



# Northern Nashville Country Music Club

## July 2014 Newsletter

Another month has gone flying in can you believe we are past the longest day someone said it's downhill all the way now surely not : hopefully we're going to get some sunshine out of it yet considering the kids haven't even started their school holidays.

Friday night and a poor crowd for our show, I knew that some of our regulars were away in Ireland and things crop up but as some of our troops who turn up every month religiously said: members are really letting their Club down if it's not someone they know or a big name artiste they are scrambling for tickets otherwise they are not bothering supporting the Club. It's frustrating and costly for us but it's disappointing for the bands when there's just no atmosphere they hear how great a venue our is and then they turn up and there's no atmosphere – well that's my rant for this month hopefully –

Two Scottish bands on Friday night opening for us were a three piece outfit Smokin' Gunn's from Glasgow; Colin & Jamie haven't been with us before but Steve has played the Club a few times fronting The Steve James band and again with Arizona Flame. They gave us an absolutely brilliant country spot all three treated us to some songs, but lead vocalist Colin was an out and out showman and performer what a voice - outstanding. Jamie on rhythm and mandolin had a different type of voice - he told us he also plays as part of a blues band and listening to him we could see why, not forgetting Steve; accomplished guitarist, banjo player and also a great singer. Throughout the course of the night as I said all good country numbers loved the Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson and George Strait stuff, and liked how they adapted some numbers by putting their own mark and style on them.

Apart from them singing they were also very entertaining Colin was a comedian naturally funny together they had us in stitches with their antics, impersonations and dance moves good to see a band enjoying what they were doing. The crowd loved them Steve was telling us that they go out as a six piece band – that would certainly be worth looking at for future shows.



Next up was Martha Murphy and Country Cousins certainly a bit of a family band Martha's husband Mike played steel and the other three band members brothers Bob, Willie and Michael are her cousins. They all come from the Aberdeen area Martha herself from Kemnay - can't believe Martha has been in the business for 40 years (she said she was a child prodigy) and we haven't seen her in this area before. Martha's parents were musicians and she played and toured with them mainly playing Scottish music. However the guys said they had played the Club before in the Viewfirth days as part of the band Angeline & Country Cousins I reckon that must have been about 89/90 guess we have all changed a bit since then.

The band travelled up on Thursday night and spent most of Friday in the legion with Johnny Bremner recording a DVD... shame numbers were down as they wanted a live atmosphere with crowd scenes at night so we were all caught on camera.

Their spot was also country but performed in a laid back style with more traditional numbers Martha along with vocals and guitar also played key boards and the lads also did their share of singing. A pity their sound was a bit off during their cabaret spot but they got it sorted, poor Martha was struggling bit she was suffering with a sore back and whiplash after having been in a motor accident on Tuesday. Considering the band have only recently re-formed and we were one of their first gigs they did very well good to hear some easy listening stuff and numbers from Martha's new CD just released earlier this week. Enjoyable night - both bands complimented each other so there was something for all tastes in music.

Martha and the boys were playing in the Legion again on Sat night would have been a bit of a squeeze for a five piece in the lounge I couldn't manage to go myself but heard today that it was a good night fairly good crowd they felt the band was more chilled out and relaxed, so glad it went well.



Remember I told you a wee while back singer songwriters Joey & Rory, who appeared on our Festival in 2012, had a baby girl who sadly had Down syndrome? Well their run of bad luck continues as cruelly Joey was recently diagnosed with cancer. She has had surgery and the medical profession are optimistic she will make a full recovery as it was caught in the early stages. The couple are very strong have a lot of love for each other and are relying on their faith to help them get through things - hope all goes well for the couple.

I am sure by now you will be wondering what on earth has happened to the Festival DVD's you ordered as you know nothing goes straightforward for us so there's a story :

The master disc eventually arrived from production and we were bitterly disappointed with the content, sound, quality in fact the whole thing wasn't what we were expecting I could have cried!!! We got hold of the complete recordings again not quite what we were after but better, however no afternoon performances were taped, some of the acts who performed in the afternoon didn't want to be recorded so they didn't do any so to the artistes who were missed out I can only apologise—totally out with our control—So what to do we only really had two options to pull the plug and send everyone their money back record the three discs and send them to people warts and all so that's what we intend to do So please don't be too hard or critical of us just enjoy the music !!! Shouldn't be too long.

Now a bit of good news for a change Nicky James is bringing the brilliant Moe Bandy across here to take part in the Skegness Butlins country Festival in October and has approached us to ask if we would interested in helping him take Moe back to Caithness. Well we just couldn't turn down an opportunity like that I couldn't believe it was in 2008 when Moe went down an absolute storm at our Festival I thought it was 2010 where does the time go.

If all goes well Nicky James Promotions along with NNCCMF and Triple C Club Wick hope to have Moe along with Nicky James & State Of The Heart Band appear in the Assembly Rooms on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. It's always a bit worrying when we go ahead and arrange something like that will it be a success but if someone of the calibre of Moe Bandy can't sell out then there's something far wrong with country fans up here.

Moe spent most of his early years in Texas before moving to Nashville in 1974 hoping to make it on the country scene thankfully it all worked out for him he secured a recording contract and his first hit *I Just Started Hating Cheating Songs Today* paved the way for a successful career. Over the years Moe has recorded more than 35 albums produced over 60 chart hits and earned 4, Academy of Country Music Awards he continues to tour regularly playing to full houses.

Nicky James and his band did an excellent job for us at this year's Festival providing backing for the superb young country singer Rusty Rierson and Irish songstress Kathy Kane, his band features some of the UK's best and most accomplished musicians around at the moment.

So watch this space!!! hopefully all will go ahead we will keep you up to date but pencil the date in your diaries this is one not to be missed.

Thankfully I managed to catch Dolly's spot at Glastonbury on the tele yesterday and what a performance she looked stunning as usual in a white sequined trouser suit complete with rhinestones in her hair. She took the place by storm during her set she played banjo, fiddle and a rhinestone studded sax. It was great to see all the young ones singing along to her hits what an atmosphere looked like the 200.000 crowd were all watching Dolly the other stages must have been deserted . I'm glad it worked so well this time again, following Kenny Rogers spot last year I thought they may have gone for some of the new style country acts but good old Dolly a true country act who closed with *I Will Always Love You* was definitely the undisputed Queen (how dare they suggest she was miming)

I saw on Facebook recently that NNCCMC's Band Of The Year Award Winner Jason Macgiligan and his girlfriend Ruth Heaney got engaged what a beautiful ring she got : good luck to the couple we wish them all the best for their future together.

Jason and his band will be making their next appearance at the Triple C Club in Wick on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August supported by the Lorraine McMillan Band tickets are on sale so give Sandy or Isobel a shout if you want to go along to that.

Next day Jason will be heading to Aberdeen to play as part of Liam & Lorraine's Granite City Weekend in the Menzies Hotel also on the bill over the weekend will be The Davitt's a Dolly & Kenny tribute show also the Duke Boys and Jolene & Barry to name a few. Still some tickets left for the full weekend package with dinner bed/breakfast also individual packages, so check them out on their Facebook site.

Not long now until Garth Brooks visit to Ireland what a superb show that will be, it has been announced that Nathan Carter and his band will be support act for the shows what an experience for them: Well done boys. On that subject heard that Dublin Council were threatening to cancel two of Garth's gigs all to do with licensing etc not good - lot of unhappy fans around if that happens it's a case of watch this space at the moment.

I mentioned that some of our Club members and friends were away to the Clanree Hotel in Letterkenny, what a line up on stage over the weekend the main stage included Derek Ryan, Robert Mizzell, Aidan & Philomena, Gerry Guthrie, Justin McGurk, and Mike Denver smaller stages acts like Tony Kerr, Paul & Mary B. Joe Moore. I am sure they are all having a ball and not behaving - no point in that - we will get the crack when they come home or knowing them on Facebook as it happens.

Coming up shortly over the weekend 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> July is Hootenanny , Country & Irish Weekend at Lyne of Skene, Dunecht, Aberdeenshire. The line up includes Aidan Quinn & Philomena, Trevor Loughrey , Gary Gamble, Martin Cuff,e and from nearer home Broken Wing, Shannon & Loose Ends and also Double Trouble, so if you are in the area get yourselves along each show costs £16, or £60 for all 4 shows should be good crack.

Well I think that's it for now

Until next time.

Keep It Country

*Christine*

Christine Gray  
Chairperson NNCCMC