

BCTV - President's Report to the 2025 AGM

I would firstly like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Executive Committee who provide their time to promote, support and uphold the benefits of the Association. They are the backbone of our organisation! These volunteers give their time, energy, and expertise to keep our mission alive. Their dedication is quiet but powerful and in particular, I would like to thank Tony Williams who has now stepped down but was a stalwart for the organisation and served twice as the President. It was a great pleasure to work with him on the Executive.

Let's remember the Committee plays a valuable role in providing support to the Company Secretary and positively steering the Association throughout the year. It's what underpins the Association and can be a great job and very worthwhile volunteering your time if anyone is interested in the future?!

The Executive Committee also, somehow, manages to keep this glorious circus running without pay, without perks, and occasionally without sleep. They volunteer their time, their energy, and in one case, their cash. (Glad to report this has been paid back)! Also a big thanks to the Membership Committee who put in extra hours and Bob who runs our accounts which requires dealing with budgets that involves the mathematical precision of NASA. Well done Bob!

I have always thought the Veterans bring something extraordinary to this industry. Our Association exists to support these veterans as they transition. We connect them with other veterans by running some fantastic events. A few have been regional reunions, and even nostalgic outings to cinemas that still smell faintly of popcorn and ambition

The past few years in film and television have been tough - we've had Covid, Hollywood strikes, shutdowns, streaming wars, and more reboots than a dodgy Windows laptop.

But through it all, we've endured because this industry isn't just about what you see on the screen -it's about people. People who know how to turn chaos into creativity. The magazine helps tell some of those untold stories that filmmaking involves a diverse group of individuals who all contribute to the creation of film making.

In that theme of visibility of our members this year, we unveiled a new chapter in the story of the British Cinema & Television Veterans - our newly redesigned website!

For over a century, BCTV has been a beacon of fellowship, connection, and celebration for those who have dedicated their lives to the film and television industry. From Pinewood to TV, from projection booths to sound stages, our members have shaped the cultural fabric of Britain. And now, with this new digital home, we honour that legacy while embracing the future.

The new website is more than just a facelift. It's a vibrant hub designed to bring our community closer together. Whether you're a long-standing member or someone just discovering our Association, you'll find a space that reflects the warmth, creativity, and camaraderie that defines BCTV. This should also help drive traffic to our site and most importantly, help build and improve our visibility.

A big thanks to Cliff Baille and other committee members who supported him with delivering this.

The office renewal has come up for negotiations and it has just been agreed for a further 5 years. The headquarters, for now, will continue to be located at Golden Square.

I mentioned at the last AGM we have been losing money for several years now and need to stop these losses or the Association will cease to exist. Right now, BCTV is like a brilliant soap opera character - full of potential, but constantly dodging financial doom. So how do we go from "barely surviving" to "thriving"? We have tightened our belt by reducing the number of magazines. We are also trying to increase the number of members and are working on new ways of promoting the Association.

Stability isn't just a goal of the executive committee - it's a necessity. We're exploring new revenue streams, tightening everything we can, and looking for partnerships. But we also need your ideas, your energy, and your commitment. Membership fees alone aren't enough to keep the lights on. We have received some large donations which have provided the association with a temporary lifeline. These gifts have allowed us to keep going and implement the new initiatives like the website.

Finally, I would like to finish by saying a huge thanks to Donald, our Company Secretary. Without his involvement and continued commitment, the Association would not be able to function as well as it does. Donald has the rare ability to make even the most bureaucratic email sound like a warm hug - which is exactly what the Association needs!

Thank you.

Spencer MacDonald
President