



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

June 2008 Newsletter

First of all I must apologise for not getting round to writing a letter last month, with being away for the show it just went right out of my head until it was too late.

Everyone I spoke to said it was a good night, I haven't seen Paddy O'Brian for a while - it's a shame I missed him - and feedback regarding Jolene and Barry was that they put on an exceptional show.

Don't know about 'My Boys' - they were warned to behave themselves when I wasn't around. They don't usually pay any attention to what I say but they said they did.

Last Friday night we had Rudy Grant & Salt Creek supported by The Brothers, who very kindly came to our rescue when Broken Wing had to call off at the last minute. I felt a bit sorry for them as they were squashed in a little corner at one end of the stage - it didn't seem to bother them but they could have done with more room. However it certainly didn't spoil their performance - they did us proud and kept the dancers on the floor, playing a bit of everything.

Salt Creek, a five piece from Birmingham, were an excellent band of very talented musicians. The steel guitarist was something else and, along with his brother, had the females drooling over them - talk about six packs!!!!

I must admit to being a wee bit disappointed by the star of the show Rudy Grant. Don't get me wrong it wasn't his performance I was disappointed in he was a first class very professional entertainer. He was a genuinely nice guy - in fact a perfect gentleman - with a very laid back style of singing totally in tune with his personality, he also took the time to wander round the hall and chat to the members.

Rudy was booked as a Charley Pride tribute act so I thought it was strange that he would come on stage and start his spot with a Johnny Cash number. I was expecting him to have churned out Charley hits one after the other over the course of the night, but he really didn't do a lot of his songs at all.

I'm a real sucker for Charley Pride. During the 70's and 80's I collected every record he ever made, so was really looking forward to Rudy singing some of my old favourites.

However as I said he was good at what he did and the band also. They were playing in Shetland on Saturday and Sunday but e-mailed when they arrived home to say how much they'd enjoyed their night and how nice you all were.

This show was that time of year again when we announce the Band of the Year winners.

In third place this time was our own local band The Dynamos - well done them. They were up against some fierce competition so it goes to show ours are up there with the best of them.

There was a tie for second place between The Indians and Thomas Maguire & Fiona Ennis. The Indians were part of our 20th anniversary show celebrations and they also went down a storm at the festival. Thomas & Fiona are both relatively newcomers to the country music scene, having only joined forces in 2005, and the release of their first album together in 2006 increased their popularity as a vocal duo.

The winner came as no surprise as he is a very popular act in the club and was a big hit with our festival audience have you guessed? Yes it's Joe Moore. Joe won the title in 2005 and he was shocked then but this time I'm sure he'll be over the moon. Joe plays a solid set of traditional country music, in a style and with a voice that's pretty unique. We thought we might struggle to get Joe back to his receive his award as he is putting together a tour of Australia in the hope of emigrating. Luckily for us the tour is pushed back into next year and, as he loves Scotland and playing in the club, I'm sure he'll be back.

Sadly not everyone can be winners, but over the course of the year we had some brilliant shows and all the bands that entertained us put on their best performances so they all deserve an award.

A couple of weeks ago we had our festival committee night out and went to see the Indians who were performing in the Portland Arms Hotel in Lybster. Needless to say we had a great night, disappointingly David and Rosemary couldn't make it and unfortunately Alan Miller, our festival co-ordinator, had to call off at the last minute as his wife was ill. However in total there were 16, of us it was great just to be able to have a night out together relax and enjoy ourselves. Although we enjoyed The Indians I didn't think they were as good as they were at the festival they really need a big stage to perform on and allow the crowd to see them at their best.

The troops have just come back from the Benidorm trip (we weren't able to make it this year). From all the reports the weather wasn't all that good, but it didn't stop them enjoying themselves - they had a ball. The acts as usual all did very well, but I will have to get Manson to give me the rundown on the crack as I think I'm only being told what suits. Hopefully we will manage to get to the October weekend - I missed my yearly pilgrimage to Benidorm.

John Innis from Top Country Holidays who organises the travel arrangements and works hard all week missed out this year also. John has had surgery and we wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

Next months' show looks like being another cracker when we have Aidy Quinn supported by Gerry Ford.

Aidy was in the club last September and as I'm sure you all know he's the very talented son of our own Queen of Country, Philomena Begley. Tyrone's award winning country singer is fast proving to be one of the most popular acts on the country scene, and judging by his last visit here we can see why. Along with his six piece band they made a big impression and, aside from being talented, they were all nice guys.

Supporting Aidy will be our festival compere, Gerry Ford, and folks unfortunately this will be your last opportunity to see Gerry performing in the north. After 30 years in the business he is retiring and emigrating to Canada. Gerry was a regular visitor to Northern Nashville in the early days, first with his band Gambler and then as a solo artist.

Gerry presented his own country music programme on radio Scotland, I couldn't wait to get sitting down on Friday night dram in hand, feet up listen to the radio. Aside from playing some great music Gerry kept us up to date with what was happening on the country scene both here and America. We wish Joan and Gerry a long and happy retirement and thank him for 'keeping it country' for us - I bet next Easter weekend he'll be sitting in the sun somewhere wondering how we're managing without him.

I have just finished reading the latest edition of Country Music & Dance Scotland magazine and want to thank Stewart Fenwick for his very factual and excellent account of our festival. We can rely on Stewart to tell it like it is and we accept his criticism as constructive, however he seemed to be very impressed by all of the acts this year.

Along with Moe Bandy, Stewart thought the Jacks were one of the highlights of the weekend, and on a personal note he thanked the staff of the Holborn Hotel for looking after him. Thanks again Stewart I'm glad it was worth the horrendous journey.

I would also like to thank everyone else who took the time and effort to write or e-mail us to provide us with feedback from the festival.

Well I think that's about it at the moment folks.

Until next time

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC