

B&S Clubs & Disco Report

The Fairway: it's a fair way away...

WHEN **Malc Burton** told me about his Monday and Thursday night scene at the Fairway, pub, Thurnscoe, he said it was "near Rotherham". Well that isn't quite the way I'd put it after travelling down the M1 to Rotherham and finding that I had to drive through Mexborough and halfway back to Barnsley to find the place. Official Elson directions therefore put Thurnscoe about midway between Barnsley and Doncaster on the main road between those two towns. To start from Rotherham asking directions may get you the same response as I did: "Ee owd love. Thee dunna want start from 'ere!"

After turning off the main road at the Thurnscoe signpost, it is best to ask directions again as the Fairway is well into the middle of a housing estate. A fairly typical postwar Yorkshire pub, the disco room is at the back. An extremely large room very long with a stage and dance floor at one end and a bar at the other.

As usual Elson picked the wrong night to visit as not only were the Yorkshire September holidays in full swing but that night marked the beginning of an electricity workers strike and many people stayed away under the (mistaken) impression that the plug would be pulled at 10pm.

Despite these facts cutting down numbers considerably according to Malc Burton, I would have estimated about 60 people in the place which is good going for a bad night.

Musically I didn't hear anything different enough to note down but Malc's policy is to split the night up equally between Oldies, Stompers and Funk... it seems to come off, of course, to reinforce my view that much of the anti-New York Disco lobby on the Northern Scene has either disintegrated or resolved into personal attacks on **Ian Levine** which is of course unfair anyway. At Thurnscoe, as at 90% of the clubs that I visit the only comments on the differing types of music are given and received in a friendly or humorous spirit.

Despite the lack of people the Fairway had a good atmosphere and I feel able to recommend a visit any Monday or Thursday night during normal pub hours. Admission was either 5p or 15p I'm not sure which.

Rufus: still going strong

MADE one of my periodic lightening visits to Rufus, Fennel street, Manchester the only club in Manchester nowadays devoted entirely to Funk. **Mike Shaft** is still there and still going strong with a capacity crowd on the night I was there a Friday. Mike tells me that Friday is still the best night with Saturdays

Checkin' It Out

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

a bit low. However from the size of the crowd that I saw I should think that one night covers all the over-heads... I do wish they'd get a few more bar staff though — getting a drink is a little difficult at the moment.

Mike is re-inforcing his position as Manchester's current number one Funk jock (as far as I can find out at the moment there is no-one else- Persian, for instance, seems to have disappeared).

Music being played and enjoyed Rufus included:- **Roy Ayers** "Running Away" (Polydor); **Sun**, "Conscience" (Capitol album track); **Eddie Henderson**, anything from the Capitol album, "Coming Thru"; **James Brown**, "Bessie" (Polydor album track); **Rose Royce**, "Makes You Feel Like Dancin'" (Whitfield); **Eric Gale**, "Sarah Smile" (CBS album track).

Further indication, if it's needed at all, of the coming together of the new wave Northern Scene and the Funk scene is that most of those tracks have or are being, featured on the Northern scene. Call it what you will, Northern, New York Disco, Funk... it's all still Soul!

While it is nice to know that Rufus' future is assured with no competition to mention, I'd still be interested to hear of anywhere else in the Manchester area with a regular Funk night... get yer pens out!

A small personal comment

IF I was responsible for the release of a record of the standard of "Dancin' Easy" the Martini song derivative (mutation?), I would think twice (or even three times) before describing any other record as "rubbish"!

Wigan oldies

Mike Walker has taken exception to my recent comments about Wigan figures being down so it was with a broad smile on his face that he told me at the last Oldies All-Nighter on a Friday that there were well over 1,000 people in the place. I can well believe it as well. Just standing still brought a sweat up and goodness knows how some of those dancers felt.

All-Nighters, particularly at

Wigan, and particularly the oldies nights, are getting to be very difficult to write about these days. I mean what is there that is new enough to write about?

For four years I've been going along to Wigan and saying what a good night it was when it was and that sort of thing gets very boring after four years (not the club, dummy, me writing). Normally on an "ordinary" night I can get loads of tips or new big sounds from the jocks but on an Oldies night it's just the same old oldies to mention.

However there is a fact that some of you out there in readerland haven't been to a Wigan Oldies night and if you haven't then it really is a must to attempt. There is an atmosphere and a feeling among the people who are there that is almost beyond description. I know I've written as much as anyone about the need to accept the new Funky northern sounds but there's no decrying the feeling that those patrons of the Oldies nights have for oldies. Wigan may not be the only regular All Nighter these days, with very successful regular events at Wakefield, St. Ives and Bristol, but, contrary to what some people on the scene would like to think, the Casino is in no way ready to lie down quietly and die!

Wigan jocks

DUE TO a slight error on the part of many people actually believing that the Post Office is in business to deliver letters, certain info. which should have been included in the Wigan Anniversary feature didn't get included so we're sticking it in here — some brief biographical details on some of the Wigan Jocks.

Russ and **Richard** and **Alan Rhodes** had theirs in time so you should already have read them. **Pep** is about the hardest person in the country to get hold of, not on the phone or anything, so his isn't here, and **Dave Evison** was on holiday at the time of writing it but as I've known him for 12 years I think I may be able to supply the details about him myself (and I know a few which he'd rather I didn't supply... there was this time in Stoke just before he joined the Army... no its O.K. Dave, I'll keep your secrets if you keep mine!) Starting in no order of importance

just in the order which I have the info written down:-

Stewart and Nell, brothers, apparently without a surname. Stewart is 24 and Neil 20. They are from Horwich near Bolton and are both single. They work together and started in Mr. M's 14 months ago. They now do Mr. M's, the Friday Oldies in the main room, Monday nights at the Casino on their own and Friday nights with Russ.

Keith Minshall is 27, married with two children and living in Stoke-on-Trent where he grew up (about three miles from me, in case anyone cares). He's been jocking for 12 years, starting off at the famous Torch when it was called the Golden Torch Ballroom. He's been a regular jock at Wigan Casino All-Nighters for three years.

Brian Rae is "over 21" married with one child. He's been a jock for 15 years believe it or not and built up his reputation working at All-Nighters including the Wheel; Up The Junction, Crewe; St. Ives and Wakefield Unity. Nowadays he sticks completely to oldies at All-Nighters and has been a regular guest jock at Wigan All-Nighters since week three.

Kenny Spence is 24, married, but without any children (yet?). He's jocked for 8 years in the Wigan area and hails from Aspull which is just outside Wigan. He was the first jock to work in Mr. M's and has worked in Mr. M's since that night, the first Anniversary.

Scat Cat is 18 and the baby of the bunch in more ways than one. A local Wigan person, he's been jocking in Mr. M's playing oldies for 6 months and his total jocking experience is exactly 6 months. He's single.

Dave Evison is about 26. He's single and from Stoke-on-Trent although now living in Manchester. He's been jocking about six years starting off in Stoke at the Golden Torch and now specialising in Oldies and working in both the main room and Mr. M's at Wigan where he's worked since halfway through the first year.

With the addition of **Russ**, **Richard**, **Alan Rhodes** and **Pep**, that, as I mentioned earlier, is the compliment of Jocks at Wigan. Far be it for me to moan about these things but I can't be everywhere at once and it would be nice for me, this column, and you lot out there if someone thought of mentioning it to me when they start a new jock at Wigan... I didn't even know **Scat Cat** worked there... how many of you lot did?

Nocturne: wot's in a name?!

IN CASE anybody out there didn't know it the Nocturne is what Carolines was... in other words Carolines Deansgate, Manchester, Tuesday night Northern Soul Scene with **Dave Evison** and **Richard Searling**

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is now called the Nocturne — so good luck to them.

After being a regular visitor to Carolines, it is quite some time since I've been down and I'm pleased to see that everything seems to be going along fine without me! Probably because, rather than despite but we won't go into that here.

Evison was back from hols with sun tan and problems as usual. He has a worse life with cars than I do. The latest was that **Gail**, his lady, lost her gearbox right outside the club... stick to pushbikes Dave!

Richard, whom I hadn't bumped into for some time, had a lovely list of sounds for me, half of which I crossed off 'cos they're cover-ups and therefore no use to you lot out there. It is a shame when jocks everywhere are having to cover-up records to the extent that they have to do nowadays. Many people don't realise that the illegal bootleggers are stronger and working harder now than ever./

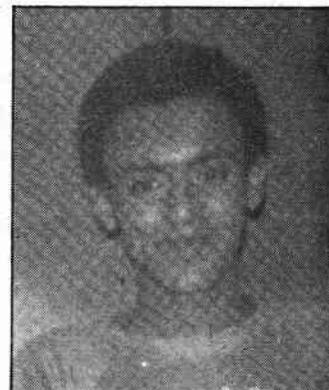
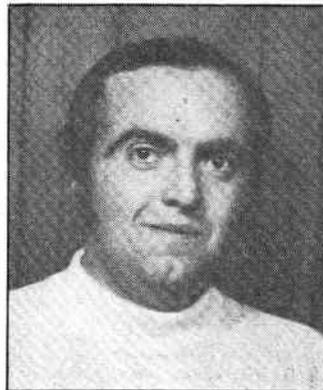
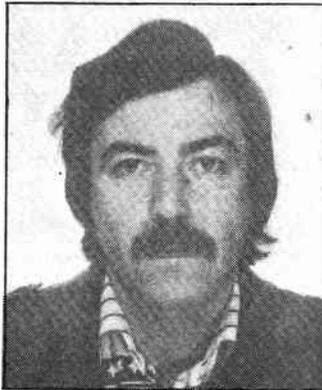
Anyway the uncovered up list includes:- **Gary Haines**, "Keep On Goin'" (Sound); **Lou Roberts**, "I've Got Everything" (MGM); **Showmen**, "Put That Woman Down" (Swan); **Linda Glass** (that might be **Class** — the writings a bit muggy); "Before Love Beats Mr Goin'" (Virgo); **Flaming Emeralds**, "Have Some Everybody" (fee).

Richard then put on his other hat, the RCA promotions one, and told me that "Interplay", **Derek and Ray**, coupled with "God Knows" by **Mike McDonald** as a double-A-side was definitely scheduled for release until the extra demand for Elvis records held it up. Independant of Richard I have heard the 30th September hazarded as a new release date but your guess is as good as mine.

Anyway there's nothing to stop you doodling down to your local record shop and getting in an advance order for the disc. With enough advance orders we might even get a nice Northern record into the charts.

Other happenings at the Nocturne include my bumping into **Zan**, once a well known face on the Northern Scene, but been away so long that I thought he was a ghost, and **Alan Soul** mentioning that Sundays at the Cats Whiskers in Oldham are back on form, to the point where they were when I used to write about them about a year ago. (does that...? yes it does make sense).

Siz, jock, editor of New Soul Time, entrepreneur and part-time sex-fiend informs me that he's with **Budgie**, **Ross** and **Steve** at the Greatstone Hotel, Chester Road Stretford, (close to Manchester United's hallowed turf) on Friday nights playing stompers, and oldies and Funk on request only. Admission is £1 but that includes a meal. Times 8 pm-2 am and I'm going tonight (Friday 9th September at the time of writing).



Wigan jocks: Alan Rhodes, Kenny Spence, and Scat Cat (see facing page)

Norfolk Arms, Glossop, revisited

SO THIS young lady with a badge saying Jackie pinned to her jumper (predictably everyone was asking her what the other one was called) came up to me and said that she had read the bit I put in this column about many fellers dancing topless and how I couldn't wait for the girls to start. So I asked her if she was the first volunteer and she said no she wasn't.... pretty average beginning for a normal night's work for me that....

Another young lady named **Pauline Hocking** said that when I went to Lytham St. Annes Football Club ages ago, I remarked that people travelled from as far as Leyland and that she was one of them. Didn't I think then that it was even more amazing that she was at Glossop which was further than Lytham from Leyland? I said that it was....

Some of you may remember my first visit to the Norfolk Arms, Glossop along with **Bob Mills** about a year ago... some of you may not... I only just did myself but don't let that put you off. It's still 75% stompers and oldies with currently **Gladys Knight and the Pips**, "Just Walk In My Shoes" on Motown ruling the roost as numero uno top record.

Jocks haven't changed they're still **Ian Burford**, **Ian Johnson**, **Vin Wathey** and **Dave Conway**. The disco is still in the same room at the side of the pub although I admit they have moved the decks to a new position... it's Thursdays 7.30pm-10.30pm and 40pees admission. One thing they do do is to organise trips out on Saturdays to Blackpool where they don't go to you-know-where but to Diamond Lill's on the Pleasure Beach (the joke is censored) where they tell me jock **Gary Wild**, although he has to play the usual stuff to the holiday makers always plays them lots of Northern as well. Anyone wanting to go should to the Norfolk Arms on a Thursday night and ask for **Christine**.

By the time you lot read this, they will have held a sponsored 12-hour dance in aid of a Cancer Scanning machine by which they should

make lots of money. A geezer called **Pip** seems to have the record at the moment of 40 sponsors and a side bet of £1 with **Ian Burford** that he dances non-stop (well, with 15 minutes break) for the 12 hours. Rather him than me, but seriously, sponsored dances are good ideas for you lot out there. Those of us who have our health should do what we can for others and I'll be pleased to give any publicity that I can to such events.

Really there's very little to say about the Norfolk Arms. It's another of those weekly clubs where everyone is friendly, everyone gets pissed as a newt and lots of good music gets played. Well worth a visit.

Deeper and deeper

I THINK it's true to say that until **Dave Godin** began to spotlight (and put a name to) Deep Soul, it was, with Blues, the poor relation to other forms of Soul music in this country. It's also true that since he did spotlight this intense and to me exciting form of Soul music it has gained followers and advocates to a tremendous degree.

All this leads up to the formation of a new magazine called "Deeper and Deeper" edited by well known Liverpool Soul freak **Kevin Murray**. Although is only just a beginning, Kev should be congratulated on putting the mag out- must be good I bought a copy! Write to Kev at 18, Stretton Close, Holmlands Estate, Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside, for ish. Number one. 25p plus 5p post.

Bits and pieces

I DON'T think I'll ever understand our postal service in this country... over the same period that led to the Wigan deejay thing elsewhere in

this column... delays meant that I didn't get my mail from London with the Oldies charts in, my wages got lost and yet I had a letter delivered to my home addressed to the Shaw PO Box that I gave up nearly two years ago!

Bit of info. on my single pick (which should be elsewhere in this ish:) the **Jarvis Brothers** are five in number aged from 10 yrs to 19 yrs... father Theo., from Antigua, tutored them and handles their career...

Dave Evison returned from Spain with a suntan and a mint Spanish copy of **Jerry Butler's** "Moody Woman" complete in those picture sleeves the continentals sell records in... more Evison info. I don't know where he gets these things from but he informs me that **Noddy Holder** of Slade held a Catacombs membership card....

Graham Warr now jocking on Friday nights at Chaplins, Broad Street, Birmingham. Older readers will remember Graham from Catacombs days although he now features modern Funk at Chaplins a club I visited with BRMB Radio's **Nicky Steele** about 18 months ago.

I do wish some of you lot would learn to read... I've been inundated with people and rumours about my column being restricted to half a page for B&S 133. Reasons vary between my being so drunk that the rest of the column was thrown out as unreadable through to the fact that I was supposed to have had a libelous go at various people and a court injunction had stopped B&S from publishing it!

Those people who actually read the column will know that the real reason was that I had a recurrence of my back trouble and was forced to painfully scratch the little bit of news that I had into any kind of shape... now I suppose there'll be a rumour that I'm crippled for life...

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