



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

March 2008 Newsletter

Friday night and another busy show, however with Eamon McCann, Ireland's "Voice of Country", topping the bill it came as no surprise.

Starting off the night, first timers in the club, father and son duo from Aberdeen, Drew and Terry Thomas - or as they are called 'Double Trouble'.

Brought up in Shetland, Drew is no stranger to Country music fans and has been working on the music scene since he was fourteen. Before going solo he played with many Scottish country bands amongst them Ruby Rendall, The Duke Boys, and The Brothers.

Son Terry, who said he has had to listen to his dad playing for the last fifteen years, decided if you can't beat him then join him. Although very young Terry has a great future ahead of him and the crowd were very impressed with his guitar solo, in particular his version of the great Shadows classic "Apache".

The duo are very busy in around Aberdeen. They had with them for sale, at the very low price of £5, a fifteen track CD recorded live at various venues.

It must be over three years since we have had Eamon in the club and I had forgotten just how good he was.

His voice lends itself to the type of country he sings, and I can see why he won our Band of the Year Award for 2002. Eamon, who hails from Omagh, started singing when he was very young and by the time was sixteen he was playing all around Co. Tyrone.

He now regularly tours throughout Scotland and has played in many country music festivals all over Europe and Australia.

Let's hope we don't have to wait another three years before we see Eamon and his band back in the club - judging by the reception he got from the crowd I don't think so.

We recently held our AGM and have made some minor changes in the committee.

Sandy Swanson wants a break from the treasurer's post; however he is staying on as a committee member, so who better to fill the gap than our ex-treasurer Kenny MacLean.

Kenny kept saying that he would come back on the committee when his red jacket fitted him again - he wasn't wearing it on Friday night - so what does that tell us!

Davie Oag, like Kenny, has continued to book the bands and work away in the background however he agreed (or had no option) to come back on the committee officially - and he **was** wearing his red jacket on Friday night.

Apart from that everything else is just the same, no rest for the wicked for another year.

We did all pose for a new committee photo for the web site - maybe it was a bit too late in the night, or Joanne didn't know how to work the camera, but possibly an action replay is called for.

Speaking about web site it's looking good now we're all upgraded. After the festival I will try and update it as I get time. I have asked all the boys to do a little write up by way of introducing themselves; no doubt I will need to remind some of them again.

Ticket sales are going very well for the festival with weekend ticket sales way up on last year. We worried a bit following last years event when it was reported to be the best yet however, looking at the programme for this year, I think we've managed to pull off another winner.

The funding we received from Event Scotland for advertising has certainly paid off. It allowed us to undertake a far wider advertising campaign, and subsequently generated interest and ticket sales from more people out with the local area.

Our ticket seller Bettine has deserted us and gone away to the other side of the world, so I'm doing the honours.

Ally says that he's now developed the art of lip reading as every time the phone rings I turn the TV down. He's moaning saying he hasn't seen a whole programme for weeks but I keep reminding him that we need to sell the tickets. Mind you I shouldn't complain - he's making a reasonable secretary and delivery boy!

I got a copy of the newly released Garth Brooks DVD recently sat up and watched it on Saturday night - it's excellent. He was brilliant and I can't understand when, at his peak, he just walked away from it all. Well worth a look if you get your hands on it.

Committee member Evan Park and his wife Christine celebrated their Ruby Wedding on Saturday and we presented them with gifts from the committee at the show. I hope they had a good day on Saturday and weren't feeling too fragile after Friday.

Our next show, on the 28th March, will be a dance only to the Barry Doyle Duo. In the past we have seen Barry doing his Farmer Dan thing, but I heard the duo last year and was very impressed so looks like you will be in for another good night. But remember; be gentle with us as we will still be struggling to recover from the festival.

If you require tickets for the festival you can contact me on 01847 892410

Hope to see you all in Halkirk

Until then

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCM