

Napier Meeting – November 1995

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 3rd 4th 5th November.

The meeting was held at Henry Hill School hall.

Members began arriving at the venue at 7 pm and after registrations, most headed to the sales tables which were stocked with an assortment of bargains, old film equipment from the Archive to suit all tastes. Santa Claus in the form of John Turnbull arrived and began giving out gifts of films much to the surprise of the members. After a terrific supper, Dave ran a few films, which included a Three Stooges comedy titled *Beer Barrel Polcats* (1946) and a reel from *Jolson Sings Again* (1949). What an end to a great evening.

On Saturday, members were greeted with morning tea which was most appreciated. The meeting then took place and after the business had been dealt with, the auction began. Many bargains were had which made a lot of members very happy. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, it was all aboard Bryan's bus for our first stop, the Clive Jukebox Museum. The care and attention lavished by its owner is clearly reflected as one moves through the exhibits. From here, we headed for Graham Steel's outstanding theatre in Havelock North, where he entertained us with 70mm extracts from great features. After inspecting his plant and some refreshments, we headed off to the Village 4 screen Multiplex in Hastings. This has a nice design, clean and well run, with attractive foyers. It also has large projection boxes. We returned to the venue for afternoon tea.

Dinner on Saturday night was held at the Kennedy Park Conference Centre and was an excellent meal. The entertainment during dinner was provided by John Cocking (alias Charlie Chaplin) who created merriment and chaos with his antics and expressions of bewilderment, totally disrupting the dinner. With skates on, he moved in between tables, upsetting chairs, putting many members on the receiving end of his humour and charm. It certainly was a dinner to remember.

Following dinner, we settled down for an evening of 16mm films from Dave's collection. First up was a film called *Tommy Steel – In Search of Charlie Chaplin* – which was a musical journey. This was followed by a Joe McDoakes comedy *So You Want to be a Cowboy* (1951), an extract from Disney's *The Vanishing Prairie* (1954), an early colour cartoon from Castle Films, a Donald Duck Chip 'n' Dale cartoon, an English TV film on vintage movie clips and a Lonesome Luke comedy from Harold Lloyd called *Luke's Movie Muddle* (1916). Soon it was time to call it a night.

Sunday began at 9.30 with morning tea after which we boarded the bus and headed off to the Century Cinema in Napier. We were greeted by Peter Goodbehere who took us on a trip down memory lane with a selection of cinema advertisements from the 1980s along with some trailers from 1990s. We then viewed a near-new print of the classic Peter Sellers and Spike Milligan film *The Cast of the Mukkinese Battle Horn* (1955) which all enjoyed. We then returned to the venue for lunch.

After lunch, the official farewells took place and the weekend was over once again. For those staying on, Graham Steel provided an evening of 70mm screening.