

The Worn Fret

6th April 2013

The inside story of the NI Shadows Club, its troupe of eccentric 'musicians' and their minders.

"If you feel like you've read this tosh before, you're probably right"..*The Ed*

Report on the April 2013 gathering of the crazy bunch of wammy wobblers, fresh from their sell-out tour of Lapland

Odds On Disaster

6th April, Grand National Weekend, and so it was silks, saddles and dubbin' to the fore as the jockeys of the day entered the show-ring for the punters to admire their fetlocks and fenders. Good money was on *Bassman VI* coming a cropper at the water jump while *Tremelo Tully* looked a safe bet for a late run on the stand side.

What the **** are those 2 for?



Two bassists attempt to tune a Strat...

It's been a Snow Day?

On show for the first time since Larne had been cut off from the outside world on March 22nd, Chris Branniff cut a fine figure in his summer racing colours while the rest of the field wondered whether it was a 2 or 3 sweater day.



Tremolo Jim meets the Abominable Snowman

And They're Orf

First under starter's orders was leading turf expert, Mr Corlett, who growled his way through '*Atlantis*', '*Argentina*' and '*It's Been A Blue Day*', the last of which reflected the colour of the air when putting down a sharp chance at short backward square when dropping his plec. onto the hallowed square. However he recovered well to complete the innings. In the posse with Simon were the legendary racing Turner team of George on left stirrup and David on Martingale (For those unfamiliar with terminology in the equine world, a Martingale is 'a strap fastened to a horse's girth to keep its head down' while a stirrup is something with which to do a lot of stirring, an activity at which Turner Senior is most adept).



David & Simon, with plec safely in hand

Next into the starting stalls was Mr Clarke with renditions of '*FMA Golden Street*' and '*Geronimo*' complete with deliberate short breaks to permit the assistant musicians, viz Simon on acoustic rhythm and David on bass, to shine.



Johnny B's Better

Making a welcome return to the race-course after a break for medical repairs was Mr Dinger complete with shiny coat and ears well pricked – John '*Danced On*' round the course in the company of JimB & Terry on (R) & (B) respectively, following it up with renditions of '*Peace Pipe*' and '*Perfidia*'.



Phil's Bill

Philip then played lead on '**It's A Man's World**' and '**The Breeze and I**' with George on rhythm and Terry on bass.



G&T discuss Odds in the Racing Post

Bern's away at last

Bernard's first 'lead into **Temptation**' proved to be a false-start and the field (including R&B duo Turner G & McNeill D) had to return to the tape for a starter's reprimand before relaunching themselves, this time for a faultless navigation of the course followed , in the second round, with Mr '**Flingel Bunts**' rise & fall.



Mr O'Hara 'Burns' up the back straight, DM in pursuit

Tully's Turn & then Mr JimB

Mr 'Apache' Tully then rode bareback through '**Apache**' & '**Blue Star**' in party with Mike & Des on R & B following which Jim Bennett with Philip and David gave us '**Sleepwalk**' and '**Kontiki**'.



Mr Tully getting back in the groove

We're the Hellawi? (old joke punchline)

Dr Ollie Livingston then continued his quest of the previous month for the heads of the '**Zambezi**' and '**The Stranger**' in the company of Messrs Turner (R) and McNeill (B) - during the first of these treks there appeared to be some debate between the percussionist and the bassist as to the timing of their respective parts. Eyewitness reports of abusive language and fisticuffs were somewhat exaggerated as the bassist merely kicked the drum-set off the stage while the drummer impaled the bass guitar, with some Precision, in the wall of the building fabric. Respective points-of-view having eloquently been made, this bit of boy-band banter was soon forgotten as the African tourists continued on their merry ways towards the source of eternal youth and group harmony.



All sweetness and light on the banks of the Zambezi

Mark & Co

Mark brought the first half of the meeting to a close with renditions of '**Peacepipe**', '**Spring Is Nearly Here**' and '**Wonderful Land**' performed, after some debate, in the order stated on the playlist thus ensuring that all players (including JimB (R) and Terry (B)) were in sync.

Noshers at last

Then followed the customary guzzling of the repast prepared with dedication by our long-standing catering department for which all players were again most appreciative – not for them a few tufts of hay and bag of oats but rather sandwiches and chocolate cake with lashings of hot beverage.

Besame Mucho rides again

The afternoon's race-card continued with the 3.45 '**Besame Mucho**' Stakes, Desmond on thoroughbred 'Bass VI' with George in the chariot and Terry shovelling the droppings to the side of the course – a couple of annoying Old Spicers were constantly chanting 'Besame' throughout this number, a singularly unoriginal piece of coarse advertising no doubt dreamt up by the sponsors of the race for their own grubby purposes. Eventually the incessant chirping stopped and we were then able to concentrate on the very haunting melodic interplay of guitars on '**Here I Stand**'.



Mr Bass VI with usual understated delivery

Auntie Sana returns to Alamo via Cape Genie

With the late withdrawal by Jack from the day's race-card some switching of jockeys resulted with The Prof performing lead on '**Santa Ana**' before handing the reins to Simon to lead on '**Return To The Alamo**', followed by '**Rounding The Cape**' (+GT on 2nd lead) and '**Genie WTLBL**' all four numbers with Mike & Des on strums & bass respectively.

Phil's swell

Philip returned to the stage clutching several gizmos viz digital echo unit, digital pedal unit, digital memory jogger, pedical swell unit and analogue axe – enough gear to warrant a pack horse rather than a racing stallion : thereafter he regaled us with a moody '**Cavatina**' followed by '**Frightened City**' assisted by Turners Sr on rhythm & Jr on bass.



Prof's latest renewable energy device

It's Rock 'N Roll, or Samba or Rhumba

Thereafter our Latin American rhumba-man, Bernard, salsaed to the stage with '**Brazil**' followed by '**Bossa Rod**' – unfortunately a middle-eight timing issue brought down an early curtain on the 1st number's festivities due to jungle-fever being suffered by Mr Drums.

It's the Feds & Water-colours

Jimbee then stepped forward to give dynamic versions of '**FBI**' and '**Gonzales**' with Philip and Terence in the caboose following which Ollie colourfully sketched out a canvas with '**Deep Purple**' and '**Blue Sky, Blue Sea, Blue Me**' assisted by George & Terry on R & B respectively.



JimB checks out the FBI while the rhythm section check out their pools' results

Foot-tapping Albatross

Mr Turner Sr switched to the lead side for a supercharged '**Albatross**', followed by '**The Boys**' and '**Footslapper**' with Bernard making a welcome return to the rhythm section and David on bass.



Fottappin' Turners

The final race on the day's card was the 5.25 *Magic Burger Steaks* with Mr Clarke on lead for '**Theme FYL**' followed by '**Windjammer**' after which he sailed into the sunset along with Simon (R) & David (B).

Stats

For the statisticians amongst you a total of 40 renditions of 39 tunes were played over the afternoon

Thanks as usual

To Charlie H for more damning audio-visual evidence, Chris J for sterling finger service on the keyboard and to Hall for another marathon session behind the kit, despite less than full match fitness.

Intimations

Next meeting is Sun 5th May 2013 – late play requests to 'The Godfather' by return, please.

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*Appendix of Photos –
You're being framed.....*



Backing Vocals' frantic rehearsal



Mr Basher – another hard day at the office



Chris J (hiding keys in the corner)

Typhoon Triumph



Work in progress – in the paint shop



Fully decal-ed Eurofighter enters service 21 April 2013