

The
LINKING SHOT

Haywards Heath MovieMakers

Spring 2015



Who is this guy?

Find out inside!

From the Chairman

Paul's Ponderings

As I sit here wondering what I should put in my first Chairmans notes I thought I should introduce myself. I was a Dairy farmer since I left school just outside Rusper for 44 years on the Surrey Sussex border. I bought my first camcorder in 1995 but nothing was ever done with the films and there they sit in a boxes in the loft and under the bed; no reason just a lack of time in those days.

I and the rest of the family retired and we sold the farm. At that point it was time to invest in a new camera and I bought a Sony HVR-A1E and a new computer. The camera took fantastic pictures, had great sound and I made what I felt were some good films, not what the judges thought as they pulled them to pieces. Ah well! you soon learn to have thick skin. What do they know anyway? The camera was big and heavy and was becoming a problem to take on holiday with luggage allowances decreasing, so I now have a small Sony HDR-CX740E, but more of that at another time.

Time then to look for a Camcorder Club. The internet was young and unless you knew the name of what you wanted it was almost impossible to get any information, also as I had never had to use a computer up until 2000 because although we had one, my daughter who did farm accounts banned me from touching it! In her words "you will only muck it up Dad and if you do you sort it out yourself." In 2004 I joined Cophorne Camcorder Club which was what was left of Crawley a small group of 6 people and in 2009 joining HHMM, a great move!

At this point I would like to thank Ron for all the hard work he put into the club as Chairman but also what he has done at BIAFF and SERIAC which helps to give our club a high profile. I hope I can keep up the standard.

I would also like to thank David for agreeing to become my Vice Chairman, also congratulations to David and his team on being awarded 3 stars at this years BIAFF for the club film "Jim's Dream"

Also club member Jack Butler must also be congratulated in winning 4 stars and best film in the under 16's from BIAFF this year for his film "Flash Back"

The Committee has worked hard this year to produce a varied and interesting program of film and talks that we hope you will all enjoy.

As I write these notes our last year of running the Albany is fast approaching so good luck for our club film which this year has been undertaken by Ray and his team. The Albany is in its 49th year so next year is the big one. With club number shrinking don't lets this be the last one.

Paul Bailey

From the Editor

Well here we are again at the start of another year with a new committee and a new programme which we hope has something for everyone. We have included some popular favourites at your request as well as scheduling some new evenings.

I was very honoured recently to be asked to join the judging panel for this years BIAFF. Especially as the festival is being hosted by the South East region of the IAC where our club is very involved running two of the five mini cinemas on the Saturday.

The judging took place over a long weekend at a hotel in the beautiful city of Durham (I only saw the station really and parts of the city during the drive to the hotel—must go back one day!) It was a very intense weekend as there were some 240 entries to be appraised. Each panel comprised three judges and I sat in on 11 sessions.

The hard work started on my return home as the critiques had to be written up using mine and the other two judges notes all of which needed to be e-mailed back to the competition manager within ten days!

I found it to be a very interesting and rewarding experience to be sitting alongside many experienced and highly qualified film makers and seeing such a wide variety of film entries.

As usual, dear members, I put out a plea for articles to be included in The Linking Shot, so if you've not submitted anything before, now is your chance!



David Fenn

A warm welcome to new member

David Smart

We hope that you and all of us will enhance our knowledge together and have some fun along the way!

The Cowboy from Down Under

Recently we enjoyed an evening with an Australian flavour courtesy of the footage that Tony allowed us edit as we wish for the exercise “Edit Your Way”. I also understand that our worthy chairman has been in touch with the Australian Wide-screen Association about a future exchange of films so watch this space coppers! These events have prompted me to write about another Aussie related experience that I’ve recently enjoyed.

Have you ever heard of Smoky Dawson, The Cowboy from Down Under? No? Well neither had I until a few years ago when I acquired a short, 16mm film contained in a box of others given to me by a friend. My friend had originally bid £10.00 for an old ELF 16mm projector, which came with a box of short films including Smoky. Interestingly the film had a British board of film censors certificate, followed by an ABFD (Associated British Film Distributors) logo, but featured the said, Smoky Dawson, a singing cowboy from Australia!

The film’s story is very slight. Smoky rides into his ranch and is greeted by a bunch of immigrant children. He entertains the youngsters, teaching them about their new country by telling them a story and singing a couple of songs. I kept the film for a while using it as a programme filler, but eventually decided to sell the print on eBay along with the rest of my 16mm collection.

Soon after the film was listed on eBay I got a message from a very nice lady from Tamworth in Australia who was interested in buying the film for the Australian Country Music Foundation. It turns out that Smoky Dawson was a much loved country singer in Australia, better known for his singing and radio performances than film. The museum were very excited about acquiring the film as they only had one other in their collection featuring Smoky.

In the circumstances I very willingly donated the film to the association and I also sent them a DVD copy for showing in the museum. The ACMF has a website at <http://www.acmf.org.au/ABOUT.html> which might be of interest to any country music fan readers.



I was keen to find out more about Smoky Dawson and found another website with a page dedicated to him at <http://www.acmf.org.au/ABOUT.html>.

Apparently, for more than six decades, Smoky and his wife, Dot, made a remarkable contribution to the culture and life of their country and you can read all about it here. Smoky died, aged 94, in 2008, and Dot, aged 104, two years later in 2010. Any reader wishing to view “Smoky Dawson: The Cowboy from Down Under” can do so at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kMVkZYnYuo>

G'day mates!

Before I donated this film I made a digital copy so that I could still show it in my home cinema. Recently I decided to upload this to YouTube for all to view as I doubted that anyone would claim copyright. As a result of the YouTube listing, about a month ago, I was contacted by Dot's daughter, Jody. The message read, "OMG My Mum and two uncles are in this movie." Jody asked me how to get a copy and I was very pleased to help in this way.

It just goes to show how small a world we live in nowadays and it has given me a lot of pleasure to re-unite this film with its country of origin and with the daughter of its star.



Preparing for BJAFF - A Cautionary Tale

Having volunteered to set up and run one of the five mini cinemas at this years BIAFF, which as you all know is being hosted by SERIAC in Sittingbourne, I was anxious to make this presentation as professional as possible.

To that end and, building on the experiences of projecting with Rod at the past Albany and Sussex Film Festivals, I put together a set of equipment which would do the job nicely.

Projector and screen, amplifier and speakers, all good so far. A Blu-ray player and a DVD player and a cueing monitor. The former to play the films and the latter, via a switch to display the welcome sign between films. I had chosen a Sony Blu-ray player as it was the only one available at the time that had a composite output as all others were HDMI only.

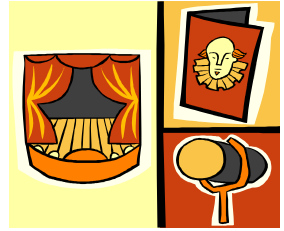
One wet afternoon, I set up all these items for a rehearsal. My Sony Blu-ray player connecting the composite output to my 7" cuing monitor. I popped a DVD into each player and checked that I could switch between the two. I then removed the DVD from the Sony, re-inserted it and checked that I could cue it on the monitor via its' menu and pause it ready to be switched to the projector, no problem so far.

I then inserted a Blu-ray disc and established the menu on the monitor. When I pressed play to cue the film, the Sony player changed the composite output to NTSC! This happened with every Blu-ray disc but not with standard DVDs. I could find nothing in the player menu to stop this. After much head scratching and searching on the internet, I happened to be chatting to my neighbor who has been in the TV trade for many years, about my problem and if he might have a magic solution. At the mention of Sony, he rolled his eyes and said he was not at all surprised as Sony had always done things their own way! So my only recourse was to use an HDMI monitor and an HDMI combiner with two outputs. This set up works well but does require extra HDMI cables (cheap now on e-bay).

David Fenn

Programme Reminder

Apr 14 Animation evening
Apr 16-19 BIAFF weekend
Apr 28 Screenwriting with Neil
May 12 Guest speaker—Dr. Frank Gray
May 26 Non Fiction Competition
Thu Jun 11 Visit to Park Cameras
Jun 23 Annual BBQ



Refreshment Rota

Apr 14 Brenda & Barry Mack
Apr 28 Mervyn Huggett & David Fenn
May 12 June Bailey & Ron Prosser
May 26 Roy Langley & Stephen Cropp



Remember!

If you are unable to attend on your night, please change with someone else and update the sheet on the notice board

Please do a stock take at the end of your night and tell Liz if any items require to be replenished

Next Issue

The next issue of The Linking Shot will be at the end of June 2015
Send contributions to linkingshot@hotmail.co.uk no later than 1st June please

Views expressed by members in the Linking Shot may not be the views of the HHMM committee unless stated