



VIDEO ON-LINE

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Urgent Extra!

The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club

Westcliff Stories from Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor

Do it on Derby Day!



The first Saturday in June (4th) is the date for this iconic event - **The Vodafone Derby**. Watch sporting history being made as the best horses tackle the rollercoaster of the Epsom Downs mile and a half course. Flat? It ain't! As all walks of society descend upon the Downs - people watching (and filming!) becomes sport in it's own right. Enjoy yourself with a picnic around the course or take your bets in the Grandstand - this really is a day for everyone.

We have confirmed the coach booking for Derby Day on Saturday June 4th so the Club will be having its own coach to Epsom Downs for a fantastic day out!. Even if you're not an avid racing fan, the Derby is one of those super-colourful days in the calendar for filming, picnicking and just having a good time. After all the atmosphere is electric!

Tickets will be £16 a head which will include the coach travel and parking the coach.

Do please try to join your club friends for this very social day, there will be room for your

hampers with the smoked salmon and Champagne (not supplied!!!) and it'll be even better if you bring special friends along too. We'll have things like quizzes and entertainment on the coach to speed the trip and we will have a **Derby Day Special Movie Competition** lined up for next season for those of you who take

cameras! So please put Saturday 4th June in your diaries for members plus partners and as many of your friends who would like to come along! Two coaches no problem.

A booking form is attached. Please pass it to John Eaton at the next meeting or give him a call on 01268 778017 to reserve places.



When you get there!

On arriving at the racecourse it's best to purchase a racecard from an official seller. These are full of useful information such as maps, where you can get food and drink, how to place a bet and details any entertainment happening at the course on that day. It also lists all the runners, riders and their colours for every race on that day.

The horses will parade before their race in the paddock approximately 20 minutes before their race. This gives you time to look at each one and if there is one you fancy, to place a bet. All bets must be placed before the race starts. It is then advisable to get a good vantage

point in the stands, from which to watch the race.

If your horse has won - you can collect your winnings - if not, better luck in the next race!



Fame or Notoriety?

Those members who read *The Evening Echo* will have seen that the paper picked up the story of Deadend-on-Sea, The Last Resort and made rather a lot of it. The idea to make a movie about a scruffy seaside resort came to Ken Pratt and I when challenged by Geoff Wolfson to come up with a movie to fit the theme 'The Last Resort' for the Triangle Competition to which we were committed. It was a fluke perhaps that at the same time John Eaton was having trouble getting permission to film in the old hall at Southchurch Hall, and the now notorious charge of £200 was demanded in addition to vast insurance cover. It was ironic that Rochford Council offered lots of free support to the *Eleanor's Quest* team and the movie was made at The Old House in Rochford.

Then John's group planned to shoot some interview footage in Belfairs Park, and out of courtesy informed the Council who again got out the bureaucrat's hat and wanted £235 for the team to use a camera, and again wanted £5 million of insurance. Our cover through the IAC is £3M. The fact that we are *amateur* movie makers who use *amateur* equipment and do what we do for fun, is beyond the understanding of their tiny minds. One assumes therefore that if grandad goes into Dixons and buys a video camera to film his grandson toddler on the pier, he has to cough up £235 to the council for the privilege. What a lot of B.....s!

So with this in mind, when 'The Last Resort' won its section in the first round of the triangle it seemed a good way to have a little 'go' at Southend Council by linking the two stories, and Echo reported Nick Hallissey did a grand job in putting it all together. On the Tuesday we had a picture on the front page, two-thirds of page 5 and an editorial comment on page 8. The following day the Echo's 'grumpy old man' Tom King featured our message to the town, and on Friday, a comment I had made to Nick Hallissey became a 'Comment of the Week'.

Not surprisingly, then came a response from **Councillor Tony North** who is responsible for leisure and tourism. In a letter to the Echo he wishes the club success with the film insofar as it '*achieves the success it deserves*' said, no doubt, with tongue in cheek. He then goes on to say that the town does indeed charge money to film

crews and demands £5 million of insurance, but insists that this is often waived in the light of circumstances. What he doesn't say is that the waiver is, as John was told, only if the intent and rights to the film are assigned to the Council. But, as we have found, no waiver is given to an amateur group which has existed and served townfolk for 45 years. Whose members have made films free of charge to show in The Pier Museum of which Coun. North is a trust member. No waiver is given to the Club whose members have shown historical films of the town to packed houses, often for charity, for over a quarter of a century. No consideration is made that our members do not use BBC-like generators or lighting and create far less hazard than a golfer on a Council golf-course or a fisherman with his rod spread out across the pier's walkway.

In short Councillor North, while we don't want to pick a fight, we do feel aggrieved that we have got a raw deal from our elected representatives of late. Maybe there's room in there for another film too, looking in a more serious way at the many more shortcomings of our town!

For Sale

Mrs Jean Thompson has contacted the Club offering two items for sale which belonged to her late husband. The prices are negotiable.

VIDEO TITLE GENERATOR VTG128 – has 'S' and composite connections for general analogue use.

AUDIO/VIDEO MIXER/FADER VEC1020 - 'S' and composite connections for general analogue use.

Both items are virtually unused and boxed as new. Would anyone interested give me (Chris 01702 545207) a call and I will pass your name on to Mrs Thompson.

Where are they Now!

We sometimes receive best wishes messages from past members. This week we have heard from Pam and Fred Smith who were very active members about 25 years ago and will visit us again soon. Also a message from Mike Salisbury, past Publicity Officer who is now teaching at Southend High School for Girls!