

# The Worn Fret

November 2010

Occasional voice-piece of the NI Shadows Club

Report on the November 2010 gathering at the YFC, Newtownards. From our self-styled rock & roll correspondent - 'Ed' Banger.

## Eric headlines

Crowds flocked to the Ards YFC stadium on Sunday after rumours swept the Peninsula that Clapton was headlining the show with his renditions of classic Marvin/Welch numbers such as *Strange Stew* & *Sunshines out Yer Strat*. However, on the day it transpired that 'Slowhand' was still in his scratcher and instead Young Eric (still only 49) was in charge. Thus the attendant group of ageing air-guitarists and groupies waited with baited breath for Boalman to blow the roof off - this he did with rampant renditions of *Geronimo*, *Cavatina*, *Breeze* and *The Stranger* backed by Mr Turnbull on his Takamine acoustic. Our correspondent notes "Particularly noteworthy was the crisp Deerhunter lead from Mr Boal, with equally clean arpeggios from Mr Turner, a delight to the listening public", heard by those who had not been too busy discussing the Saturday Thunderball results or raiding Jammy Dodgers from Maggie's kitchen stores.

## Hi-oh, Silver, away

Old Clappers then moved into the jump seat to accompany Mr 'Echo', James Tully, who blasted us with a high-octane *Apache* that would have had 'Kemo Sabay' & 'Silver' heading for the hills in quick retreat (those of us of a certain age will understand all this) - mercifully for the Lone Ranger, Jim finally remembered to reign it in, despite looking set to play the full 4 hours of the club programme.

## Ramvin (or whatever)

George then returned in electric format to play foil to Jim on a delicate rendition of *Nivram*, intermingled with some fine McNeill bass runs that made it sound as though there were 3 lead guitars. Providing the basic beats through these tracks, and the rest of the afternoon, were ace skins-thumper, Hall (minus Oats).

## 'Walk' of the Lonely Bull

At this point David T donned the 'Precision' bass, to let Des have a power-kick, and thus laid the rhythms for Paul, backed by Eric, on *TFYL* and *Wonderful Land*, two songs that your correspondent frequently confuses - bravo, gentlemen for making no such similar mistake! Following in quick succession were Jim B playing *Foot-tapper* and *Kon-Tiki*, with Mike & George backing on acoustic & electric respectively, and Bernard leading Jim (Mr 'Motor Wrist') on *Man of Mystery* and *The Savage*, during which 'The Walk' surfaced on stage. Sam then played *Blue Star* & *Dance-On* with Eric backing while Simon followed with a 'club-first' rendition of *El Solo Toro* followed by *Shindig*, both with Mike on acoustic Yamaha. The first half of the show concluded with Philip playing *Gonzales* & *Peace-pipe* with Mike on rhythm & David on bass.

## Char-time

Following well-earned cups of liquid refreshment, sarnies and chocolate bourbons the mutinous rabble were called to heel by joint M/C, Mr Corlett, to maintain the fine time-keeping exhibited thus far.

## Jim Squared

The two Jims wound the show back into life with *SOTB* and (following a slight false start) *Atlantis*, Jim T making the noise & Jim B providing the shuffle on the former, with George likewise on the latter.

## A Pair of Hunters

Following this 'The Shadow-hunters' (© D McN 2009) made their way to the front with Paul playing *3 Galleons & 1861*, with broar Sam backing. Sam stayed on stage to back George on *Guitar Tango* and *FBI*, with David on bass. The two Jimmies then returned to the stage in role reversal with JB leading on *Geronimo* & *TFYL* and JT shuffling away in the background. Bernard then flashed his Burns on *Deep Purple* and *Lost City* with JT holding it all together.

## No Plaice like YFC

As a mark of respect to the endangered fish species the Filleted Plaice was withdrawn from the day's menu at short notice and replaced by Albatross (not sure what the twitchers had to say). Thus round 2 of the Hunter gang produced *Albatross* for starters followed by *Pipeline* for desserts, both siblings playing lead, or was it rhythm.

## Eric & Ernie?

Simon then returned to the footlights with *Footslapper* and *Peacepipe* with Mr Boal on rhythm & Mr Turner Jr on the 4 stringer. The initial programme drew to a close with Philip playing lead on *Argentina*, with George again on his acoustic, followed by *Santa Ana*.

## Madness descends

At this stage the afternoon's events became highly unscheduled but also entertaining. Mark was persuaded to play *Wonderful Land*, despite protestations that he was just there for the beer, and this was followed by *Diamonds* played by Sam, George, Des, Chris & Hall. Continuing on the Harris & Meehan theme, a few bars of *Bernard O'Hara* were played with great aplomb by Scarlett (or something) and this was followed by a Tully special of *Wipedout* (or so he claimed).....

## 'Order, Order' & Lights Out

Order was restored with *Carillion* played by Simon on his Garrison acoustic with Jim, George, Bernard, Des, Chris & Hall all making their own contributions. The afternoon's proceedings were completed early with the backing crew playing *Telstar* and *Going Home*, following which Mr McNeill switched off the heating and told us to go home early for being so brilliant.

## Thank Youse

Another fine day's playing with increasing skill levels evident all round, along with the inevitable boo-boos, which add to the craic (don't mention that wrong key to DM!). Again, thanks to drummer Hall for keeping going all afternoon (3.5 hrs) - likewise Chris, still recovering from jousting with a tractor from his motorbike. Our appreciation also to the catering section for the day's nosh.

## Freaks

For the Stats freaks amongst you : there were 15 No different musicians playing in some 21 combinations over the afternoon and 43 No songs were murdered. Keep up the practice for December's get-together!!

mrc Nov 2010