

The Worn Fret

November 2012

A totally over-the-top cod-piece of the NI
Shadows Club

(A bit like the Stewed prunes that Gran said would be the making
of you – “JUST EAT UP AND QUIT YER WHINGEING”)

Report on the Nov 2012 gathering from chief fantasist and
story teller, Ed Banger, the guy with more duff valves than
your local Plumbers' Merchant.

November – Gun Powder, Treason & Rock

The ghouls of Halloween having slipped under the
thresholds and been consumed by the fires of turnipland it
was time for the die-hard rock n'rollers of Shadowdom to
emerge from below their stony protective carapaces, don
their *Stratovariuses*, roam the planet and bring harmony to
the world. This meeting saw a few returning faces after
various breaks/trips/family reunions so expectations were
high that the usual ropey performances would ensue.



“Personally I'm never without my handy extinguisher stand”

Ollie top billing/Boal 'follows on' 2 behind

First up to the lead rostrum was Oliver with '*Chinwag*' &
'*Golden Street, Find Me A*' backed by David on bass &
Mike on strums, following which Eric gave us '*Dance On*' &
'*It's Been a Blue Day*' with David continuing on the 4
strings and Simon working three times as hard on 12.



“Dance-On, y'all !”

Growl On

Simon then leapt cross-stage, grabbing the Growler en
route, to perform '*The Lost City*' and '*Shazzzzam*', Eric
providing rhythm and Terry his bass vibes – I think the
programme makers should think about putting *Genie &
Shazam* in the same set some time in the future – it has a
completeness about it that appeals to this little mind.



Shazam-agic

Rumble of the frightened Alamo city

Next was 'Dinger' Burns-Bell with a fancy foursome of '*The
Frightened City*', '*The Miracle*', '*Return to The Alamo*'
and '*The Rumble*' with Mike on rhythm & Terry on bass.
(Editor's suggestion : do we need an agreed tempo for
Rumble as, not for the first time, it lacked the pace of the
version on CD? All comments welcome, to the letters page
or wherever).

Bern's Turn

Bernardo then took over the pedestal with a quartet of
numbers : '*1861*', '*Theme From Shane*', '*Foot-tapper*' and
'*FBI*' with rhythm duties split between Eric and Philip and
bass duties split between Terry & Terry.



Bernard in foreground, amp tech. behind

Jim Bluestar/Phil-The Stranger

Following this the Portadown contingent took over with Jim Bennett leading on '**Blue Star**' and '**Midnight**' with 'The Prof' on strums and DT on bass following which gown & mortar-board were donned for a treatise by Prof on '**Geronimo**' and '**The Stranger**', complete with differential equations and algebraic wizardry. Wiping the blackboard for teacher was JB while collecting the milk-bottles was David – that was what the script said but my little margin-scribbblings noted that Turner Junior bunked-off early and Terence had to face 'The Stranger' armed only with a Burns bass (or was it a 'Precision')? Send for Inspector Clouseau to unravel this mystery, or that buffoon, Hercule Poirot.



Jim at Midnight

New Boys Done Well

We then had a threesome of numbers performed by recent intake to the School of Shudders, namely Alan and Jack, the former giving us '**Apache**', Philip & David backing, while the latter lead on '**Atlantis**' & '**Cavatina**' with the same backing band, apart from Alex taking over strums on Cava.



Jack and 'Tina

Crumbs of Comfort

After a busy opening half the assembled company adjourned to the kitchen to partake of the few crumbs not already scooped by the encircling flock of pterodactyls who haunt the YFC once a month looking for easy pickings. We were also able to welcome back after injury, Uncle Des, and fresh from the physio's bench, Jim '**Apache Man**' Tully – good to see you, guys!



Last Man sitting

Stan's Our Man

A 'stranger' in the form of Stanley then appeared to play the '**TBC**' on the programme. Allegedly recorded on the same session as '**FBI**' but lacking that fine organisation's proneness to buffoonery, 'TBC' never made it off the cutting room floor. Stanley luckily solved this problem with his renditions of '**True Love Ways**', '**Guitar Boogie**' and '**Midnight**' with Mr Bennett on rhythm and Mr McNeill making a welcome return to bass duties.



Stanley & Desmac working, amp tech. posing

Corlett & Clarke (again)

Mr Corlett then donned the Strat for '**Mustang**' followed by his Garrison acoustic for '**Guitar Tango**' with Mike on rhythm and Terry bass. Mr Clarke then donned electric for leads on '**A Place in The Sun**', '**Santa Ana**' and '**Wonderful Land**' with Eric on strums, David on bass & Simon on his customary PITS 2nd lead.

Ollie's back/Jimbee and Philipo

Ollie returned to the podium for '**Ghost Riders**' and '**Gonzales**' with Eric & Terry on backing duties before the Jim & Phil show re-hit the airwaves with '**Spring is Nearly Here**' and '**Genie WTLBL**': Jim/Phil and '**Nivram**' and '**Peacepipe**': Phil/Jim – Mr McNeill & Mr Hodges shared bass duties.



(Sigh) ...".My old man hasn't picked me up for months".....

"You should be so lucky, dearie – mine won't keep his hands off. Men.....".

A pair of old-timers chew the cud

Mark Up

Mark then rushed the stage to perform '**Apache**', '**Theme For Young Lovers**' and '**Wonderful Land**' with Mike & David in attendance.

Bern's for the road.....and so is 'Fingers'

Housekeeping was provide by Mr O'Hara on lead with his trademark '**Going Home**', preceded by '**Perfidia**'. Strums were provided by Jim B and bass by Terry.



"Taxi for Johnston, please"

Facts & Stats.

33 No renditions of 31 No '**Shadows**' numbers were performed over the afternoon by 12 No lead, 6 No rhythm and 3 No bass guitarists.

Thank Youse

Guitarists' thanks as ever to Chris for Keys and Hall for Drums over the afternoon. Likewise to the Ladies' Committee for the sarnies, cakes and biccies.

More Prof Wizardry

Spotted by a passing drone was this piece of Professorial gadgetry under development in the garden shed. Replacing clumsy hard-copy rhythm crib-sheets, & unsightly binders, with modern *Apple* gizmos electronically linked to a page-changing footpad you may now play all afternoon without Uncle Des knowing that you haven't the faintest idea about the chord sequence. A boon for all budding rhythm guitarists who dread receipt of the UB-Hank email listing 15 tunes to be mugged up by the following club-day.



I Player (hands-free kit)

Philip is currently working on a Mk 2 version that will play his tunes while he 'Skypes' in from his countless Iberian pool-side getaways planned monthly from May 2013. **Get your orders in now.!**

Next gathering : Sun 2nd December 2012

All requests, please, to Uncle Des asap for onward transmission to the Selection Committee.

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