



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

October 2010 Newsletter

Here I am again all out of sync and running late, anyway just a brief newsletter to give you all the up to date gen.

We had a great holiday although its now the case was I ever away, it doesn't take long once your back to work a couple of weeks, you've bored everyone with the photos, tan starts to fade, stress starts again.

Weather was very hot; our complex was lovely plenty to eat and drink and we managed to find a bar with some good live country music, so you can't ask for more. It was a bit of a pest coming back as the plane was delayed for 8 hrs, so we didn't get home until Thursday, and Ally had to go to work for his last day on Friday - not that there was any work involved it was get ready for the night out, and of course I had to get organised for the club.

The Jacks and Country Fever were our acts which, of course, guaranteed a great night of entertainment and that's exactly what we got.

Country Features, Robbie from County Fermanagh & Florence from Omagh, have been together since 2005, love Scotland and have quite a fan base here now. They always give 100% and during the course of the night delivered a good cross section of music both Irish and American country, old and new. The duo are always very professional both in their appearance and attitude, they dress smart and always take time to chat to the fans.

They have recently released a new DVD entitled *Country Love Songs* which sold like hotcakes along with their two CDs, proving their popularity with our members, and of course Florence didn't let us down she had her sweeties with her as usual.

With The Jacks what we see is what we get - we wouldn't have it any other way and they never let us down. The guys certainly enjoy themselves on stage there's lots of banter between themselves and interaction with crowd.

Geordie as normal told us his yarns and some not too politically correct jokes (that only he would get away with), in between of course we heard some great vocals and harmonies.

They played some original and some of their favourite numbers, pleasing the crowd and creating a party atmosphere using a varied selection of instruments including guitar, fiddle, banjo mandolin and drums.

Dado by the way looked very smart he has cut his distinctive long grey hair and has a smart short style.

The two acts took the stage together for the finale and had everyone on the floor and if I remember some on the chairs as well - yes a great night was had by all.

The following weekend it was off again to the Manson Grant & The Dynamos fan club weekend at Menzies Hotel in Dyce. Another successful event, super entertainment held in a high standard hotel with very nice modern rooms and excellent function hall.

This year sadly some old friends were missing but nice to see some new faces - this was the first time any of the Shetland contingent were with us and needless to say they had a ball as usual.

This year there were more bands, the only solo act being Frank McCaffrey, he has a very easy listening style, singing some Irish and old style country, and he always cracks a good joke or two.

Our own Slange Ava made a good impression and were certainly crowd pleasers, adding their modern touch to an all round country spot.

The very popular Gwenda and Liberty from across the water in Orkney, went down well as is the norm. Philip Anderson, aside from doing the sound all weekend, plays guitar and sings in the band, while Gwenda on lead vocals has a fine ballad voice, and fiddle player Andy Cant just enhanced their all round fine performance.

One of the weekend highs for me had to be the nightly sets from Galaxy; you might remember the band in the club a few years back now.

Well Crawford Bell and Ivan Black must be two of the most talented musicians to come out of Ireland, and they were joined on stage by another four guys, all of whom sang, and together they brought us right back to the good old days of Irish Showbands.

Making a return visit was the young man who is currently sweeping the boards at this year's Mod in Caithness; Brandon McPhee has certainly matured and grown in confidence since he performed as part of our Christmas show.

As a 13 year old he has picked up 2 very prestigious awards, Scottish Junior Accordion Champion and Scottish Button Box Open Champion, he is currently in great demand at the Accordion and Fiddle Clubs where he is backed by Manson & Robert.

I have no idea how to spell the name of the band who were guesting from Slovakia, so we will just call them the Z Band. I really can't begin to describe them or their music to you - they certainly didn't play country music but were a joy to watch. They produced some great music from some weird instruments and were a very happy and friendly bunch of young guys – despite the language barrier!

Manson, Robert and Keith pleased all their fans by treating us to their usual polished professional performance, and putting in one heck of a lot of work to ensure the weekend went smoothly and everyone enjoyed themselves.

During the weekend we did some tourist things including visiting the transport museum in Alford (well worth a visit) and the Winter Gardens in Duthie Park, and, of course, no woman could spend a weekend in Aberdeen without a retail therapy fix!

I am pleased to say that this year we weren't guilty of late night partying in bedrooms, no we didn't go straight to bed, the bar stayed open so the bands could get a drink at the end of their spots so of course we kept them company.

Last Saturday night Slange Ava took time away from their busy schedule to offer their services at no cost to play at the LUPUS support group's charity dance in the Legion.

It was a shame that organisers Das and Barbra Shearer were both poorly so unable to attend, given all the work they put into arranging such an event and fundraising for the charity all year round. However Wendy and Liffy did a good job and there was a great turn out considering there was a lot happening in the county over the weekend.

It was an excellent night and the band did everything they could to ensure everyone enjoyed themselves. The boys had been rehearsing all day Saturday as they were going to the Lyth Arts Centre on the Sunday to record footage for their forthcoming DVD which will hopefully be ready for Christmas.

We are all looking forward to the television transmissions of last years Festival, they will be shown on three consecutive Tuesdays on the Ceol Country Programme repeated again on Sundays starting on the 19th October at 9.00pm on Sky Channel 168.

I am sure BBC ALBA will have done an excellent job and the coverage will let the audience see what a first class Festival is held in Caithness.

We had an e-mail from Savannah, you will remember they are the Dutch Band who performed at our Festival in '09, they wanted to let us know that they have received 4 awards in the past week. The Dutch Country Music Association presented them with awards in the following categories :

- Band of The Year
- Lead Guitarist for Instrumentalist of the Year
- Album of the Year Award
- Trio of the Year

Well Done Savannah however I am not surprised as they made an excellent impression when they were here, and they continue to be in demand playing all across Europe both with and without Billy Yates.

Tomorrow it's off the Wick to join the Triple C Club for their festival to celebrate their clubs' 20th Anniversary. The bands playing are Manson Grant & the Dynamos, The Brothers, Broken Wing, Nickels & Dimes and, from Ireland, the ever popular Joe Moore. It looks like a line up that guarantees a cracking day out.

Well I think that's about it for now next Nashville show is our award one, and apart from Thomas Maguire and Fhionna Ennis picking up our overall Band of the Year Award, Slange Ava will be coming along as guests to receive the first Sandy Swanson Memorial Award for local band of the year. We are delighted to say that Sandy's wife Jenny will be coming along to present the award. Also joining us on that night will be the duo Wood N Stone - that's a blast from the past haven't heard them for a while. Remember to book your tickets it will be a busy night.

Until next time,

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCM