



**CHILTERN  
FILM  
SOCIETY**  
at The Elgiva, Chesham

## **CFS AGM report, May 2015**

### **Annual General Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The AGM took place at the Elgiva immediately before the showing of "*Ida*". It was attended by approximately 45 members and committee; apologies were received from Michael Rowan and Jenny and Ray Wainwright. A short summary of the meeting is given below:

#### **• Chairman's Introduction**

- Jon Wallis welcomed members to our 46<sup>th</sup> AGM. We have had a record year achieving 150 members for the first time (as far as we can tell from the CFS records!).
- The committee had decided to put extra effort into publicity and raising awareness of CFS this year and the additional promotion has helped considerably. This included an update to our image (logo and website), joining Twitter and working more closely with the Elgiva. Jon gave particular thanks to Amanda Craig for her work on this update and thanked the committee as a whole for its work and support for all our activities.
- We have continued our "on the sofa" discussions and the pre-film talk, and held two after-film members' discussion sessions (the second of which was to be held after the showing of *Ida* which followed the AGM). Our website updates, email newsletters, Facebook and Twitter activities all help keep members and others informed of our activities.
- With continued media coverage we were particularly pleased to be able to join the Elgiva in an interview on BBC 3 Counties Radio in November during their feature on Chesham.

#### **• Review of the Season**

- Tony Renwick presented a review of the season. Despite our membership reaching 150, it was interesting to see that our average member sign-in was only a little over 80 with about two thirds of these submitting their ratings and/or comments for each film. It would be good if we could increase the proportion of members attending who give ratings to help us assess reactions to each film.
- The season's average (up to the penultimate film) was slightly up on the previous year at 70.6% (most year averages seem to lie in the range a few points above or below 70%).
- *Nebraska* had achieved the highest rating this year with a couple of others close behind. *Les Salauds* had achieved the lowest rating for the last 4 years and we realise this was significantly affected by its challenging theme with sexual abuse and violence.
- Most films achieved a wide range of scores with none failing to get at least one A rating and only two avoiding any Ds or Es. We accept a wide range of ratings as healthy given our continued policy of choosing a bold programme.
- We were pleased with the positive reaction to the animation feature *The Wind Rises* and would like feedback on: whether to include more animated features, whether members accepted our decision to keep one slot in the programme for decision late in the year and how we should handle the inclusion of classic films.
- In response to a member's plea for better information about challenging content in films (such as violence) the committee had noted the new BBFC approach of stating issues of concern in the certification of films and we plan to find a way to draw attention to these particularly for 18 rated and some 15 rated films.

- It was noted that we normally select films based on reviews. In future, we plan to do more thorough research on shortlisted films (both multiple reviews and content warnings) before finalising the programme.
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - Andy Burrows presented the final accounts for 2013-14 (attached). Little had changed from the provisional version presented at the previous AGM and the meeting approved the accounts for 2013-14 as presented.
  - Andy also presented the provisional accounts for 2014-15 (attached). The committee had committed more costs to promotion and publicity, as noted at the previous AGM, which had inevitably increased costs. However, the significant increase in membership had enabled us to achieve a profit again this year. We were about to transfer nearly £6000 to Chesham Town Council as their share of the membership fees for putting on the films in our programme.
- **Election of Officers and Committee**
  - The current committee (listed below) were all prepared to serve again.
 

▪ Jon Wallis	Chair
▪ Andy Burrows	Treasurer
▪ Sigrid Poole	Membership
▪ Amanda Craig	Publicity and Media
▪ Mary Burgess	
▪ Patricia Cherrill	
▪ Ethne Effendowicz	
▪ Julie Reeve	
▪ Tony Renwick	
▪ Michael Rowan	
  - Jon Wallis asked if anyone else wished to stand for the committee but there were no takers; the meeting confirmed the election of the existing committee.
  - Our constitution allows for a committee of up to 10 but we need additional support to help us achieve the extra activities we have initiated in the last couple of years, particularly in the areas of IT, internet research and writing skills as well as help with publicity. Thus the committee has decided to co-opt two further members.
  - Jon noted that Helen Marini had agreed to be co-opted and asked for a second person to volunteer. No one else came forward during the meeting but Paul Vates agreed to undertake this role immediately after the meeting, so we are able to confirm that Helen Marini and Paul Vates will be co-opted members of the committee for 2015-16.
- **“How we select our Programme”**
  - Andy Burrows gave a short presentation on the steps the committee takes to select the programme. The following points were covered:
    - We do not compete with the Elgiva and try to differentiate our offering from what is normally shown by the Elgiva.
    - Our selection is largely based on reviews of the longlist of films requested by members between January and the AGM. We then have to complete our selection by July each year so that the Elgiva can finalise their bookings and we can publicise our own programme.
    - We discuss and vote on films in the longlist to get down to 15 films with a few reserves and the committee debates the selection based on its experience and the need to achieve a balance of language, culture, serious/light, classic/modern.
    - As noted earlier in the meeting, we plan to increase our rigour in checking multiple reviews and film content before finalising the selection and this will necessitate us holding a two stage selection process from now on.
    - We would like input (during the members' forum or in the bar after the film) on possible options for the programme:
      - Should we keep more than one film slot free for later selection?
      - Should we consider showing say two films by a single director in a season?
      - Should we ensure the inclusion of specific genres?

- Andy also informed the meeting that he had just been asked by the Elgiva if we would be able to assist in a plan to put on an outdoor cinema as part of the Buryfields Festival in the weekend of 19/20 June and the committee would be considering that.
- **Members Forum** - the following topics were discussed:
  - Several members noted that they were very happy with the wide variety and quality of the programme selected by the committee and wouldn't wish for any change of policy. This was supported by the meeting as a whole.
  - Several members welcomed the opportunity to rejoin the Society now for next season and noted that this showed their faith in our ability to select a good programme.
  - In response to a question about the status of the Elgiva's plan to introduce seat allocation, Jon Wallis confirmed that this was going ahead for film bookings generally but would not apply to CFS screenings – following our discussions with the Elgiva management they had realised that it would not be feasible to introduce this for our screenings.
  - It was generally agreed that it was appropriate for us to leave one film blank in the programme for later selection by the committee. This would enable us to choose films released after the main programme had to be selected.
  - With regard to the frequent difficulty in understanding dialogue in some English language films (particularly US films), it was suggested that it may be possible for subtitles to be shown for these. The committee would explore with the Elgiva the feasibility of both this and audio description facilities although Jon noted that the Elgiva had been unable to help when we assisted someone with an enquiry about audio description a few months ago.
- **Meeting closure**
  - Jon Wallis thanked members for their attendance at the AGM and support to the Society. The committee looked forward to the opportunity to discuss any topics with members in the bar after *Ida*.
  - Jon drew attention to the start date for next season of 9 September, and that the committee had already selected *Leviathan* to be shown on 23 September.
  - The AGM closed at 7.40pm.

Jon Wallis, Chairman.

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### **Next Season's Dates**

#### **Opening night is 9 September 2015.**

Then 23 September – [Leviathan](#)

7 October

14 October

28 October

4 November

#### **2016**

6 January

27 January

10 February

24 February

16 March

30 March

13 April

27 April

11 May AGM and final film

**Attachments:** Final accounts for 2013-14 season, Provisional accounts for 2014-15 season

## Chiltern Film Club

### Final Accounts: 2013/2014 year, to 31/5/2014

#### £ INCOME

Membership fees on  
2013/14 season: 5,393.70

2012/13 year net profit b/fwd 220.69

Bank Interest 1.46

Gross Income £5,615.85

Net Operating Income £5,393.70

#### £ EXPENDITURE

InkLink: programme print run 248.00

Millipedia: programme design 90.00

Millipedia: Hosting CFS website 31.20

Stamps, photocopying, stationery 66.58

Imagelink, Film poster prints, 14.40

Room Hire, committee mtgs:- 37.30

Half season offer:-posters, flyers: 54.30

CTC: Elgiva Bar Hire 41.40

Bank charges 0.00

Chesham Town Council: Attendance & film fees on 107 full  
members and 4 half-season members:- 3,743.26

VAT at 20% 748.66

Chesham TC Sub-Total:- £4,491.92

Total Expenditure £5,075.10

Gross Profit + 540.27

Net Profit + 318.60

£5,393.70



A W Burrows  
Hon. Treasurer

## Chiltern Film Club

### Provisional Accounts: 2014/2015 year, to 31/5/2015

£ INCOME		£ EXPENDITURE	
Membership fees on 2014/15 season:	7,141.00	InkLink: programme print run	408.00
2013/14 year net profit b/fwd	318.60	Studio Beam, brochure design	235.00
		Millipedia: Hosting CFS website	31.20
		Stamps, photocopying, stationery	76.50
		Studio Beam: Roller Banners	48.00
		Room Hire, committee mtgs:-	68.90
		Half season offer:-posters, flyers:	41.90
		CTC: Elgiva Bar Hire	41.40
		Butterfly print & design, posters	86.04
Bank Interest	1.68	Bank charges	0.00
		Chesham Town Council: Attendance & film fees on 139 full members and 11 half-season members:-	4,987.29
		VAT at 20%	997.45
		Chesham TC Sub-Total:-	<u>£5,984.74</u>
Gross Income	<u>£7,461.28</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>£7,021.68</u>
		Gross Profit	439.59
		Net Profit	119.32
<u>Net Operating Income</u>	<u>£7,141.00</u>		<u>£7,141.00</u>

A W Burrows  
Hon. Treasurer