

THE BRO-KEN STRING

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Voice for the NI Shadows Club
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Hi it's **Enrico de Bolica**, your 'axe-man' reporting from the NI Shadows Club for the Bro-ken String.

Bernard Finally Opens The Show

Yes friends it finally happened at long last Bernard was the Opening Act, and boy oh boy did he put on a good show. With the backing of *The Godfather*, *Mr Arpeggio*, *Fingers Johnston* and *Sticks Smyth* (now on Facebook) Bernard gave us *Blue Star*, *Golden Street*, *Gonzales* and *Shane*.

Terry Triumphant On The Bass

The Enforcer was up next giving us two very popular oldies *Atlantis* and *Theme For Young Lovers*. Mike lending a hand on rhythm with are new bassist Terry joining in to show he could stand up and be counted. So along with David T we are managing to keep *The Godfather* of the stage and in the kitchen for a lot longer than in previous meetings.

John B, or *Dinger* to his friends was up next. Once again with Mike and Terry backing him he gave us *Geronimo* and *The Frightened City* which was so good that it managed to scare young Hunter Sam right out of his *Round And Round* rendition. With Sam finally back on his feet he gave us another very popular tune in *Dance On*.

Simon then played two tunes which are slowly but surely becoming his tunes in *Peace Pipe* and *Foot Tapper*.

Mr Arpeggio was next to grace the stage and played a very good *Albatross* with Sam on second lead and Eric on rhythm, a very difficult task for this particular tune. Eric stayed on to add the rhythm behind what is becoming a party piece for *Mr Arpeggio* the great acoustic number *Guitar Tango*.

Young Paul Hunter then gave us *Three Galleons* and *Blue Sky, Blue Sea Blue Me* and blue anything else that got in his way, both tunes played with the effortless skill we have become accustomed to from Paul.

Mr Rhythm Tully was next to strut his stuff or should that be strat his stuff, playing *Apache* (with an unusually short ending for Jim) and *Kon-Tiki* with Jim B on rhythm. The two Jim's then swapped roles so as Jim B could play *Shindig* and *Midnight*.

Guitar Phil then stepped up to give us *The Savage* and *Santa Ana*. These two tunes giving us one of the many surprises of the day as Mike cranked up his rhythm arm to put in a very good performance on both tunes especially the wrist breaking *Savage*. After this a well earned if rather short break was taken and Turner's Takeaway was officially opened.

The second half kicked off with Simon and Mike playing their very popular *Lute number* and then a tune called *Autumn*, with George lending a guiding hand.

Then something truly amazing happened and some of us still can't believe we actually witnessed it. Mike, who up until now had never even showed any aspirations to play lead stepped out into the spotlight and took the bull by the horns and gave us two very good renditions of *A Blue Day* and *A Place In The Sun*, another first for the club.

Sam Hunter then played *FBI* and *South Of The Border* backed by Jim B and Dave T.

Bernard was then back up to give his second helping of the day. With Dave T and Jim T and then Dave T and Eric he gave us *Shadoogie* and *Genie With The Light Brown Lamp*.

Eric stayed on to back John B. With Des joining them they played *The Lost City* and then Eric gave way to Jim T so as they could play Halls favourite *Flingel Bunt*.

Eric Wins Award

What happened next can only be described as the high-lite of the day. Eric came back for his second performance of the day and it is true to say it won the award for worst performance of the day. His rendition of *The Breeze And I* was so bad that it caused Hall, normally a mild mannered and quiet person to throw the towel in bringing the audience to its knees with laughter. Eric managed to redeem himself a bit with a fairly decent performance of *Somewhere* once again demonstrating his volume pedal skills.

The house band as they have become known then gave us a couple of their hits with Des giving the young pretenders a bass education in *Nivram*, and Chris tinkling very nicely on *Time Is Tight*.

The Shadowhunters where up next, Paul taking lead on *1861* and *Walk Don't Run*. Which seeing as 1861 is the year he was born there was no way he was going to run anyway, as he could just about manage to walk.

The two Jim's, now becoming a bit of a double act, where up next with Jim B playing lead on *Geronimo* and *The Stranger*.

Our aging school teacher *Guitar Phil* took centre stage next to give us *Perfidia*, this time without the ooohhh's and *Gonzales*. Once again teaching us that you are never too old to try out something new *Guitar Phil* took his bow and shuffled quietly back to his rocking chair.

Bernard then came back again to finish the day, in what has to be said in record time, with his delightful *Goin' Home*. Bernard showing that he too is a bit of a star on the volume pedal.

Broken String Goes Bust.

Yes friends sad as it is I'm afraid it is true. This is the last issue of the Broken String for the foreseeable future. On behave of the writing,

printing and research team I would like to say a big thank you to all of our loyal supporters. It has been a privilege for me personally to report to you from the NI Shadows Club and I hope you got as much fun out of reading each issue as I did writing them.

I don't know, at time of print, who is taking over this mighty ask but I am looking forward to their first newsletter with excitement. I know what they are going to be facing and my best wishes goes out to whoever is going to be the next reporter for the NI Shadows Club.

Don't forget to let Des know about the trip to Dublin you won't want to miss it.

Finally for the anoraks here's this month's facts and figures:-

43 tunes, numerous band variations
With only two tunes played more than once.

Enrico de Bolica.