

Andover Film Club AGM

Monday 14th September 2009 at the White Hart Inn, Andover

Attendees:

Peter Torkington	Chairman
Graham Richardson	Treasurer
Hans van Well	Committee Member
Sue Mowforth	Committee Member
Jan Torkington	
Rickie van Well	
Gill Tyler	
Ronnie Crook	
Dennis Gell	
Phil Ray	
Gina Hillsdon	
Alan Taylor	

Apologies received from Mark and Vi Granger

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave a brief synopsis of the Club's foundation and activities during its first year.

- In July 2008 he had met with the management of the Reel Cinema to ask if they had any plans for 'art house' films. Reel had agreed to support local culture as part of their Test Valley planning application though they had not yet developed plans. Reel were happy to show a monthly AFC film on the basis that there would be no cost to the Club and the Reel would retain all the ticket income.
- Pete, Graham, Hans and Derek discussed setting up a Film Club in order to see films which would not normally come to Andover. They agreed that films should be chosen by the membership, that the club would need to charge for membership and that it should join the BFFS as a guiding organisation.
- At the first committee meeting in August 2008 'Man on Wire' was chosen for the first AFC showing in September.
- The Andover Film Club website was set up and then in December members were able to vote for the first time. 'Night of the Hunter' was selected and shown in January 2009.
- Other Film Club activities during the year have been a tour of the Reel projection room, and a trip to see Paul Merton's 'Silent Clowns' at Basingstoke's Anvil.
- In June the Reel contacted Pete and explained that they would be unable to accommodate AFC during July and August for commercial reasons. A poll conducted among the members showed a preference for having a summer break.
- In August the Reel made it clear to the AFC that the original financial arrangement for showing Club films was not commercially viable and they offered two options:
 - AFC could hire the screen and keep all the ticket income, or
 - AFC could pay a lesser hire fee and the Reel would retain the ticket income.The committee opted for the first option.
- There are currently 59 Members (including associate members*) As a result of the new financial arrangement with the Reel it is now essential for the Club to sell 50 – 60 tickets for each screening to cover costs. This means that the Club needs to advertise more effectively and attract more members.
- In the meantime the committee has applied for a Grant from HIWCF (the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund). Money from this Grant would be used for Marketing and to bridge any shortfall in film screening/general running costs. The results of this application will be known in October.
- Peter thanked the committee for their work during the past year.

* Associate Membership is provided free of charge for Reel staff

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year up to June 30th 2009. They have been signed-off by the Club's auditor and were accepted unanimously by the members.

The year's profit of £352.30 had recently been spent on £200 to cover the Reel's invoice for our September screening (subsequent screening fee will be £250), the Website and PO Box renewals. The Club has so far had 14 renewals and 2 new members providing an income of £361.

The cash flow and application for the Grant of £4,975 were discussed. Assuming that the application is successful, and there are sufficient funds for an active marketing campaign, the Club is aiming to at least double the membership and achieve ticket sales of at least 50 (hopefully 80) for each showing. This will ensure the Club's financial health.

Other Grants are available and will be applied for.

The committee is looking to develop a relationship with Andover College with the aim of supporting students education re film and provide opportunities for the club and college to provide a cultural contribution to Andover College student life.

The Reel's 5th screen should become available early in 2010, which we understand will be cheaper to hire and provide an option of projection from DVD. As AFC is a member of the BFFS we have full access to their library of films on DVD for screenings.

Open Discussion (all present) on the way forward:

Points raised:

- Many people don't buy the Advertiser or receive the Mid-week Advertiser and so don't get to see what the Film Club is showing.
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- Committee needs to do more to provide advance notice of films. Meeting voted to aim for a three-month notice of which films will be shown to help with the advertising.
- Andover Sound broadcast advance notices of events – need to ensure AFC film is included.
- AFC catchment area may be as wide as Southampton/Winchester etc.
- Local businesses could be asked to sponsor adverts.
- Locations for adverts could include the Bus Station, Leisure Centre, Post Office, Parish Council magazines and village notice boards.
- Currently 60% of members are from central Andover
- Dennis Gell handed copies of his correspondence with the Reel and Test Valley Council to the committee re the Reel's 5th screen.

Election of Committee Members:

All the current committee members agreed to stand for re-election.

Proposed by Jan Torkington, seconded by Ricky van Well. Carried.

Mark Granger had volunteered by letter to be on the committee.

Proposed by Jan Torkington, seconded by Ricky van Well. Carried.

Phil Ray agreed to be co-opted as and when help with graphics was needed.

AOB:

- Social activities connected with Film generally welcomed by those present. All members are invited to suggest activities/venues etc.
- Pete Torkington proposed that the AFC quorum should be reduced from 25% to 15% of the membership. Seconded by Graham Richardson. Carried.
- Ticket prices. The point was raised that, for students, £5 is a high ticket price. It was also noted that Reel has now reduced its prices to £3.50 on both Monday as well as Wednesday. The committee agreed to look at this.
- Members discussed showing films relevant to Andover College film-studies students. Generally members were happy with the choices made so far, though possibly less violence would be appreciated. Hans van Well invited all members to suggest more films.

Hans van Well concluded the evening by giving a brief explanation of the process and some of the difficulties involved in obtaining films.