

North Thames Region



NEWSLETTER

September—October 2017



Finished a Film
and Entering it
in our Annual Competition?



Joining Us for the
AGM & Festival
on October 15th?



Fancy coming
on Council?

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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 just heard that the Council of the North West Region of the IAC think that they will not be able to survive beyond their AGM in November. This is the second Region (EARIAC was the first), which has been unable to find sufficient members willing to stand for their Council to provide a focus for the Region.

While North Thames is not in the same position, it would be good to have some new Council members with fresh ideas. The Nomination Form, along with details of the meetings, appears on page 5, so please give some thought to putting yourself forward. It would be good to see you.

It is true that we do the same things each year. If you have a suggestion of something else that we could arrange which would be of interest to members, do please let me know.

Alan Colegrave and Tim Stannard have worked very hard to update our Annual Competition by enabling entries to be submitted on line. We are hoping that this will attract more entries to the Competition. However, this is not to say that we no longer welcome hardcopy entries. An Entry Form was published in the last Newsletter, and we are re-publishing it in this Newsletter on page 9.

The closing date for the Competition entries is Monday 25th September.

Clubs still seem to enjoy the Knock Out Competition and I hope that the interest continues. We are proposing to make a few changes to help the Competition run more smoothly. It was apparent this year that trying to contain 3 programmes of films in an evening of 2 hours was virtually impossible unless the judges' comments were restricted, which was a shame as all the judges had interesting points to make. We are therefore thinking of either reducing the length of the programme or reducing the number of Clubs in each Round.

As the Knock Out Competition Officer I would welcome your views or alternative suggestions.

I do hope that you will come and join us at the North Thames Festival and give us your thoughts at the AGM. This year we are including a speaker in the afternoon. The date for your diaries is Sunday 15th October in the Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham HP6 5AH (see the poster for full details of the day on pages 6 & 7).

Brenda

How To Improve our Movie-Making

Ian Simpson, from Woollongong Camera Club Movie Makers, goes:

“Back To School For Effective Feedback”

Our Junior Schools are promoting “effective feedback”, and I was struck by how relevant this process was to our “education and development” in movie making. They use three types of feedback: self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher assessment. This translates quite readily into our movie making education with the first two assessment methods remaining the same and only the third changed to that of assessment by judges.

Self-Assessment is perhaps the most difficult to do quantitatively. How often have you finished a movie and thought it was the best you have ever created, only to “see” all its faults on re-viewing a couple of months later? The best we can do here is to set ourselves small challenges. These challenges can be either technical or creative. A technical one could be to shoot our next movie completely on manual settings. Creative challenges could be making a One Minute Movie, or shooting a movie in a different genre from the one in which we are comfortable.

Peer Assessment can also be difficult, as few members like to publicly criticise another member. However, here we need to look again at what our Junior Schools are doing. As we are all trying to learn and perfect new skills, just like our school kids, we need people to tell us whether or not we are doing the right thing. Here we have to be careful, as feedback can have both a positive and a negative effect on the member.

Judges’ Assessment is often overlooked as a potential source of effective feedback. Too often I have received judging sheets back with no comments - only a mark. Such a “result” may be very “efficient” for the judge but is certainly not “effective feedback” for the competition entrant. Unfortunately, many of our judges are not trained in judging movies, so they either concentrate on looking for faults, especially for any of their pet hates, or they just provide nothing more than an “audience appeal” result.

The first two assessments can be handled within the club environment; the latter is best handled on a national basis. Should we consider creating a national pool of judges? This would be especially beneficial if each judge in the pool had some training in judging and effective feedback.

Here once again, school practices can guide us as to what constitutes “effective feedback”:

- **Be as Specific as Possible** – “Well Done” is not effective feedback, better if you explain what was good in the movie and what needs improvement.
- **Give the Feedback Sooner** – most effective feedback is immediately after viewing the member’s movie. This is possible in the club environment.
- **Present Feedback Carefully** – be aware that your feedback may be interpreted as controlling or may make the receiver uncomfortable. So it is best given in an atmosphere where the person is not compared to others.

If you are in any doubt how important effective feedback is to your learning process, then again going back to school can give you guidance:

Studies have shown that learning with effective feedback can be 2 to 3 times more powerful than one year’s normal study.

We all need effective feedback and we expect it especially from our judges.

First published in the UK in the SoCo Magazine, and reproduced here in a slightly edited form with the kind permission of Editor Pip Critten and the Author.

**North Thames Region IAC
Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the 55th AGM of the members of the North Thames Region of the IAC will be held at 12.00 noon on Sunday October 15th 2017 in The Drake Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH
Penny Love, September 2017

**The North Thames 55th AGM will take place
at 12.00 noon on Sunday October 15th 2017 in
The Drake Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham,
HP6 5AH**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (22nd October 2016)
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
 - Regional Contact
 - Hon Treasurer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer
 - Membership Officer
 - Annual Competition Officer
 - Knock Out Competition Officer
 - 100 Club Officer
7. To appoint an Hon Auditor (Independent Examiner)
8. Members' Voices - your chance to make suggestions
9. Any Other Business

NOMINATIONS FOR NTRAC COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017

(For a term of three years)

(This form must either be sent to Penny Love by Friday 13th October or handed to her before 10.30 am on Sunday 15th 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 10 post holders and up to 8 members, a total of 18. We currently have 8 people on Council (see below). The Council meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday at 1.45pm. The meeting takes place at the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF COUNCIL 2017

(For a term of one year)

1. Chairman..... 2. Vice Chairman.....
3. Regional Contact..... 4. Hon. Treasurer.....
5. Membership Officer..... 6. Publicity Officer.....
7. Newsletter Editor..... 8. KnockOut Competition
Officer..... 9. 100 Club Officer.....
10. Annual Competition Officer.....

Proposed..... Seconded.....

Current Members of The NTRAC Council:

President	John Howden
Chairman	Brenda Granshaw
Vice Chairman	Christine Collins
Regional Contact	Penny Love
Membership Officer	Penny Love
Treasurer	Brenda Granshaw
Publicity Officer	Eric Jukes
Training Officer	Eric Jukes
Newsletter Editor	John Astin
Knock out Competition Officer	Brenda Granshaw
Annual Competition Officer	Alan Colegrave
100 Club Officer	Bob Chester
Members	None



COME TO THE



North Thames Festival & AGM

Films Competition

program

Tea/Coffee 10.00am

AGM 12.00

Guest Speaker 1.30-2.15

Film show (3) 4.00-5.00

Close 5.30pm: all times



Tickets (at the door)

£5 including buffet lunch

THE FESTIVAL!



GM Oct.15th 2017 10.00am

Results Awards

Programme

...	Film show (1)	10.30-11.45
...	Lunch	12.30-1.30
...	Film show (2)	2.30-3.30
...	Results & Awards	5.00

times are approximate



Where is it?

Drake Hall Community Centre

Chiltern Ave., Amersham, HP6 5AH



Poster by Christine Collins

NTRIAC 2017 Film Festival - How To Enter:

Deadline for Entries: September 25th

As current Editor of this Newsletter, I believe the success of this Competition & Festival is vital for the future of the North Thames Region. Your Committee believes it has done everything possible to make it as simple as can be to enter the Competition. The Festival Day, at £5 including lunch and a guest speaker, is an absolute bargain.

It is essential for our future that these two events are well supported.

I therefore make no excuse for re-printing the key points of how to enter and the Postal Entry Form (opposite) from the last Newsletter.

If you wish to enter on-line:

- (1) If your entry is already on the internet, on YouTube, Vimeo or elsewhere, simply go to the dedicated Festival Competition website, **www.adhocvideos.co.uk/ntriac**, and follow the instructions.
- (2) If your entry is not already on the internet, you will need to send your entry as an MP4 file to the dedicated e-mail address: **NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk**. You can use Dropbox or WeTransfer to submit your entry. Files smaller than 500MB are preferable.

If you wish to send in your entry on DVD, BluRay or Memory Stick by post:

You will need to complete the Entry Form opposite, cut it out and post it, with your entry and a cheque made out to "NTRIAC" for the appropriate amount (see below) to:

Alan Colegrave, 16 Tewkesbury Avenue, Pinner, HA5 5LH.

Audio-Visual Entries are welcomed, provided they are submitted in one of the above ways. Entries are also welcomed from Young FilmMakers.

Entry Fees:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| All adult entries longer than 1 Minute: | £5* |
| All adult entries less than 1 Minute: | £2* |
| All Young Person's Entries (under 16): | £2* |

**** If you enter by post, and you wish your DVD, BluRay or Memory Stick to be posted back to you after the Festival, please add an appropriate amount to cover postage costs.***

For any further help, information or guidance on how to enter, please e-mail Competition Organiser Alan Colegrave at: **NTRIAC@gmx.co.uk**



For postal entries ONLY, complete and cut out this Entry Form

NTRIAC Film Festival 2017 Form for Postal Entries

Title of Film	
Entrant's Name	
Entrant's Address 1	
Entrant's Email	
Telephone numbers	
Video Club / Society, Where appropriate	
IAC Member: Yes? / No? IAC Number where appropriate	
Age if under 16 and Date of Birth	
Film Duration	
Film Genre	
Film Format e.g. DVD / BluRay /Memory Stick Full 16:9 /Letterbox 16:9/ 4:3 ?	
Information about the film for the programme:	

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made out to "NTRIAC"

NTR 100 CLUB

Contact: Bob Chester

Tel.: 020 8449 2004

E-Mail: robertalanchester@yahoo.co.uk

Each of the following wins £12:

July 2017

- 4 Edward Catton-Orr (who owns 2 shares) *Potters Bar FM*
81 Wallace Jacob (1) *Harrow FM*
71 Heather Palmer (1) *Potters Bar FM*
98 Eric Granshaw (2) *W&W MM*

August 2017

- 50 Brenda Granshaw (2) *Wanstead & Woodford MM*
95 Michael Slowe (5) *Finchley FM*
96 John Astin (2) *Potters Bar FM*
1 Ted Bateman (7) *St. Albans MM*

There are still a few shares left on Special Offer at £10 for the first year (reduced from £12). Contact details above.

The Sept. & Oct. Draws will take place at the Festival & AGM on Sun. Oct. 15th.



Welcome!

To our New Member: 

Paul Kittell Bucks.

To join the IAC , contact:
IAC, The Film and Video Institute,
McCracken Park,
Great North Road,
Gosforth,

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NE3 2DT

Tel.: 0191 303 8960

E-Mail: admin@theiac.org.uk

**The problem with sex in the movies is,
that the popcorn usually spills.**

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE



SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th

Potters Bar FilmMakers Public Show
at Northaw Village Hall, Northaw Road West,
Northaw, EN6 4NW.

2.30 & 7.30 pm. £6 inc. refreshments
Details from Penny Love (see front cover)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th

NTR AGM & Festival Day

in the Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue,
Amersham, HP6 5AH. £5 inc. refreshments & buffet lunch.

See centre pages for more.

THURSDAY 19th > SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER

The IAC AGM National Western Hoedown Weekend hosted by
SERIAC in the Holiday Inn, 70 London Road, Sittingbourne, Kent,
ME10 1MT

*Details & Booking Form in Film & Video Maker and
on the IAC website*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17th

Wanstead & Woodford MM Public Show at St. Paul's Church Hall, Chigwell
Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex, IG8 8BT. Doors open at 7.30 for 8 pm start.
£6 inc. refreshments.

APRIL 13th > 15th 2018

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

*Details to follow in Film & Video Maker and on
the IAC website*

What do you call the security outside a Samsung Store?

Guardians of the Galaxy!

“Beware filmmakers with walking sticks or carrying monopods, they could be classified as offensive weapons”

A cautionary tale from Alan Colegrave

In mid-June I was asked if I would like to direct a short film with a working title of “Two Angry Girls”. I agreed, and a couple of days later I was on my way to Romford in Essex. We all met up and had some breakfast. Then it was on to the first venue, just outside a flat on the 5th floor of a block of flats.

It was meant to be a night scene but with the sun streaming through the windows the night feeling was less convincing. We moved a few yards to a darker area and by underexposing by about 2 stops we got a good night time look. I white balanced for daylight, making the colours warm which I feel helped the look.

All was going well. The second sequence involved two girls following a couple of guys. One was carrying a cosh and the other had a knife inside her trousers. Take One worked but I felt we could do a lot better, and we were just about to shoot Take Two when an Officer of the Law appeared. He noticed the camera, laughed, and disappeared. Take Two was better but Take Three really buzzed.

We were just about to move inside the flat when our friendly Officer re-appeared and told our actress she had an offensive weapon, that this was a public place and so that was an indictable offence. I guess as long as you had the password to enter the flats and you had a reason such as being one of the four residents on the 5th floor, it was.



Scenes from Alan Colegrave's film, “Two Angry Girls”



We tried to explain we were just filming—which seemed fairly obvious with a camera on a tripod - but that was ignored. She was questioned and checked out. After about 15 minutes he left, saying he would report it to his Sergeant and she may have to appear at the Crown Court. He also took the cosh which mucked up our continuity. Luckily, I got over this by bunching the girls together so it was not missed. It is good we were using radio mikes as opposed to a boom so the fish pole was not added to the list of offensive weapons!!

Two weeks later the actresses were called to the station and spoken to for about two hours. Eventually the police said they would not press charges. While I would not normally criticise police work, I do feel this was, as they say, “a

complete waste of police time”.

The film was finished with loads of continuity errors and uploaded to Vimeo where it has had about 300 hits. The good thing is an agent saw the film, liked it and one of the other actor's performance and has called him to a soap opera audition!

Deadline for the next issue is Sunday October 1st 2017

Please send all contributions by e-mail & attachments to:

john.astin1@ntlworld.com