, but would affect new members as they join. It will mean a bit more paperwork for the Treasurer to keep on top of, but that's life!

As always, if you have any queries about items on the Statement I will do my best to answer them now.

Those of you who were at last year's AGM will recall that I had intended to retire as Treasurer this year, but we haven't come up with a replacement to date. And I also feel that with the finances being a bit shaky at the moment, now would not be the right time for a change. However, this should not be taken as an open ended arrangement. I would like to retire in the not too distant future.

Thank you for your attention, and of course I will remind you that the new membership year starts as of tonight, so I will be more than happy to start collecting your subscriptions during the FREE coffee break'.

Questions: There was a query on the accounts from a member querying why one membership fee was at half the full rate. The Treasurer confirmed it was due to a member joining and paying after half way through the year.

There was a suggestion from a member that the annual fee was reduced and payment was made per meeting attended. The Chairman agreed to consider this idea with the Committee.

Election of Committee Members: the Chairman advised the meeting that following had been nominated and seconded for the Committee;

Tim Smart
Graham Egarr
Sue Cockwell
John Cockwell
Dave Mitchell
Tim Braithwaite
David Price
Caroline Heatlie

The Chairman confirmed that there had been no other nominations for the Committee and called on the members to approve the election of the above named nominees to serve as Committee members for the year. This was approved by a majority of the members voting.

Questions: In response to a query the Chairman confirmed that there was no longer a post of librarian within the Committee and that one of the Committee members acted as Vice Chairman, namely Graham Egarr.

In response to another query the Chairman agreed to send out a copy of the latest club rules to the members.

Any Other Business: Bob Bennett asked if the Society would be considering a name change to coincide with the production of a new club promotion film. The Chairman commented that this had been discussed by the Committee several times before without reaching an agreed solution. He agreed that it would be considered again in response to a number of suggestions from members for a more modern and appealing name.

Close: The Chairman officially closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Additional topics:

Following the close of the formal meeting session the members raised a number of questions and suggested a number of ideas which were noted by the Chairman which he agreed to raise during subsequent Committee meetings. These issues were:

- Investigating if the draft film script 'The Knot of Rope' could be reviewed and assessed by a professional script writer.
- Considering a formal change in the name of the Society to 'Bristol Movie Makers'.
- Considering a change in the annual subscription with a reduction in the fee supplemented by a payment per meeting attended.
- Following positive consideration by the Committee the arrangement of a Special General Meeting of the members to debate and vote on both a name change and revision of the membership fee.