

# The Worn Fret

December 2010

Occasional voice-piece of the NI Shadows Club

*Report on the December 2010 gathering at the YFC, Newtownards. From our award-winning rumour-monger and axe-thrasher - 'Ed' Banger (& no mash).*

## The Scene : KFC (I wish), N'ards

On a cold December afternoon in the year of 2010 several disparate (and desperate) axe-monkeys, skin whelpers and keys' twiddlers descended on the quiet hamlet of Ards to pay homage to the music of Lordan/Marvin/Welch/Harris/Meehan/Bennett/Rostill (*subs. pl complete as necessary, Ed*). Although it may have been -25 degrees Celsius outside, within all was well as a million watts of Vox AC30 amplification warmed the air and defrosted the hardy souls who attended, some just to listen, drink cups of tea and discuss the merits of 3mm fencing wire over 9s when playing with frostbite.

## Not so Little Drummer Boy

Noticeable was the fact that the drumming platform had been erected at the front of the stage, lest anybody attending be unaware that resident thrasher, Hall, was in town. Could this be the way of the future, drummer plays in the spotlight at front of stage and lead guitarist sits behind the curtain coz he really doesn't want to be a rock-god after all? Interesting development.....

## Where's the PA, eh?

Mr Enforcer, aka Birthday Eric, was unable to start proceedings at the earliest opportunity as he had omitted to pack the bits of wire that join the electric box-of-tricks to the noisy bits of the PA system. He could, of course, be excused this elementary error having spent the previous Friday using said system to encourage all-comers to his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party to dig deep for Marie Curie, an event where several Club members had performed a range of Shadows' numbers to rave reviews from the audience, many of whom had probably little idea of what they were about to receive. That the Boal-meister was even present on Sunday was quite a surprise to the assembled party who had been running a sweep-stake as to what time he might appear, and in what state.

## Birthday pressies

Mr Clapton was then able to display the highlights of his birthday, pride of place being a guitar cake ravenously consumed by the hoards of emaciated attendees at the day's events. Also unwrapped from its cardboard box, with red ribbon, was a shiny white Burns 'Marvin' thingy with scrolely bit at the pointy end and a mass of metal at the blunt end – and oh, what tone, when played through the Vox – nice one, Eric.

## By George

And so to the business of the day – Senior Pilot George T, with Jim T in the jump-seat and David T as trolley dolly, were given the thumbs up/'chocks away' and so eased the juggernaut into the firmament with a 4 in 1 opening set of

'The Boys', 'Frightened City', 'Foot Tapper' & 'Guitar Tango', the latter skilfully played on acoustic guitar.

## In-Swingers, Late Cutters & Chinamen (or Indians)

Simon then opened at the Kirkstall Lane end with a fiery opening spell of 'Genie' followed by 'Golden Street', Eric keeping wicket and Uncle Des at Third Man, or was it Long Stop (cricketing buffs may get the subtlety of all this). Then a couple of Injuns appeared on stage to perform 'Peacepipe' and 'Geronimo', Philip playing lead & your correspondent strumming behind.

## Sam's yer man (as is Paul)

Hunter S then strode to the front to give a rousing 'Round & Round' that had them jigging in the backstalls, followed by a (rumoured) Club-first full outing of 'Diamonds', all backed by JT on Strat with Hall providing the usual low-key (not) drum solo that we all love. Hunter P then donned the mantle of bow-man with a melodic rendition of 'Blue Sky, Blue Sea' (unknown to your humble scribe) followed by '3 Galleons', all with sibling Sam in the stern sheets and Des in the engine-room pumping heavy oil (nautical theme here, chaps, in case you hadn't spotted it).

## It's the way he tells 'em

At this stage the club comedian, Joe, took the stage to recount a shaggy-dog story of the trip to Shadowmania 2010 involving Airfix Gypsy-Moth airplanes, Jim Tully's hair straighteners and a set of ear-plugs. Too confusing to recount verbatim, suffice it to say that the audience's hilarity showed it to be the usual tissue of lies that we have come to expect from this man.

## Burns' Night

Normality (?) then returned with JT (sans straighteners) playing 'SOTB' & 'Apache' with a tandem rhythm section of Turner & Clarke & bassman Turner Jun, which set a trend with subsequently JT & GT backing Senor O'Hara on 'Bossa Roo', followed by DM's fave old 'Flingel Bunt'. The first half of the programme ended with Mr Boal (smiling like the Cheshire Cat with his new 'Marvin') giving us his trade-mark pair of Tinns, Cava- & Argent-, with Mr Arpeggio, George, again providing the acoustic backing and fine interplay between lead & rhythm.

## Punk Rock Rools?

Whereas in November departure from the playlist commenced late in the piece, this month's anarchic behaviour raised its head from tea-time onwards. Whether it was the caffeine, the mince pies or surfeit of Burnsday cake is unclear but we had the unusual sight of Mr Four-stringer, Des M playing lead, with young Sam on bass attempting Harlett O'Scara, or some approximation thereto.

## It's a foul up

After several vain attempts to bring the proceedings to order Mr Enforcer succeeded in launching JT & GT off the pad with 'Stranger' & 'Kon-Tiki' – the very professional immediate transition between the two numbers being somewhat diminished by a few minor errors of fingering in the lead department that are probably best glossed over, despite the hilarity all round.

### S4T

Another double rhythm-backing followed with Jim & Eric supporting George on the poignant '*Song for Tony*' followed by '*Time is Tight*' after which George move into rhythm to permit Paul to lead on '*Blue Day*' & '*Midnight*', bass being shared between David & Des.

### Bull

Simon grabbed his Strat to lead '*Lonely Bull*' (Note , not a Load of Bull as suggested by some wag) before taking a seat to perform '*Lute Number*' on his Eko 12-stringer with Mike & Des backing on both tracks. Another Club first followed with Paul playing rhythm to Philip on '*Dance On*' after which JT backed Phil on '*Return to the Alamo*' (nearly a full tepee of Indians for Philip this month!)

### Albatross, Albatross

At this point the Hunter domination of events continued with Paul leading on '*Albatross*' and Sam taking over on '*FBI*', George providing additional rhythm bits and David the bass runs – the latter track again had the dancing brigade doing a few knees-ups in the back of the hall, luckily behind the lenses of Otto Preminger and Orson Welles who were recording events (for some bizarre reason known only to themselves).

### Kick up the tremolo

Another full Burns house followed with Bernard cracking through '*Santa Ana*' & '*Zambezi*' with a great lush sound – JT was doing rhythm king and DM the deep bits, both with their respective white axes. The theme continued with Eric leading JT on '*Breeze & I*' (until the wind suddenly dropped) after which Mr Boal completed '*TFYL*', including a few trade-mark unscripted notes that earned a size-nines' reprimand from 'The Godfather'.

### Oh La, La

Mark with Eric & David then soloed on '*Atlantis*' and '*Wonderful Land*' following which transpired another Club- first rendition of '*Parisienne Walkways*' by Sam with George & Des in the vanguard. The day's proceedings were drawn to a close with a rousing rendition of '*Theme from Something*' with seemingly everybody on stage.

### Thanks to Mags

A really big thank you to birthday-girl Maggie for the copious sarnies, pies and bics to keep the fires burning over the long day – also thanks to non-playing members for staying to support through the afternoon. The guitarists' appreciation also to Hall & Chris for playing throughout without an audible murmur of complaint.

### Haste Ye Back

A couple of players were unable to make it on the day so congrats to all for filling the gaps – we hope to see them back at the opening 2011 meeting, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Apologies if this has rambled on a bit but there was a lot going on alongside the actual playlist worth recording for the 'craic'.

**Rumour Corner** : will Hunter Senior dust off the bass rumoured to be hiding in his attic? Or have the two sons hidden the key?

Sounds heard in Comber area of Shadows' vocal numbers being tested - will they ever see the light of day? Can they be serious? Watch this space.....

Any more rumours? – just let the Godfather know and it will find its way onto these pages.

### Seasons' Greetings

**The Editor wishes all club members a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year – see you all in January!**

mrc Dec 2010