

The Worn Fret

January 2011

Occasional voice-piece of the NI Shadows Club

Report on the first 2011 gathering of the NI Sarnies & Swiss Roll Society. From our tell-it-as-it-was (nearly) correspondent - Ed '2-Faced' Banger.

Happy NY Chappies

In the season of Goodwill, Hangovers and frozen pipes a couple of dozen brave souls left the comfort of their Fitness Suites and New Years' Resolutions to seek solace in the elixir of rhyming guitars and 100MW of Ludwig bass drum in the left ear-hole. Yes, it was the first Sunday of a New Year and R&R was back in town at the Ards YFC.

Bernard's Bolted?

All gear was in its appropriate position with wires connected before 2.30pm and Boal-The-Enforcer was on hand to raise the start flag – unfortunately Mr 'Pole Position' O'Hara was nowhere to be seen, his mechanics having evidently forgotten to put the engine back in the car, forcing him to withdraw from the event and requiring the Clerk of the Course to make a last minute change to the grid. We hope he finds the missing motor before Feb.

Grand Tourer

Luckily front-man from the Dec Meet (GT) was on hand to reverse onto the front row & guide the troops out onto the track. So once again George & Jim T fired up their superchargers and floored the throttles, with Uncle Des brandishing yellow flags for misbehaviour or slothfulness, as we were taken on a quiet Sunday drive through 'Dance On', 'Shane' and 'Frightened City'. New Year spirits were obviously high as 'The Walk' was soon making the first of several appearances on stage in what Mr Corlett quipped as 'Stric-Tully Come Prancing' (good one!).

Blue Sky, Blue Sea, Blue Hunters? + JT

Following this Paul Hunter dived through at the chicane and led us into 'Blue Sky, Blue Sea' followed by 'My Resistance is Low' with bro Sam on rhythm (once he'd found a guitar lead) after which Mr Tully gave us a Binson blast of 'Giant' and 'Golden Street' with extra helpings of vibrato.

New Bass

Sam H on lead, with Eric on acoustic rhythm, offered 'Geronimo' & 'Atlantis' while David Turner was able to brandish his shining new bass guitar, kindly delivered by Santa a few days earlier.

New(ish) Drummer

John Bell on his Burns, with George on rhythm, played 'TFYL' and 'Walk Don't Run' after which Brian played 4 songs with rhythms split between Mike & Jim T : 'Blue Day' 'Lost City', 'Spring is Nearly..' and 'Cozy'. For the latter pair of tunes Hall was able to rest his aching drummer's limbs as Mervyn Brown took over on the skin-thumper's chair - David T based on 'Blue Day'.

It's the Pits!

Following swiftly on, 'The Breeze & I' and 'Stranger' were served up by Eric 'Marvin' and George, with Des Mac back on the 4-stringer, after which Jim B on Strat & Eric on acoustic rhythm gave us 'Apache' and 'Foot Tapper'. Philip then guided the fleet to the fuel-&-slicks pit stop

with 'Peacepipe' and 'SOTB', with Brian & George acting as dual rhythm section.

Nosh Time

And so to the welcome sound and smell of the cucumber sandwiches and fairy cakes along with numerous other delicious edibles produced by the Mrs Turner & McNeill – at least we all know that, no matter how rubbish is the musicianship in the Big Room, all will be fine and dandy in the kitchen!

Trial & Errors

During the break some itchy fingers couldn't wait for the little trials and experiments that make the Club such a hive of inventiveness. Rumbblings could again be heard in one corner of 'Scarlett' being played by individuals on unfamiliar instruments (an excuse for the 'noise' that emanated therefrom, perhaps) and in another corner the first rustlings of 'Autumn', with acoustic arpeggios and bursts of lead on acoustic & electric guitars. Was this a harbinger of things to come, or just idle nonsense? Only time would tell (assuming we didn't all fall a-z-z-zleep).....

Jet-Setters

As Mr Enforcer had obviously headed home to practice on his new Burns, Turner Snr attempted to summon the congregation back to order with an impromptu rendition of 'Come All Ye Faithful', another Marvin/Welch composition from The Shadows 1st Album, I'm reliably informed. Then the crowd were treated to a Jet-Set of 'Song for Tony', 'Applejack', 'Diamonds', 'Scarlett O'Hara', 'Applejack' (again, twice!) and 'Theme from Something' – for much of this feast of Jet-dom we had Senior Pilot Turner on lead with Pilot Officer Tully on electric rhythm & tail-gunner Des Mac firing the ack-ack, while Simon took over the joystick & fast pedal on 'TFS'. The crowd were stunned when The Godfather handed over his 'Precision' bass and donned the Turner Strat to lead on 'Diamonds', with Samuel Hunter debuting on bass – mercifully the craft returned to base intact, a bit shaken but fully stirred.

Rumbling Bull

After the company had regained its composure JT played 'Gonzales' and 'Blue Star' with David & Des sharing bass, after which Simon lead on 'El Solo Toro', 'Rumble', 'Shindig' and 'Santa Ana' with Mike on acoustic rhythm.

Hunters, Jeremy & Bell (sound like Solicitors!)

The brothers Hunter returned in succession, with JT on rhythm and Des/David split on bass, to do 'Midnight' & 'Miracle' (Paul) and 'Round & Round' & 'FBI' (Sam). They were also joined on drums for the first 3 songs by Jeremy, a pro-musician acquaintance of the Hunter family. Following this John B returned to give us a brief reprise of 'Diamonds' followed by full versions of 'Flingel Bunt' and 'Windjammer', the latter a Club-first, we believe.

Jimbee and Phil

The evening's proceedings were drawn to a close with Jim B playing 'Kon-Tiki' & 'TFYL' and Philip leading with 'Perfidia' and 'Mustang', all with JT/DM on rhythm/bass.

Thanks & Stats

Big thanks again to Andrea & Maggie for the copious refreshments to keep the cold at bay – also to non-playing members for support. The guitarists' appreciation again to Hall & Chris for their backings on some 42 No songs, by 17 players in 24 line-ups. **See you all on Sun 6th Feb 2011.**

mrc Jan 2011