

# B&S Clubs & Disco Report

## Write on ...

AS EVER, I'm dropping behind with the old letter writing and with answering your letters in print...so just to ease my burden somewhat here are a few I've had...

**Dave Simmons** (see oldies charts for his oldies chart — now there's a novelty!) is the jock at New Scamps, Church Street, Preston. He tells me that he plays chart Soul and imports on Fridays and Saturdays at the moment (cos he's been ill poor soul) and music he plays, like **Lamont Dozier**, **Ramsey Lewis**, **Carrie Lucas** etc. etc. sounds nice and well worth a visit. I'm going up and will have visited the place by the time this gets into print. Nuff said...

**Mick Furn**, champion letter writer to B&S (see penpals), is over in Sultanate of Oman where there ain't many women, poor thing. Apart from that he's getting a good suntan and listening to Soul on Kuwait radio with three shows a week. Afro American Beat; Disco Sounds and Disco Ago-Go they're called.

He's got one geezer who ex-Catacombs, Wolverhampton, but apart from that its sun sand and earning all that tax-free loot. Someone answer the penpal request for him before he joins the foreign legion or something. (No Punk-Arabs around, are there?).

**Doug Bishop** writes in with a few points... first of all wants to know what happened to the unshortened interview with Randy Wood of Mirwood fame that I promised in B&S 136. Simple, Doug, I arranged for Randy to come oop t'North where we were going to Blackpool Mecca to have a weekend of fun and gaiety as well as the interview and he went back to the States instead. I've not heard from him since.....

Doug's next point is that in that ish, **John Abbey** in the record reviews says he can't reveal who **Jay Dee** is and yet in my chat with Randy all is revealed that Jay is Jackie Lee/Earl Nelson. It was just that 20th Century were trying to be clever but we were cleverer — and as my column and John's reviews go in separate days and things the anomalie — (excuse me while I rest after typing that word)... ah, that's better — was not noticed.

Last but not least comes a letter from **Tony Petherbridge** who used to run the Northern Soul Club at one time. Tony is picking up the threads again and tells me in the letter that he's doing All-Dayers at Tiffany's in Shrewsbury once a month has done a promotion at the Raven near Whitchurch, which brought back memories no doubt and has a few more things planned.

Shrewsbury is a good scene according to Tony, with friendly management and staff and a good atmosphere. Next Whitchurch All Dayer is January 2nd of next year which is the fifth Anniversary of his promotions there. Best news of all is that, as I revealed a few ishes ago



John Paule, Carol (his lady); Jane (Andy's lady) and Andy Lee, jocks and their ladies at the Britt. They're in a cave thing, see....

## Checkin' It Out

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

Tony is promoting an All Nighter at Northwich Memorial Hall on December 9th.

No further details but you could write to Tony at 63, Queensway, Whitchurch, Salop, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and he'll no doubt send details when they are available. Alternatively read this column where the news will be as soon as he lets me have it, and look for an advert in B&S. I'm so glad to see Tony getting back on his feet again as he was never like a promoter on the scene at all, just a friendly guy who puts on good entertainment. I've certainly made a date for that night.

That looks like all the outstanding letters for now. If you've written to me with a stamped addressed envelope, you'll probably get a reply in the post — if it was ages ago and I've not replied then try again. If you've not sent a sae then you'll either not get a reply or I'll refer to the letter in the column. I do enjoy getting your letters but there can be no reply without that SAE.

## The Britt, Nottingham

John Paule, jock at the britt in Nottingham, was very adamant

that I shouldn't go to the club on the day that I wished to go as Nottingham has its world famous Goose Fair (don't worry, I'd never heard of it either) that day and he reckoned non-one would come. Well, expecting Northern fans to fancy music more than geese or geese, I went along anyway.

To get to the Britt entails travelling over Trent Bridge (the main bridge over the Trent) out of the City Centre and taking the first turning after the bridge alongside the river. Failure to do this leads you all around three sides of the Football Ground (yeah the fourth side is the one you want) and a trip back over the bridge and a little run around a one way system before heading back again. How do I know this you may ask...? Do you really think you need to ask that?

Assuming one has turned down alongside the river (nice big chub in that river — and a carp that doesn't like me — but that's another story) then just follow the road around until you come to that fourth side of the football ground and you know then that you've gone past the club... its all quite simple really...

Having got into the club (we'll skip over trying to do a three point turn with one kerb being a solid brick wall and other being a river) you will find its all done out like a cave which doesn't exactly fit in

with the image one would expect from The Nottingham Britannia Rowing Club but we'll come to that later.

There's plenty of seating around the edges with a fair sized dancefloor, jocks **John Paule** and **Andy Lee** hidden away at the side of a tiny stage in another cave/grotto and a bar right behind you (unless you wandered into the bar/lounge to start with in which case all the rest of it, stage etc is behind you).

I'll do it the easy way — the way its written down here. **Harry Clerbaut** is a committee member, Social Secretary and goodness knows what else for the Rowing Club and as such finds himself saddled with the Northern thing — not that he seems to mind awfully.

The Britt (which all that name was shortened to quite early on in its life) has been a force on the Northern Sul Scene since its conception in 1967 with none other than **Alan Day** doing things with records and turntables (ooh, nasty!). That is of course before Northern Soul was called that.

Money from the disco goes to helping the rowing club of course in case anyone else wonders as I do why a club with an upper class image lets Northern kids into their place Harry can dispell that one with a few choice words!

In printable ones to took away my idea that such people are snobs. Merely people who like to row. There has therefore never been any thought about Northern Soul not being good enough for the club. In fact Harry impressed upon me, as many people in his position do, just how well he gets on with the people who come to the club.

As to why it started and why its carried on so long he quite plainly has no idea and I guess, doesn't care so long as the pleasant Friday nights come and go as they are doing.

Shifting to John, after saying thanks for the hospitality and the chat to Harry, he tells me that he and Andy took it over in April of this year. After a succession of jocks over the years attendance had dropped a little although they've since built it up.

Attendance was supposed to fall off because of the Goose Fair on the day of my visit but I have to say that the place was humming so it didn't show to a stranger (and they don't come any stranger than me folks!).

I didn't ask, as I should have done, about their experience although I gather that they both started out as collectors who didn't like to see a good club to to earth. Musically they have no time for New York, it has to be stompers, old and new or nothing. They both specialise in getting hold of the very popular sounds while still rare, Andy having a copy of **Derek and Ray's "Interplay"** on a RCA album — the only one they believe to be in

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the hands of a jock in the country.

Because they are not top jocks on huge wages etc. they have to hustle and really search to stay up with the sounds. In this day of the instant Northern jock with a box full of pressings they deserve to go far and as I gather they've started getting a few bookings around the area — All Dayers and suchlike I think they might do.

In fact if it doesn't embarrass them too much I thought they reminded me of **Ginger and Eddie** when I first wrote about them at Todmorden way back when. I was impressed then by the way these guys spent much more than they actually earned jocking and I see the same signs — future Top Jocks in the making of John and Andy.

Not too long ago I wrote that up and coming jocks — that is those with the dedication to put themselves out and spend money, time and real effort — were thin on the ground and so they are, but these two lads could bear watching. Just don't get bloody big headed like some of the top jocks now lads, that's all I ask.

I can't think of two better guys to carry on the grand tradition of the Britt and the crowd who get in there are the same — some of them have been around a while longer than others, like **Annette Suters** and **Caroline Dakin**, a couple of ladies who I was pleased to be able to give a lift after the club almost to Wigan for the Oldies All Nighter.

Something else I've written about in the not too distant past is the lack of hitchhikers these days — life is too easy for many youngsters now — but these two ladies I've bumped into all over the country and they get about in the time honoured way. Caroline by the way is the sister of a failed page three girl which means more than it might seem... read on...

Many of you will have seen the B&S page three girls — a glamorous picture of a star (usually with large frontal area) and having more or less run out of subjects Jeff Tarry (he of the blue pen/notebook/eyes and other things) suggested to me that I take some snaps with the polaroid of gorgeous young ladies on my trips around the clubs.

Well, at the Britt, Carolines Sister was my first attempt and the picture is useless cos I'm not David Bailey. However don't give up I tell myself so, ladies, if you're approached at a club by a funny littler feller in blue denim, glasses and hair all over his face waving a Polaroid camera and leering at your cleavage, don't slap him across the face... smile!

I hear mutters at the back of get on to the Britt again so I will. Some popular sounds while I was there included: **Taj Mahal**, "A. Lot Of Love" (CBS); **Harry Betts**, "Theme From Fantastic Plastic Machine" (Epic); **Bobby Diamond**, "Stop" (Columbia); **Jay D. Martin**, "By



I forgot my camera so the Real Thing sat on my garden wall while I snapped away. The neighbours aren't talking to me since the photo session developed into a highly specialised game of wall wrestling (which the wall — needing cement or Araldite or something — won five nil).

Yourself" (Tower); **Embers**, "Watch Out Girl!" (MGM); **John and Andy** doing a spot at Cleo's Derby All Dayer November 13th with **Richard Searling**, **Soul Sam**, **Dave Evison**, **Brian Rae**; a feller told me that Bowling Green Hotel, Newgate Station Newark, nr Nottingham, Monday nights 8.30 pm-12 midnight, admission 50 pence **Pete Ward** and **Geoff Stevens** jocking gets about 100 in... more of you get over there. I'm going soon. That's it...

## Bits and pieces

IT'S ALRIGHT for some superstars wandering around with nothing to do but sing now and again... I'm working away on this masterpiece when my thread was broken by shooting down to A&K Records, my local record store to see **The Real Thing** making a personal appearance and to see if **Chris Amoo**, the handsome debonair lead singer, has brought me the **Friends of Distinction** tape he promised me about three years ago... he had't of course....

Anyway their new single is already my pick of the week so we

just had a bit of a loon having not seen each other in a while — then we shot over to my house to get me camera and takes some pictures on the garden wall... I don't think the neighbours will ever talk to me again (good job we're moving).

For your info the lads are writing and working on their next album which is why they haven't done many live dates in a while... hope its half as good as their last... (maybe I'll get those tapes when you have five minutes Chris?).

The fact that Wakefield Unity missed one All Nighter at the last minute and that the whole thing hangs in the balance is no secret. It appears that the Council (Labour, I understand) wants a bigger slice of the action and are gently squeezing **Malc Burton** out.

Perhaps they've forgotten that they have a duty not only to Wakefield ratepayers (many of whom go to the Unity) but also the young people of this country. When I tried to put this fact to the District Council Clerk (or whoever) at Wakefield I was informed that no-one wanted to speak to me... well neither do I to them, to be honest...

While I'm in the mood, a short tale. **Chris Powers**, jock who I've written about a few times, recently invited me down to the Bees Knees, Failsworth near Manchester. When I arrived the manager said he hadn't been told I was coming. When I asked if I could have a word with Chris I was told that he was busy but the manager would tell him I had called.... that manager will go right to the top one day.

Needless to say I've heard nothing from Chris since (he probably never got the message and is angry with me for not turning up).

Further to the Wakefield thing above, the way, **John Green**, who I was speaking to on the phone after writing that, tells me that some people believe it was closed either because he left or because of drugs. Well John says that neither is the case.

Incidentally John is still out of work since leaving Wakefield so anyone wanting someone like him should ring him at 0709-79775. Anything to do with discos or records will suit him but alligator wrestling, fighter pilot or standing on one leg whistling "Annie Laurie" doesn't strike him as a worthwhile occupation.

Like that new record, "Blow The Dust Off The Sponge Cream Cake" or "Let's Clean Up the Gatteaux"... that had to come from **Reg Williams** didn't it? (And tell **Bron**, Reg, that I've just found out that Bron is Welsh for Tit... the bird actually, but, if the cap fits....)

Watch out for a Manchester Club featuring brand new import releases, featuring **Richard Searling** and **John Grant**, organised by **Bob Marshall** and called **Smarty's**, on a Monday night. All this a little bird told me and its reliable as I was the little bird and instrumental in getting the preliminary discussions off the ground. Mind you, we haven't talked to **John Grant** about it yet but the rest of it looks like a go situation.

## SOUL STATION CHECKLIST

**PICCADILLY RADIO:** (261 M. 97.7VHF)  
Friday, 8.00 — 10.00pm SOUL TRAIN with Andy Peebles  
Sunday, 8.00 — 11.00pm SOUL TRAIN with Andy Peebles  
Sunday, 7.00 — 8.00pm PICCADILLY BOOGIE with John Dee (Reggae)  
**BRMB:** (261 M. 94.8VHF)  
Saturday, 7.00 — 10.00pm BLACK MUSIC IS...Erskine T.  
**THAMES VALLEY RADIO:** (210M. 97.0VHF)  
Wednesday, 9.00 — 10.00pm SOUL SURVEY with Paul Hollingdale  
**RADIO VICTORY:** (257M. 95.0VHF)  
Thursday, 7.30 — 9.00pm SOUL SHOW with Tony Power  
**RADIO FORTH:** (194M. 96.8VHF)  
Friday, 6.30 — 7.30pm SOUL CELLAR with Graham Jackson  
**RADIO MERSEYSIDE:** (202M. 95.8VHF)  
Monday, 8.05 — 10.00pm KEEP ON TRUCKIN' with Terry Lennaine

**RADIO MEDWAY:** (290M. 96.7VHF)  
Thursday, 7.30 — 9.30pm SHADES OF SOUL with Tony Valence  
**RADIO LONDON:** (206M. 96.8VHF)  
Thursday, 8.30 — 10.00pm SOUL 77 with David Simmons  
Saturday, 11.30 — 2.00pm ROBBIE VINCENT'S SATURDAY SHOW  
**CAPITAL RADIO:** (194M. 95.8VHF)  
Saturday, 6.00 — 9.00pm SOUL SPECTRUM with Greg Edwards  
**RADIO CITY:** (194M. 96.7VHF)  
Friday, 6.30 — 8.30pm SOUL CITY with Mark Joenz.  
**RADIO ORWELL:** (275M. 97.1VHF)  
Wednesday, 8.00 — 10.00pm SOUL SESSION with Patrick Eade.  
**PENNINE RADIO:** (235M. 96.00VHF)  
Saturday, 6.00 — 9.00pm THE PENNINE SOUL EXPRESS with Paul Cooke.  
**RADIO CLYDE:** (261M. 95.1VHF)  
Saturday, 11.00 — 2.00am DISCO DATE with Bill Smith.

**BEACON RADIO:** (303M. 97.2VHF)  
Saturday, 9.00 — 1.00am KKI DISCO SHOW with KKI  
**RADIO TEES:** (257M. 95.00VHF)  
Wednesday, 7.00 — 10.00pm THE SOUL SHOW with Kevin Keatings.  
**SWANSEA RADIO:** (257M. 95.1VHF)  
Saturday, 6.00 — 9.00pm SOUL TIME with Stuart Freeman  
**RADIO HALLAM:** (194M. 95.9VHF)  
Tuesday, 8.00 — 10.00pm SOFT ROCK AND SOUL with Johnny Moran  
Saturday, 6.00 — 7.00pm DISCO DATE with Mike Lyndsay and local D.J's

**Bob Killbourn's**  
**Air-A-Soul column**  
is on page 37