



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

June 2009 Newsletter

Looks like summers gone again - back to our normal weather - however it was good while it lasted and even better that it stayed over the weekend.

Friday night saw us back in the Legion for yet another club night and an all Irish show – no - what I should have said was that we had two Irish acts but definitely a country show. Kicking the night off was Mary B & Paul Gallagher. They gave us three brilliant spots, covered some old favourites, and sang some new numbers including a song written by Mary's sister called '*O Daniel*'. Yes it was about the man himself Daniel O'Donnell; it certainly was a bit of fun and everyone including the Daniel fans had a good laugh. Mary and Paul have just released a new CD which she said they only picked up on the way to the boat, and they were selling like hot cakes (along with some of her older ones). They are certainly still a very popular act with our members and haven't changed a bit since they played regularly in the Viewfirth, Mary has never changed she is still the same bubbly character and doesn't look a day older. She said they went a run and was most surprised to find that the Viewfirth was no longer there, and she also couldn't get over the fact that she was sitting sunning herself on Thurso beach in May.

Next up another favourite of ours Joe Moore backed by our recent nearly resident band Nickels & Dimes. Unfortunately they had some problems with their sound during the cabaret spot - we just couldn't hear Joe's voice, and you would have never guessed there was a steel guitar on stage! The boys weren't aware that there was anything wrong they were sounding okay through their ear pieces. Pete tried every switch, button and knob to try and correct it and he eventually gave it a good thump which seemed to do the trick - when all else fails! Anyway everything was spot on for the next two spots.

Joe, well what can be said that hasn't been said already? As good as ever as I keep saying pure country songs sung by that voice and style that makes you come out in goose pimples. Aside from a room full of fans I noticed that Joe also had a couple of groupie girls from within our club members, Jenny & Nicolle complete with T-shirts sporting photos of Joe and themselves, that's the least they could do when they make drunken phone calls to him at all hours of the morning!!!! Typical Joe he arrived without his Stetson so Sandy Gordon came to the rescue. I'm making no comment about sizes of heads, but Joe does have a lot more hair than Sandy - maybe that's why it fitted! Whilst blethering to them it transpired that Joe and Mary were on the same boat coming over and they hadn't seen each other.

As most of you know by know by now May is the month when we announce our Band of the Year winners, during the show Sandy let us know that for 2008, our members voted Manson Grant & the Dynamos in third place (they are always up there with the winners), second place went to newcomers to the club Lemon Grass, and in first place scoring a hat trick was none other than Joe. He was surprised and delighted he has now made club history being the third time winner of the award, so it's no wonder that the night went with a bang. Joe is still unsure what his future plans are - he is due to go to Australia at the end of the year but it's still not certain.

This month was a big ones for birthdays we had amongst others members celebrating 40th, 50th, 60th and 70th birthdays, and a couple of our regular attendees David and Anne Miler celebrating their golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday – so all the best to them for many more years together.

Last month I told you we were away to Las Vegas to celebrate Ally's 60th Birthday. We had a great time although I had a sore knee and struggled to walk at times and was tired - don't think I had time to recover from the festival.

We didn't manage to catch any country stars - we missed Alan Jackson and Brookes & Dunn, and were too early for Taylor Swift and Billy Ray Cyrus - but that's how it goes.

We went to see Cher - excellent! My God does she look and sound good for her age! We caught some other fantastic shows and spent a few wild nights in Toby Keith's bar which has live country music on nightly. I was looking forward to getting round the clock CMT however was disappointed as it was hardly ever on. There were all sorts of strange programmes like Super Nanny and Wife Swap on the channel, but found lots of country music channels on the radio.

I opened the latest edition of Country Music and Dance Magazine the other night and read Stewart Fenwick's report on our Festival. He made some fair comments on all of the acts as well as some great things about our youth bands, and he rated our local bands up there with the American acts. I didn't really think about it until he mentioned it but there was certainly a Buck Owens influence over the weekend - his music was featured by Manson Grant, Mike Bella and Eamon McCann.

Reading on in Jackie Blair's column Pete Nicoll had written a short account of the weekend. Pete had a good word to say about all the artistes, but I think his particular favourite (along with many others) - and not because he backed her - was Becky Hobbs. Pete thanked the committee who had according to him "bust their asses" so thanks for that Pete - I owe you a dram!

Brigitte will hopefully include some photos in the next issue and, if I get round to it, a report on the conversion of the venue etc.

In Stewart's CD round up page he reviewed '*In My Fathers Words*' the album I mentioned last time, recorded by our own Keith Macleod. Stewart called it an old fashioned sentimental country album but appears to have enjoyed it, and added that Keith did a great job and has done his Dad proud. I can certainly endorse that I play it all the time, '*Dirty Ashtrays*' being my favourite track.

How many of you are tuning into rural TV Channel 279 on SKY? It features shows from the likes of Porter Wagner and Marty Stewart - most of it very old, but you can catch some class acts.

A couple of very successful country stars have recently passed away. Vern Gosdin died at the end of April aged 74. Vern's biggest hit was probably '*Chiselled in Stone*', and he also had some hits duetting with Emmylou Harris.

A favourite of mine Dan Seals also died recently after a battle with cancer. In 1986 Dan won Vocal Duo of the Year with Marie Osmond with the hit '*Meet Me in Montana*'.

A few weeks ago some of us went along to the Triple C club night in Wick as we wanted to hear the band Shooter, which features Lee Blackstone on lead vocals and the very talented Davie Holland on steel (Davie played with Heather Myles at the festival). The band were excellent - a mixture of old and new country - but had a poor turn out which kind of spoilt the atmosphere a bit. It was also a shame on the committee who organises these shows each month. However it was good to see Chairperson Sandy Dunbar there so soon after being very ill and having major surgery.

Next month we have a Scottish night with Bill Alexander & Nebraska. Bill had to cancel last time he was due to play as he had a broken arm. Supporting Bill we are delighted to have Broken Wing back with us - they also had to cancel their last booking because Mike was poorly. So that's a good all-round country show to look forward to.

Until next time

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCMC