

The Worn Fret

June 2011

Occasional voice-piece of the NI Shadows Club

Report on the June 2011 gathering of the NI Kit-Kat and Crunchy Guzzling Society. From our PA & cabling correspondent - Ed 'Wire-it' Banger, our man with more leads than Inspector Clouseau.

Winter woollies back on

Another June ShadsClub and everybody had been worrying about having to get off their sun-loungers cos' the old rockers were twiddling again – no worries, the rain fell, the heating was on and the thermos flasks well filled to make the audience feel at home on a February Sunday.

YFC becomes Wembley Arena

The first thing to strike the casual observer as he entered the hallowed halls of the YFC was the proliferation of cable runs that attempted to outdo last year's 'Eagles' concert at T'Odyssey – maybe no mechanised gantries lifting lighting gurus into the firmament but sufficient black spaghetti on the ground to set Arthur Brown's hair on fire from induced current radiation. For those of us too long-in-the-tooth to remember magnetic field interference I'm sure that our resident Physics master will produce an article on the phenomenon in his eagerly-awaited newsletter later in the summer. And for those of you under the age of 50 who may never have heard of Arthur Brown, well, he had a Crazy World and smouldered on stage at frequent intervals.

Des's Delights

Uncle Des had hoodwinked his mate, Harry, into lending the Club some excellent BSS gear to wake up Dozy Nards on a Sunday – this was attempted as every knob was twiddled and switch tweaked to ensure maximum bass lines were fed into the system, along with a few lead guitar riffs and odd keys trills. The drum kit of course needed no such namby-pamby enhancement as Hall's family can hear him in Islandmagee regardless. Only joking fellas, it was great having the extra monitors and once we learn where to point them, it'll be fab.

Sam's Vanguard Trailed by Darned Redskins

First up was Sam the Bam playing a shapely '36-24-36' followed by 'Diamonds', with JT on rhythm & Des/Terry alternating on the bass tones. Following on we had the dynamic duo from Lurganville playing a canoe-ful of Injuns between them - Philip on lead tomahawk with 'Apache' & 'Peace-pipe', Jimbee galloping bare-back alongside and David reading the smoke signals behind. After two circuits of the reservation Jim brandished his own axe on 'Wonderful Land' and 'Geronimo' while Phil set the galloping horse in motion.

Shiverin' Timbers

Some maritime serenity then settled over the congregation as Master Mariner Paul once again navigated, cutlass in hand, across our bows with 'Driftin'' & '3 Galleons' helped by 1st Mate, Sam, on sextant and Captain Hook on cat-o-four tails (*Pirates of the Caribbean* have nothing on the tall tales told in this terribly conTrived tribute!).

Howzzat?!

On the Lords' Test Match week-end off-spinner 'Growler' was on 3rd change, giving him a chance to recover from retiring from retirement by pitching into the rough outside the Binson unit. In celebration of this we were treated to his usual bouncy 'Footslapper' followed by the 'The Grumble' – backing-up at the non-striker's end was Gentleman George while Terry and Des alternated as Third Men & Fine Legs (a full diagrammatic layout of these ancient & noble field placings are available at 'wehaventabaldynotiondotcom' upon payment of a hefty cheque to the *Fret*).

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (..mustn't grumble)

At the culmination of the Corlett crescendo the scene returned to that of a somnolent Sunday as the Club's newest playing member, Olly, arrived with his trusty deck-chair and Factor 30 to gently take us on quiet trip in the company of 'TFYL' and 'Sleepwalk', again with GT backing and Terry's bass riffs preventing us from getting too comfortable.

Blue Murder

Mike then appeared in the spotlight in order to murder 'Blue Day' & 'Place in the Sun', both decidedly inappropriate for the ambient climatic conditions at the time – George provided rhythm & Simon played 2nd lead on the latter track with David T holding it all together on bass.

Golden Old Boys & Bernie's Bunt

The 'old-timer' duo of GT & JT then gave us 'Cozy' & 'The Boys' following which George left the stage for Bernard to assault us with 'Bingel Flunt' & 'Lost City', David having handed over to Terry for the latter set. Jim then leapt over the drum kit to the lead side to give us 'Giant' & 'Golden Street', a thoroughfare and 'outro' so long that Tully appeared to be driving off the tarmac into the sunset, McNeill in hot pursuit.

Tuohy Triple decker

A triple whammy from Brian followed with 'Some are Lonely', 'Spring is Nearly' & 'Midnight', all played in a sequence totally unrelated to the programme – luckily JT & DM were alive to Mr Tuohy's little joke and thus played the right notes in their correct locations.

Hank Marvin spotted in N'Ards



‘Tuning Shock’, claims Guitar Ace

The first half was dragged screaming to its conclusion with (to many) the day’s highlight performance of ‘*Memory*’ with GT on lead, JT on rhythm, Desmac on bass & Chris & Brian simultaneously on their keys – a thrill to hear it all going on. That performance was subsequently equalled by The Godfather brandishing his Burns to play joint lead on a Club-first-rendition of Jet Harris’ ‘*Here I Stand*’, this time with David T on bass – again a cracking song with wonderful interplay between instruments. The only downside was DMs late realisation that Burns guitars, for all their brilliance, are not self-tuning and that their owners should indeed check the instrument before coming on stage. After this surfeit of audio brilliance the exhausted players crawled to the victualling station where they were administered cucumber sandwiches and Pimms No 1 by their doe-eyed fans (in their dreams).

‘Old Spice’ – worse than BO? (Mail’s new probe)

After such a high-octane ending to the opening half, the show could only go downhill and the crowd were not disappointed in this regard by the arrival of those well known destroyers of vocal melody, *Old Spice*, recently returned from a world tour of the Hollywood underpass. Thus the two old acoustic boots struck up on ‘*Travelling Light*’, ‘*Living Doll*’, & ‘*The Young Ones*’ with Stanley providing all sorts of Marvin fills & riffs from the back corner. Bernard then joined in to provide a bit of distorted grit on ‘*Baby Blue*’, the last number before the old codgers retired to their bath-chairs and pension books. Die-hard CR & Shads fans unable to witness the show may rest safe in the knowledge that Cliff’s pedestal in British 60s vocal history is unlikely to be kicked out from under him by this pair.

Stand Out Stan & Men of the...Unchained...Albatross

Stanley was then able to move centre stage to give us his usual lush renditions of ‘*Geetar Boogie*’, ‘*True Love Ways*’ and ‘*Imagine*’, with Jim T on rhythm & Terry/Des splitting bass duties. More Huntermania followed with the young bucks giving us their highly professional renditions of ‘*Man of The World*’, ‘*Unchained Melody*’, ‘*Albatross*’ & ‘*3 Blues*’, David & Des sharing the 4-stringer action on these four numbers.

Prof’s Dancin’ & Jim’s Tappin’

The Prof returned to his lectern to regale us with ‘*Dance On*’ & ‘*Gonzales*’ (Mike & Terry in the Dunces’ seats) after which Jimbee gave us ‘*Stranger*’ & ‘*Foottapper 2*’ with Brian backing and Des & Terry plucking their cable wires.

South ofGenie

Mr Tully soloed with his trade-mark ‘*SOTB*’, quickly followed by ‘*Frightened City*’ (sic - new title obviously), with Jim B on the pillion seat and David in the side car following which Simon returned to the ring with ‘*El Solo Toro*’ and ‘*GWTLBL*’ which sounds more like an aircraft call-sign than a bloke selling lighting equipment - Mike, Des & Terry added touches of class to these performances.

Sambie-Ana

Ollie then returned with ‘*Blue Star*’ and ‘*Cozy 2*’ with George & Terry before Bernard & Jim got the samba-spirit soaring on ‘*Brazil*’ (grass skirts & bongos by Phil & JimB) followed by ‘*Auntie Sana*’ with the old desperadoes of Tully & McNeill providing the backings.

Foot-mark

Mark brought the show to a close with ‘*Wonderful Land 2*’ and ‘*Apache*’ rounding off a long and successful afternoon of fly-tying and motor mechanics.

New Bassist?

Bassist’s Union hot press-release – ‘Brother’ Terry v happy with arrival of new grandchild – new bass ordered for 1st birthday.

Thanks & Stats

Copious thanks as ever to Andrea & Maggie for the nosh to keep the spirits up – also to the audience for their support. The 14 lead, 9 rhythm & 3 bass guitarists’ appreciation, as always, to Hall & Chris for their backings on 50 No renditions in 18 line-ups. **Next meeting : Sun 3rd July 2011.**

Dublin Trip May 2011

Lest readers were asleep at the time, last month saw the UlsterShads on tour to Dublin in support of Brian Tuohy, Impresario and multi-instrumentalist. Brian had bravely conned the management at The Goat Public House, Sth Dublin, into hiring a room ‘for a few old friends – you know, a bit of a natter, a few cream teas, a tea dance and then back on their buses to the Old Folks Home’.... “Sure”, they said, “Brian, no problem - dat’l be jost foin.”

Anyway the myriad crew of thumpers, pluckers, pushers and strummers set up their various bits of equipment (hearing aids/standing aids etc) and proceeded to treat the good folk of Goatstown to a gentle 500MW miscellany of Shads numbers to while away their Sunday afternoons.

After some 3 hours of multiple lines-up (Northern, Southern & mixed pedigree) the show was brought to a conclusion with ‘Going Home’ minutes before the mains fuse was pulled by the chief Goat. Thanks to Brian & his local colleagues for the invitation – hope ‘The Goat’ will let us all back for a re-run sometime!

A few snaps were smuggled out to the *Fret* before **OK!** magazine could get their mitts on them and these are appended below. Copyright – what’s that? – see you in court – publish and be damned!!

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Three Wise Men in the Rhythm Section seek inspiration



The 'Prof' ruminates on Sir Isaac Newton's 3rd Theory of Plectrum/String Interference



Paul tracks his fretboard and Terry tracks his unattended pint



'Slowhand' Eric checks out his nail-gloss while 'The Godfather' checks out the talent



The Away team Supporters' Club.....

UlsterShads On Tour - 15 May 2011
'The Goat', Goatstown, Dublin

