



VIDEO ON-LINE

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The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club
News of Westcliff from Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor

August 2003

As I write this, the forecasters are threatening record temperatures with London seeing a possible Fahrenheit ton this afternoon and I'm dripping at the mere exertion of pressing these keys. Poor old crock! It's difficult to think that the new season is not much more than a month away, and by the time you see this it will be less than a month away. Time flies and the theme of this newsletter will be to look at the programme ahead and see what's in store for us. Undoubtedly as the technology of our hobby aces ahead at an incredible pace, the opportunities to see, hear and learn about it are more exiting than ever.

But first of all a very big thank you to the many members and other Westcliff followers who have E-mailed or phoned in response to the Summer newsletter. It seems that most of you enjoyed it, especially as many of you received it on-line, and those who did get it by post saw it in colour too. A big thank you to Ian Barnes, son of my old moving-making pal and Westcliff's first ever technical officer Nigel Barnes. Ian kindly worked a miracle in his own lunchtime and printed out some copies in colour at work! Thanks a lot Ian.



As I speak I have just made my first DVD's and sure enough they play. Grateful thanks to Ken Pratt for his advice on how to go about it. I learnt a lot! In fact I learnt more than I bargained for, especially when I went up to Comet to buy a cheap DVD player to try out my new creations. In my Daily Mail, Comet were offering an own-brand cheapie for £37.95 so off I went to Comet's Rayleigh branch pick one up. I made my request at the counter, whereupon a rather rotund young lady said no, they were £39.95!. A mild protest from me persuaded her to concur with the *Daily Mail* (she was a *Daily Sport* reader no doubt!) and she summoned one from the stockroom. I offered my credit card.

Name?.....I responded in equally monosyllabic style.
Posecove?.....I was asked for my address in a typically Essex way which omits any sibilants in the speaker's diction!
Phow.....*Yawn*.....'I'm sorry I'm keeping you up'
I responded light-heartedly.
Oh, sorry.... I'm not *wew* you see.....*I've got polycystic ovaries and my guts 'urt!* My wife Maureen walked away to explode in a mixture of shock and amusement and prepared to explain to me what it was all about. My DVD player arrived from the stockroom and my gynaecological lesson began. Thankfully it was concluded without the

opportunity for examination! It sure puts a different slant on *The Comet Promise!*

As I noted last time, I'm sure that most members reading this, do now have e-mail addresses, but, if you do get this by post, but would like it electronically in future, please do get in touch at chris.taylor1@tesco.net to be added to the list. Ken Pratt and his friend Ali J are busy re-jigging the web-site at www.wfvc.org.uk and it should be ready for browsing any time now. Please use the link to let Ken, our webmaster, have your thoughts about updating it from time to time. Pages about movie-making in general or more specific technical subjects would be welcome.

Exciting programme all buttoned up!

The new season's programme follows the successful format originated last year. The first Monday of the month has been reserved for your Committee to get together to organise the other 3 or 4 meetings a month. The second Monday usually features a visiting speaker or manufacturer's demonstration, while the third majors on training such as camerawork and sound. Our ever popular competitions are lined up for the fourth Monday of the month, while the fifth Monday – there are only two – are Members' film nights. We also have a Friday special on October: more about which, later.

Winners to be 'outed' on the night!

Well, it's a popular word, isn't it, but since we have no Roman Catholic Bishops in the club, in this case I am talking about Competition Winners!
Last year's experiment, when winners names were kept under wraps until awards night wasn't particularly popular so your committee has decided to announce competition results 'on the night'. As in earlier years. We hope that this removes the unpopular suspense and as a result we will have a bumper year for competition entries.

More about the Competitions

As with all major decisions there are always knock-on effects. Last year's secrecy meant that loads of you piled into the awards night ceremony after dinner to create a record attendance. We hope that those of you who did that won't desert *Awards Night* next year, and to that end we are planning to re-format the awards event to have a more informal venue and style, so that even more of you join in the celebration! Now you can see what sort of work the committee have to do in sorting it all out!

Going back to the competitions, and the hope of record-breaking entries, I have a couple of movies up my sleeve already, and I'll warn you now, they will be controversial. No, no, no, they will not show the President's bare backside, but will, I am sure, cause some of you to have a whinge. One contains a lot of stock 'footage' shot at a location that I would have had difficulty getting to, and the other, frankly, takes the p..... out of another member! But who cares, no offence meant, they are films to look at on the night, and I, for one, think that if we all take the fun approach with an *enter and be damned* attitude, we might enjoy ourselves a bit more than if we are too serious.

So come on guys, dig out those experiments and unusual stuff and let's get competing. With all the techniques and technology at our disposal we ought to be thinking about doing something a bit different from standard reportage movies. Let's be a bit more 'personal' and make movies 'in the first person'. Sort of '*I did this that or the other*' type movies. And what about the inter-active menus on DVD? Who's going to be the first to totally befuddle the technical officer with a clever menu? And who said that the visit to a place or event of the Ken Pull competition, couldn't be a film of a day out searching and trying out the beds in the shops down Chelmsford High Street! Have fun – let your hair downwell those of you who have some!

One-Shot Tom shows us how it's done!



Tom Hardwick was once a keen member of Westcliff and grew in stature to be our Club's Chairman, then President, although a job in Sweden made it difficult for Tom to continue; (he used to write to me about all the scantily clad Swedish 'tartlets' on the beach I remember!) Tom was always a clever and imaginative cameraman, bringing interesting photography to movie-making. He showed how one could extract better pictures

from the tiny frame of Super 8 movie film and Tom won a prestigious *Ten Best Oscar* Award for his stylish '*Bus Stop*' from *Movie Maker* Magazine – the equivalent today would be a *BAVA*. I remember going to his home on one occasion and he showed me some film shot on a very good Canon camera and projected to 6 feet wide on the best Elmo projector. The results for 8mm film were superb. I don't think anyone could make 8mm look better than this!

Tom has now semi-retired and spends his time shooting weddings and other events and comes to Westcliff on **OCTOBER 20th** to show us what he can achieve with his VX2000 pictured below. He will be telling us about this kit and showing us the very impressive results during his visit. He recently sent me a shot of 'Vicky' (below) to illustrate what the camera will do at a wedding. I am not sure that it will reproduce particularly well here, but I am sure that Vicky is worth a look at! Nice quality.....the picture's OK too!



Let's hope that on his visit Tom might also take us back a few years with a DVD transfer of *Bus Stop*. His reputation in those days was to take very long shots (time-wise), with a roving camera and wide-angle lens such that sometimes a whole sequence in a film might comprise little more than one single shot. Hence the nick-name *one-shot Tom*. He's now doing some excellent film-to-DVD transfers so it'll be interesting to see what sort of results

are available on-screen.

Don't forget to go through the programme on the next page, there are a lot of special talks and presentations from the experts timed for the second Monday of the month.

Lift Wanted!

Your Publicity Officer, poor old crock, has just been told by the doctor, that he can't drive for a year at least following a few 'funny turns'. (Not the type one gets from a litre of *Teachers* I promise!) The result is that getting to the Club on Mondays will be pretty difficult. So if there's anyone out there who passes through the Rochford area en route to Wyburns, I would be very grateful for a lift once in a while! Thanks.



Programme September 2003 – May 2004

Please Note: Meetings shown as Committee Meetings are closed to members

September 1st: Committee Meeting

September 8th REUTERS VIDEO: A presentation by the video team of this world famous News Agency

September 15th: Technology Forum: Discovering the new technology available to the movie maker. Led by Ken Pratt

September 22nd Finchley Cine and Video Society bring a programme of their movies.

September 29th Members film Night; Members bring their films for analysis and discussion. Led by Martin Paterson

October 6th: Committee meeting

October 13th Stuart Little: Professional Film Maker from KLA Communications

October 20th Filming Special Events such as Weddings: Tom Hardwick

October 27th The Ken Pull Trophy: Competition for a film of a visit to particular place or event.

Friday 31st October. Southend: Bygone Years on Film: Optional film show at Alexandra Yacht Club presented by Chris Taylor

November 3rd: Committee meeting

November 10th: Poweroid: Manufacturer's demonstration introduced by Geoff Wolfson

November 17th: Visiting Speaker Chris Waterlow on Camerawork.

November 24th: The Just a Minute Competition for movies lasting a maximum of 60 seconds.

November 30th (Sunday): Optional visit to The Electric Palace, Harwich to see Britain's oldest cinema in operation, and Alfred Hitchcock's first film *The Lodger* (1926) with live-band accompaniment and a presentation of Westcliff Film and Video Club's own famous film made by Hitch. (Arrangements subject to numbers attending)

December 1st: Committee Meeting

December 8th: Manufacturer's demonstration by market leader Canopus Editing Systems. Presented by their Colin Morris.

December 15th Christmas Quiz Night. Bring your friends!

December 22nd and 29th: No meeting

January 5th: Committee Meeting

January 12th: Professionalsal Movie Makers Amulet Films discuss their work. Presented by Simon Corris and Alison Reddihough

January 19th: Photoshop for Movie Makers. Ken Pratt explains how the Adobe program can be harnessed for use by movie makers.

January 26th: Competition for novice movie makers. A chance to win The George Daniels Trophy and the Freshman Shield

February 2nd: Committee Meeting

February 9th: Essex Police TV unit visits to tell us about the use of video in crime fighting.

February 16th Location Sound: Graham Gardener and Chris Taylor join forces to explain how best to come back with good clean recordings.

February 23rd: The Roneil Oscar Competition for the best Documentary Film

March 1st: Committee Meeting

March 8th: Tim Liggins of Datavision presents a demonstration of this manufacturer's equipment.

March 15th: Post Production Sound: Chris Taylor and Graham Gardener team up again for a sound instruction evening; this time looking at writing reading, recording and narrating the soundtrack.

March 22nd: The Hilton Cup. A competition for Holiday Movies

March 29th: Members film Night with analysis and discussion. Led by Chris Taylor.

April 5th: Committee Meeting

April 12th: Bank Holiday; no meeting

April 19th The Wright Review: A look at the history and achievement of the winners of The Wright Trophy, Westcliff's premier competition. Presented by John Eaton.

April 26th: The Wright Trophy Competition 2004

May 3rd: Bank Holiday; no meeting

May 10th AudioVisual Night presented by Keith Leedham. A presentation of 'still' photographic images and graphic soundtracks.

May 17th. The 2004 AGM

Saturday May 22nd The Awards Night: with an exciting new format for 2004!

Watch this space for more details of venue.

All meetings unless stated otherwise will be at 8pm at Wyburns School.

Contact Details of Club Officers

President	Martin Paterson	01245 287205	martinjpaterson@btinternet.com
Chairman	Gordon Bishop	01702 545947	gordon308@ntlworld.com
Vice Chairman	Ken Pratt	01245 324930	ken.pratt@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Lesley Paterson	01245 287205	martinjpaterson@btinternet.com
Secretary	Vacant - this post is up for grabs - come on someone make an offer!		
Social Secretary	John Eaton	01268 778017	john.g.eaton@btinternet.com
Competition Officer	Geoff Woolfson	01702 472102	geoff@avdv.co.uk
Technical Officer	Graham Gardener	01702 203350	g.gardener@btinternet.com
Publicity Officer	Chris Taylor	01702 545207	chris.taylor1@tesco.net

Westcliff Gets 'em off!

I came across some old Westcliff slides recently (right) from the days when it was *Westcliff Cine and 35mm Club* and it struck me that we weren't really all that stiff and starchy in the old days after all! The top slide was from a Glamour Gala evening in the days when it was OK to drop 'em for the cameras! Mike Richards was clearly happy in a bedroom scene and the members were also keen to strip off when the director insisted. Does anyone know where the movies themselves are now, I wonder? They could be a lot of fun in DVD!



Special Offer for DV500 Owners

With the advent of Premiere Pro, Pinnacle are realigning allegiances and promoting their own edit software *Edition*. For anyone wanting to try the new package at a big discount, Pinnacle are offering it to DV500 owners for just £39. To use it you need a minimum 1.8GHz Pentium 4 and XP. Edition is heavily Real-Time effects featured, has its own DVD writer and is much less crash-prone than Premiere it seems.

Casablanca Seminar to be hosted by Wanstead and Woodford

Wanstead and Woodford Cine and Video Club are hosting a one-day seminar on Sunday November 30th, to demonstrate the power and versatility of this excellent alternative to PC editing. The seminar will be run by Dalco UK a main distributor for Casablanca Systems, and it is hoped that a representative of Hama, the importers will be on hand.

For those enthusiasts who are unfamiliar with the system, Casablanca was developed in Germany and is manufactured by Siemens. The machines are the size of a large video recorder and are capable of editing all forms of video footage without the use of a computer. To register for the seminar please contact Arthur Gatumat 2, Nyssa Close, Gwynne Park, Woodford Bridge, Essex IG8 8DQ. The cost is £5.

Please let us know if you receive duplicate Newsletters or know of a member who doesn't receive his/hers.

Hitchcock Site mentions Westcliff

Those members who have an interest in Hitchcock's connection with the club in times past, may want to have look at the following site which mentions us and the film Hitch made for us. The site is about the Hitchcock collection at Universal and lists the contents of a programme of rare material donated to the film archive of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences by the Hitchcock estate. This particular programme is narrated by director Peter Bogdanovich, and the Westcliff film is the second item in the programme. Go to it at

www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Towers/7260/hitch_100.html

**Westcliff Film and Video Club
and Alexandra Yacht Club
present**

**Exploring the magical world
of our famous town in days
gone by.
Presented by Chris Taylor**

At Alexandra Yacht Club, on the Cliffs near the Pier

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31st at 8PM

Tickets £2 at the door or call 01702 545207

Presented with the assistance of The East Anglian Film Archive

Membership Forms now available

Westcliff membership forms are now available from the Treasurer, Lesley Paterson. These now include application boxes for new applications, renewals, changes of details and applications for the new Associate Membership which allows 'out of town' interested parties to receive mailings and visit 4 times a year - all for just a fiver! Contact Lesley at:

Martinjpaterson@btinternet.com

Or call 01245 287205