



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

June 2013 Newsletter

Hope you are all enjoying and making the most of the nice weather we are having at the moment be fine if we got a longish spell - think we are due it -

We had a lovely break in Portugal everything was perfect I couldn't find anything to moan about.

Our apartment was lovely clean, spacious and well equipped dead centre of the resort with a ten minute walk one way to the new town and the same the other way to the old town.

Weather perfect for lying reading books, plenty restaurants serving great food/wine yes it does you good just to chill out.

The Saturday after we came home 10 of us went in a mini bus to the Hooley in the Highlands in Dingwall, it's an all day event run by Liam & Lorraine Christie from the Black Isle Country Music Club – we had a ball-

Sadly their numbers were slightly down on the last couple of years appears to be the trend everywhere at the moment disappointing when you go to the bother of organising events.

Loose Ends kicked off the day's entertainment and for those of you who don't know Robbie and the Brothers have now introduced niece Shannon to the band.

Shannon is the daughter of Robbie's sister Maggie (of Maggie and Tennessee Express fame) she did a spot on stage at the festival with Slange Ava.

Darren is no longer part of the line up due to family and work commitments and Robbie plans to take a back seat—that remains to be seen—

Along with Robbie and the boys treating us to their repertoire of country and middle of the road material Shannon performed some more modern and American country numbers like *Suds in the Bucket* not easy for the poor lassie to be thrown in at the deep end opening the festival but she did well.

As well as providing some great music during their own spot New Gambler also supported Lisa Stanley on stage.

Dougie and the boys delivered a super spot with as usual lots of banter and crack on stage, they always give us some numbers that we don't often hear but can sing along to.

Again not easy for New Gambler to back someone they hadn't heard before likewise for Lisa but they did very well and Lisa sang her way perfectly through a wide range of country and Irish numbers and the crowd loved her.

Lisa was born in Sligo to famous parents and toured Ireland in bands before taking a break following the death of her mother, she then returned to the scene in 2008 and recorded an album of her mother's best known hits.

Her career really took off when she became co presenter with Phil Mack on his show winning her three prestigious country music awards in 2012.

Lisa has a beautiful voice and although I had met her before couldn't get over how petite she was she looked tiny.

We have Lisa booked for our club night in October along with another co presenter of the Phil Mack Show Glenn Rogers maybe we could persuade Phil to come along and make up the team, so we are looking forward to that.

For me the Highlight of the day was the set provided by Raintown, recently engaged Paul and Claire who are definitely the hottest new contemporary country duo to emerge from Glasgow.

The pair made history as the first ever Scottish act to perform at the Global Artist Party as part of the C.M.A. fest in Nashville in 2011, for which they received rave reviews.

They performed many of their self penned numbers from their debut *C/D Hope in Troubled Times*, including their single *Just One Kiss*.

Their music might not suit everyone they are modern but there's no doubting their professional ability and technical performance. Their male and female harmonies are delivered with a passion, stage show charismatic no wonder they are earning the name as our answer to Lady Antebellum.

They are a great couple everyone appeared to enjoy them they received a great reception from the audience I'm sure the youngsters who come to our festival would lap them up.

However there's no doubt who the majority of the punters were there to see the big man, with the big voice and huge talent Stephen Smyth from Portaferry, County Down.

Stephen played with many of Irelands top bands including Shogun (Philomena's band) The Indians & The Declan Nerney Band before going out on the road with his own band in 2005.

Stephen is an accomplished musician as well as a singer and has recorded many country and Irish C/D's his latest being *Classic Country* which is exactly what it is some great country covers including *Hello Darlin* , *Some Broken Hearts Never Mend* & *Holdin Things Together*.

It was great to hear Stephen again he hasn't been to Caithness for a while although he's coming to the Triple C in Wick in October not sure if he's been in our club since he played the festival in 2006 must get him back.

He played a brilliant spot entertained the crowd and kept us all on the dance floor covering a wide and versatile range of music finishing the night on a high.

Shame we didn't finish our night then, we had managed to get accommodation in the Tulloch Castle Hotel so someone had the bright idea we needed a night cap we didn't and succeeded in blotting our copy books-- again --and was sent to our beds by the night porter for making too much noise, must have been Darryn's snoring wasn't me I was drinking coffee.

We had been a bit concerned about the ghost who's supposed to haunt some of the rooms in the castle but we clearly had more than enough spirits in us to scare anything away.



I must admit that they certainly impressed me this time much more than last time I'd heard them they are a nice bunch of guys and a must to have back in the club.

In total contrast Shaun and his very professional band The Countrysiders were making a return visit to NNCCM after impressing us just over a year ago.

I am sure that by now Shaun needs no introduction to anyone, he was born in Manchester to Irish parents his father being the popular Johnny Loughrey, following his fathers death Shaun sang at a family wedding and the rest is history.



We had a super show at our last club night, first class entertainment provided by Rocking Horse and Shaun Loughrey.

Rocking Horse from Gallashields a three piece band which consists of George Inglis on lead vocals Dave on drums and Gavin on bass put on a superb show pleasing all the fans of American country music. They gave us a good all round selection of country, covered lots of numbers from Johnny Cash and Elvis keeping the dance floor busy all night and playing to the crowd.

I'm always a bit worried when we introduce a new act especially if they are a little bit different however the crowd took to them straight away enjoying their stage presence and crack.



Shaun moved to Ireland and his career has gone from strength to strength, he has released several popular C/D's and DVD's, won awards and is very busy all over Ireland and across this side of the water.

Shaun and his band were the full entertainment package and like the title of one of his albums *Two Sides Of Me* he did that by playing some of his favourite Irish numbers and showcasing American country songs by his country influences.

Following his last visit to the NNCCM we approached Shaun and asked him if he would consider being part of this year's festival he was delighted.

However shortly after that he rang me saying he was in a right dilemma and told me that him and his fiancé Carrie Benn (of The Benn Sister's fame) were having a baby which was due early April well these things happen obviously he couldn't risk being away from home around that time.

We were delighted to hear that Carrie and Shaun's beautiful baby boy Liam John Loughrey put in an appearance on the 15th April they are all well in fact young master Loughrey was on the road with Mum, Dad and auntie Leanne during their recent tour of Scotland and England where he was introduced to some members his family.



On reading Cross Country magazine earlier this month I was delighted to see that our festival has been nominated for the BCMAwards under the category Event of the Year.

I would like to thank whoever nominated us don't expect we will get a prize up against stiff competition such as O2 Event and the Americana festival also the mag predominantly caters for the English country music scene but nice to be considered and well you never know.

Regarding the festival shame we are still at the stage of considering if we can continue or not we have had lots of talks and negotiations and come together for a meeting next week by which time we will have to make a decision one way or the other.

Last newsletter I asked for feedback or any suggestions on how we could take another festival forward any new ideas or things we could change, I would like to thank the very few who responded, they were all singing from the same hymn sheet as ourselves.

We had been planning going to England on the 18th -21st July as Jerry Kilgore was scheduled to appear at the Norfolk festival in Norwich and at a couple of clubs in the area along with The Music Road Pilots the great band from Holland who played at this years festival.

We were organised with flights accommodation etc when we heard from the horse's mouth that Jerry had been cancelled however I notice they are all still advertised to play in this month's magazine. Sad when promoters and artistes go to great lengths to arrange these tours and it all falls through to lack of interest, so needless to say we are disappointed.

Well I think that's about it for this month we have Lisa McHugh playing along with Buzzard Creek at our next show it has been sold out for some time now. I just hope all the members who want tickets have booked them or they will be disappointed so folks come early if you want a decent seat and please no more pleading phone calls we have no tickets.

Until next time.

Keep It Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCMC