

The Worn Fret

July 2012

A to-be-avoided-at-all-costs part-time voice-piece
of the NI Shadows Club

(*'the biggest load of tosh since my deluded war-time broadcasts
from Germany.'* : Lord Hee-Haw)

Report on the July 2012 gathering from chief twangster & sports reporter, Ed Banger, the man with more pedals than a Tour de France 'peloton' (that's the 'pack', for the non-bikies amongst our readership).

Flaming July (not)

July 1st had arrived and there were plenty of sporting events that week-end to keep our mid-field dynamos out of the YFC – what with European Golf at Portrush, international cricket England v Oz, tennis at Wimblers and Euro-football 2012 as well, there were many distractions on offer. Unfortunately some of the old 'bangers & twangers' still insisted on turning up to spoil a good round of sandwiches, pot of Earl Grey and chinwag with some dodgy guitar music & vocals. Anyway, as they had pitched up with strings freshly greased and hair back-combed there was little to be done other than blow the hooter and plug the ears.

Sound check

Uncle Des had suggested previously that a sound-check at the start of the day might be a 'good thing' and possibly bring a certain amount of professionalism to the proceedings. Whilst this might have at first appeared a bit picky, given the standard of musicianship on show, it was avidly taken on board by the afternoon's first incarnation of The Shads as they seemingly played their whole set as a sound-check before doing it again for real – nice try, guys!



Mr Tully checks vocals' balance with 'Plucky Lips'

JimBee serves first/Ollie 1st Change

Jim Bennett blasted an opener at great pace down '**Golden Street**', '**Blue Star**' & '**Foot Tapper**' hotly pursued by Mike on acoustic rhythm & Terry on bass following which Ollie riposted with his favoured 'mashie niblick'* on renditions of '**Peace Pipe**', '**Perfidia**' and '**Wind Jammer**' with George & Terry on strums & bass respectively, Turner Junior taking over bass duties for the last track.

* For the confused amongst us, a 'mashie niblick' was "not a weapon carried by little Pictish warriors to beat Sassenach

swine o'er the heid but a wee sticky tae thrash about wi' while chasin' a stupid white ball o'er the country-side". Stick around, guys, and you might learn a bit here.



Ollie fires cross-court drop-shot with vicious mashie

Clarke's Cobblers/O'Hara's Auntie

Mr Clarke then donned the electric for '**Dance On**', '**Geronimo**', & '**Atlantis**' (the latter complete with 'senior moment' of duff key & brain fade) , backed by Mr Corlett on 12 string acoustic & David on bass. Straight up thereafter on lead for '**Lost City**', '**Santa Anna**' & '**Stardust**' 'was Bernard assisted by George on strums & Terry/Des on bass.



Bernard digs one out of the bunker & sticks it in the net



Rhythm section covered in 'Stardust' (H & D claim)

Corlett's flashing blades

Simon opened his fishing bag &, matching weapon with prey, juggled between the 'White Shark' & 'Red Snapper' on lead with '**Apache**', '**Diamonds**' & '**Kon-Tiki**' with Mike on rhythm & David/Terry sharing the bass roles.

Mark's Up & at 'em

Mark followed on with '**Theme For Young Lovers**' and '**Wonderful Land**' backed by the Turner twins on rhythm & bass.



Mark's 'Wonderful Band' playing in a strict 'diamond' formation to confuse the Azurri attack (or defence)

Stingray attack shock, horror warning

David T then strode purposefully to the lead rostrum with his bass axe to give a stirring '**Stingray**', with Papa on strums and Terence on bass/bass.



Mr Stinger goes for the neck....

Oh, no – 'Old Spice' re-open bowling – 4 No-balls called

The day deteriorated sharply with the arrival at the crease of those two old music-hall jokers, 'Old Spice', attempting a career-ending reunion of their 3rd anniversary party show-stopping vocal three-some of '**Don't Make My Baby Blue**

(not difficult for these imposters), '**Travelling Light**' (why do they bother to travel at all?) and '**Please don't Tease**' ("oh, yeh, aren't they such?..."). The tea-break probably never seemed more welcome to the assembled company as a means of finally getting these two bad pennies off the stage.



Mr 'Fingers' (to LHS) clocks the **Jammy Dodgers** through the kitchen hatchway (*biccies, not persons*)

INTERVAL

John Mac Cranks Up Side 2

Following the half-time bean feast courtesy of Andrea & Margaret (the assembled company's thanks as ever, Ladies) a new lead guitar, John McLaughlin, stepped up to play '**Shindig**', '**Apache**' & '**Ghost Riders**' with the air of man who had done this all before.

Cliff fires 3 goals past Buffoon

Mr 'Lucky Lips' Bennett then grabbed the microphone & acoustic to roll back the years with more highly professional renditions of '**Livin' Doll**', '**Voice In The Wilderness**', '**Do Yez Wanna Dance, heh**' and '**I Could Easily Fall**' - ably assisted by Mr O'Hara on lead riffs, Mr McNeill on bass tones & Mr Corlett on harmony vocals.



The Ref (in black) consults the linesman checking out the blondes in the 3rd row - decision : "Stumped"

Ollie back on inward 9 as UB Shadoogies

The programme then returned to more standard Shads' fare with Ollie leading on '**Tonight**' & '**Sleepwalk**' with George (R) & Des (B) prior to Mr Turner switching to the lead pedal on '**Shadoogie**' & '**Argentina**', Simon on rhythm & David bass.



UB Hank dummies round the peddles & mics and sticks one in the Spanish 18th hole-a-a-a.

JimB back at Midnight/Clarke's the PITS

'**Midnight**' & '**Genie**' followed from Mr Bennett's lead guitar with Bernard back on rhythm & David continuing on bass through to the following set of '**Blue Day**' & '**Place in the Sun**' with Mike on lead & George on rhythm, Simon 2nd lead on 'PITS'.

Rounding the Going Home Theme

The scheduled event then closed with more double lead richness on '**Rounding The Capé**', Simon & George, and '**Theme From Something**', Simon & Bernard, with Mike & Des on R & B respectively prior to Bernard (lead), George (R) & Desmac (Bass) exiting stage left with '**Going Home**'.

Extra Time & Penalty bowl-out

Some end-of-day madness subsequently ensued with an eyrie-ful of impromptu 'Eagles' encircling the arena complete with permed hair-dos and sneakers – lead vocals & acoustic 12 string, Mr Corlett, accompanied on acoustic 6 & vocals, Mr Clarke, harmony vocals & lead fills, Mr 'Joe Walsh' Bennett, Mr McNeill on bass & visiting drums-man Ryan Hodges (son of our Terry) - doing their worst to '**Easy Feeling**', '**Lying Eyes**' and '**Take It Easy**' – not sure whether the Shads ever covered these songs in later years but, shucks, it was barely believable. Let's hope Messrs Henley & Frey don't take fright at the talent on show – they might feel the need to return to NI for a Final Farewell + 1 gig.

Facts & Stats

173 : No of minutes of uninterrupted play producing 3 own goals and one torn metatarsal.

5 : tonnes of earplugs distributed to the audience (of 6).

0 : no of requests for money back – the on-watch German Shepherd ensured little trouble in this regard.

40 No renditions of 39 Shadows/CR & S numbers were heard over the afternoon, excluding the imports from southern California. Interviewed after the show one of the cool dudes drawled "well, man, like, it was real cool all that old twangy early English stuff – yeh, we had a ball - mine'sh a *Tequila Sunrise*, not too mush Tequ hic.....".

Over the course of the afternoon we were treated to fretting performances by 9 No lead, 5 No rhythm and 3 No bass guitarists – sufficient for 2 no 8-a-side beach volley-ball contests. Bring on the sand-pit!

Thanks, guys

The axemen's thanks as ever to Mr Johnston (Keyboards) and Mr Smyth (Percussion) for their extended duties over the afternoon.

Producer's Promise

No axes (or Mashies) were seriously abused in the making of this programme – only the listeners' ears.

Editorial Messages

Apologies for a shortage of photos from the latter part of the show but technical malfunction to blame (battery, lack of).

The '**Worn Fret**' will be taking a short break over the next few months because of editorial family commitments – '**The Crackly Valve**', we are sure, will keep the home fires burning but 'The Prof' would, no doubt, be delighted to hear from any scribes willing to pen a few lines on the monthly gathering. **Good Tip** – plenty of camera action reduces the amount of writing required and gives a good chance to heap ridicule on some unfortunate incident (missed 6" putt, Golden Duck, open-goal miss etc. **Think about it, as it could be the start of a new career!!**)

Next gathering : Sunday 5th August 2012