

# The Worn Fret

December 2012

## Another fly-on-the-wall documentary about the NI Shadows Club

What the Critics said :-

("You couldn't make it up, even if you cried" Editor of Hansard  
"So shocking, my ears nearly popped out of my head" Mr Bean  
Like the Spanish Inquisition's torture chamber, though without the comfy cushions – Monty Python's Flying Circus)

Report on the Dec 2012 mingling from our Pantomime Fantasist, Ed Banger, the NISC's Prince Charming chatting up the Ugly Sisters with tales of excess and D-diminished chord structures.

### Rucks & Mauls

The Autumn International Rugby Series having finished on the previous day a rag-tag bunch of so-called musicians turned up at the YFC in Newtownards for a bit of rucking & mauling having swapped their jock-straps for axe-straps and bottles of *Deep Heat* for sachets of *Grecian 2000*. A good-sized crowd were also in attendance lured, no doubt, by the offer of tea & scones at half time, free entry through the turnstiles and a dry roof over their heads.

### "Sin Bin sent off" drama

The afternoon turned into the customary hotch-potch of unpredictable line-ups and tune order as player availabilities tested the organisational skills of coaches Turner & McNeill to the limit - the fact that no 'Sin-binning' or red cards followed was a tribute to the karma of the event as well as the total inability of the ace performers to recollect what should have been played in the first place..

### "Fingers' missing" drama

No keyboards were in place due to Mr Johnston standing in for the GPO's Speaking Clock ("...On the 3<sup>rd</sup> beat it will an augmented B diminished 5<sup>th</sup> flattened third..."..beep, beep..). – the dedication to his profession was to be commended even though his absence left a chilly draught through the side door.

### Phil's The Bill topper

The referee, having performed the 'Hakka', then blew the whistle to permit the initial 35 minute sound-check from Philip with *'Dance On*, which he followed with *Dance On 2* and then *'Shindig*, *'The Frightened City* & *'Round & Round* with Mike on rhythm & David on bass.



**'Prof' listens for Critical Interference Hysteresis from his new Echo/Repeater/2sugars-and-no-milk shiny gizmo**

### Jack's back (for more)

Jack then strutted his stuff with *'Atlantis'* & *'Wonderful Land'* accompanied by Simon on rhythm & David on bass



**Jack attack & David defence**

### Ollie, Ollie, Ollie

Ollie arrived to lead on *'The Stranger'*, *'Gonzales'* and *'Find Me A Golden Street'* along with Philip on rhythm & Terry bass



**Ollie groovin' down 'Golden Street' (oh, ye-a-h)**

### Dinger's ringing Rumble

John Bell declined to set sail on Kon-Tiki and instead slipped moorings on *'Windjammer'* followed by *'The Rumble'* and *'Shazam'* backed by Mike on strums & bassmen David/Terry on tracks 1 & 2+3 respectively.



**Mr Bell discovers his G string (or something else nice)**

**Interval :** during the tea break some more trial tunings were heard from individuals wishing to test out work in progress and to give the assembled company a teasing taste of possible masterpieces to come in future months.

### Jimbee's all A'walkin' and A'tappin'

Jim Bennett then stepped out for a quick '**Sleepwalk**' followed by '**Atlantis**', '**Theme For Young Lovers**' and '**Foot-tapper**' accompanied by Terry on Strat rhythm (a Club-first for Monsieur Hodges) & David on bass.



Jim givin' '**Foot-slapper**' some welly (yo!)

### Miracle in Bottle

Simon, from a bottle, then produced '**Genie WTLBL**', '**1861**', '**The Miracle**' and '**Return To The Alamo**' with Mike and Des on R&B respectively.



A trio of old growlers attack '**The Alamo**'

### Narrow-side attack by Seagull

Mr Clarke moved to the blind-side to 'lead' on '**Peacepipe**', '**Santa Ana**', '**It's Been A Blue Day**' and '**Dance On**', the last played (sort of) on 'Seagull' acoustic lead with Simon rhythm & Terry and David on bass.

### Alan plays stormer at 10

Alan then moved to outside half to lead on '**Apache**' and '**Argentina**' with Mike & David on R & B and Paul standing in on drums for a debut performance.



Alan gives '**Apache**' a thrash

### Paul on skins



Paul gives '**Apache**' another thrash, for good measure

### Cavalry arrives

At this stage Chris Johnston was sent on from the subs bench to provide 'enhanced musical accompaniments' to the group sound.

### Mark leads attack - Terence/Philip in mid-field switch

Next up was Mark with '**Wonderful Land**' and '**Theme For Young Lovers**' with Terry providing the strums to prove he was no four string wonder. Likewise Philip showed that having only 4 strings were no impediment to his playing as his bass vibes rang clearly out.



Mark's Wonderful Land



Proof that not all bassists can only count to 4



### Extra time played

As the shortened programme had finished early a few unscheduled numbers received an airing from various combinations : '**Geronimo**' & '**Flingie Bunt**' from 'Dinger' (Clarke & Hodges in support).



**'Mr Fingers' with a full back line on 'Geronimo'**

### Final Score

Mr Corlett finally touched down with '**Rounding The Cape**' and '**Theme From Something**', Clarke & McNeill backing up on the right wing. It was good to see Uncle Des back in the outfield looking for work even though there appeared to be some minor query with the match officials over accuracy of the final pass.



**Yellow card? - McNeill queries the 4<sup>th</sup> Official's call**

### Acknowledgements

Thanks as ever to Andrea & Margaret for the picnic and to drummer-boy Hall for keeping going through a long afternoon with a dodgy shoulder – where would the club be without such selfless commitment? We hope that the physios can get him stretched back into fitness for January's match.

Photographs this week from the extensive back-catalogue of Club snapper, Charles Preminger – our thanks to him.

Stats for day : 32 renditions of 29 No tunes were performed by 9 No lead, 4 No rhythm & 3 No bass guitarists, 2 drummers (and keys).

### Announcements

A couple of clarifications from the management of **The Worn Fret** :

- "In the issue of 4<sup>th</sup> November we inadvertently stated that '33 No renditions of 31 No Shadows numbers were performed over the afternoon'. This

somewhat pedestrian rate of performance has since drawn mildly negative comparisons with earlier gatherings of the Club and led to comments from certain quarters about things not being like they were in the old days. We are pleased to explain that this error was entirely due to incompetence on the part of the assistant dealing with accounting who had forgotten to apply sufficient brilliantine to his abacus and who is now able to confirm that , in fact, 40 No renditions of 37 tunes were carried out on that day. We are happy to correct our earlier misprint and to apologise to all concerned for any embarrassment called. The individual concerned has been sentenced to 12 hours continuous practice of rhythm to 'The Savage' which will hopefully wipe the superior smile off his face. "

"In the issue of 4<sup>th</sup> November an outrageous slur was made against Mr Terence Hodge's bass guitar which was erroneously referred to, in the critique of his performance on 'The Stranger', as being a Fender 'Precision' bass. It has been brought to our attention that Mr Hodges instrument was in fact a 'Jazz' bass and that a payment of \$10,000 dollars would be the end of any litigation that this diva of the guitar world might be seeking as redress. The Fret apologies for any distress caused to Miss 'Jazz' by this unintentionally lazy piece of reporting and would like to reassure her that she always looks lovely in pink (or white) and that Bessie Burns-bass is not even in the same league (or division)."

**Next gathering : Sun 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

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**Any requests for the next meeting, please, to Uncle Des asap for onward transmission to the Selection Committee which is keen to develop the repertoire of the playing members.**

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**Kindly remember that Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is most important - please check your individual playing records with a view to updating the Master Playlist which will be on display at the YFC on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

**If the Selection Committee is unaware of newly mastered tunes there is danger of your unwittingly being given something with which you are totally familiar.**

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