

# North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

[www.theiac.org.uk](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

# NEWSLETTER

July—August 2017



(l>r) Geoff Bourne, Derek Miller, Roger Davies and Richard Gandey

## Bourne End VM win the 2017 KO Final

*see pp 6 & 7*

**and how to enter our 2017 Annual Film Festival**

*see pp 8,9,11 and 12*

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# Chairman's Chat

**Brenda Granshaw FACI has been a member of Wanstead and Woodford Movie Makers for over 20 years and became their Chairman again in 2015. She was Chairman of the North Thames Region from 2007 to 2014, and is now serving for the second time.**



First, let me congratulate Bourne End Video Makers on winning the 2017 Knock Out Competition. I must also thank the three judges who had the task of picking the winner. It was difficult to choose the most entertaining programme from what proved to be a very varied selection of films.

In April I went to Market Harborough for BIAFF. I must admit that I enjoy the Saturday mini-cinemas the most as there are always films that I wish I had thought of making. The Sunday show includes many films with a cast list as long as your arm, which it would be impossible for most clubs to emulate. I must however applaud "The Interview" by Finchley Film Makers, which was a brilliant sketch of an interview with a lovely line at the end. Congratulations to Alan Jeayes and Finchley for their well deserved 5 Star award.

There is no doubt that the weekend was very enjoyable for film watching. Sadly it was also a reminder that IAC is changing. So many of those who we used to look forward to seeing at these IAC events are no longer able to come. It was also noticeable that whereas the North Thames Region used to be represented by at least 30 members from a number of clubs, this year we could fill a table of only 7 at the Festival Dinner.

During the last year a number of people have suggested that I should visit the Cinema Museum at Elephant and Castle. The Museum houses a unique collection of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment that preserves the history and grandeur of cinema from the 1890s to the present day. This sounded interesting but I noted that the museum was only opened for group tours unless you attended an event. The events include the opportunity to explore the museum for an hour beforehand. Eric and I went to the Last of the Summer Wine Reunion at the museum. Having explored the museum we joined about 50 people who had come to meet five members of the show's cast. The evening started with a number of clips from various episodes and then the stage was taken by Mike Grady (Barry), Sarah Thomas (Barry's wife Glenda), Juliette Kaplan (Pearl), Jean Fergusson (Marina) and Brian Murphy (Alvin). They told us tales from the shooting of the programme including that while half the population of Holmfirth loved them for putting the village on the map and increasing trade, the other half hated them for attracting so many tourists who clogged up the village.

The audience had ample opportunity to ask questions and afterwards there was the opportunity to meet with the actors. A very interesting place to visit.

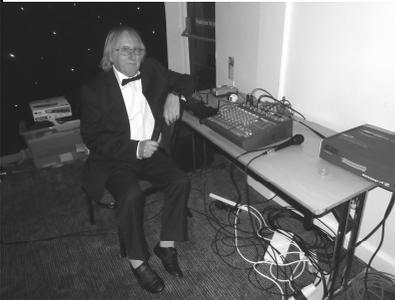
To find similar events look at the museum website [www.cinemamuseum.org.uk](http://www.cinemamuseum.org.uk)

## BIAFF 2017

### Your editor, John Astin, reflects on an enjoyable weekend



**Bob Chester is upgraded to a Four-Poster!**



**Alan Colegrave was i/c sound for Sunday's Show**



**The NTR's only table**

BIAFF (The International Amateur Film Festival) was hosted this year by CEMRIAC at the Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough. It was a good choice. The ex-Coaching Inn dates back at least to 1517, and King Charles I (1645) and Queen Anne (1688) had paved the way for Mike Whyman and Linda Gough! Let's hope Mike keeps his head!

The staff were pleasant and efficient, the food excellent, and Bob Chester, Potters Bar FM's treasurer, was even upgraded to a four-poster suite! I always find the BIAFF Weekend very enjoyable—it's good to meet up with filmmakers who are now friends from across the UK, see their latest films, and hear their opinions of others.

And it's staggering how widely opinions can vary over any one particular film. The varying views just serve to convince me that taste is an elusive commodity, so therefore judging is in no way a precise science, and a film's BIAFF Star Rating can be something of a Lottery,

As always, there was incredulity at some awards, but I always think any award could be one star above or below the actual one awarded, depending on the set of three judges allotted to the film, and perhaps the time of day it's judged.

Like Brenda (*see Chairman's Chat*), I probably prefer the Saturday Mini-Cinema shows to the Sunday films. These Saturday shows consist mainly of 3 and 4-Star films, the level that most of us should be able to aspire to and reach. The Sunday films are often (not always, admittedly) longer, less accessible films, put together by incredibly large teams of contributors, regularly foreign, with a surfeit of imperfect sub-titles. I think the Sunday presentation could be improved.

People come from across Europe to receive their award, but the compere never seems to know who is present and who isn't. I also believe a proper screen

to act as a background for the official photographs would be a good idea, as used in professional football for post-match interviews.

As far as our NT Region is concerned, we had 32 entries, the same as last year, but fewer NTR members attending.

The whole future of the Event, is, of course, under threat.

No Region feels it now has enough active members to organise the Event itself, so, for 2018, BIAFF is being organised not by a Region, but by the IAC Council itself (*see p.5*) Thereafter, who knows?

## On this page in the last Newsletter, Dave Smith wrote about his dislike of our 2016 On-Line (only) Competition.

### Richard Lawrence, from Harrow FM, responds:

1. The limit of 12 minutes per film was not totally correct. It did not matter where your film was located on the Internet providing you gave the Online Competition administrators a link to it. I myself use YouTube as a location for all my films and that is also where Harrow Film Makers store all their films. There is no limit to the size of file and there are also fairly simple rules regarding who can or can't see your films. Of course the best part is it is all free! It is interesting to note that Harrow Film Makers BIAFF entry this year was uploaded to them using We-transfer at the IAC's request. However, our entry was also uploaded to YouTube so that the judges could independently view the film without the necessity of preparing a DVD for distribution round to the judges.
2. The use of optical discs seems to be waning. We recently made a trip to Richer Sounds to source a new Blu-Ray player which would also play files from a USB memory stick. We failed to find a suitable player, and I am minded by the comments of the store manager who said that the majority of people now stream their media from the Internet and that there was little call for DVD/Blu-Ray players. She also doubted that the new generation of UHD Blu-Ray players would take off and considered them to be a very niche market.
3. Dave talks about the ability to watch our films on the TV set in our lounges. Like Dave, I used to have to create a Blu-Ray disc on my video editing computer and then take it down to the lounge and put it in my disc player in order for viewing by more than one person.  
Last Christmas I felt it time to upgrade our Panasonic 42 inch plasma TV which was totally analogue. As it only had one RGB input the digital tuner and other sources had to be externally switched to it. This was operationally tiresome and not always consistent.  
My new, OLED LG Smart TV has been a revelation in operational convenience and picture quality. With its single magic remote-control and built-in software apps, I can seamlessly access normal broadcast television, YouTube, the Internet and all other on demand services.  
The icing on the cake is that it automatically "found" my editing computer and I am now able to digitally stream any of my films direct to the TV. So providing my PC is powered, I can sit in my armchair and, using the TV remote control, browse and play any of my creations.  
Of course it also has a convenient USB 3 slot, so visiting filmmakers can show me their efforts, as it seems to be able to play any modern video format from a USB hard drive or memory stick with impunity - all this of course upscaled to 4K resolution!! It also has voice recognition but I have not explored that yet.
4. I do agree however with Dave regarding having one's creations being viewed by an audience. It is nice to see that this year's NTR Annual Competition is to have a physical presence.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



### SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th

**Potters Bar FilmMakers Public Show**  
at Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West,  
Northaw, EN6 4NW.

2.30 & 7.30 pm.

*Details from Penny Love (see front cover)*

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th

**NTR AGM & Festival Day**

in the Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue,  
Amersham, HP6 5AH

*Timings & Programme in next Newsletter*

### THURSDAY 19th > SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER

**The IAC AGM National Western Hoedown Weekend** hosted by  
SERIAC in the Holiday Inn, 70 London Road, Sittingbourne, Kent,  
ME10 1MT

*Details & Booking Form in Film & Video Maker and  
on the IAC website*

### APRIL 13th > 15th 2018

**BIAFF 2018** at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate,  
HG1 2JD

*Details to follow in Film & Video Maker and on  
the IAC website*

**Dave Smith is the only NTRIAC member without affiliation to a Club who attended every round of this year's KO Competition, including the Final.**

### **His verdict?**

"The Final of the NTRIAC Knock Out Competition was well worth the trip to see the four clubs' programmes of seventeen films.

I agree with the verdict of the three judges who declared Bourne End Video Makers the Winners and Potters Bar FilmMakers the Runner up.

If Bourne End could have substituted their **The Life Riley** for Potters Bar's **Stolen Property** and South Essex's **Misscommunication**—what a programme that could have been!!" (see overleaf)

# The NTRAC 2017 KnockOut Competition Final



**The KO Final audience in Laleham Village Hall**

The Knock Out Competition Final was held on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The four competing clubs were Potters Bar FilmMakers, South Essex Film Makers, Bourne End Video Makers and Walthamstow Cine and Video Club.

The event was hosted by Staines Video Makers (last year's winners) in Laleham Village Hall, and began at 1.30 pm.

There was a distinguished panel of judges, all of whom had judged earlier this year at BIAFF – Tom Hardwick FACI, Geoff Harmer LACI and Celia George.

Presentation was in the hands of Barrie Wright and Allan House, and they did an excellent job. They were

commended on the top quality of both sound and pictures. They even had a little gadget on the projector enabling them to black out the bulb until the video was ready to start.

Each club's programme was shown, and then each film in the programme commented on by the judges. Just one judge spoke on each film, with the other two adding the odd

extra comment if thought necessary. The comments were generally perceptive, laudatory and constructive – see opposite.



**Staines VM Projection Team: Barrie Wright (I) & Allan House**

The Interval came after the second club programme, and again Staines excelled, laying on a much-appreciated top-class spread of sandwiches, savouries, cakes and drinks.

After all four clubs' programmes had been seen – and what a high standard they all were – the judges retired to discuss what they'd seen, and decide on the winner.

They didn't seem to be away long. Again the high quality of the whole afternoon was praised, and their decision was announced:

## **2<sup>nd</sup>: Potters Bar FM Winners: Bourne End VM**

No one could have had any serious quibbles with the choice of winner – Bourne End had perhaps the two outstanding films of the afternoon in “Afternoon Tea” and “The Next Stop”.

This means that Bourne End will host the Final in 2018, though your NTR Committee has some ideas for tweaking the arrangements, probably introducing a second round before the Final.

**If you'd like to see any alterations to the KO Competition, please let us know.**

**Only 32 people attended the Final, including the judges. It seems members don't really want to travel to see other clubs' amateur films any more, and the only people who attend are those directly connected to one of the films on show.**

**What do you think?**



**Roger Davies (I) receives the Winners Trophy from judge Tom Hardwick**

## Synopsis of the Judges' Comments on the Films



Judges (l>r) Geoff Harmer,  
Celia George, Tom Hardwick

### Potters Bar FM

**Messing About On The River:** Snappy edits/good detail/good variety angles/happy, sunny, calm/pleasure of being on water well conveyed

**Moving On:** Gentle, entertaining story/characters progressed/good pace/acting mixed/too long?/sound issues

**Ups & Downs in Lisbon:** Happy, colourful, real Portuguese holiday feel/interesting, educational, entertaining/good audio & pace

**Stolen Property:** good one-minute joke/clever, clear dialogue/more spontaneous if ad-libbed?

### South Essex FM

**Misscommunication:** very funny one-minute film/excellent joke/some soft focus/ambient sound sometimes too loud

**Zundert Flower Show:** Parades are difficult!/good record/educational, entertaining/good cutaways/well edited/music occasionally unsettling

**The Story of Kirby's Coaches:** Daunting task as documentary/scripting from scratch excellent/interesting pictures from past well used/music not too good

**Water, Water Everywhere:** wonderful selection of shots/looked really good/too long/music needs to be cut to beat/didn't tell you a lot about the Iguazi Falls

**Go Ape:** Good range of shots/lots of energy(GoPro?)/good music/right length/needed more loud, live sound/some burnt-out scenes

### Bourne End VM

**Afternoon Tea:** A beautifully made, striking film(of a poem)/pull focuses brilliant/imaginative/so sad/a little masterpiece

**Mosaic:** Good pictures/as a documentary, it needed more info/lots of questions left at end/sound edit not so good

**Promenade Sentimental:** Pace of music gave lovely, relaxed feel to beautiful, circular walk/had a shape/some camera wobble/no live sound

**The Life of Riley:** Good travelling shots/good detail/as documentary, raised lots of unanswered questions/some camera wobble

**The Next Stop:** Excellent, enjoyable story/kept us guessing, even at enigmatic ending/lots of thought/high production values/excellent edit, sound—& dog!

### Walthamstow CVC

**Blackfriars through Holborn:** Film of a walk/creative photography(too much?)/lots of work put in/clear audio, though some silences/distractions in editing

**Nearly a Hero:** Uncertain—was it a spoof?!/good, natural voiceover/sounded unscripted

**Vestry House:** Very informative/excellent “professional”(?) voiceover/cuts well handled/needs more structure for shorter film —too much included

**After a hiatus in 2016 filled by our experimental  
On-Line Competition, our Annual Competition and  
Festival Day return for 2017.**

**Please read the next few pages carefully, and  
please, please submit a film!  
The Festival Needs YOU!**

## **North Thames Region IAC 2017 Annual Film Festival Competition**

### **Rules**

1. The Competition is open to all amateur filmmakers residing within the North Thames Region of the IAC.
2. Entries must be made without professional assistance other than the use of recorded music, as they may be included in a compilation record of the Festival on DVD.
3. It is a condition of entry that films which have won a major national or international award are not eligible for the competition
4. This year we are accepting DVD, BluRay & Memory Stick entries through the post, as well as films entered online.
5. For postal entries, only ONE film to a disc will be accepted.
6. There is no maximum length for any entry, but entries longer than 15 minutes might not be shown in full at the Festival.
7. All copyright material, both audio & visual, must be cleared by the video maker. Details of music copyright clearance can be obtained from the IAC Film and Video Institute, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE23 2DT. Tel.: 0191 303 8960. Email: [admin@theiac.org.uk](mailto:admin@theiac.org.uk)
8. The Judges' decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into with reference to any decision made.
9. You may submit as many entries as you wish, providing they have not been entered before, and have been made in the last 3 years.
10. Each entry will receive 3 critiques from established judges. The judges will be a collection of professionals and experienced amateurs, who may or may not live in the UK.

# **NTRIAC 2017 Film Festival - How To Enter:**

## **If you wish to enter on-line:**

(1) If your entry is already on the internet, on YouTube, Vimeo or elsewhere, simply go to the dedicated Festival Competition website,

**[www.adhocvideos.co.uk/ntriac](http://www.adhocvideos.co.uk/ntriac)**, and follow the instructions.

(2) If your entry is not already on the internet, you will need to send your entry as an MP4 file to the dedicated e-mail address:

**[NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk](mailto:NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk)**.

You can use Dropbox or WeTransfer to submit your entry. Files smaller than 500MB are preferable.

## **If you wish to send in your entry on DVD, BluRay or Memory Stick by post:**

You will need to complete the Entry Form on page 11, cut it out and post it with your entry and a cheque made out to "NTRIAC" for the appropriate amount (see below) to:

**Alan Colegrave, 16 Tewkesbury Avenue, Pinner, HA5 5LH.**

**Audio-Visual Entries are welcomed, provided they are submitted in one of the above ways. We cannot accept .exe files. If there are enough entries, we may run a separate section.**

**Entries are also welcomed from Young FilmMakers, and provided we have enough entries there will be three classes:**

Up to 11: Entries where the filmmaker is less than 11 years old on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

11 -13 : Entries where the filmmaker is less than 13 years old on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

13 – 16 : Entries where the filmmaker is less than 16 years old on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

*Adult help will need to be indicated.*

**All entries must be submitted between August 15th and September 25<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

### **Entry Fees:**

All adult entries longer than 1 Minute: £5\*

All adult entries less than 1 Minute: £2\*

All Young Person's Entries (under 16): £2\*

***\* If you enter by post, and you wish your DVD, BluRay or Memory Stick to be posted back to you after the Festival, please add an appropriate amount to cover postage costs.***

**For any further help, information or guidance on how to enter, please e-mail Competition Organiser Alan Colegrave at: [NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk](mailto:NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk)**

## NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: Bob Chester

Tel.: 020 8449 2004

E-Mail: [robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk)

Each of the following wins £12:

### May 2017

12 Michael Slowe (who owns 5 shares)

*Finchley FM*

14 Lorna Gill (2 shares)

*Wanstead&Woodford VM*

82 Patrick Matthews (1 share)

*Enfield VM*

42 Enfield Video Makers (1 share)

### June 2017

15 Colin Gass (1 share)

?

29 Ron Jones (2 shares)

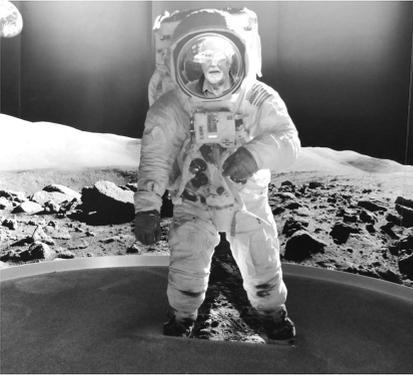
*Potters Bar FM*

48 Hemel Hempstead MM

(1 share)

86 Marie Jones (3 shares)

*PBFM*



Look how far Bob goes to  
find new members for the  
100 Club!

But if he still hasn't landed  
on you, and you'd like to  
join, please get in touch.  
Contact details above.



To our New Members:

David Grummitt Herts.

Jean Kent Oxon.

Peter Kent Oxon.

Jane Rudd Oxon.



To join the IAC, contact:  
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,  
McCracken Park,  
Great North Road,  
Gosforth,

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NE3 2DT

Tel.: 0191 303 8960

E-Mail: [admin@theiac.org.uk](mailto:admin@theiac.org.uk)



For postal entries **ONLY**, complete and cut out this Entry Form

## NTRIAC Film Festival 2017 Form for Postal Entries

Title of Film	
Entrant's Name	
Entrant's Address 1	
Entrant's Email	
Telephone numbers	
Video Club / Society, Where appropriate	
IAC Member: Yes? / No? IAC Number where appropriate	
Age if under 16 and Date of Birth	
Film Duration	
Film Genre	
Film Format e.g. DVD / BluRay /Memory Stick Full 16:9 /Letterbox 16:9/ 4:3 ?	
Information about the film for the programme:	
<b>I enclose a cheque for £____ made out to "NTRIAC"</b>	

# The Festival Day: Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

The Festival this year will take place in The Drake Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH.

The hall seats up to 150 people. We will use Amersham Photographic Society's 4 metre wide screen.

There is a large car plus an overfill car park which are both free on Sundays.

If you wish to travel by train, Amersham Station is about 5 minutes walk away. On Sunday, there are usually 3 trains per hour. The journey time from Central London is in the region of 60 minutes.

We plan to provide a cold lunch (included in the entry price). However, there are several local places where food can be obtained: most are about 10 minutes walk away.

Exact details about the organisation of the Day will appear in the next Newsletter. It is envisaged that it will start with tea or coffee at about 10 am, and finish by 5.30 pm. The day will include the NTRIAC AGM and a guest speaker as well as the entered films.



Stalwart ex-Triangle Officer Ron Jones & his wife Marie (3rd & 2nd from left) were supported by daughter Katherine (first from left) & grand-sons Matthew & Sam at the KO Competition Final, swelling the representation from Potters Bar FM to 12!

**Deadline for the next issue is Sunday August 6th 2017**

**Please send all contributions by e-mail & attachments to:**

**[john.astin1@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.astin1@ntlworld.com)**