

The Crackly Valve

Editor in Chief: The Prof



November 2011

Special MTV EMA Edition

With Enrico de Bolica apparently getting wind of a dastardly plot cooked up between Ed Banger and The Prof to vote him in as author for this month's NI Shadows Club newsletter and making himself scarce, the short straw was drawn, after a brief scuffle in the corner of the Young Farmer's Hall, by The Prof. In any case 'Ed' was busy keeping an eye on several of Mike's family members who, apparently had dropped in and had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to some 'proper' music.

We also missed the planned set by Bernard who apparently got a better offer – a back-stage pass to the MTV EMA ceremony – oh well; we can't really compete with Lady wots-er-name, can we?

Another absentee this month was Philip's camera so apologies for the lack of new photos this month.

Brothers Act

Our youngest talent, Sam, opened the proceedings with **Ghostriders**, **Shadoogie** and **Theme from a Filleted Place**. The only hiccup that threatened to mar things was when Terry was heard to exclaim "A? I learned it in D!" just before the band played the third tune but, like the real pro he is, Terrence, who celebrated a birthday on Armistice Day, transcribed his bass part on-the-fly, as they say. George kept things

steady with rhythm guitar on a brand new Fender US Strat – lovely!

The slightly older half of the *Shadow Hunters*, Paul then joined Sam for his three numbers, **Walk Don't Run**, **Man of the World** and **Driftin'**. The Peter Green penned *Man of the World* allowed the two lads to blend together in an excellent display of twin-lead playing.

Jim B Zoomed In

Jim Bennett used his newly acquired Zoom G2.1u effects pedal to good effect (sorry) to bring some *Echoes From The Past* to his renditions of **Apache**, **Atlantis** and **Foottapper**. Jim's namesake Jim Tully was particularly impressed with the neat ending to *Apache* though he did mutter something about copyright infringement!

Eh? What Extra Verse?

Suddenly realising that Eric and Bernard weren't there and he was on next, Jim raced to the stage and gave us **Blue Star**, allegedly with an extra verse, according to the Godfather-on-bass Des, a claim hotly denied by Jim – we eagerly await production of Charlie's latest DVD to ascertain the video evidence. Jim's set was concluded with **Sweet Dreams** and the **Theme from Missing**.

The Prof has to confess to not having heard *Sweet Dreams* before so, after a little research on t'internet, he discovered that it

comes from the film *The Boys* and was released on *The Shadows* 1962 EP with "The Boys" along with "Theme from the Boys", and "The Girls".

Hank and Co. don't appear in the film in which ... *"a night watchman at a garage is found murdered, and four teddy boys are put on trial for the crime. Witnesses and suspects give differing accounts of the lead-up to the crime, and the truth emerges."*

The Late John Bell

Don't worry, John is alive and well but has been given his new moniker by Hall after Mr B was seemingly enjoying the drum solo in **Diamonds** so much that he decided to let Hall have another few bars before rejoining the tune!

John had started his set with **Mustang** and followed up with **Diamonds**. With these two tunes successfully polished off John was heard to ask "What are we playing now, Mustang?" No John, you've played it already - now you're playing **The Frightened City!** Mike did his best to play the same tune as John on his acoustic with David and Des following on the four-stringers.

Mark Unplugged

Mark was having trouble making his guitar heard until Paul discovered it wasn't plugged in! This slight problem was quickly rectified and the band started to play the first number of Mark's set. Unfortunately he had decided to start playing the second number! Finally everybody agreed to play **Apache** followed by **Wonderful Land**.

Chas & Dave

Oops, sorry that should be **Chris** and Dave! The Young Shadow, Chris B was joined on drums by his mate Dave. The lads are studying A Level music and Dave got a few tips from resident skin basher Hall and an offer of free lessons on the unique requirements for *Shadows* drummers.

Chris delivered the goods with **Geronimo**, **Shindig** and **FBI** with Jim and Terry completing the backline. Incidentally Chris recently appeared on 'Music Express' on Sky Channel 201 playing a tune called *Night Rider* and wearing a very snazzy suit.

Interval and NIVRAM

Jim B, Philip and Des got together with Hall to pretend to be Bruce, Hank, Jet and Tony, respectively for the jazzy little number known as **NIVRAM**. Phil played Hank's part on his new Hagstrom Viking semi-acoustic to get that jazzy sound and look ...



Stan's the Man

Stanley's tone on **Midnight** was 'to die for' and he kept up his usual high standard of playing with the foot-stompin' **Guitar Boogie Shuffle**, finishing with the soothing **Spring Is Nearly Here**. Jim and Terry provided the rhythm and bass guitars.

We Skipped a Light Fandango

George treated us to a club 'first' with his instrumental rendering of the Procul Harem hit **Whiter Shade of Pale**. This tune also gave Chris J his moment in the spotlight with the featured keyboard solo. George followed this with the Jet Harris favourites **Applejack** and **Scarlett O'Hara** with Jim and Des in the rhythm section.

Here We Stand

Des swiftly donned the six string Burns (incidentally, the only Burns on display this month – that must be a rarity) to join George for a bit of twin lead in Jet's wonderful tune **Here I Stand**. Jim Tully stood in for the absent Eric on rhythm and did well despite thinking the tune was Stand by Me!

Four from Phil

Des was especially nice to Philip this month and let him play four tunes. This seemed to encourage the old Prof and he rattled off decent versions of David's 'least favourite' tune **South of the Border**, the up-tempo rocker **Round and Round**, **Theme for Young Rascals** (oops, **Lovers**) and **Peacepipe**. Jim B kept the rhythm guitar going in all four numbers while the aforementioned David and Terry shared the bass duties.

Rock On Dad!

Mike's family were rewarded for their long wait with his renditions of **A Place in the Sun**, **It's Been a Blue Day** - actually they seemed to enjoy the whole day ☺ - and **Dance On**. George and Simon stepped into the breach for the rhythm duties on Mike's tunes.

Nautical Theme

There was definitely a nautical feel to Ollie's three tunes. I'm not sure if this was his choice, more likely it was with a little urging from Des. Whatever, the three tunes **Blue**

Sky, Blue Sea, Blue Me (no – that's only one tune ha ha), **Three Galleons** and **Windjammer** amply illustrated how Ollie's playing goes from strength to strength and he is even playing standing up now. Sam and Paul shared the rhythm duties with David and Des on bass.

Simon Says ...

"I walked along a **Golden Street** on my **Return to the Alamo** while I listened to a **Theme for Something Really Important**."

I know, I know, its corny. Sorry! Maybe Enrico can come up with something better next month? Hint, hint ...

Simon belted out these three great numbers on his 'Growler' guitar with the help of Mike on acoustic rhythm guitar and Des on bass.

As the Ceiling Flew Away

George brought the proceedings to a fitting close with a reprise of **Whiter Shade of Pale**.

Thanks ...

As usual we all thank Hall and Chris for sterling work on the drums and keyboards.

Once again a fine repast was provided at the interval by Maggie – many thanks.

Best Wishes ...

... to Brian. Our good friend from Dublin recently had his house burgled and his car stolen so we wish him and his wife all the best and a quick return to normality.

As a result the gig at the Goat Bar in Dublin which Brian was organizing has had to be cancelled until further notice.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Sunday 4th December