

Message from the Chairman - *Mike Sanders*

Spring has sprung, the sun has shone the temperatures have risen, the sap is rising so should your camcorder usage enthusiasm increase.

Thinking of camera usage, it is evident when examining some of the footage taken from the Brooks Fleet Half Marathon that a little more understanding and care is needed with camera settings. Now that we are in the digital area where we are dealing with files that the camera makes rather than a tape there are all sorts of opportunities offered to the unwary user to get the settings wrong.



Firstly, I would like to draw member's attention to the frame rate setting. 1080/25p is very similar to film (24p) and needs a high shutter setting to work (and lots of light). Most people don't adjust the shutter so we get in 25p almost a strobing effect when runners go past the camera, or jerky pans, so is therefore to be avoided. 30p is for the American market only. If your camera does 50i that's what it should be set to, or if it doesn't have any "i" setting then 50p is preferred over 25p. The GoProHero3 for example falls into that category offering 25 or 50p only. 50p is actually 50 full frames per second whereas 50i is made up with two half frames, one of odd lines and the other with even lines, (i=interlaced) which the eye is too slow to detect what is being presented. 50p is regarded as "full quality" but some edit software will not take 50p, so try it first before you go out on a shoot; my Grass Valley Edius is happy with 50p. Compression settings is the second thing to consider. Constant bit rate (CBR) takes up a set space per minute and is better for sourcing original material than variable bit rate (VBR). Now, one camera was set to VBR at 3.5Mbits average and 16Mbits maximum. What happens here is the picture looks quite soft (no detail) for HD and as soon as a lot of runners get into shot the picture breaks up and pixelates as there aren't enough data bits to cope with all the changing action in the frame. If we compare this to broadcast spec it is a CBR of 50Mbits/sec for standard definition and 100Mbits/sec for HD, so we are a long way down on that. And with more compression (smaller file size) there has to be a drop or compromise in quality. A good clear result that is successful on movement can be obtained by setting the average to 15Mbits/sec and the maximum to 25, if it needs a minimum figure I would put in 10Mbits/sec.

VBR is a space saver but once you have set up your camera there should be no need to change it.

ProDad do a good product called ProDrenalin which sorts out the GoPro "fish eye" lens and can also add some stabilisation to the shot, and it is fast and allows a batch setting to leave it chuntering through a whole load of clips. You need to make a separate directory for your adjusted clips or it can overwrite the original. It's just under £50 for Apple or Windows OS.

Press Release by *Geoff Baier*

Filming the Fleet Half Marathon on Sunday 16th March was an exciting day in the sun for Surrey Border Movie Makers.

Having been commissioned by race director, Penny Abbot to make a short film of this year's event, Surrey Border Movies Makers set up six camera positions around the race course for their film coverage of the Brooks Fleet Pre-London Half Marathon, 2014. The circuit was carefully previewed to choose suitable locations taking into account that from some positions the teams would not be able to move on until roads re-opened or until most of the 3,500 athletes had passed by.

Project Manager Alan Butcher and his wife Kathy covered the start and finish of the race at Calthorpe Park. Elliot and Marc Stanley covered Fleet Road High Street and the team was



Runners approaching Pale Lane from Blackbushe Road

boosted by two Farnborough College of Technology media students who covered Elvetham Road. Out at the corner of Blackbushe Road and Pale Lane Geoff Baier, Nathan Baier and Lizzie Parker filmed the race as it moved down to go under the M3 bridge past the

'water station' at the Western end of Pale Lane where Ollie and Tim McCoy-Page were filming. Peter Frost (pictured) and Paul Redman used a jib which enabled their camera to be moved from road level to 10 feet in one action, creating a 'crane effect' to add interest to the action recorded. Peter and Paul covered the race as it turned for home by the Barley Mow pub and on to Church Crookham and the finish line. In glorious weather the race was a great success and provided a memorable experience for the camera teams.'



Peter Frost in position in Winchfield

Border Post-Its

This is your forum for posting your production needs, or any other notes on subjects that you would like to bring to the attention of members. If you're planning an epic and you need others to join and help, let the editor know. We'll post it if you email it (at the editors discretion) or you can contact any member of the committee - see back page!



For May 2014 Issue, email to:
editor@surreyborder.org.uk

PRODUCTION NEWS

The next meeting of the "North Vs South" Production Team is due to take place on 8th April 2014. If any members are interested in joining this production team please contact Maggie Ledwidge (Competition Officer).

The Guerilla Filmmakers Masterclass *by Colin Lewis*

The Guerilla Filmmakers Masterclass was attended by myself and John Mills on 15/16 March 2014.

Apparently, I am a stage 1 film maker but after this course, with some funding, and a good crew I could progress to stage 3 or 4 after just a few years and create masterpieces that would sell well at Festivals. I just had to believe in myself and just do it. So says the charismatic Chris Jones, whose one man presentation powered through a weekend and dynamically enthused motivation (almost evangelically) networking, and the nuts and bolts of every aspect of movie making.

The 175 strong audience was in rapture of the guru whose direct and humorous style took examples of his own work (Gone Fishing, White Angel, The Runner, Urban Ghost Story, and 50 Kisses (crowdfunded)) to illustrate how films are put together and the struggle to get them launched. Chris would show a clip and invite the audience to tear it apart, which would generate an interesting discussion about what actually works. There was a genuine desire to help fledgling directors and producers with great online support promised after the Masterclass. The audience voted that the greatest blocks to going forward were fear of failure, rejection and not being good enough. Chris Jones's personal drive was to acquire fame and that making money out of film making was secondary and difficult even with the best business skills. Nevertheless, Chris showed us how with oodles of confidence.

In 2 years (stage 2), I should be able to craft a 15 minute short "to get myself noticed" on the film platform in readiness for stage 3 with a "Break Out" film on a micro budget showing cutting edge features like Paranormal . I would show "innovation in both art and business". It is all doable, like David Yates progressing from Yoga videos to Harry Potter in 10 years.

Actors are the 'emotional heart of your story' and you will 'live or die' by the casting. Never use your mates. The favourite word of the class was "Traction" a magical quality that ensured that your film would go forward. As dusk fell on Sunday night, Chris asked for a 'commitment', and 25 people got up and stated that would produce a film by a certain date. Billy Graham would have been proud. Highly recommended.

For more information visit www.GuerillaMasterclass.com and www.chrisjonesblog.com



Colin (arms raised) and John amongst the Guerilla Masterclass delegates

For your Interest- *by Rita Wheeler*

Edinburgh Short Film Festival 2014 is accepting entries. Films must have been completed after the 1st January 2012, the maximum duration is 20 minutes. www.edinburghshortfilmfestival.com

Cambridge Cinema Shorts, in partnership with Strawberry Fair, are delighted to announce that they will be holding The Strawberry Shorts Film Festival on the evening of Friday 6th June. Films can be of any genre but should be less than 20 minutes long. There is no submission fee and the closing event is a genuine festival complete with an enthusiastic audience and good press coverage. Close of entry is Saturday 19th April. For entry details please visit web site: www.cinema-shorts.org
For more information on Strawberry Fair please visit: www.strawberry-fair.org.uk

Trinity College London are holding a festival of playwriting and Performance 7th – 10th May at the St. James Theatre in Victoria, London. To find out more about events taking place during the festival and how to book tickets visit their website: www.trinitycollege.co.uk/festival

Rimini Film Festival. The deadline to enter the 7th Rimini Film Festival is 1st May 2014. Submissions should not exceed 10 minutes, should convey a human experience and should have been produced from 2012 to the present.

U3A Video Shoot

Written by Peter Frost

To catch up with video developments after a long time out of film making, I have joined U3A (University of the Third Age) and enrolled in the Video Course run by SBMM club member, Bob Lambert, who I introduced to SBMM in the first place! What goes around comes around.

To bring life to the practical side of video making, which normally takes place in the confines of a small hall in Burpham, Bob has embarked on a project with students to record the other activities of Guildford U3A and then to edit these into a presentation which will be run on enrolment evening in late summer.

Among the subjects being featured are Folk Dancing, Lace Making, Puppets, Long Walks, Art, Ukelele Playing and Pubs and Churches. Even those that sound rather 'static' for video are very interesting once you become involved.

Bob has had group members using his camera and their own to record these events and plans to gather those interested together to do the editing. It's a hands on way of getting to know equipment that is not possible in the usual hall meetings, to which he has added "One-to-One" sessions at his own home, to help beginners get to know their cameras.

I have joined Bob on a shoot for 'Pubs and Churches'. The course involves visiting local churches with a history, to learn about this from well versed speakers and then to the pub for a meal. Seems pretty civilised to me and carries on a tradition going back decades. You rarely find a church that doesn't have a pub nearby!

I have also shot material from a Walking Group and a Photography Group's London photoshoot. It's been a busy time.

In his professional life, Bob has been a successful advertising and promotional photographer working in the fashion industry among others and a commercial videographer as well. Surrey Border has given him an opportunity to resurrect his interests and benefit others as well.



Bob lines up a shot for the U3A Pubs and Churches video

Epsom Movie Makers - by Rita Wheeler

An Invitation from Epsom Movie Makers

"This is a free and open invitation to come along to Epsom Movie Makers on Friday 11th April at 8:00 pm when Peter Leverick from Sutton Film Makers will be giving a tutorial on lighting.

This is a subject which is quite neglected in our curriculum and should be of great interest. Venue in the usual place: St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AZ.

Please let me know if any of your members would be interested in attending. Best regards
Norman Bull "

If anyone is interested in attending, please send an email to: secretary@surreyborder.org.uk

Surrey Borders Movie Makers present films at Epsom Movie Makers Club Night.

On 14th March SBMM were invited to give a 50/50 evening at Epsom Movie Makers.

Mike Sanders, Sir Paul Holden, Maggie Ledwidge and I travelled to their club. Gillian Gatland put together an interesting selection of club films from the archives. Mike gave a brief introduction before each film. As well as a few holiday films we also showed them '*Wish You Were Here*' the winner of the edit exercise 2013, and several dramas. Epsom put on a show reel of their own films for the second half which were mainly holiday films.

Farnham Lions Beerex, Thursday 10th April 2014

Paul Holden has advised that unusually, the Farnham Lions have a large number of tickets still unsold, for the first night, on Thursday 10th April. (All other nights are sold out.)

If any members are free, and like Real Ales or Cider, please note that there will be 75 real ales, loads of ciders, BBQ style food and great music from local band StrauBenZee.

Tickets are £10 each and on sale from the Maltings box office www.farnhammaltings.com 01252 745444.

Please note that it is all for charity.

If you don't buy a ticket in advance, and decide to go at the last minute, there will be tickets available on the door.

Meetings are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm. New members are very welcome, please email secretary@surreyborder.org.uk or turn up at the door!

St Joan's Centre is 200 yards south of Farnham station and is in the grounds of St Joan's Church. The entrance to the church is by a narrow road opposite the junction with Alfred Road, and St Joan's Centre is to the right of the church. There is ample parking.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 4th April 2014: Film in an Evening – the theme is: Two Sides to Every Story.

Friday 2nd May 2014: Surrey BAFTA. Surrey Border Artistic Film Tributes Awards.
An evening of celebration with OSCARs (*Outstanding Surreyborder Creative Arts Reels*)

Friday 6th June 2014: A selection of short films, with discussion.

Friday 4th July 2014: The Young Members Committee Meeting present an evening of entertainment.

Friday 1st August 2014: A show reel from Chesterfield Film Makers.

A Big Thank You to the “Marathon Team”

On behalf of the club the Committee would like to thank Geoff Baier for liaising with the Brook Fleet Half Marathon organisers and Alan Butcher for taking on the responsibility of Project Managing a team of cameramen and assistants to film the event. This was all arranged in a couple of weeks. A big thank you to everyone who took part.

Amazon Associate

Please support your Club. For those members who are not already aware of it, our Website now advertises Amazon, with a link to the Amazon site. So if you are going to use Amazon to shop, please pause before you do so, go to our site first, and then click on the link to Amazon. This will not cost you anything but will help to pay for our club website.

Spring is here at last, its official.

Spring can definitely be deemed to have arrived when lambs are being born! Just in case anyone might think the Editor doesn't have another life, then just look at the photo opposite. This is the reason why Border Post might sometimes reach you “only just in the nick of time” prior to each Club Night. Babies always seem to come first!!



Your Club Contacts

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Border Post

Your contributions for inclusion will be appreciated together with photographs if possible. Please send them to the Editor, Alan Wheeler, for the May 2014 issue at this email: editor@surreyborder.org.uk