

The Worn Fret

3rd February 2013

Another Life in the Day of the NI Shadows Club

"If you missed it, you must have been deaf, or sensible" - a passing seagull

Report on the Feb 2013 gathering of the self-styled 'Guitar Galacticos of N.I.' as they attempted to prove how enterprise and hard work are absolutely no match for musical knowledge & talent. From our chief Spotter and snapper, Ed Banger, the man with one finger on the 'Eject' button and the other on the plate of Jammy Dodgers.....

Wires & Wheretos?

Visitors to the YFC this month might have wondered whether NIE were installing the new and long-awaited NI power grid within the hall, it possibly being rather easier to do there than on the exposed hillsides of the Province. But no, it was the boys with all their mixers and monitors setting up for another beam-me-out-Scotty show in the lead up to the next mega-gig at Stormont. Cable-Meister McNeill was busy plugging leads hither and thither and twiddling with every button on his desk in an attempt to make the various instruments (both stringed & vocal) sound as if they were playing from similar hymn sheets at similar times with similar intensities – no small ask bearing in mind the varied 'inputs' available and the differing monitor feed levels demanded by the aforementioned galacticos.



Mission Control

Jack's Head-liner

Jack kicked off the music with a return to '*Atlantis*' followed by '*The Alamo*' & '*Geronimo*' in the company of Eric and Terry/David on strums & bass/bass respectively.



Geronimo's Return to Atlantis

Clarke followed by Ollie

Mike '*Danced On*', preceded by '*Theme FYL*', with partners Jim B (R) and David (B) before Ollie donned his pith helmet to lead on '*The Stranger*', '*Windjammer*' and '*Zambezi*' which involved a lot of gadding about in boats hunting for the head of a mighty African watercourse in the company of the Turners and (for the jungle trek) Mr McNeill.

Ollie & Team search for the source of the Zambesi



JimB

Mr Bennett reappeared under the spotlight with classics '*Golden Street*, *Find Me A*' and '*Wonderful Land*' with fellow prospectors Messrs Boal (rhythm) and Turner Jr (bass).



Bennett & Turner adiggin' for gold

Mark & Eric

Mark then snuck on to do a quick '*Apache*' in place of Mr Tully (a late call-off – *our best wishes to you, JT*), with Eric & Terry providing the accompanying posse. Eric then vaulted over the net to fire, with '*Argentina*' & '*Cavatina*', a couple of cross-court volleys at doubles opposition, die-hard champions Turner & Turner.



Boally plays a music stand to fine effect



Keys & Rhythm hard at work, Mr Drums takes a break...

Simon's On

Mr Growler emerged from out of the forest canopy to give us a multi-faceted '**Diamonds**' followed by '**Theme From Something**' backed by two Turners and single Hodges.



The 'Theme Team' – something really different

Professor Shindig

The 'Prof' then downloaded himself from cyberspace and struck up on '**The Savage**' followed by the first unenforced substitution of the day in the shape of '**Shindig**' rather than 'Foottapper', just to keep fellow guitarists Mike (R) & Terry (B), and audience, on their toes.

Bernard and Brian

Bernardo followed on '**Man of Mystery**' and '**Kon-Tiki**' with Philip and Desmond on R&B respectively following which another programme change welcomed the Club's southern correspondent, Mr Brian Tuohy reappearing (after an absence of some months) to lead on '**Bossa Rod**' and '**Stardust**' with George & Terry providing support.



Men of Mystery



Mystery Man – Brian 'Bossa' returns to Ards

Food !

Completion of this opening half of 21 tracks led to rapid consumption of the large plates of provender kindly prepared by the Ladies Committee. As always these are highly appreciated by the dossers and layabouts that turn up ostensibly to strum a few notes but with the main intention of a monthly pig-out on wheaten sarnies and Gentlemen's Relish.

Maggie May.....



Mrs McNeill expresses concern at site tidiness (lack of)

Vocal Feast ?

The second half had been billed as a celebration of fine Choral Harmony and Gregorian Chanting – a lofty ideal of the programme compilers given the available 'talent'. In the absence of the guiding hands of a S Cowell or L Walsh our various boy-band line-ups made valiant efforts to avoid the fish-heads and bed-pans being projected from the body of the congregation.

Mr Cliff B

First up was a well bronzed-up Mr 'Cliff' Bennett with rousing performances of **'Move It'**, **'Please Don't Tease'**, **'The Young Ones'**, and **'Summer Holiday'** with Bernard on lead-fills, Brian on rhythm, Terry on bass and Mr Corlett on backing vocals.



The Young Ones (you MUST be joking!)

'Old Spice' – new songs, same old 'singers'

This grouping was then replaced by those acoustic jokers-in-residence 'Old Spice' who had morphed, during their latest period of 'resting', into a very poor-man's impersonation of The Beverly Sisters impersonating Cliff on **'Travelling Light'** and themselves with **'All I Have To Do Is Dream'**, **'Walk Right Back'** and, finally, **'Bye Bye Love'** – probably the over-riding sentiment of folks hiding in the back stalls. Tremolo-lead-fills to this pair's ramblings were provided by Stanley and bass vibes by Mr Hodges.

Brian's on song

More vocal talent emerged with Mr Tuohy accompanying himself on **'True Love Ways'** and **'Everyday'** with Stanley on lead, Des on bass & Simon on backing vocals.

And JimBee 2

To show that you can never beat a good trier, Mr Bennett then reappeared off the back of his big red bus to produce another quintet of CR&S numbers namely **'Voice In The Wilderness'**, **'Don't Talk To Him'**, **'I Could Easily Fall'**, **'Do You Wanna Dance?'** and **'Living Doll'** with Bernard & Des on lead & Bass respectively and rhythm duties shared between Eric & George – again harmony vocal duties from Simon.



"Voices In The Wilderness" – always the chance....

Status Berry and The Heartbreakers

The last scheduled act of the day was the Bennett/Hawthorne posse with a hybrid set of Quo/Berry/Beatles numbers that tweaked as it progressed with renditions of **'Caroline'**, **'Roll Over Beethoven'**, **'Driving Along In My Automobile'**, **'Rockin' All Over The World'** and Tom Petty's **'Runnin' Down A Dream'** – Phil & Jim where assisted at various points by George (lead on tracks 2 & 4) and by Simon on backing vocals.



Tribute - Status Who?



Beethoven Rolls Over...

Smouldering wreck (not just DM !)



Amp rolls over in sympathy.....

Late additions – Buddy H

Such was the demand from the audience for more vocal prowess that the old spicers returned to do more damage to classic Holly numbers ' **Heartbeat**, ' **Peggy Sue**', and ' **That'll Be The Day**' with Bernard providing lead riffs and Des his usual retiring bass notes.

With the clock speeding towards 6pm the afternoon's entertainment finished on another unscheduled number with Alex on vocals with ' **That's All Right**', backed by George on guitar & Terry on bass.

Thanks

As usual the dilettantes preening themselves at the front of the stage would offer grateful thanks to Chris Johnston (keys) and Hall Smyth (percussion) for their long-serving assistance & joint ability to paper over the cracks. Also recognition to Charlie for the hours spent spying from his lens to keep us in check in relation to 'product delivery standards'. Big thanks from all players to Uncle Des for the considerable effort getting the PA functioning and attempting to instill a discipline in getting the balance right – still a little way to go to perfect things but worth persevering.

Stats

For the statisticians amongst us a total number of 45 tunes were played over the afternoon, 34 No being Shads or Cliff R + Shads and 11 No being other 60's-vintage numbers.

Intimations

March Meeting : Please note that due to circumstances beyond the Selection Committee's control the next gathering will be a week later than normal, on Sunday 10th March 2013 – please update your diaries/smart-phones/computers/nannies accordingly.

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Appendix of Photos – *what really goes on to get the show on the road*

Five..four, three.....



The view of Mission Control from keyboard land

Assembling a drum-kit



Should have gone to Specsavers ?