

B&S Clubs & Disco Report

Wakefield Unity

WOULD you put an All Nighter on knowing you would make about £11 profit out of it? No neither would I but **Malc Burton** and **John Green** do. That was the surprising figure that John gave me when we were discussing the money pay out involved in running the Wakefield Unity All Nighter on my last visit. After paying the Wakefield Council (surprise, surprise, when the Nighters became successful they asked for more money — Labour Council is it?), the bouncers (insisted on by the Council but paid for by John and Malc), the jocks and the equipment plus all the incidentals they took home the grand sum of £11 each after the All Nighter before the one when we had the conversation.

Now I'm no raving capitalist but I do believe in fair pay for the work involved and, as far as I'm concerned, I wouldn't go to all that trouble for that sort of money. Having said that I hope Malc and John do carry on with the Nighters 'cos they really are good nights.

It was a while since I've been able to get over to Wakefield and valiantly shrugging off the excruciating pain from the back (well it still twinges a bit anyway) I strolled in to what was my first visit since they've done the Saturday night ones. It'll probably be my last visit as well as they're going back to Fridays soon. In fact starting with September 9th the Wakefield Unity All Nighters will be every 2nd and 4th Saturday in the month which will make life easier for those of you who, like me, have found their now-you-see-us now-you-don't promotions a little difficult to keep up with.

Just to get it all straight, here is what is going to happen. The new dates will be alternate oldies and ordinary. The Oldies night will feature New York Disco in the small (oldies) room while the ordinary night (concentrating on new stompers) will feature oldies in the small (New York Disco) room. Got that? Do you understand it fully? Well if you do will you explain it to me?

The regular jocks for the main room will be **Ginger Taylor**, **Richard Searling**, **Soul Sam**, **Paul Rowan** and **Pat Brady** (who plays oldies, doesn't he?). In the small room on New York Disco nights (that is on Oldies nights) will be **Colin Curtis**, **Malc Burton**, **Gary Smelt** and **Paul Scholfield**.

In the Oldies room on a normal night (they're never normal in that place) will be Malc and Reg Williams who will be concentrating entirely on Sixties sounds as opposed to the usual stuff played at Oldies nights (he said it not me). Malc Burton, who is responsible for all that lot in the paragraph above told your reporter, "We're sticking to the class top jocks so that people who come here know that they can expect top sounds and something

different from the usual stuff that anyone can get hold of."

An admirable sentiment Malc, and it's about time certain jocks realised that if others can put themselves out in order to provide new sounds for the paying customer then they can as well or else face slipping down the ladder. It really is a tribute to that top half dozen jocks (and I'm not naming them — I don't choose them, you, the reader, does that) that they've all been around for a long time in a business where they really have to graft hard to stay on top.

As usual my notes are in a silly state so as usual I'm going to start at the beginning and work my way through them to the end... I walked in to find John Green in a little glass case, getting organised now. He told me that figures were down because this was the night advertised as being cancelled and put back on at less than a week's notice... still they managed to get a few people in with word of mouth and in the couple of months that I've missed it seems that a bad night is about equal to a good night when I was last there.

Inside I met **Julie Allen** from Brum way, a lady who used to write loads of letters to B&S. It's always nice to see old friends and Julie was enjoying herself (and a happy 21st for September, dear)...

Ginger came next and although it was an Oldies night he gave me a list of some of his current big sounds as we don't bump into each other as often as we would like to these days. It's sad, by the way, to note that the vast majority of his sounds have to be covered up these days with illegal bootleggers working harder than ever.

However, while Ginger informed me that he's covering up more than ever these days he was good enough to not name any cover ups for this section: **Flaming Emeralds**, "Have Some Everybody" (Fee); **Laso**, "Laso Square" (MCA); **Bebu Silveti**, "Lluvia De Primavera 3'08" (Hispa Vox); **J.J. Caillier**, "Pusher Man" (Jay Cee); **Marie Knight**, "That's No Way To Treat A Girl" (Musicor); ... bumped into Julie again who tells me that Halesowen Tiffany's (this column yonks ago) has moved from Thursdays to Wednesday nights, but is still worth going to...

Talked to Malc Burton who gave me all that info at the beginning of the piece. He's well into Funk and New York Disco now although like many of us he still loves the oldies and wonders (as I do nearly every-time I go out these days) why more people can't be open minded enough to dig everything so long as it has Soul. He's doing The Fairway at Thurnscoe near Rotherham on Mondays and Thursdays, 7.30pm until the landlord throws him out. Admission 5p only playing third oldies, third stompers and third Funk to an attendance of between 60 and 100 Souls. Sounds to be worth a visit.

Sounds Malc was turning out in

the Funk room (I'm fed up calling it New York Disco... Funk is a shorter word) included: **Smokey Robinson**, "Big Time" (Motown album track); **Eddie Harrison**, "Say You Will/The Funk Surgeon" (Capitol album); **Benny Golson**, "Hesitation" (Columbia album); **Meco**, "Star Wars" (Millennium); **Gary Smelt** was playing: **Gary Toms**, "Turn It Out" (MCA album); **El Coco**, "I'm Mad As Hell" (Avi album); **Rose Royce**, "Do Your Dance" (Whitfield album); **Cleveland Eaton**, "Funky Cello" (Ovation); **Village People**, anything from album of same name (Casablanca).

Pat Brady, back in the Oldies room and as usual featuring oldies other than the same old stuff churned out by anyone with a handful of pressings included in his set: **Barbara and Brenda**, "Don't Wait Up For Me Mother" (Dynavoice); **Bobby Taylor**, "There Are Roses Somewhere In This World" (Sunflower); **Billy Thompson**, "Black Eyed Girl" (Columbus); **Jessica James**, "We'll Be Making Out" (Dynavoice); **Remarkables**, "I Can't Give Up (On Losing You)" (Audio Arts); **Evie Walker**, "Good Guys" (Rising Sun).

Ginger tells me Blazes at Bury is no more... can't say I'm surprised as it didn't really take off with a bang... more of a whimper. Maybe his wife will see him occasionally.

Colin Curtis was the last jock to arrive, post haste from Blackpool and some of the sounds he played included: **Eddie Henderson**, "Say You Will" (Capitol album); **Dizzy Gillespie**, "Unicorn" (Pablo); **Benny Golson**, "The New Killer Joe" (Columbia album); **War**, "War Is Coming" (Blue Note); **ConFunkShun**, "DooWhaCha-WannaDoo" and "ConFunk-Shunizeya" (Mercury album); **Stanley Turrentine**, "Birdland"

Bits and pieces

WHERE the Funk/New York Disco Scene naturally gravitates around whatever is happening in the States, it is only to be expected after all and no bad thing to mind either. One way in which I think British Soul fans have an advantage over our American brothers and sisters is in an ability to savour the not so brand new.

While there has always been a flourishing oldies business in the States, in this country an inability to obtain all the US releases has forced us to look to oldies and re-issues rather more than was healthy. However when talking about oldies they nearly always seem to be along the lines of Northern Soul.

With the present movement into Funk and Commercial disco sounds the thought came to me that many of you who have only just got into Funk might appreciate hearing some of the older funk in the discos. So just to start any deejay off who might fancy the idea here's a couple of suggestions... how about **Smokey Robinson's** "Baby That's Backacha" from his "Quiet Storm" album and **Ramsey Lewis's** "Slipping Into Darkness" released in this country on CBS and for always one of my all time favourite Jazz/Funk sounds. It is just a thought...

There's Soul still at Darwin Tiffany's for those who want it. The Soul Survivors Club features **Wayne, Carlo and Brian Waterhouse** on Thursday nights, 7.30pm-11.30pm admission 35pees. It's been going for about two months now and needs lots of support so get along there. Music you can hear includes: **Derek Martin**, "Sly Girl" (Stax); **Loleatta Holloway**, "Mother of Shame" (Aware); and **Bessie Banks**, "I Can't Make It Without You Baby" (Verve).

TOP AMERICAN SOUL DISCO

Courtesy: Disco Talk

1. VILLAGE PEOPLE: Village People: Casablanca LP
2. FULL BLOOM: Carol Douglas: Midsong International LP
3. STAR WARS & OTHER GALACTIC DELIGHTS: Meco: Millennium LP
4. GOLDEN GIRLS: Silver Convention: Midsong International LP
5. FROM HERE TO ETERNITY: Georgio: Casablanca LP
6. DOWN DOWN DOWN: Sylvester: Fantasy 12" Remix
7. HOW LONG: J.J. Barnes: Contempo (Import)
8. SOMETHING TO LOVE: LTD: A&M LP
9. VITAMIN U: Smokey Robinson: Tamla 12"
10. NOWHERE TO RUN: Dynamic Superiors: Motown 12"
11. LOVE AND KISSES: Love & Kisses: Casablanca LP
12. I DON'T WANT TO FORGET YOU: Denise McCann: Polydor (Canadian Import 12")
13. DRACULA DISCO: Gerry Bribosa: Polydor (Canadian Import 12")
14. SUPER ELTON: Paul Vincent: Salsoul 12"
15. DON'T TURN AWAY: Midnite Flite: TK 12"
16. CHALK IT UP: Jerry Butler: Motown 12"
17. LET'S MAKE LOVE: Jeanne Napoli: Vigor 12"
18. FEELING BITCHY: Millie Jackson: Spring LP
19. DUSIC: Brick: Bang
20. SWEET SOCA SONG: Trinidad: Douglas

B&S Clubs & Disco Report

Nottingham Tiffs: mixing it...

ALMOST by return of post after his comment about Tiffany's not playing Soul, **Bob Killbourn** received a letter from **Chris King** at Nottingham Tiffany's telling him about a Soul night they hold there on Tuesday nights. Bob, woke up, read the letter and then went back to sleep again. Some time later he passed the letter on to B&S's travelling reporter. The member of staff who goes around to clubs writing about them... you know... that whatsisname feller...

So, I went down to Nottingham, had a wonderful day's fishing on the Trent (there are some compensations in this job - and one day I'll think of some) and then called in at Tiffany's which is in the Victoria Centre, Mansfield Road.

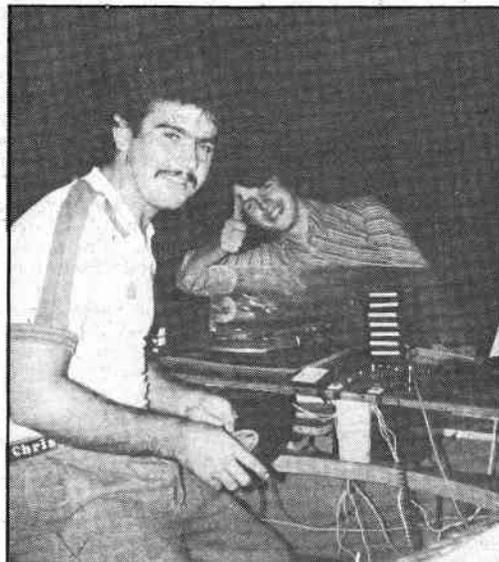
The first thing to remember if you are going to Nottingham Tiffs is to not go by car. The Victoria Centre is one of those shopping centres with a huge carpark underneath meaning that if you're like me you'll get lost trying to find the entrance, get lost trying to get out after parking your car, get lost trying to find the car on your return and get lost trying to come out. I know why they always do that... after another hour driving round underground the parking bill costs more.

Assuming you do eventually arrive at Tiffs, don't be worried if there are not many people in before 10.30 (assuming you're there before that is)... like many places this gaff only starts to really fill up after the pubs start throwing out. After 18 months with Chris doing it the whole time the club still doesn't get packed to overflowing but there are a lot of people in.

Like all Tiffs, it's smartly laid out and on the same principle people are spread out. There's nothing much one can say about a Tiffany's club that has not already been said. They are professionals at the business of providing comfortable surroundings in which to enjoy music, booze and dancing and Nottingham is no exception.

I must admit to a double take when I read Bob's words on the subject as over the years I've been to a great many Soul nights at a great many Mecca and Top Rank clubs — it's just a pity there is not a Soul night at every one.

Chris King is an amiable sort of idiot, a full time Tiffany's jock playing pop when he has to but with his heart in the right place namely his Soul! At one time he would have been asking for trouble with his music policy of mixing Northern/Funk and Commercial disco Soul on one night but, despite the moaners and the people who make all the noise about disagreements between followers of different types of Soul, it is a fact that Blackpool Mecca's change to New



Chris King Jock at Nottingham Tiffany's pictured with a strange passer by



A group of revellers at Nottingham Tiffany's ... pictures by Frank "Snowden" Elson

Checkin' It Out

Frank Elson's consumer report on Soul happenings in the Midlands and the North

York Disco music actually helped to open the Soul Disco field up instead of breaking it up.

It therefore follows that Chris' policy works and works well with just an odd exception. On the night I was there I heard everything from the **Sapphires** to **Donna Summer** which to anyone who appreciates the whole of Soul can't be bad. (I should point out that I hold that opinion despite an almost complete dislike for anything that Donna Summer has done so far — so I am being unbiased and objective am I not??)

The actual music split Chris worked out as being 65% Northern to 35% the rest, although I would put it closer to 50-50 from what I witnessed. There is a nice atmosphere in the place with again that friendliness and good time feeling that I am so fond of enthusing over in my reports. Chris obviously gets his current stuff for his usual spots (even "pop" discos are mainly Soul of course) and for Northern he relies on what he can get and on his friend Dave Cee who provides sounds out of his considerable collection.

Some currently popular sounds being played when I was there included: **Bunny Sigler**, "Girl Don't Make Me Wait" (Cameo

Parkway); **Tymes**, "What Would I Do" (MGM); **Joe Tex** "Show Me" (Dial); **Alexander Patton**, "Lil Loving Sometimes" (Capitol); **Barbara Mills**, "Queen Of Fools" (Hickory); **Pointer Sisters**, "Send Him Back" (Atlantic).

So, all in all, I would suggest that Nottingham Tiffany's Soul night, Tuesdays, 9pm-1am, admission 60p is an Elson-recommended club and well worth a visit (and if you're into fishing try cheese just up from the Trent Bridge for a good bag of chub!)... and for All Dayer devotees **Chris King**, **Kev Kristian** and **Dave Cee** will be doing their second All Dayer at Coalville Tiffs on September 4th following a very successful first one (the second often follows the first — so I can count now).

Wasps

IN ORDER to show you lot that my life isn't just one glorious round of having fun (and also to justify my expenses) I'll tell you a story... are you sitting comfortably? Well, hard luck — I'll begin anyway.

Bob Killbourn also put me on to a letter he received from one **David Brown** saying that he jocked at a Soul night in Wrexham... club

called Wasps. As is his wont, Bob thought that I might like to visit the said club. I, as I am liable to do in such cases after I had finished laughing at him, got on to the club by telephone. (Why was I laughing at Bob Killbourn you ask? Have you ever SEEN Bob Killbourn, I retort.)

Enough of this foolishness (well what did you expect from Elson — humour? Surely not, or are you a new reader?) I phoned a **Mr. Roberts**, the manager of the club. After a nice conversation we agreed on a night for me to visit the club. (Really riveting this isn't it — I should have done it in serial form).

I duly arrived, flashed the usual at the pretty young thing behind the cash desk (for persons of a dirty minded nature I mean my press card) and informed her that I was expected to do a report on the Soul night. Said young lady then informed me that 1) Mr. Roberts was off sick; 2) Mr. Roberts would be in later; 3) She didn't know that they had a Soul night, and 4) David Brown didn't work there any longer.

I was allowed up into the club where I met a jock who seemed to be the relief, jock's relief (yes, I know) and after commenting that he had always thought I was fat said that no, it wasn't a Soul night. Hanging around until about 10.30pm and seeing only one other customer in the club I then went home, stopping off at the Carlton in Warrington only to find that it had closed for the night! (When it goes wrong for me it goes wrong).

You lot out there may think that there is a perfectly rational explanation for all this. So do I. So did I in fact and, being a fair minded person, I left my telephone number with the pretty young thing (the one on the door for those of you with poor memories) for Mr. Roberts to phone me when he became unick. He hasn't phoned me yet...