

North Thames Region



NEWSLETTER

March—April 2018



The Region's Knockout Competition is taking place again this year. The Draw, Venues, Dates and Judges are on page 5.



The Annual Competition & Festival are also taking place again. See page 2.

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Chairman's Chat



Brenda Granshaw FCI 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.

I have spent some time organising the North Thames Knock out Competition. I had originally thought that there would be 12 clubs interested in participating in the Competition but, at the end of the day, only 8 clubs have entered.

I had proposed that we moved to groups of two clubs in order to enable each round of the Competition to be completed comfortably on a club night. If there had been 12 entrants, this would have meant the introduction of semi finals, but with eight clubs we have decided to hold 4 first rounds and then have all four first round winners in the final, which will be held at Bourne End (the winners of last year's competition).

Details of the dates and venues for each of the first rounds are given on page 5. I do hope that you will come and support these events, or at least support the final, even if your club does not make it through the first round. It is always interesting to see what other clubs are producing and maybe get a few tips for future productions.

The standard of the films entered for the Knock Out Competition is always high and I am therefore surprised that very few of them seem to get entered for the IAC Film Competition. Maybe this year will be different and we shall see some of them at BIAFF, which is in Harrogate between 13-15th April.

A later date for your diary is **Saturday 17th November** when we shall be holding the **Annual North Thames Film Festival and AGM**. We are staying in Amersham, at the **Barn Hall in the Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP65AH**. However, in another attempt to attract a reasonable audience, we shall be having an afternoon show. We are hoping that this will be attractive to you and that you will come and join us. We are also hoping that more films from the Knock Out Competition will be entered for our Annual Film Competition. Currently we are considering how we can encourage clubs to help make this happen.

Finally, a little good news for the fans of DVC. DVC ceased trading last March and with it went all the support that Edius users had become accustomed to having at the end of a telephone. As my Edius system died at the weekend, I wondered whether David Clarke had reincarnated the company and was pleased to find **sales@dvctraining.co.uk**. The focus seems to be on training but the word support is mentioned.

Looking Back isn't always a Bad Thing

There is no denying that nowadays the average age of video society members is quite high. Unfortunately, try as we might, we cannot seem to get a good influx of younger talent.

We need to find, perhaps, a point at which these two groups could meet.

There seems to be a trend nowadays for looking back. Naturally, being in the 'more mature' bracket myself, this is something that can often occupy my thoughts.

I begin to realise that I have had experiences in life that a younger person knows nothing about.....the 40's and Wartime, the '50's with Rock 'N Roll, and the 60's with miniskirts, platform shoes, flower power—and no mobile phones!

You will have known family members that are no longer around and that the younger ones know little about. So, to be perfectly blunt, we don't want to 'pop-off' before we have had a chance of telling the younger generation about the times we have lived in, and, indeed, anything that we may have learned from the past through our parents.

We must come to terms with the fact that to the young, we are now the ones who have lived in the 'olden days'!! . Don't we all wish we had asked our parents or grandparents so much more when we had the chance?

Fortunately, when I first had the idea to move from film to video production, I needed to see what it was like. This new fangled video had one great advantage: it could record sound simultaneously with the picture.....great for interviewing people!

So I used my mother as a guinea pig. I hired a video camera from a TV shop and interviewed her. It was a great success and more to the point, I still have the original uncut interview including all the things that went wrong. And now that she is no longer here, I am able to remember her voice, her humour and her laugh, and, of course, all the stories she told.

Perhaps we can encourage or inspire younger people to capture these reminiscences via their smart phones or tablets. Basic editing can be done quite easily on these devices, and we can be there to offer advice.

So, what can a Video Club do to work this to our advantage? Well, maybe, just maybe, we could hold some sort of Open Day/ Evening...or 'Meet Up' (the in-word at the moment) with ideas and basic instruction. This may not lead to anything significant, but it could fire up an interest in the 'art' of filmmaking in someone—and that could lead to increased membership.

....Well it COULD, couldn't it? It's worth a try!!

Christine Collins FACI



Christine's mother reminisces on camera

Moaner Geezer/Gal

I feel the last NTR Newsletter missed a great opportunity by not listing all the films and their creators that were entered into our blue ribbon event held in Amersham last year.

I for one would love to have seen the names in print of the also rans: without them there would be no competition.

Also, I have tried several times to access the list via the <http://www.theiac.org.uk/newsNTRAC/comp2017.htm> site—but to no avail. Even if I had been able to download the placings, it's still far from satisfactory.

You don't buy a newspaper to read the football results, then only get the top teams' results plus the names of the referees in large print.

If the NTR Newsletter had used the same size fonts as on page 9, then all the entrants could easily have been shown. We also rans should be mentioned in the Newsletter to show that a few of us are still active and making films.

We all do the best we can to make the Competition a success. We might not be award winners, so please give us credit for our work and next year hopefully the entrants will fill two pages in the magazine.

I don't know the full results of the Competition, but guessing that if there were a wooden spoon prize, I could be in the running for it.

As Editor, I can only print the information I am given.

I was not given a full list of placings, and, as they were available online, I decided just to publish the Award Winners.

Does the filmmaker who came 30th out of 30 with a low percentage score really want that made public?

Almost all the films entered were shown on the Festival Day, including therefore almost all the “also rans”.

I cannot comment on the accessibility of the online results, but I see there is now (early February) a link on the IAC Website Home Page to all 30 films.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



THURSDAY APRIL 6th

Harrow FM Spring Public Show, in Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Pinner, HA5 1AA at 8 pm. Entry: £6.

APRIL 13th > 15th 2018

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

Details in Film & Video Maker and on the IAC website

NTR 100 CLUB

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Each of the following wins £12

January 2018

73 Dr. Susan Crowther (owns 1 Share)
21 Max Bender (1)
63 Barry Euinton (1)
22 Angela Stroud (3)

February 2018

72 Alan Colegrave (1)
21 Max Bender (1)
96 John Astin (2)
55 John Howden (1)

Have you noticed?

This Newsletter has only 8 pages!

**MORE CONTRIBUTIONS NEXT TIME,
PLEASE!!**

UNICA comes to the UK in 2020

Do you know what is?

Have you ever thought of going?

Why not try it this year?

The UNICA Congress is:

- a whole week of the world's best amateur films
- a chance to meet and mingle with film enthusiasts from many countries
- a holiday in a part of the world you may not know.

**This year, 2018, it runs from
Saturday 1st to Saturday 8th September,
in the town of Blansko, near Brno,
in the Czech Republic.**



- Further information on UNICA can found on its website: <http://unica-web.com>
- For information about booking, travel etc., contact current UNICA President Dave Watterson: president@unica-web.com

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday April 1st 2018
Please send all contributions by e-mail & attachments to:
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