



## Northern Nashville Country Music Club

### March 2019 Newsletter

Spring has sprung and the daffodils made an appearance just in time for Saint David's day on 1 March! The year is whizzing; we are 2 shows in to the year and Easter is fast approaching. So far, so good, with my new year's resolution to get more organised and produce regular newsletters (although I did have to be reminded!).

January's show was a dance only to **Alabama State Line**, a new band to the NNCCM. The band had a busy dance floor from the start with some great music. "Folson Prison", "Play Something Country", "On The Road Again", "Rolling On The River", "I Just Wanna Dance With You" to name a few. The band: Gary, Gary, Billy, Billy and Tam, took 6 hours to get to Thurso but stated the road trip had been fabulous.

**Country Friends:** Jim and Tom kept the dance floor busy with "Louisiana Saturday Night", "Loves Gonna Live Here Again", "Carmen", "Just Wanna Dance The Night Away" along with a few smoochy numbers; "bum grabbers" according to Country Friends, for all of the romantic people! The audience gave Jim a round of applause for being a prostate cancer survivor.

It was a great night and I am sure that we will see Alabama State Line back at our club sometime soon!

It was unseasonably mild on the night of our February show! It was a very busy night at the club. Our usual Compere, Sandy was delighted to be "back in the saddle". He asked if everyone could hear him and was heckled with "They can hear you in Inverness!". There was a change of advertised band from **David Allan**, who was unfortunately unable to attend, to **James N' Wood**.

Steve James, from Glasgow, and Martin Wood, a South African Glaswegian, are no strangers to our club and we are always delighted to see them. Steve had a quadruple bypass six months ago and was taking it easy by sitting for the performance. Martin joked that Steve was sitting because "he's a lazy bug\*er"!

James N' Wood were voted Best Scottish Country Band of the Year by readers of CMDS magazine. Congratulations both; well deserved!

"Take It Easy", "Let's Pack A Suitcase", "Gypsy Queen" kept us entertained

and we had some audience participation to "King Of The Road" with a singalong, finger clicking and Martin pretending to play the trumpet rather well!

There was a big cheer when **John Rafferty** and **Northstar** took to the stage. John stated it was great to be back in Thurso. John and the band had their first ever gig together here in Thurso, almost 2 years ago. NNCMC members had voted John Rafferty and Northstar Band of the Year 2017 so this was an award show!

"Bed of Roses", "My Next Broken Heart" (the first single John released 3 years ago) "People Are Crazy", "Town I Love So Well" and "Country Road" which John sang on BBC TV's The Voice, kept the dance floor very busy! It was Valentine's week and John asked if anyone was in love in the audience? It went very quiet although the dance floor filled when John dedicated his next song "If You Get There Before I Do" to anyone in love.

Our Chairman, Alan introduced John Rafferty and Northstar as the NNCMC Band of the Year 2017. Northstar are no strangers to our club and in different guises; they are very popular in their own right. John, from Belfast is a step dad to 4 children and is a step grandad! Alan was very jealous to discover that John has met Kylie Minogue. John is currently competing on Irish TV's Glór Tire. Check out John's Facebook page to vote for him. Alan went on to ask John to remember the NNCMC when he hits the big time, and to come back and visit us!

The Christine Gray Band of the Year trophy was designed by Aly Gray and sponsored by Robbie Petrie. It was presented to John Rafferty and Northstar, by Aly, Christine's sister, Bettine and niece Michelle. John's name is the first to appear on the award which will hang above the door of the NNCMC hall. Aly, Christine's husband said that it has been 2 years since we lost Christine, he was sure that she would be very proud. John was quite emotional receiving the award and thanked everyone.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2019 AGM; it was a great turnout. The re-election of office bearers was undertaken by Robin Young, with thanks. The current office bearers were re-elected:

- Chairman – Alan Miller
- Treasurer – Willie Morison
- Secretary – Leisa Swanson
- Band Secretary – John Dunnett
- Committee Member and Compere – Sandy Gordon
- Committee Member – Aly Gray

Alan thanked everyone for the re-election! To mark the occasion, some

official committee photos were taken and have been uploaded onto our website: [www.nncmc.co.uk](http://www.nncmc.co.uk).

The NNCMC 2019 shows, taking us to the end of summer, are as follows:

- 29 March – **Manson Grant and the Dynamos**, along with **Nicky James**
- 26 April – **Ian Highland Band**, along with **The Joe Davitt Band**
- 31 May – **Gareth Pritchard and Band**, along with **Johnny Bremner**
- 29 June (all day show) – **Ray Murtagh** and **Northstar, Liam Kelly and Band, High and Dry, Border Radio**, and **Angie King Duo**
- 26 July – **Five Star Country**, along with **Buzzard Creek**
- 30 August – **The Duke Boys**, along with **Kentucky Rain**

Tickets for the all-day show are available. Please contact Alan on 07990 039495 for further details. The remaining 2019 shows are all set to be musical extravaganzas not to be missed!

Until the next time.....

*Leisa*