

WIMBLEDON FILM CLUB AGM 10PM TUESDAY 9 MAY 2017
 HMV CURZON WIMBLEDON BROADWAY LONDON SW19

In the absence of the Chairman of WFC, Johnjoe McFadden, who sent apologies, the meeting was chaired by WFC Secretary, Clare Collins.

Chair's Report 2016-17 (presented by WFC Secretary)

The full Chair's Report is published separately on the WFC website. Points made in presenting it included:

- The club had enjoyed a good year with quite a few speaker events. It was felt that these helped the club feel a bit different. Looking at audience feedback scores (below) it was apparent that many of the films with the highest appreciation figures had had Q&As with guest speakers following the screening (e.g. Le Weekend, Victim and The New Man); but unfortunately some had had relatively low attendances so many members had missed out on these great events.

FILM	AUDIENCE	FILM	AVERAGE SCORE
1 MAGGIE'S PLAN	83	1 LE WEEKEND (B/W) + Q&A	4.5
2 YOUTH	80	2 VICTIM + Q&A (LGBTM)	4.4
2 MUSTANG	80	2 THE NEW MAN + Q&A	4.4
4 HUGO & JOSEPHINE	75	4 A UNITED KINGDOM + Q&A	4.3
5 IMITATION OF LIFE (BHM)	74	4 IMITATION OF LIFE (BHM)	4.3
6 SON OF SAUL (MC, HMD)	73	6 DHEEPAN	4.2
7 EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT	70	7 MUSTANG	4.1
7 CHEVALIER	70	8 THE CONVERSATION + Q&A	4.0
9 VICTIM + Q&A (LGBTM)	68	8 SON OF SAUL (MC, HMD)	4.0
10 THE ASSASSIN	67	8 YOUTH	4.0
11 LOVE & FRIENDSHIP + Q&A (BOOKFEST)	66	11 HUGO & JOSEPHINE	3.9
12 THE CONVERSATION + Q&A	64	11 VICTORIA	3.9
12 DHEEPAN	64	11 EMBRACE OF THE	3.9

		SERPENT	
14 A UNITED KINGDOM + Q&A	62	14 LOVE & FRIENDSHIP + Q&A (BOOKFEST)	3.6
15 TWENTY TWENTY-FOUR + Q&A	61	15 MAGGIE'S PLAN	3.5
16 VICTORIA	57	16 TWENTY TWENTY-FOUR + Q&A	3.4
17 ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE	55	17 ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE	3.2
18 THE NEW MAN + Q&A	53	18 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (MC – SUBSTITUTE)	3.1
19 LE WEEKEND (B/W) + Q&A	51	19 THE ASSASSIN	2.8
20 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (MC – SUBSTITUTE)	45	19 CHEVALIER	2.8

- The Wimbledon International Short Film Festival was attended by about 150 people on a rainy evening last October but it was noted that few WFC members went which was a shame as it is always an enjoyable evening. The 2017 event will be held on Saturday 7th October, again in partnership with Wimbledon Bookfest and held in their Big Tent on the Common.
- Less positively, the downward trend in membership continued in 2016/2017 and this year also saw a fall in average audience numbers. This combination is a concern and may be a threat to the long-term future of the club if the trend continues. The committee is actively trying to reduce costs (eg printing costs – see below) in the face of falling membership and ticket income.

Financial update (presented by WFC Treasurer Peter Cargin)

The Treasurer said that the accounts were available for viewing via the WFC website. The balance to the end of June 2016 was £ 7990 which compared with £9149 for the same period in 2015. The drop was not as significant as might be thought as the exact date at which certain bills were paid affects the figures. It was reported that hire of the Curzon is £312 per night with each film costing between £120-150 giving a cost somewhat over £500 per screening. The cost of some films can be higher than average if special copies have to be made for the club.

Although the finances of the club are reasonably stable there are 3 areas of concern.

- a) The committee is geographically rather spread out and has recently lost Aurora Tellenbach who has done a lot of work for club booking our films. However, Elena Repole has joined the committee during the year.

- b) Although WFC tries to maintain a distinctive programme it is inevitable that some overlap will occur with the offerings of the Curzon.
- c) Longer term the proposed Crossrail development might force the relocation of the club, and the committee was actively considering contingencies for this.

It was observed that 28 people had joined the club but may not have actually attended any screenings as their membership cards were still to be collected (although it was possible some had come but forgotten to pick up their card).

The accounts are audited by life member Linda Clemett who now lives on the Isle of Wight. This service is provided free of charge, thus saving perhaps £700. A suggestion from the floor came to send a bouquet of flowers from the club by way of thanks and this was met with general **agreement**.

Thanks were given for the work done by Peter as Treasurer.

Decisions

The post-film discussions that the last AGM decided to pilot in place of introductions have proved increasingly popular with members over the course of the year. The floor **agreed** that they should continue.

To avoid a further chilling effect on membership and attendance, the committee recommended that current membership rates and ticket prices be frozen for the coming year and this was **agreed** by the floor.

The committee in order to increase attendance recommended that online booking be made available to non-members e.g. from the Saturday morning before the Tuesday screening, with members thus having priority rather than exclusive access to online booking. This was also **agreed**. After a couple of questions about the technicalities members **agreed** to leave the committee to iron out the details of the new system.

Members can currently bring only 1 guest so the membership secretary suggested that we revert to the previous practice of bringing up to 2 guests, to encourage increased attendance. This was **agreed**. The chair explained that the reduced number of guests attending screenings was one of the main drivers of falling audiences as in the past members had made an effort to get family/friends/neighbours along to films, and asked that members help our audiences increase by doing this.

To save money the feedback scores since January have been printed on the tickets rather than as separate slips. To save costs further it was now proposed to combine scores and programme notes on to a single piece of paper (whether A4 single side or A5 double-sided – to be investigated by Elena). This would effectively be the

ticket ie proof of entry shown at the door (except for those booking online who print their ticket at home). This was **agreed** by the floor to be a good idea.

The savings achieved by this could be invested in placing paid Facebook posts targeted at specific audiences to increase attendance at our films. It was **agreed** this would be a good idea.

Promotion

The chair asked that members help with the distribution of leaflets as the networks of all the members are far more extensive than those of the committee e.g. non-chain coffee shops, libraries, book clubs, friends etc. Thanks went to Liz for designing our leaflets. The possibility of placing an advertisement for the club in the Wimbledon Guardian and Time and Leisure was raised. The chair explained that the former had been done but was costly and had not resulted in anything; we already are included in T&L listings for free, unless they are short of space.

Suggestions for the committee to **consider further** included posters, and how to reach out to lapsed members and incentivise them to rejoin.

Autumn 2017 programme

This had just been booked and was noted. It includes two speaker events (including film producer Kevin Loader for My Cousin Rachel) and two members' choice films. These continue to be a regular feature of our programme and make our membership offer different to joining a cinema, in that members help shape the programme.

Volunteering

Thanks were given to John Bilsband and David Atha for helping regularly with ticketing. An appeal was made for further volunteers to help on screen nights as this made a significant difference to the burden placed on the committee, who do a lot of work behind the scenes between film nights.

Committee

The existing committee was re-elected except for Aurora Tellenbach who is leaving the committee after several years. Thanks were given to Aurora for her efforts particularly in booking our films.

Elena Repole was also elected to the committee having served as a co-opted member since the autumn.

A welcome was given to Vivien Reuterova who had volunteered this evening to give joining the committee a try, to help in the area of local promotion.