



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

March 2013 Newsletter

You'll have to excuse me if this newsletter is short and sweet but time is not on my side at the moment, I can't believe how quickly the Festival has crept up on us.

I need to get all the details for the programme ready for next week in time to get it laid out & off to the printers on schedule and I really am not organised got loads to do, and also need to get the paperwork completed for our AGM which is being held on the 15th March.

Playing for us at our Club night in February was our own Nashville Union and a duo from Ireland called The Irish Knights.

I'm not sure why but I had a feeling that it would have been a fairly quiet night, however surprisingly enough it was quite busy and one of these nights where it was laid back and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves and were chilled out.

We were two committee members down – but we coped - John was just recovering from a bad chest infection so was still coughing and a bit peaky so probably best he didn't come and spread his germs. Darryn was in Inverness with Jenny as she was in Raigmore having a hip replacement operation, I'm pleased to say that she got on fine is now home and getting used to hobbling around on her crutches - I was over the other day and Darryn is taking his male nurse role very seriously. Like me I'm sure you all wish her a speedy recovery and hope it won't be long before she has her dancing shoes on again -- maybe a while before she should chance dancing on the tables again though!

I didn't really know anything at all about the Irish Knights, Michael and John from Co Mayo, prior to their arrival on the Friday.

I got a bit concerned during the beginning of their cabaret spot as they sang a selection of Irish songs then Scottish ones, so was relieved when they got round to doing some country. However over their next two spots The Irish Knights covered a wide and varied selection of music the crowd enjoyed their style and choice of numbers; they were certainly all on the floor dancing.

Next up was Nashville Union, and joining local lads Colin, Nigel and Alasdair was John Ford. He is a Tayside guy but not entirely a stranger to these parts he played as part of The Duke Boys when they were touring Europe and features on their LP's and CD's.

Sadly that great guitarist Pete Mylles was forced to leave the band due to having eye problems.

The guys did a great job for us and they appeared to be enjoying their night also; they were totally at ease and enjoying banter back and fore.

Colin just has that unmistakable voice makes it sound so easy he took us back to the Silver days by singing some of their numbers and then we had some nostalgia from the Duke Boys era.

Feedback from the members was all positive saying how much they had enjoyed them and that they were sounding better every time they heard them.

For the second year running Nashville Union travelled to Shetland in January as part of the Up Helly Aa celebrations where they were Squad 2's musicians for the week playing in halls and clubs for six nights out of seven.

The guys had a ball - thoroughly enjoyed it and they said the atmosphere and crack was brilliant and they just about managed to stand the pace.

Our next Club night will be on the 15th March this is due to the fact that our normal Club night will be the Festival weekend.

Instead of cancelling our show altogether we decided to hold a dance to local favourites Manson Grant & The Dynamos and prior to that we will have our AGM in the hope we might get a better turn out for our meeting.

I'm sure we will have a good night and hear some tracks from the Dynamos recently released CD entitled *Simply Country*.

Speaking of The Dynamos I have just heard that young Brandon has once again returned from the Open Button Box Championship in Polmont and has taken the championship cup home to Caithness for the second year running well done Brandon what a talent... he's just a natural.

Last Thursday a crowd of us - 16 in total including some of the committee and friends - hired a mini bus and we went to Eden Court to see the Nashville Songwriters Show which included Dominic Kirwan and also some of Nashville's most talented singers and songwriters.

Included on the bill was Victoria Shaw, a very well known songwriter, who has songs on over 65 million albums as well as CD's of her singing her own songs. She was very good, played piano, sang and told some stories I didn't know but some of her hits included *The River* for Garth Brooks & *Love The Way You Love Me* for John Michael Montgomery.

Also on the show (probably the reason we were there) were Joey and Rory, the husband and wife duo who wowed us at our Festival last year. They were excellent they sang some of their own songs from their *His And Hers* album. Rory is an acclaimed songwriter and written numbers such as *A Little More Country Than That* for Easton Corbin and *Some Beach* a big hit for Blake Shelton.

Whilst in Halkirk last year Rory brought his daughter Heidi on stage to do backing vocals for them she did the same this time and also had a spot on her own... yes singing her own self penned numbers.

Thoroughly enjoyed their spot managed to get the chance to say a quick hello to them.

The headliner of the show was not dad Dominic but son Colm - he is now based in Nashville and when he first went there he stayed with Joey and Rory and they wrote together.

He is now a very successful and accomplished singer songwriter and has released a new album as well as opening for Don Williams on his US tour.

He put on good show, maybe a little too up tempo and rocky for me, but that's just an age thing, but I can see why he is much sought after in the current Nashville climate.

Now I think a lot of people were disappointed and maybe didn't understand what type of show they were going to see.

Judging by the average age group and the large groups of females there I think they were all set and looking forward to a Dominic show, which it certainly wasn't.

Now the man himself did come on and took us through some of his hits with his usual charm and stage presence proving that he's still a terrific performer and popular as ever - and yes he did swivel the hips - and he still does it for me.

We enjoyed our day out and were in fine spirits by the time we reached Inverness... nothing to do with the quantities of wine consumed on the way down... however sadly for the guys some of us were still sober enough to do damage in the shops.

Did you all listen to Liam and Loraine's on line country radio show on Tuesday sadly I was out and missed most of it however everyone I spoke to said it was a great programme very professionally presented so for a first show and no doubt one or two teething problems heard some great feedback - Well Done Guys—

For those of you who missed it you can catch it next Tuesday on abcradio.co.uk from 8.00pm until 10.00pm.

They kindly interviewed me and asked me about the festival so I would like to thank them very much for that.

Whilst talking to Liam and Loraine they are pleased with the way their tickets are selling for their Hooley In The Highlands which will be taking place on the 25th May in Dingwall British Legion. The line up includes Lisa Stanley, Stephen Smyth, Raintown and from nearer home New Gambler & The Brothers.

So yes looks like a great day out, Yes we will be there and looking forward to it - still some tickets left priced £40.00 which you can get by phoning 01463 811677.

Speaking about online radio shows, the Scottish radio presenters are working very hard for us promoting our artistes by playing the music and holding interviews with them.

Helen Macpherson on MFR dedicated one of her shows to the Festival artistes and interviewed some of them.

Stewart Fenwick has had Will Banister, Connie Smith, Bobby Flores, Evi Tausen and is scheduled to have Rance Norton next Sunday on celticmusicradio.net on Sunday between 12.00 and 2.00.

Not forgetting Caithness F.M. they were supposed to have Bobby Flores doing a live interview last Sunday but due to technical problems it was un able to go ahead, so look out for it on Sunday 24th March.

We are most grateful to all the radio DJ's for helping to promote our event.

I have also noticed that our Festival is now being given the recognition I think it deserves by the country music publications again for that we are truly grateful.

Brigitte from Country Music & Dance Scotland has always supported our Club and Festival and has done some great features for us. This time in her February/March mag she has included a feature on Evi Tausen and included my promo feature on the Festival with some pictures.

Also in CMDS latest issue, Ken Macleod, who has recently been presented with CMA International Broadcaster Award, reported that he's going to forsake the big Country Music extravaganza in the O2 featuring artistes like Carrie Underwood, Vince Gill, & Tim McGraw, for Halkirk. He says there's no contest he knows in Halkirk he will get honest genuine country music in a great venue with a wonderful atmosphere. We have also had a few mentions in Country Music people on his page. David Allan compared our Festival with the O2 event and said how unfair it is that our Festival doesn't receive support from the CMA or the BBC national network, and adds that there is a demand for our brand of country and asks why it isn't being reflected by the media at large. Can't beat reports and publicity like that thanks to you all.

Joining our regular radio/media presenters this time we will have Tony Byworth who has been associated with country music for many years working as a journalist and the founding member of The British Country Music Association, also Duncan Warwick the current editor of Country Music people.

I mentioned Brigitte earlier who, with her husband, are regulars at our weekend along with their stall selling personalised T-Shirts, key rings, magnets, clocks, etc. you name it they have it. Sadly due to work commitments they are unable to be with us this year and we are as disappointed about this as they are - they have become part of our Festival and will be missed by many. However coming along instead will be Trish Dawson & Hattie's Clothing travelling all the way from County Durham to be with us. They have a large selection of Western Wear clothing, boots and accessories for sale so remember and pop out and see them over the weekend.

Had an e-mail from Gerry Ford last week he was asking if I would send him the DVD of last years Festival. Joan and he are both fine and enjoying life - he is still doing his radio programme and the odd gig which doesn't involve him having to travel too far. Gerry went to see Mick Flavin when he toured Australia last year said it was a great show and good to see Mick again.

Well I think that's about it for now better go and get on with my list of tasks for the Festival which seems to get longer on a daily basis.

There are still tickets for the weekend so if you would like some give Bettine a ring on 01847 892624, there is a list of who is playing when so you can pick which single show you might want to see.

I won't be writing another newsletter until after our April show which stars Thomas & Fhiona along with Double Trouble - one not to be missed.

Anyway I think that's it for now, until next time.

Keep It Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC