



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

March 2012 Newsletter

Into March already can you believe it? Looks like this is going to be another year just flying in and, because it's been so mild, it doesn't really feel like we've had winter - just a long spring.

Not sure how many weeks we have left to the Festival; don't want to count as it might scare me! I do know that I should be a lot further down my list of chores than I am - so much for having more time on my hands...I can see the last minute rush as usual.

Last month saw us holding our Club AGM, the committee were all voted in again, so no surprises there then it's business as usual.

Although there's nothing to worry about at the moment in regard to the Club, we are a bit concerned about the rising costs of the bands and the implications for us further down the line. Bands who, until recently, cost us £1100 are now asking for £1500, and that's only if they can count on another couple of gigs to make the trip worthwhile. We thought we had our whole year's entertainment sorted however already some of the acts have pulled out due to them not securing other bookings.

Another point that we raised was that some people think that because our big named shows have been well attended with full houses we have made a lot of money, however that's not the case. It's not on these nights that we come out with a profit as they also cost us more, it's when we have a better turn out for the lesser known acts we make a bit of cash allowing us to book the bigger, popular, but more expensive bands. On saying that we have had a very promising start to the year - our last show again had a good turn out and a great night, so fingers crossed it will continue.

Our music was supplied by our local act Kate Bain and her Band, and a new one for us The Wayne Stewart Duo.

Two exceptionally nice blokes - Jim from Airdrie and Ken from Stenhousemuir. Now I can't remember it all but they have local connections - I think Ken's wife's folks are originally from out West, they certainly had some guests with them. I was intrigued to know where the name Wayne Stewart came from, thought maybe a past band member had been called Wayne, however the duo have been performing together for four years and Jim said they thought Wayne Stewart sounded a good name for a country band.

They treated us to some great country songs including a lot of fairly modern numbers which was a refreshing change. I could see quite a selection of line dance numbers included in their repertoire and thought this might be the audience they cater for in the clubs' they play in the central belt, but line dance music or not it was all pure country which went down a blast with the members. The boys were definitely one of the best duos we have heard in the club and we can see why they are in great demand as they ticked all the boxes: - great personalities, interacted with the audience, looked as if they were enjoying themselves, & delivered some great music. I know Sandy booked them for the Wick club and they will certainly be back with us.

Kate Bain is a very popular local act; her voice allowing her to deliver songs by the divas of country music like Gretchen Wilson's *Redneck Woman* and the Suzy Bogus' hit *My Side of the Story*. Young laid back Andrew has a very distinctive gentle voice which particularly lends itself to Garth Brooks numbers he makes a cracking job of Ally's favourite song *The Dance*, along with more modern music by artistes like The Eagles and Zac Brown. Gordie wasn't with them on Friday instead they had that great very talented musician Addie Harper with them and boy can he play that guitar - he nearly makes it speak.

I thought early on in the night it was going to be quiet but it quickly filled up and by the end of the night we had a good crowd who were clearly enjoying themselves - the dance floor was busy and there was a great atmosphere.

Last weekend a blast from the past playing in the Grove Lounge our own Johnny Quinn was back in town. Like the rest of us he might be getting older, his hair might be turning grey with no more black curls, but he hasn't lost the twinkle in his eye. We went along to see him on Saturday night and he can still belt out a good ballad and got everyone going with his Irish numbers - a great night of pure nostalgia and super catching up with him again.

Had a right shock on Saturday morning...Ally was on the computer and he said "don't think you want to read this one" - not the thing to say as it was from Cor one of the band members from Ashville (originally Frank Jansen's Band) who are coming over from Holland to play at the Festival. He said that their lead singer had walked out on them to concentrate on his solo career so couldn't fulfil the booking. Well you can imagine panic set in - however we found the perfect solution as Frank Jansen himself agreed to plug the gap as lead vocalist. Well most of you know that I am a big Frank fan so am delighted that he is coming back to play for us again - just like old times!!

I've just heard that the very talented local young band The Chicken Pickers have decided to launch their first CD at our Festival which is very fitting since they made their debut appearance with us as shy young boys at our Festival three years ago. The album is simply called *The Chicken Pickers* and I'm sure will be a big hit for them and a popular buy at the Festival.

This weekend we are going to the Granite City weekend in Dyce. The weekend is being run by Liam, Loraine, Robbie, Robbie Petrie and Jackie - this is their first time organising such an event and we wish them all the best. There are a few folk from our neck of the woods going, it will be a nice change for us to sit and do nothing, and a fine break before the mad panic leading up to our weekend.

Lemon Grass were booked as part of their entertainment programme but due to rising travelling costs they have regrettably decided that they will no longer be playing outside Cumbria other than The Grand Ole Opry in Glasgow from now on. Instead of them they have booked Lorraine Macmillan. I have only recently heard of Lorraine and her band but they appear to have been on the circuit for some time and are certainly very busy so look forward to hearing something new from them. There are also another couple of acts I have not seen live so looking forward to a change as well as some of our favourites - will give you a run down next time.

They have also put out the final line up for their Hooley in the Highlands event which this year is being held for two nights - 2nd & 3rd June - in The Legion, Dingwall. We went last year and had a great time, sadly this time we won't make it as it is the same weekend we are going to Texas. Looks like a good line up which includes Trevor Loughrey, Martin Cuffe, The Jacks, The Brothers, New Gambler & Slange Ava - for further details call 01463811677.

I have recently bought the new CD called *Two of the Usual* from Justin Trevino and can say it's excellent. I love the title track, he duets with Tony Booth on *Accidentally On Purpose* and with Jan Howard on *Gold Watch and Chain*, there's not a bad track on it I like them all.

I notice that Alan Jackson has released a new single called *You Don't Have To Love Me Anymore* and apparently he is almost unrecognisable in the video, he hasn't got his moustache any more and is instead sporting a goatee beard - not sure about that! I also notice that his house in Tennessee is up for sale to the tune of \$38million - it looks amazing & beautiful, and even has its own lake with a covered area for his speed boats.

Isobel was at the Festival in Wembley last Sunday - I haven't had a chance yet to get all the news but she did say she had a good day. As I expected Will Bannister was the star of the show - he plays my kinda music as is one of these names who have just taken off and will be a big name in the future. She also enjoyed George Ducas, I used really like him and have some old albums of his that I haven't played in a while, so I must dig them out again. She was disappointed in Lonestar saying their sound wasn't good at all and she couldn't hear the vocals.

A big disappointment was that, because the show ran over due to a long time for band change-overs, lots of people (including her) had to leave to catch the last train, so only caught about three numbers from Reba who was the main act - I bet that didn't go down well.

Feeling is that it will be running next Easter again & I did wonder would it have any impact on our Festival - I wouldn't really think so although I have been communicating with a few people from the south who were going this time and also coming to ours. Perhaps if some of the big stars are in London they might come to us as an add-on gig...Alan Jackson here we come! If only...

Have you all seen the song on Hot Country that Philomena sings as a tribute to Billy Jo Spears? The song is brilliant and was written by Shaunie Cramsie. Billy Jo looks really poorly when you see the picture taken of her and Philomena at the end – I bet they had some crack together doing the Ladies of Country.

On that subject I was reading that taking place in Ireland sometime in April is a memorial concert to help Billy Joe's family pay for her medical bills. Stars included are Dominic Kirwan, Susan McCann, and John McNicholl and there will also be a CD recorded of her greatest hits. I can't understand how an artist of her calibre and popularity were in financial difficulties to that extent.

Finally, do you all remember that very popular band Highway 101 who were with us at our Festival last year? Well I heard that their brilliant drummer and larger than life character Cactus Moser got engaged to Wynona Judd on Christmas Eve, tho' they haven't set a date for the wedding yet.

Well I think that's about it for now better go and get through my list of tasks and pack some clothes for the weekend.

Until Next Time

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC