



# Northern Nashville Country Music Club

## June 2011 Newsletter

Hi can you all believe that's us in summer already well we have had two good days on the trot fingers crossed we get some more.

Back to normality and reality after our holiday doesn't take long I'm sure the sun tan is fading already. Anyway we had a great time everything spot on, weather lovely one cloudy day the rest was nice and sunny. Apartments were fine view from the balcony like a picture post card, it really was idyllic - not a lot of country music on offer but plenty Irish bars and people so that meant plenty crack and a few late nights and hangovers.

Our May club night has been and gone and with it the band of the year announcements, no great surprises Thomas McGuire and Fhiona Ennis were the winners, with Sharon Nixon a close second. Local winners for the Sandy Swanson Memorial trophy for the second year are Slange Ava and runners up The Jacks.

Music for the night was provided by Jim and Chris, The Calhouns, supported by Nigel on drums paying their second visit to the club. They were with us last in Feb '09 along with regular visitors to Northern Nashville, The Brothers.

The Calhouns are a really friendly couple who come from Kansas, they put on a very versatile show covered literally all styles of music - a mix of originals and covers. Both share vocals, Jim has a real country voice but sadly was suffering from a bad throat and cough so he wasn't at his best, nothing wrong with his hands though and he played a variety of instruments. The duo covered good old country standards like *She Thinks I Still Care*, *Devil Women*, *Crazy*, harmonising beautifully and did an equally brilliant job of Scottish numbers Kansas style and had the dancers doing military two steps.

The pair were immaculately turned out changing their outfits for every set, the two Sandy's (G&D) have a bit to go yet. They clearly enjoyed themselves on stage and apparently in the States and Canada they put on cabaret shows dress up to suit the theme which include Blues, Rock'n Roll, 60's Comedy - I did say they were versatile!

The Brothers didn't have as far to come they travelled from Aberdeen and Elgin. For some reason the crowd took a wee while to warm up - people were slow to move I think they were maybe quite content to sit back and listen to the music. However Robbie and the boys managed to get them on their feet with their lively up tempo dance tunes along side belting out ballads for the romantics amongst us. By the end of the night both bands were on the stage together and had the place bouncing, it's a long time since we've had that.

Of course Sandy was the usual, making sure he bled them dry! I thought he was never going to let them off stage, poor Robbie and the boys were travelling down the road as they were part of the Hooley in the Highlands which was taking place in Dingwall the following day.

Needless to say yours truly was up and away to it bright and breezy on Saturday morning. This was the first all-day event held by Black Isle Country Music Club and we had a ball. It was nice for us to sit back and enjoy ourselves without worrying if everyone else was doing the same. There was a good contingent from Caithness who travelled to support Lorraine and Liam, about 10 of us, some more from our club members, and a table full from Wick.

The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly and we met up with country fans from all over the Highlands and the north east, not forgetting Orkney, and lots of people who had been at our event, so it was good catching up with, of course, a few sneaky ones at the bar just to be sociable.

All the acts did very well, Paula Macaskill started things going and you'll never believe this folks but I was first on the dance floor beating Davie Ross and Iris, definitely a one off.

The Brothers then stepped up the pace and had the dance floor busy, Rocking Horse slowed things down a little, but needless to say The Jacks did their usual and the place was bouncing during their first spot.

Representing Ireland was Gary Gamble and his band - great catching up with him again, I enjoyed his part and he played an excellent spot which of course included his Daniel O'Donnell tribute - great entertainment especially for those who hadn't seen it before.

The Jacks brought the day to a close - I think some of us were a bit worse for the wear by that time and started to drift off as it had been a long day. So congratulations to the committee for a successful first festival, knowing all the hard work that goes into the organising of what we hope will become a yearly event.

We had our first committee meeting since our festival and it looks like we plan to go ahead next year, so I guess the hard work starts again! With such a great line up this time where do we start trying to match it, changes to the committee means that we have sadly lost years of experience and expertise so that's another obstacle for us to overcome, however we can only try our best.

We got some great write ups in the country magazines, thanks to Brigitte and Stewart for the coverage, photos in CMDS, and to Iain Strachan who played guitar for Highway 101 and Nashville Union also. A big thanks to all the radio station presenters for their coverage and letting us hear the interviews with the acts. Feedback and photos have also been put up on the web site so go and take a look.

I must tell you this, on the Monday after our festival Ally and myself had just finished unloading the boxes from the car and were trying to find then energy to sort them out. The doorbell rang and when I answered it the person asked me if the tickets were on sale for next year!!!! He was making sure he got one although he had never been to a festival before but had heard it had been a good weekend.

I had the boys up at the house last week for a committee meeting, so managed to off load two 'red jackets' from the wardrobe - room now to buy something new. Much to his disgust I found one to fit Darryn and also one for John - don't worry Alan one on order for you, they did look smart in them so no excuses now that's them fully fledged members of NNCCMC committee.

Over the weekend I've been flicking through the country mags - not a lot of news however I did notice that Terry Sumsion had died recently aged 64. The Canadian played for us way back in Viewfirth and was still touring up until very recently his final CD named *Encore* has just been released.

Bill Anderson and Keith Urban are the latest inductees into Music City Walk of Fame, the commemorative pavement in downtown Nashville now has 50 inductees.

Toby Keith is booked to visit Britain later this year he will play Edinburgh, Manchester and London starting on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Looking at CD releases and noticed one from Red Jenkins titled *Hank & Jack*. Red, from Sweden, was a big hit at last years' festival, and for this album he has enlisted many of his friends to duet with him. The album is all good old hard core country with lots of fiddle and steel and his duet partners include Leona and Ron Williams, Becky Hobbs and Dawn Sears - will have to look out for that one.

Connie Smith releases her first album in 13 years in August, and it will be called *Long Line Of Heartaches*. The album will include 5 new numbers written by Connie and husband Marty Stewart, features her band The Sundowners, and her daughters, Julie, Jeanne and Jodi provide harmonies on a gospel track.

Something else to look out for in the future - Gene Watson and Rhonda Vincent have recorded a dozen duets for a forthcoming album. If it's anything like their last No. 1 *Staying Together* then it's got to be a hit.

Last, but by no means least, veteran Charley Pride, who has well over 30 number one records, has released his first CD in five years called *Choices*. Sure to be popular with all his fans and I'm sure Charley will still deliver a good country song with his unmistakable voice, despite being in his 70's.

Well I think that's about it for now.

Until next time, keep it Country.

*Christine*

Christine Gray  
Chairperson NNCCMC