

September/October 2017

FAST FORWARD



WHO WON WHAT? A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

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www.cfvm.org.uk

YEAR COPY DEADLINES

1st January	for	Jan/Feb Issue
1st March	for	Mar/Apr Issue
1st May	for	May/Jun Issue
1st July	for	Jul/Aug Issue
1st September	for	Sept/Oct Issue
1st November	for	Nov/Dec Issue

Copy to Clive Hand

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Fast Forward is published on the 14th day of each of the above publication months. Articles for inclusion in Fast Forward should be forwarded to the Editor by email.

Although, articles for club nights will be produced by the Editorial Team we would love to receive any film related articles and photos from you, particularly about your filmmaking experiences.

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COVER PHOTO



Alan Hepburn receives the Pearmans Award for clubmanship, presented by our President Stan Harvey-Meritt.

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The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors with which the Club may or may not agree. Excerpts from the magazine may be published without further permission as long as the source is acknowledged. The editor would appreciate if this could be done accurately, i.e. words not added when they emanated from elsewhere. FAST FORWARD magazine is sent electronically to all members and other interested parties.



by Mike Morris

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

When I agreed to stand for a third term as chairman, which for personal reasons was not my original intention, I did so knowing I could count on the support of your committee.

My belief has been confirmed since, with precious little help from me, Clive has produced a programme for September onwards which is outstanding and underlines the success CFVM has in attracting new members.

The scoop of the year will doubtless be the screening of "Vermijo" on November 1st. This feature length western gained Paul Vernon a BIAFF Diamond Award and is being premiered in the US this summer. Members may remember that Paul was one of the judges at the last Albany competition and Clive took the opportunity to book this event at that time.

Other special nights include the illustrated talk by new member Howard Johnson (not to be confused with the HJ of SDMM) on September 20th on the subject of British documentaries of the 1940s to the 1970s which will be a nostalgic trip back into the world of telecoms and railways. As some of you already know, Howard is one of the projectionists at the Chichester cinema, New Park.

It was a sad day when we lost Geoffrey Claridge after a long illness and it will be good to be reminded of the quality of his

films, and particularly of his clear and informative narration, when John Harvey presents a tribute evening on October 4th.

In our tradition of trying to be more than a film viewing club Clive has arranged again for some instructional evenings. A workshop on "Advanced Cinematography" led by Kevin on November 15th, one on "Formatting Screenplays" which will give practical advice on how to correctly format screenplays and information on the free software available which is planned for January 3rd, and a practical session led by Clive on "Planning a Documentary" scheduled for February 14th. Clive is our MD (Master of Documentaries) and he will focus on such practical matters as sightseeing tours and shore visits where time is restricted and some pre-planning is necessary.

On March 28th Kevin and James will be running a workshop on the use of steadycams and hand held stabilisers. Nobody, apart from avant garde movie makers, likes jumpy footage and a tripod is not always available or practical so this is likely to be a very interesting evening.

On April 25th we have something of particular interest to me as it is about planning and managing editing projects, a subject that has consistently given me problems, possibly because I didn't read the small print before jumping in with both feet.

In addition to these special evenings we have the usual competitions and social evenings with Portsdown and South Downs making altogether a very interesting and challenging programme. You'll see all this in detail in your new Year Books in September but this is just to keep you going until then, or until Clive sends out a Flyer.

FROM THE EDITOR by Clive Hand



Having missed the Oscar night it was interesting to read Tina's report. What struck me was the spread of winners this year, which is really great to see. The standard of films this year was impressive and it is good to see some of our members getting more adventurous with their filmmaking and taking onboard some of the techniques covered in the various workshops. Well done to all those who have made and entered films this year and keep up the good work.

Mike has already mentioned some of the highlights of the 2017/18 programme starting in September. You will recall that we asked for ideas to incorporate into the programme to assist members develop their filmmaking skills. You will also recall Mike and myself mention that we did not get that many ideas submitted. What we did get, we have tried to incorporate into the workshops so, hopefully, members will find these sessions useful and interesting. If I have got my act together you will have had a copy of the programme attached with this issue of Fast Forward.

To finish off, if you visit the SERIAC website at www.seriacy.org.uk and click on the link for SERIAC News you will find a copy of the latest SERIAC magazine. Here you can read a report of the 2017 Albany Competition and SERIAC Film Festival and our exploits in those events.

SCREENPLAY WORKSHOP

22 members were separated into 3 fairly even numbered groups by Kevin. I say by Kevin but they seemed to arrange it themselves in a reasonably orderly fashion. The purpose of the evening was a brainstorming (?) session to try and get some ideas for our entry in next year's Albany competition for which the theme is 'Elephant in the Room'.

The difficulty in being scribe for this evening is the fact that although this is supposed to be a report of events during the evening, not too much can be given away because this magazine is circulated to other clubs and we don't want them to benefit from our ideas.

I could report that we were swamped with ideas, but I'll stick to the facts. (Approximately)

First of all Kevin handed out ‘crib’ sheets covering – interpretations of the phrase, and a screenplay recipe. (His word not mine.)

His suggestions for interpretations were based on the lack of acknowledgement of a problem and the reluctance of people to talk about it.

As usual, the groups, other than the one that I was in, seemed to be frantically writing down ideas and having animated discussions. We were obviously stuck at the thinking of ideas stage but Richard had already turned his idea into a script, so our discussion centred on this, but other suggestions did surface.

As brains had been working unusually hard, the tea/coffee break was gratefully reached at 8:30.

Suitably nourished, it was then

time for the ideas to be aired.

Richard was first with a story set in a nunnery. The nuns had a vow of silence, so that solved the problem of not talking about a situation. (Also the learning of lines.) He had the cast of eight and some of the venues pretty much sorted out in his head.

Also from our group, James briefly outlined a story involving a soldier and his family in which he said that he could see two or three versions of the story and wasn't sure which way it would develop.

Mike Pepper's story involved a schoolmaster and Mike Rice's an aeroplane.

Greg outlined a story about a conman after he leaves prison.

Trevor's story concerned the superstitions of actors and the loss of a lucky token.

In summing up, Mike Morris hoped that members would work on their ideas during the summer and have scripts ready for our first meeting in September.

As some of the stories had been quite short he suggested that we might consider preparing a second film for the Albany in case the dearth of films this year is repeated next year.

With regard to judging the Albany, Mike is to forward to all Chairmen the suggestion that prejudging be adopted next year. This will allow the judges to make reasoned assessments of the films and be able to produce written critiques on the day.

Finally, for our next meeting, which is the Southdown Challenge, Mike announced that the independent judge will be John Clegg and our

representative on the judge's panel will be Mike Rice.

by **ALAN HEPBURN**

Looking for free screenwriting software? Well, here are a few to try.

Please note that with the exception of CELTX I have not tried these and so unable to make recommendations. ED

WRITER DUET: Free and paid versions. Allows real-time collaborative work.

CELTX: Popular browser based software with a free version.

STORY TOUCH: Free version of this professional software.

DRAMAQUEEN: Free and paid version.

DUBSCRIPT Free mobile version for Android.

PAGE 2 STAGE: Free open source for Windows.

PLOTBOT: Browser base free screenplay software.

TRELBY: Another open source free programme.



SOUTH DOWNS CHALLENGE



This year we hosted this mainly social evening, with an undercurrent of competitive spirit about who can screen the best programme of films.

It was a very well attended evening, with a packed hall of members from the 'Home Team', CFVM, and the 'Away Team', South Downs, who had travelled all the way from just outside Worthing.

The three judges were Mike Rice for CFVM, John Guile for SouthDowns, and the Chief Judge was John Clegg. Some of you may think that you've heard of John Clegg before? Well, if you've not seen *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*, in which he appeared on television from the mid 1970s to the early 1980s, and other TV shows and films, CFVM members might have seen him much more recently when we welcomed him along on one of our club nights so that he could impart his wealth of acting knowledge and experiences, offering tips and advice for his audience, too.

Mike Morris explained how the evening would work –Six films would be shown in the first

round, one by CFVM, one by South Downs, and so on. The one-minute films would follow next, with each club putting forward two films. The judges would then be given a short time to deliberate before giving feedback and announcing the results. As Mike said, 'let battle commence!'

First up were two story films, 'Curtain Call' from CFVM. Yes, that is Alan Hepburn dressed up as a pantomime dame! This was followed by SDFM's 'Travel Companion'. At first, we were led to think that their film is about a husband trapped in a marriage to a controlling wife, desperate for him to take her on a 'romantic' break. She has seen adverts for a Russian prison which has been especially converted to spice up relationships. From soul mates to cell-mates, perhaps? However, in the end, it is the husband who traps the wife. In the shed! He then, as secretly planned, goes off on holiday with the next door neighbour, leaving his wife all the provisions she will need in his absence.

The third film, 'Power Struggle', was another 'tail' of entrapment, as we watched a garden fence and gate being built to stop Pam Baker's new puppy from escaping.

Next up, was SDFM's 'The Bench By The Sea'. A young man sitting on a bench, overlooking the sea, tries to quietly enjoy his sandwich in peace. However, he is disturbed by an elderly lady who sits down next to him and strikes up a conversation. The woman goes off but a young girl soon sits down in her place. They too start talking to each other and it transpires that the woman he was talking to just now is this girl's grandmother. Right at the end of the film we, the audience realises that the elderly woman was actually a ghost!

'Hill '62 and Beyond', was CFVM's next entry. This was Ren Curtis's powerful, poignant and personal film, initially about general aspects of WWII, which then develops into a much more personal story, of one young soldier's experiences and memories. Like the last film, this too has a twist right at the end, when it is revealed that the young man is actually Ren's father.

'Sidney's Search' was next for South Downs. A man leaves his home to go for a walk. Taking a break, he finds a bench to sit down and enjoy a chocolate before remembering that he has actually gone out specifically to try and find something. We see him go into different shops and libraries to try and find a book.

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Those in the audience who are paying attention will notice that throughout the film and the shots of the different locations, the man's appearance changes ever so slightly. Again the big reveal comes at the end when we see that the book he has been looking for is 'Improve Your Continuity When Film Making'.

Then came the one-minute films.

'Save The Swimming Pool', for CFVM, featured James Keller at home as he is visited by a charity-collector, played by Tina Keller. There is absolute shock and surprise when she asks for a donation for her tin!

'Turn It Up', for SDFM, saw a very Two Ronnies-esque sketch of the humorous confusion between a lost hearing aid and a suppository!

The first attempt at playing 'The Frog', by CFVM's Clive Hand, was actually unsuccessful. It played, unintentionally, as a silent movie. Second time around and the sound problems were fixed, and we could hear the frog tell a joke

as Clive enjoyed a cuppa.

'Eggsplanation', was SDFM's account of the development of eggs right up to the point when the shells start to crack and the chicks appear.

A delicious buffet was laid on by the hosts allowing the judges a short break before John Clegg stepped up to not only announce the results, but to offer a few general thoughts, too.

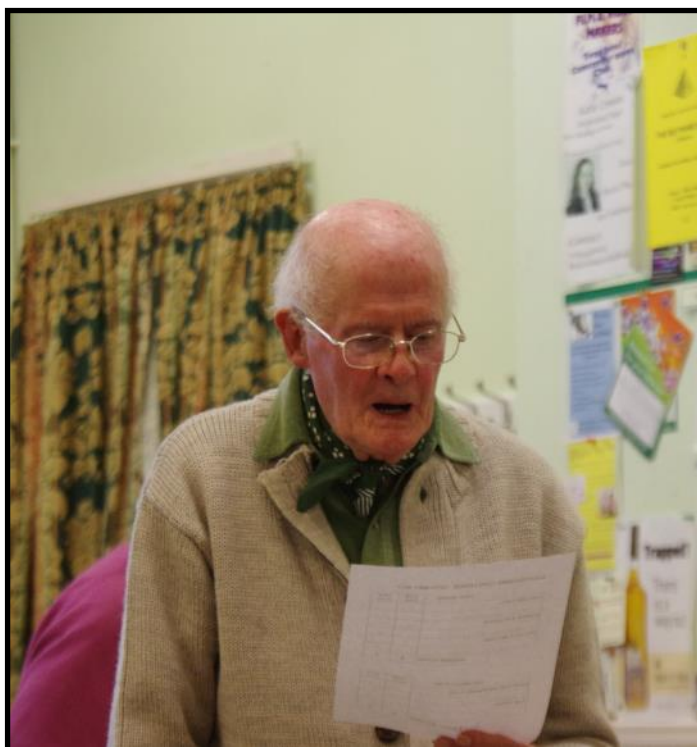
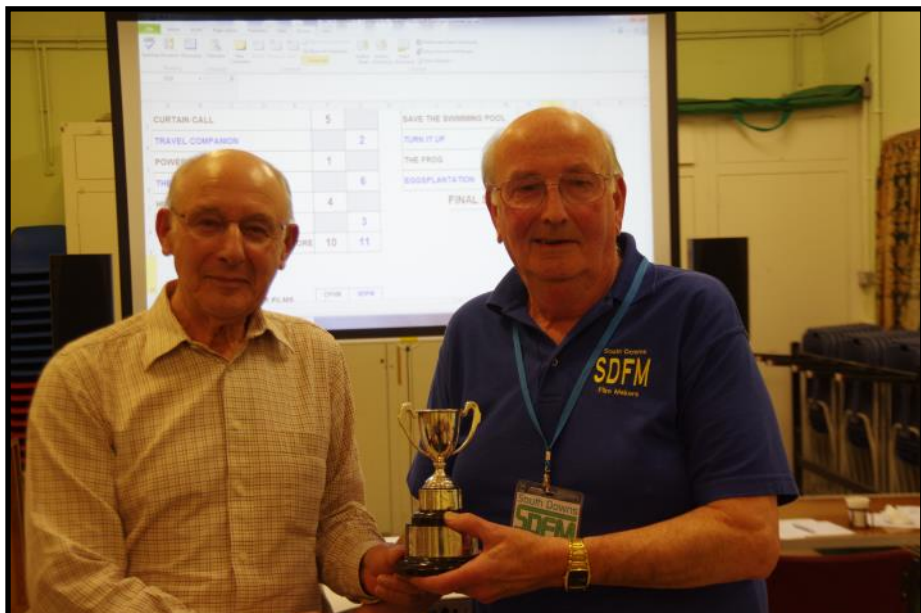
Then came the results. In the end, it was very close, indeed. After the first round, South Downs were leading, 11 points

to CFVM's 10. And the final score on the night was South Downs - 16, CFVM - 15.

All that was left to do was for Mike Morris to sum up the evening – 'An honourable defeat. It's our turn to lose the Cup, and your turn to polish it, engrave it and bring it back next year'

Photos of the presentation followed before Mike offered thanks to the three judges, the projectionists and the caterers and looked forward to getting the cup back next year!

by Rupert Marks





OSCAR NIGHT

by TINA KELLER

Tables are set. Everyone has arrived and the evening is ready to begin. The fish and chips arrived and all 23 of us sat down to eat and chat as we did so.

When all the leftovers (of which there wasn't much) was cleared Kevin's colourful intro was shown and the awards began. Mike our chairman started with the announcement about the Albany. 'Curtain Call' won the best in show and also was the best edited. He then thanked everyone involved with the making of the film. He gave us the results to the entrants of the BIAFF that club members had entered. "Curtain Call" and "Hero in Bronze" both received four stars. Then the member's awards in the SERIAC Film Festival. 'Three Little Words' got a commendation. 'Hero in Bronze' received second place over all, best documentary, best use of sound and best edited. Well done Clive.

Then started the event of the evening—the Club awards starting with the Linderman cup. There was a short sequence of the winning film which was "A Home Computer Conundrum" which was about the construction of a computer by Ren Curtis. The presentation of the cup was given by our President Stan with John taking photographs.



The next category was the Holiday Competition for The

Hammond Tankard. A short clip from the winner was shown. It was Mike Morris's film "A Cruise Around The Islands" which was a lovely film with scenic views. Stan then presented the tankard.



Next came the winner of the Keith Baker One Minute Cup of which there had been 12 entries. The whole of this was shown and the winner was "Save the Swimming Pool" a short film with an amusing end by Tina and James Keller. James had been unable to attend so Tina stepped up to accept the cup from Stan.



Then the final internal competition which was the Documentary Competition was announced. A small clip was shown of "Hill 62 and Beyond" the winner by Ren. This was a moving film about soldiers in the war one of which was his father. He was presented with The Bill Glue Trophy.

We then came to the results of the Annual Competition that was judged by Copthorne Camera Club. The films entered were "A Home Computer Conundrum" "Don't Look Back" "Fancy That" "Always Listen to Your Doctor"

"Hero in Bronze" "Hill 62 and Beyond" "Love Story" "Save the Swimming Pool" and "The Potato"

The winners of the different categories were announced starting with The Gibbon Shield for the best edited entry. It was won by "Fancy That" a film about a poem, with views around a car boot sale made by Ray Puleston.



The Formby Cup for the best sound track came next. The winner was Clive Hand for "Hero in Bronze" which is an excellent film about the making of a statue of Nelson and Murray.

The third award was for the John Phillips Medallion for the best commentary. This was won by "Fancy That".

Next was the John Wright Award for the most humorous film, which was won by Ray for his film "Love Story".



The Louise Bird Trophy for the best natural history film came next and it was won by "The Potato" by Richard Plowman, which is a serious film about Potatoes with a humorous and enjoyable beginning which had us all singing the song all

evening in our heads. He was presented with his cup by Stan and John took their photo.

Then came the accolade of the evening The Founders Cup. The major award for the best film overall. This was won by Clive's "Hero in Bronze". Since Clive was still sunning himself in Florida he will be presented with it at a later date.



The winner of the swindle came next. It was won by the person who was nearest to the results of the judges of the Annual Competition and this was just one person, Mike Morris.

Next came the award for the person who put the most films into our competitions "The Victor Ludorum Trophy". This year it was won by Ren.



Finally came the presentation of the most important cup of the evening "The Pearman Cup". It is a cup that is presented to the person who we all voted for, that we think has contributed most to the club this year. The result is known only to the President till the presentation. "Drum roll". The winner is Alan. He seemed visibly shocked and after being presented with the cup from Stan said thank you to the club and everyone who voted for

him. The evening finished at 9pm with Mike thanking everyone for coming and wishing us a good journey home, then with the room cleared and tidied we all left, some with cups and shields to clean for the next year.



CFVM AWARDS 2017

Founders Cup (Best Film)
HERO IN BRONZE
Clive Hand

Formby Cup (Best Soundtrack)
HERO IN BRONZE
Clive Hand

GIBBONS SHIELD (Best Edited)
FANCY THAT
Ray Puleston

John Phillips Medallion (Best Commentary)
FANCY THAT
Ray Puleston

Louise Bird Trophy (Best Natural History)
THE POTATO
Richard Plowman

John Wright Award (Most Humorous)
LOVE STORY
Ray Puleston

Lindeman Cup (Any Genre)
A HOME COMPUTER CONUNDRUM
Ren Curtis

Hammond Tankard (Holiday Comp)
A CRUISE AROUND THE ISLANDS
Mike Morris

Keith Baker One Minute Cup
SAVE THE SWIMMING POOL
Tina & James Keller

Bill Glue Trophy (Documentary Comp)
HILL 62 & BEYOND
Ren Curtis

Pearman Trophy (For Clubmanship)
ALAN HEPBURN

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE GOLDEN KNIGHT

MALTA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Closing date 30th September 2017

Screenings 24th—25th November 2017

Website: www.goldenknightmalta.org

8th October 2017

2017 SUSSEX FILM FESTIVAL

Closing date 4th August 2017

Wivelsfield Village Hall, Eastern Rd

Wivelsfield Green RH17 7QG

19th—22nd October 2017

IAC CONVENTION & AGM

Sittingbourne, Kent

Hosted by SERIAC

Visit the IAC website for further details: www.theiac.org.uk

BIAFF BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL

Early closing date 21st December 2017

Late closing date 31st January 2018

Festival will be 12th—15th April 2018

Visit the IAC website for full details: www.theiac.org.uk

