

The Crackly Valve

Editor in Chief: The Prof



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The Last Shadowmania – Ever

Chris, Terry, Bernard, Philip, Ollie and his lovely wife Delie have just returned from the last ever Shadowmania. Sadly Bruce Welch has decided that, for a number of health-related reasons, he's calling it a day as far as Shadowmania is concerned.

Everyone agreed that the Show was an outstanding success and for those of you who weren't able to make it there are a number of excellent videos on YouTube which will give you a chance to see and hear nearly every tune that was played.

Just search on YouTube for "Shadowmania 2012", "gilliangvideo" or "[Philip McGarrick](#)" and you can settle down for a great evening's entertainment in front of you computer!

Highlights of the trip included meeting Bruce on the Friday evening and again on Sunday morning and Chris and Philip managed not to fawn all over him as they were sat at the next table at breakfast. Terry was delighted to meet his favourite Shads bassist Alan Jones and the inimitable Brian 'Licorice' Locking.

Bernard, Philip and Ollie were over the moon when, just before jumping in the taxi to return to Heathrow, we were privileged to be photographed holding 'The Strat', the famous '34346' which was the first Fender Strat in Britain, imported by Cliff Richard for Hank Marvin to play and now owned and

used by Bruce Welch. Big thanks to Bernard for the introduction and to Bruce's guitar tech Mick Johnson for allowing us this wonderful opportunity.



Please sir, can I have your autograph?



I've got one just like this at home!

Next Meeting
Sunday 7th October



No Ollie, you can't take it home with you!



Bernie, the Strat



Alan Jones and a great bass player



Him again with Licorice Locking

Sound Check

In an attempt to at least give the impression of knowing what we were doing George called for a sound check before we could get the proceedings properly underway.

Unhappy with the ambience – according to Chris J there were “too many dense objects” in the room – we resorted to pulling the curtains to cut down the reverberation. This must have worked as a happy George went for it for real and sauntered through *Wonderful Land*, *Atlantis* and *Flingel Bunt*. Eric (who?) and David provided the rhythm section

As George switched his pickup to the middle position for rhythm and Terry adorned himself with his lovely Fender Precision bass Ollie weighed in with another newbie for him: *Ghost Riders in the Sky*, said ghostly cowboys, not content with one trip, decided to gallop across again. They must have got *Stardust* in their eyes. See what I did there?

Eric returned to the fold after an absence of over a year – welcome back, by the way – and had obviously been practicing in the back bedroom as he gave fine renditions of *Cavatina* and *The Breeze and I*.

Next up was Mark with *Apache* and a new tune for him *Peacepipe* which he played very nicely with Eric giving rhythm support on his acoustic and David returning on bass.

Philip's turn in the limelight produced *It's Been a Blue Day* and *Theme for Something Really Important*. George and Terry helped him through with additional support from Bernard on TFSRI.

Next up was Jim B who, according to our esteemed basher of skins Hall, was “Sleepwalking at Midnight” on account of Jim launching into Sleepwalk when he was supposed to be playing *Midnight* – well they do sound kinda similar to start with! Once that little issue was sorted Jim then performed *Find Me A Golden Street*. Eric and David provided the back line for Jim's tunes.

David stayed on stage while Philip replaced Eric on rhythm (on his Hagstrom Viking semi-acoustic) for Bernard's excellent set which consisted of *Gonzales* and *Shindig*.

John Bell's set started with *Perfidia* and everything was going well until George's intervention brought the tune to a grinding halt – apparently he just wanted to tell the guys “the levels are all right.” John wasn't fazed and started over, followed by *Shazam* and his own composition *September Time*, Jim and Terry managing to play the backing for ‘Spring is Nearly Here’ while John ‘did his own thing’ on lead.

Chris B was next up and his set consisted of some up-tempo stuff: *Guitar Tango*, *The Savage* and *Geronimo*. Eric's strumming arm managed to survive the experience ably assisted with nods and winks from Terry.



Did he get those muscles playing *The Savage* or was it playing tennis?

Interval

Many thanks once again to Andrea for providing another sumptuous spread of sandwiches and other goodies to get us fit for the second half.

Suitably refreshed, Ollie got proceedings underway with *Kontiki* and *The Frightened City* with Philip again strumming his Swedish beauty ;^) with David on bass.

Eric wired up his volume pedal and used it to great effect on *Theme from Titanic* which he followed with *Don't Cry for me Argentina*;

George and David on rhythm and bass respectively.

Mark came back with *Theme for Young Lovers*, Eric and Terry having taken over in the rhythm section before Philip made his return with *Dance On*, *Peacepipe* and *Nivram* the latter being less than successful as, having fallen in love with his Hagstrom so much he decided to switch to it for the jazzy sound, he then seemed to get lost on the fretboard and it turned into something of a *Nivram Raid*. Apologies to Jim B who tried to follow the wanderings of his fellow plucker but at least Terry's bass solo was worth waiting for and highly appreciated by the audience.

Jim managed to stop laughing long enough to render *Blue Star* and *Sleepwalk* – yes this time it really was *Sleepwalk*! George had taken over rhythm duties while Terry continued on bass.

We then had *Stingray* which, as most of you know, features a lead part played on distorted bass guitar. Last time out David performed this function admirably while Terry played the normal bass but, in a daring experiment, David asked Terry to switch roles. Alas El Tel had never played this part before, didn't know it and hadn't practiced it! The end result was almost as much fun as Phil's *Nivram*. I think we need to put that one down to experience lads ...

Bernard's second set consisted of *Shadoogie* and *Lost City* accompanied by Philip and Terry and it would have been a great ending to the meeting but Eric's boss had called in after the gig had already started and missed his favourite Shads tune. So, by special request, the meeting ended, as it had begun, with that big hit from May 1961 *Wonderful Land*, Bernard playing lead, Eric on rhythm and David on bass to round off another very successful day at the NI Shadows Club.

Many thanks again to Hall for drumming non-stop and to Chris J for his excellent support on keyboards.

The Prof will be sunning himself in Majorca next month so hopefully someone will step into the breach and produce the newsletter for the October meeting. See you in November ...