



North Thames Region



The Film & Video Institute

www.theiac.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

September—October 2016



A New Dawn for the Modern Age
An On-Line Video Competition: *see pp 6 > 8*

PLUS:

The Chairman Stands Down *see p 2*

What about trying A/V? *see p 3*

Do we really want new, young members? *see p 10*

And don't forget Norwich! *see pp 4, 5 & 12*

NTRIAC CONTACTS:

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Chairman's Chat

John Howden joined Colchester Film Makers in 2004 and took over as Chairman in 2005. He has served as Competitions Officer and is currently one of the Club's projectionists. He joined the NTR Council in 2012 and now also serves on the National IAC Council. He has judged at local, regional and national level and was a Final Round Judge at BIAFF 2015. He is an active film maker, regularly receiving 3 and 4 Star Awards at BIAFF.



I have decided that I will not stand for the post of Chairman at the AGM in October.

Before I go into the reasons, I want say a huge thank you to the members of the NTR Council who have supported me in the time that I have chaired the Committee.

I count them as my friends and have enjoyed, most of the time, working with them to try to make our hobby more visible in this very diverse Region.

When I took up the post I had not counted on the depth of apathy that exists amongst the Club Membership. It seems we might just as well be talking, some of the time, to a brick wall!

I therefore have come to the conclusion that the IAC is either generally irrelevant or is failing in getting across its message. Getting a response is like wading in treacle.

This is ironic. Why?

Because some time ago your Council voted to turn down the offer of hosting BIAFF 2018. The result of this is that a working party has been set up to look at the future of BIAFF. Amongst all the things they are talking about and investigating, is the issue of turning BIAFF back into the best amateur film festival in the country and hopefully the world!

BIAFF 2018 will run more or less as it has been and will be held in Harrogate. It will be run by the National Council and therefore will not fall on the shoulders of a Region. They are talking about on line entry and it has been suggested that on line streaming of films will be part of the deal. I hope to report to you on further developments as they become clearer. BUT we still have a Region to manage. We need nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman, and all posts on the Council. It is now your turn to see what you can do. Are you game for that? (*See the nomination papers on p. 5*)

And here is another reason for my deciding not to continue as Chairman: I have been banging on for months about the Norwich Experience and asking you to come and join us for the weekend. It is happening on our doorstep and at the present moment we have just 17 people from North Thames!

I have to say that that is much better than all the other Regions put together, but I still am very disappointed. We have 200 plus members over the Region, - why do we not have more takers for Norwich?

Can our hobby be great again and foster the burgeoning careers of future Lindsay Andersons or Martin Scorseses?

Yes it can - but it does need a little, no, a lot, of support from the rank and file film makers in the hobby - that means you and me. So how about it?

And whilst I am banging the drum, please do support the new Film Competition being put together by Alan Colegrave and Tim Stannard. It replaces for this year only the annual North Thames Film Festival Day. (*See pp 6 > 8*)

Enjoy what is left of the summer and I will see you in Norwich for the weekend of October 20 to 23. (*See back page*) Happy edits!

Ever considered improving your AudioVisual Skills and getting to grips with Photoshop, Sound Production and Pictures To Exe?

Then the Essex Audio-Visual Group is the place to be.

Dick Williams ARPS DPAGB-AV tells us more:

To produce slide shows of a fantastic trip to some far distant exotic location through to producing international award winning audiovisual sequences, The Essex Audio Visual Group encompasses and promotes making the most of your photography and audio visual production skills.

We live in exciting times as amateur photographers with the ever changing and improving cameras, faster computers and advances in software, which allow us to become more and more creative with our productions.

Aware of these advancements, the Group's Committee tries to balance the annual programme with tutorial evenings, visits from other AV workers and Group Competitions to keep the members both motivated and entertained.

The group holds several competitions throughout the year where members can show their work and not only win prizes for each competition but collect points towards winning the annual overall "Muriel Yetts" Trophy.

Making AV sequences has moved so far from the two projector slide tape days, and the Group's attitude towards these changes has been to accept that if a member chooses to pan, zoom or rotate their images or even include a video clip in his or her sequence, then the work should be judged on its artistic merit and not to stifle members' creativity with too many rules.

Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the Group organising and hosting the "East Anglian Audio Visual Competition" where we see entries not only from East Anglia but also from all over the south east of England. The date is 18th March 2017. If you are interested, then please contact us, and by the end of this year, full details will be posted on our website.

If you feel that you would be interested in using your images in an artistic and interesting way or feel that you can produce sequences to compete at club, regional, national or even international level, then come pay us a visit. We would love to see you and welcome your input into our group.

You can see more of what we do on our website.



**The East Anglian 2016 AV
Competition Winner,
Keith Leedham, with the
Judges, Kate & Keith Brown**

The Essex Audio-Visual Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Holy Trinity Church, Rectory Garth, Rayleigh at 8 pm.

For more information:

Email: dickwilliamsav@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: 01708 748580

Website: www.essexavgroup.org.uk

North Thames Region IAC Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 54th AGM of the members of the North Thames Region of the IAC will be held at 5.30 pm on Saturday October 22nd 2016 at the Maids Head Hotel, 20 Tombland, Norwich NR3 1LB

Penny Love, Hon Secretary, September 2016

The North Thames 54th AGM will take place at 5.30 pm on Saturday October 22nd at the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (21st November 2015)
3. To receive the Chairman's Report
4. To receive the Treasurer's Report and Accounts
5. To elect Members of the Regional Council
6. To elect the following Officers and Special Posts:
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon Secretary
 - Hon Treasurer
 - Membership Officer
 - Publicity Officer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - KnockOut Competition Officer
 - 100 Club Officer
 - Youth Officer
 - Training Officer
 - Annual Competition Officer
7. To appoint an Hon Auditor (Independent Examiner)
8. Members' Voices - your chance to make suggestions
9. Any Other Business

NOMINATIONS FOR NTR IAC COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016

(For a term of three years)

(This form must either be sent to Penny Love by Friday 7th October or handed to her before 10.30 am on Saturday 22nd October.

Note: The agreement of the nominee must be obtained before nomination is submitted.)

1. 2.
3. 4.

Proposed..... *Seconded*.....

Membership of the Council is open on an elective basis to all members of the IAC in the Region. The Council consists of an elected group of 12 post holders and up to 6 members, a total of 18. We currently have 9 people on Council (see below). The Council meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday at 2pm. The meeting takes place at the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF COUNCIL 2016

(For a term of one year)

1. Chairman..... 2. Vice Chairman.....
3. Hon. Secretary..... 4. Hon. Treasurer.....
5. Membership Officer..... 6. Publicity Officer.....
7. Newsletter Editor..... 8. KnockOut Competition
Officer.....9. 100 Club Officer.....
10 Youth Officer 11 Training Officer.....
12. Annual Competition Officer.....

Proposed..... *Seconded*.....

Current Members of The NTRIAC Council:

President	Ron Jones
Chairman	John Howden
Vice Chairman	Christine Collins
Secretary and Membership	Penny Love
Treasurer	Brenda Granshaw
Publicity	Eric Jukes
Newsletter	John Astin
Knock out Competition	Ron Jones
Annual Competition	Alan Colegrave
100 Club	John Farrer
Members	None

The New for 2016 NTRIAC Video On-Line Competition

Organisers Alan Colegrave & Tim Stannard tell us all about it:



Alan Colegrave



Tim Stannard

As was announced in the last Newsletter, the traditional NTRIAC Festival will not take place this year. However, we do intend to run an experimental, possibly one off, Online Competition.

So what does this mean? Not too much more than that we are endeavouring to keep up to date with the current technology and make the entry process a lot easier.

Up until now, the filmmaker would need to author a BluRay or DVD of his/her production. Maybe print the name of the production on the disk. Then, together with an entry form and cheque, pack the items in such a way to survive the post. Thirdly, it would have to be taken to the post box or post office, especially if you did not know the postage.

Now the whole operation can be done in a couple of minutes without moving from the computer.

Although experimental, we want to make it a very worthwhile competition. As all the films will be judged via the internet, we can choose judges from anywhere. Each film will be judged by at least three different judges. We will try to have

films judged by judges who have experience in that field. For instance we will try to avoid asking a natural history expert to judge your conceptual drama. So far, we have three judges from Australia, three from the Netherlands, a number of professionals and some BIAFF judges.

The main technical difference for you as the film maker will be **that you will need to save your production as a video file** as well as a DVD or BluRay.

I only know Adobe Premiere but I am certain that all modern editing software will allow you to do this easily.

Look for commands such as “save to mp4”, “save to video file” or to “H264”.

If you cannot get it to work, I would suggest doing a quick internet search. Failing everything, ask your children or grandchildren!

Also we have two under 16 classes to encourage younger filmmakers. Most young filmmakers will not need any technical help but if they do, limited assistance is acceptable. There is a small surcharge for non IAC members. This will not apply to under 16 entrants who are family members.

We now have a dedicated Competition Email Address: NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk

If you do not normally enter the NTRIAC festival, please make this the year to do so. Even if you do not win, you will get at least three feedback forms (sent by Email) from experienced judges. **The entry cost is now less than a standard coffee at the majority of coffee shops - even less for films less than three minutes.**

Looking forward to receive masses of entries.

For further information or guidance, contact Alan or Tim at the dedicated E-Mail Address:

NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk

The New for 2016 Video On-Line Competition

The Rules

This is very much a “test the water” operation. There could be niggles but we hope not. **You can now enter without leaving your computer at minimal cost.**

We would encourage all filmmakers have a go.

If you do not win, you will receive several comments sheets from established video makers.

Entry

- Entry will be open to anyone who is living, working or is a member of a Video Club in the North Thames and South East Regions of the IAC.
- Entry is open to non-members of the IAC with a small additional payment.
- Films should be in English or have English sub-titles (if appropriate)

Entry Groups

1. Open to all
2. Films made by under 13 year olds. This is defined as a person under 13 years 0 days on October 1st
3. Films made by 13 to 16 year olds. This is defined by persons aged 13 years on October 1st and under 16 years 0 days

Adult assistance will be acceptable as long as it is guidance as opposed to a takeover of the production.

Entry Procedure

Entry will only be online.

(Any discs / tapes sent in will be ignored and only returned if suitable packaging and postage are supplied).

If you would like to enter, please Email for an Entry Form to our dedicated Festival address: NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk

1. The preferred method is for the film maker to upload his/her films to Vimeo. The site has a free version. All that will be needed is the URL – the address in the form of <https://vimeo.com/173018777>
2. Entries can be sent online to an address given in the Entry Form.
3. We will be setting up our own Vimeo Plus site. When the entrant is ready, he/she should contact the organisers for its Vimeo address and password. This will only last approximately 1 hour. A typical file of 500MB should take less than an hour to upload but it will depend to an extent on the connection.

continued overleaf

Entry Format

The preferred format is the normal H264 Mpeg 4 (mp4).

Maximum file size if entry method 2 or 3 is used is 500MB.

Other formats such as Quick Time are acceptable.

The maximum production length is 12 minutes.

Longer films may be accepted if space permits. Please email the organisers.

Entry Costs and Payments

- Films less than 3 minutes 0 seconds £1
- Films over 3 and less than 15 minutes £2
- Films up to 6 minutes under 16 years old £1
- Films over 6 minutes under 16 years old £2
- Non IAC members should add £2 per entry to the above

Payment should be made by PayPal to the address on the Entry Form.

(Any film entered without a payment will not be judged.)

Judging

- The team of judges will consist of top amateurs and a number of professionals. Some of the judges will not be UK based. We hope to include professionals who have won awards themselves such as BAFTAs.
- Each film will be judged by three judges who will award an overall mark.
- If the entry is large enough, the top ten point scorers will be judged by another three judges to determine the winners.
- Each judge will fill out a comments form which will be emailed to the makers. There will be Certificates and possibly nominal prizes for the winners. The list of judges will be published on the entry form.
- However, should circumstances change some judges may be added or possibly deleted.

Awards and Classes

As previously stated, awards will consist of Certificates. The number of awards will be determined by the number of entries. For instance, if there were 20 short dramas entered, there would be class winners.

Film Show.

There is no intention at the moment of a film show. However should there be a demand, one could be arranged. With the individual maker's permission, the entire entry will be available on the NTRIAC Vimeo site. This could make an interesting club evening.

General

This is a new venture, endeavouring to keep up with modern technology. As such, this is very much an experiment to ascertain members' reactions. We would like to encourage all members to enter even if they feel they have no chance of winning. You will get great feedback from some of the world's best filmmakers / judges.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27th

Harrow Film Makers Autumn Public Show
(to include the Annual Newsreel of Events
around Harrow) in Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane,
Pinner HA5 1AA. 7.30 for 8 pm. £6 inc. refreshments
See the website harrowfilmmakers.org.uk
or contact Judy Long: 07979 571381

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15th

Potters Bar FilmMakers' Public Show, "A Festival of Films",
in Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West, Northaw, EN6 4NW .
Shows at 2.30 & 7.30 pm. £6 inc. refreshments.
Further information from Penny Love (*see front cover*)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21st — SUNDAY OCTOBER 23rd

**The IAC Autumn Convention & AGM Weekend hosted by
the NTR in the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich (*See p. 12*)**

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: John Farrer

Tel.: 01462 434948

E-Mail: jffarrer@madasafish.com

Each of the following wins £12:

August 2016

65 Christine Collins: *Potters Bar FM*
52 Gill Harrold: *Potters Bar FM*
107 Martin Page: *W & W FM*
6 John Farrer: *Potters Bar FM*

Dave Smith writes:

I'm bitterly disappointed at the
cancellation of the NTR 2016
Competition as I have just finished
making a 6min 23sec comedy solely
for this annual event.
I was looking forward to the judges'
comments plus the audience
response if it was shown as I filmed
it in SD, 4:3 to tape, hoping to make
a point that you can have fun
creating videos with really cheap
and obsolete gear.
I understand that hosting the IAC
AGM Weekend should take priority,
but I will certainly miss the NTRIAC
Festival this year.
**Can you enter it in the new On-Line
Competition, Dave?** *Ed.*

The Future for our Hobby ?

Andrew Tweed, Potters Bar FM's Chairman, offers a different perspective on the way forward:

Dozens of column inches are given over to the dwindling membership of IAC Clubs. Potters Bar FilmMakers are lucky to have a very able Publicity Officer who recently arranged two successful promotions.

One at the local Tesco store and another with a stand at the Potters Bar Carnival. A good number of new member enquires were received, several of which were either from, or on behalf of, young people.

None of the youngsters followed up!

With this in mind, one of our club members put forward the idea of opening a Junior Section.

Here are just some of the thoughts that our committee discussed. I'll leave you to your own conclusions:

- What should be the target age range?
- Safe Guarding: Would we need a responsible adult to accompany each child and/or DBS (formally CRB) checks on all our members?
- Timing and Regularity of Meetings. (The assumption was made that attending our present fortnightly Club Nights would not be a frequent enough option).
- What is it we can offer that would supplement the work of school media departments?
- Would we be a Film Making Club or a Film Making School?
- Structure of Club sessions. How do we offer the 'instant' rewards required to maintain the attention and enthusiasm of young minds?
- Do we have the skills and commitment amongst our membership to set up, run and maintain what is effectively a new club?
- Technology???? How "with it" are our older members?
- How do you make the initial junior membership numbers viable from a standing start?
- Retention. How do you mitigate against losing junior members as they come across other attractions/distractions?

This is by no means an exhaustive list but is sufficient to open wider debate. In addition, it prompts some questions about how far IAC club members are willing to push at their boundaries.

We want new members, but if we are honest with ourselves, the vast majority of members are quite happy with the way things are. We don't really want to stray far from our comfort zone.

New members are very welcome as long as they are a bit like us - only younger!

Aivar Kaulins FAcI invites you to "Come To The Fair"

For several years, we have enjoyed meeting similarly minded film enthusiasts twice a year at the RVS Hall in Bury Lane, Rickmansworth. With the expiration of the lease, that venue is no longer available and the event organiser, Frank Banfield, had to find a replacement.

I am very pleased to report that the next Fair will now take place on Saturday 8th October 2016 at the 1st Chorleywood Scout Group Hall in Orchard Drive, Chorleywood, WD3 5QL.

This venue is close to junction 18 of the M25, and is a leisurely ten minute walk from Chorleywood Station on the Metropolitan and Chiltern lines. (Honest — these days Harrow FM's researcher doesn't do any faster than leisurely!)

The doors open at 10am.

It is anticipated that the usual number of vendors will attend, selling a large variety of mainly ciné-related equipment, bulbs, and film prints of amateur gauges such as Standard 8, Super 8, 9.5mm and 16mm, as well as other A/V equipment, DVDs and film memorabilia.

To book a table or for further information, contact Frank Banfield on 01 296 668 265.

For maps and details to aid your journey by car or public transport, send a stamped addressed envelope (C5 suggested but other sizes acceptable) to Harrow Film Makers, 23 Greenway, Harrow HA3 0TU.

See you at the Chorleywood Film Fair!

North v South Competition 2016

The organisers of the annual prestigious **North v South Competition** are looking for entries from our North Thames Region.

The theme for this year is "**Out of the Blue**".

Do you have a film that would fit that category?

If so, why not enter it?

The closing date for entries is **Saturday October 15th**.

For further information, and an Entry Form, e-mail Simon Earwicker at info@ovfm.org.uk

Production Music CDs For Sale

Brian Wright, ex-Chairman of the now disbanded Milton Keynes Camcorder Club, is looking to dispose of the Club's production music CDs.

He's still got a few hundred left, and is only asking £10 for 50 CDs!!

For further information, go to the IAC website:

www.theiac.org.uk/ads/smalladverts2.html

Are you coming? The Last Reminder!
The 2016 IAC AUTUMN CONVENTION & AGM
October 21 to 23
MAIDS HEAD HOTEL, 20 Tombland,
NORWICH NR3 1LB



The Maids Head Hotel



Royal Arcade



Norwich Cathedral

- The Oldest Hotel in the UK
 - A Guided Tour of the City
 - A Lucky Dip Film Competition
 - Norwich on your Doorstep
 - A Coach Trip to Bressingham Gardens
 - THE NTR IAC AGM
 - The Gala Dinner
 - The Mermaid & Mini-Mermaid Competitions
 - The IAC AGM
 - David Cleveland—Founder of the E. Anglian Archives
- Further information from John Howden, Chair of NTR, on:
johnhowden7@gmail.com or from the IAC website

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday October 2nd
Please send all contributions by e-mail & attachments to:
john.astin1@ntlworld.com