



VIDEO ON-LINE **Winners!**

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The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club

Westcliff Stories from Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor

March 1st 2005

Westcliff 'walks' the Triangle first round!

Westcliff went to Hornchurch Cine and Video Club last week to compete in the first round of the North Thames Region's 'Triangle' competition, and came away with top honours. The competition works on the basis of threes, where groups of three film-making clubs from around the North Thames region each enter three films on three subjects in each round. The winner of the round moves on to compete in another trio of clubs until, in the final round, one club is the outright winner. The next round in which Westcliff will compete will be with clubs from Reading and Uxbridge at a venue west of London.

Dave Windle's new documentary about the French Town of *Oradour Sur Glane* represented the club in the documentary section, and gained top marks from two of the judges for its sympathetic treatment of the story of the village whose inhabitants were massacred by the Nazis in 1944. As the Germans retreated they destroyed the village and it remains unchanged as a reminder of the insanity of war. Hornchurch's entry was about the tying of complex knots and Colchester's about the pioneering electrical engineer of the town.

In the Open section, the group production '*Missing Alice*' scored top marks from Tom Hardwick, no doubt for being an ambitious project. Drama subjects like this are tough jobs to tackle and perhaps the other judges were less tolerant of the fact that the Club's 'learning curve' was a touch obvious at times.

Colchester's film about London's south bank of the Thames and the ferry that was there before the bridges were built was a worthy competitor. In a close round Hornchurch came out on top with a light hearted conversation between a man and himself in a split-screen movie which saw him making things disappear at will. Very handy when it comes to parking your car out of sight from the warden!

At this stage the competition was anyone's with the scores a level 12 points each and the Westcliff team were on the edge of their seats. Not only was the competition such that we weren't sure whether we'd go home as winners, but also whether we'd get home at all as it was a blizzard outside!



A happy Westcliff team after the first round of the 2005 North Thames *Triangle* competition. The judges (seated L - R) were Mike Lloyd, Geoff Davidson and Tom Hardwick. Westcliff's films were: Documentary: *Oradour Sur Glane* by Dave Windle, Open: *Missing Alice* by Dave Windle and Set Theme: *Deadend on Sea - The Last Resort* by Chris Taylor and Ken Pratt

Onto round three and Westcliff had to wait for last showing. Colchester went first with TLC about a euthanasia clinic where the patients keep coming back for more! Then came Hornchurch's 'The Final Choice', a sad little tale of a man who has decided to finish it all, but whose glass of 'the nasty' is drunk by a well meaning carer!

Finally it was Westcliff's turn and time to try out a new offering which Ken Pratt and yours truly had burnt the midnight oil over in the few days prior to the

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competition. The idea for ‘The Last Resort’ being the kind of seaside resort you wouldn’t want to be seen dead in, had been decided upon some months back, and local singing duo ‘Pier Talk’ had been asked to compose a song for us. After all, we live in just the kind of place we wanted to depict in the film, and since the council have been about as co-operative as Bin Laden at the American Embassy over a couple of projects we have asked them about of late, here perhaps was payback time!

It was a chilly New Year’s day when messrs. Pratt and Taylor went looking for all those tell-tale signs of Deadend-on-Sea. The collapsing Cliffs and barricaded bandstand, the everlasting cost to P for parking, and the evidence elsewhere of peeing for free! The peeling paint and piles of black bags of rubbish everywhere, and the decaying Victoriana of the Palace Hotel and the pointing finger of Queen Victoria.

No resort is complete without that other ‘p’ a pleasure pier in all its ruin, plus piles of blowing paper, poo and puke

On the Thursday before the competition ‘Pier Talk’ – Chris Jones and Jack Forbes arrived and the title song was recorded in a number of variations from which the final cut could be chosen. And so with just 24 hours to spare the pictures and sound were married on the time-line to make Deadend-on-Sea –The Last Resort.

Documentary	Title	Judge1	Judge2	Judge3	Cum. Total
Hornchurch	Get Knotted	2	2	1	5
Westcliff	Oradour Sur Glane	1	3	3	7
Colchester	William Gilbert of Colchester	3	1	2	6
Open					
Westcliff	Missing Alice	1	3	1	12
Colchester	The Ferry Man	2	1	3	12
Hornchurch	My Best Friend	3	2	2	12
Set Theme	<i>The Last Resort</i>				
Colchester	With TLC	2	2	2	18
Hornchurch	The Final Choice	1	1	1	15
Westcliff	Deadend o/S – The Last Resort	3	3	3	21

As the table shows, the judges all voted the film a winner, despite its undoubted irreverence, and as a result Westcliff left the triangle round as overall winners. On to the next round as they say!

REMINDERS!

Monday March 7th

As previously announced, because of the Triangle, the programme was reorganized and there will be a regular meeting on MARCH 7th at Wyburns School. This will be about the workings of The East Anglian Film Archive. There will be filmed interviews with the Archive’s technical experts about the life expectancy of modern film, video and electronic media such as DVD and there is very important information for anyone shooting on video/DV/DVD. Don’t miss it!

The Year 2000 Showreel

The 2000 Showreel is now available on DVD.

To order a copy please go to our website www.wfvc.org.uk where you can download an order form. Non members can buy a Showreel through the site by e-mailing us at wfvc@hotmail.com There is an e-mail link and loads of other goodies at the website.

Home Movie Day

If you are interested in preserving your family’s past for the family, or anyone else to see in future have a look at www.homemovieday.org Perhaps Westcliff could have one of our own. Please let me have your ideas.