

## Jitterbugs Tent meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012

On Saturday 29th September, the Jitterbugs Tent ascended to our usual meeting place at RTE for another fun filled night of laughter with our pals Laurel and Hardy.

The usual crew were there, Tom at the bar, Stephen at the back, Colin and his son Izaak at the front and Kieron and the kids taking up residence in the middle.

Trudi welcomed everyone and casually invaded their wallets for a tiny entrance fee. We had more children at this meeting than normal and they were delighted to see the 16mm projector displaying its whirr and flicker and rotating reels.

More arrived and the meeting began with a showing of "Brats" which was received very well by our younger crowd including our newest young member Izaak (Colin's son) and also the older members. There really is nothing like a good 16mm show and the atmosphere was increased as a result.

After the first film, the Mastermind theme could be heard as Colin Howe took the stage and answered questions regarding his suitability as a Laurel and Hardy fan. I'm glad to say he performed as expected, and received a bar of soap to "Come Clean" about his knowledge. Mind you trying to answer questions like, "what colour was the billiard ball" can be quite hard considering we were watching a black and white film!

Unfortunately, Colin & Zak had to depart early, that's when the night really picked up!

All the children were given badges as a reward for taking part in the colouring competition, which saw fierce competition from some quarters. Georgia came out the eventual winner and the extra large bar of chocolate as a prize, didn't last too long. Cadbury bars for all participants and popcorn for everyone else as we continued our night with a 20 min "Bohemian Girl" clip.

Our loyal toasts included a toast in honour of Arthur's Day which was a few days beforehand and we duly raised our glasses "To Martha".

Laughter all round at "Scram" and "Oliver the 8<sup>th</sup>" Usual raffles and prize giving coupled with a presentation of original Hal Roach Studio documents made for a great night.

Stephen approached the bench at the end of the night and proceeded to tell everyone how he sold the Tent and all its films and projectors. I asked what he sold it for and he produced a Gold Brick of Solid Gold...And some nuts!

It felt cosy and comfortable being in the company of the Jitterbugs and Stan and Ollie...

Liam

