BLACKPOOL ROX 2

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£2

NOT FOR PROFIT
PUNK / DIY ZINE

· Cock Sparrer · Poly-Esters · Simon Wells (Southport / Snuff)
· Sarah in Saudi · Ted Dibiase Million Dollar Punk Band
· Du Pig · The Euro Diaries of Blackpool Rox
· Colleen Caffeine · Scanner Reviews

We are out of Europe, out of the Euros and out of our minds . . .welcome to the latest issue in the hit sensation that is Blackpool Rox II Fanzine. Its just 2 pound a copy 1 pound from each goes to local charity Streetlife). We need to sell about 500 to just about cover the costs so dig deep and help us almost break even. Just FYI (as we get asked) we have no advertising revenue or any other income streams apart from the sale of the zine - its too much trouble.

Issue 11 would like to thank the following bands who have given us interviews - Cock Sparrer, the legendary Simon Wells (Southport / Snuff), Penrith's No Thrills, Blackpool's The Poly-Esters, Blackpool's Du Pig, Detroit's Choking Susan and Ted Dibiase and the Million Dollar Punk Band from the mean streets of Sittingbourne – and owing to space restrictions unfortunately the pieces we have on Caves and Dillinger 4 will just have to go in issue 12.

On the cover you will notice Blackpool Tower has fallen down – fancy that. You might also know that Blackpool's last 3 high-rise residential buildings (Queenstown Flats) were demolished last weekend so the Fylde Coast is now flatter than ever which calles for a short piece of Steve Lake poetry – 'these lands are all now barren lands, where the dealers all deal withered hands, where weeds grow up through rocks and sand where once the corn and fruit did stand, no-one bothers making plans or trying much to understand, coz in this bleak and barren land it is the bland who lead the bland – very apt indeed.

For our handful of regular readers I'm sad to say that Derek Twat and The Swapmeet Kid were unavailable for comment and hence no contributions were forthcoming which is a shame. In fact rumour has it that they are both retiring from the social life, which would be a real shame and a blight on the town. That said this issue introduces the inimitable Steve Scanner who has contributed lots of music reviews from the faraway place called New Zealand – top man.

Rox's editor's latest DIY offering is his on-line 'Saturday Morning Punk Rock Show' which is beamed live down an I-Phone every Saturday from Rox Towers. He is happy to take any requests as long as the music isn't too difficult for the Ghost of the North West Coast (GOTNWC) to decipher. So far we have done 11 shows (how coincidental as this is issue 11) and they are all on YouTube – just google SMPRS or Andy Higgins or GOTNWC and you should find them. So far we have played ….

SMPRS 1 – Shake it Off (Taylor Swift)

SMPRS 2 – Holiday in Cambodia, Moon Over Marin, Police Truck (Dead Kennedys)

SMPRS 3 – Boys of Summer (Don Henley)

SMPRS 4 – Titanium (David Guetta)

SMPRS 5 – Garage-man-land (The Clash)

SMPRS 6 – England Belongs to Me (Cock Sparrer)

SMPRS 7 – Captain (Biffy Clyro)

SMPRS 8 – Martin (Snuff)

SMPRS 9 – Sound of Silence (Simon and Garfunkel)

SMPRS 9 – Nickels and Dimes (Social Distortion)

SMPRS 10 – Are we Mormon$ or Karsten Janckers$ (Killers / Fillers)

SMPRS 11 – World Turned Upside Down (Snuff)

Anyhow we also have the 'Rox in France' blog from the European Championships and a few other bits .. If you want to contribute get in touch via andy@jsntgm.com.

Enjoy ….

EDITORIAL

photo courtesy of Sam Bruce

COCK SPARRER

Returning to Blackpool Rebellion 2016

The interview was carried out by phone and e-mail in July 2016.

It's great to see the mighty Cock Sparrer returning to Blackpool (Rebellion 2016). They always put on a good show and are a big draw for punks from all over the world. I first saw Sparrer when they first re-formed circa 1983 at Jilly's in Manchester, the-Shock Troops era. Many years, albums and tours later It's nice to be able to catch up with Daryl and find what's going on in the world of Cock Sparrer.

I think it's 2 or 3 years since you last played Rebellion … so please bring us up to date what has been going on with Cock Sparrer over the last 24 months – any new material , many gigs, any news ….. ?

Yes, 2013 was the last time. After the diversity of 2012 with PiL, Rancid, Social Distortion which was hugely important to the festival, it was great to be part of a 'scene' year with all the favourites playing. Our stage on the Saturday night had Street Dogs, UK Subs, Chas & Dave and the Cockney Rejects on before us, so it was a proper knees up! We've been busy since then. We don't 'tour' as such but we try to get away for a 'jolly boys outing' as often as we can. We know our limitations. The honest truth is that if we did 8 shows in a row, the voices just wouldn't hold up, the tiredness kicks in and the people on night 8 who have paid the same price for a ticket as the people on night one deserve the same performance and we'd be shit! We don't want to let anyone down. Everyone deserves to see a band give 100% if they're taking money off the door. Financially it makes no sense though. We understand why bands have to tour to make the costs stack up. But we would rather not mug people up with a substandard show just because we're trying to make a tour pay for itself. So we put all our effort into 'one off's' – or a 2 or 3 day weekend tops. It makes all the shows feel like events too rather than just being on a merry-go-round of clubs doing a tour. It suits us and the fans seem to appreciate it too as the gigs are really special.

After Rebellion we did one off shows in Poland, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Spain and then ended the year with a 3 day tour in Germany. Since then we've been to Holland, Canada, Czech, France, Italy, Austria, Germany more than a few times, the US half a dozen times and we've just come back from Serbia. We also played in Wolverhampton in 2014 to celebrate Darren Russell-Smiths 30th anniversary of putting on gigs. Seems he likes an anniversary as this year is 20 years of Rebellion! So we've been busy having a pint and a fry up in the airport at 6am about once a month! It's during these times that we've started discussing the hunger for writing a new album. We've got about 15 songs written so far. We've had 2 days in the studio just working on knocking them into shape but we've not recorded anything yet. We're hoping to have a new album out next year but we're aware that it would possibly be our last album so we don't want to put something out for the sake of it. There has to be some quality control and ultimately if we're not happy with it then no-one will hear anything and it won't see the light of day! We're fortunate that we're able to do this ourselves with no pressure from managers or labels so we hope that a decent album will come of it. The downside of no-one telling you what to do is it can take ages! Our last album was 2007 and the one before that was 1997 so I reckon we're due one in 2017!

What bands / artists are you keen to check out / catch up with at Rebellion 2016 ?

It's been said before and probably by everyone but the beauty of Rebellion is that it's more than just a festival. It's a meeting of friends. It's family. So catching up with people is equally important as the music. New friendships are made and old ones revisited. There's too many bands to list that I'm looking forward to catching up with but as far as watching goes, this year I want to check out Arch Rivals and Seaside Rebels who are two bands that I think have brought something fresh to the Oi scene. The Bar Stool Preachers featuring Colin's son Tom will definitely have me in attendance. Great band, great songs, great front man – his Dad could learn a thing or two! Definitely going to catch the Slaughter & The Dogs set as they're playing with the original line up. There's loads of bands that I'll catch chunks of their sets just because it reminds me of being younger and going to gigs such as The Exploited, Subhumans, Test Tubes etc. I'll watch The Old Firm Casuals, just so I can point out to Lars afterwards all the mistakes he's made! There are of course loads of friends playing and it's always good to see as many as possible. I start the weekend with great intentions of watching loads but it all goes too fast and you end up socialising so much that you miss things. In all honesty I'll probably spend more time in the Opera House as there's some great interviews this year and it's a good excuse to sit down and have a break. Almost Acoustic is always good for seeing your favourite artist in a different environment. But the artist I'm most excited to see (don't laugh) is actually Jilted John. I love that album True Love Stories and think that Graham Fellows is a great songwriter as well as a comedy genius. It will either be the biggest disappointment of my weekend or I'll be singing about collecting fancy mice for weeks…..!

Aside from the gig what do the band tend to do over the weekend in what the glitterati refer to as 'The Las Vegas of the North' ?

See above! There's no time to do anything other than drink loads, eat little and talk to everyone. I've usually lost my voice by the time it's time to go on stage!

Last time around you kindly raised money for local Blackpool charity Street-life any plans for anything similar or charity work this year ?

We thought it was important to give something back. It was our 3rd time playing Blackpool and Rebellion has been good to us. We were conscious of not just repeating ourselves and doing the same old same old. So we wanted to do something to help the local area. Blackpool does well when the Rebellion festival tips up. That's thousands of people that have to eat, sleep and drink all week – so there's a lot of money generated for the local economy. But then we all fuck off and it's business as usual for the area and times are tough. So Colin's daughter looked into local charities that were a good fit for us and found Street Life. They provide advice and support for young people who have drug, alcohol or mental health issues. We auctioned off our backdrop and raised a couple of grand for them. It enabled them to extend their opening hours for their night shelter, so it

photo courtesy of Sam Bruce

COCK SPARRER cont/...

photo courtesy of Sponge Pix

was good that it went directly to a charity and we could see the immediate effect on how it made a difference. All thanks to punk rockers dipping their hand in their pocket and buying a raffle ticket to own a bit of our crap! The great thing is that Rebellion have continued to support the charity too so it wasn't just a one off. We're looking into a few other things to do differently this year. Not sure if they'll come off yet but come the weekend we'll let you know!

I know a healthy relationship with its past, present and future is healthy for every scene – how do you think this works with punk and Rebellion ?

I think Rebellion has the perfect balance to be honest. There's enough of the old bands to make it THE festival that you just have to come to if you're into punk. All the favourites are represented. But it's NOT a retro festival. There's plenty of current bands that are on too. There's also the New Band Stage which this year is running for all 4 days. That's so important to expose the new bands coming through to a bigger audience. It also covers all genres and sub genres of punk. It's a festival that we're very supportive of and very proud of.

Jumping quickly onto a separate topic – we were chatting about football culture and the unfair treatment England fans had been receiving from the press in the Euros (France 2016). I know Sparrer are football fans - what teams do you lads support, are you keen supporters of your various teams ?

Colin, Burge and Will are West Ham. Micky is Arsenal, Steve Bruce is Millwall and I'm Watford. All of us have been passionate supporters of our clubs over the years. Many being long term season ticket holders etc. We don't go to as many games as we used to but everyone is still keen on watching a match if we're away on a Saturday in some far of land and we can find a bar showing the footy. And of course with mobile phones getting scores coming through, many a sound check has been interrupted by the latest score update. Personally, I've not been to many matches since it became all seated. I've sort of fallen out of love with attending games to be honest. I used to love being with my mates on the terraces but sitting in seats in different parts of the ground lost its appeal. I don't think it's a game for either the working class or families anymore. It is impossible for Mum, Dad and 2 kids on a normal wage to attend every home game of a premiership club at todays prices. Also, years ago it was all about community and pride of where you came from and supporting your local team. Nowadays the lower leagues are poorly attended and everyone has a 'big' team they follow. It's the X-Factor generation! They want glory and fame! I hate it…. When Watford were in the old 4th division, do you know what? I still went and fucking watched WATFORD. Because that's my club. That's where I was born and bred. I didn't suddenly start supporting Man Utd just because the football quality was better! So I'm done with it really. The passion has gone for me. I've been to a few non-league games and they're great for missed timed tackles and the blood and sweat of hard graft rather than our overpaid, pampered 'stars'. I've also been a bit of a glory hunter attending play off finals at Wembley when Watford made it but other than that I just check the classified results nowadays….

It was interesting reading your blog mate about your time at the Euros. I know a few people that went out there and whilst of course there was the usual element of trouble makers, the UK press do their usual trick of making out that it was a lot worse than it was and it's always us that get the blame. They seem to enjoy tarnishing the whole country and calling for us to be sanctioned just because of a mindless few. There's loads of countries with worse hooligan problems than the English but funnily enough where are our press making a big deal out of that? The Russians this year took it to a different level. Why haven't they been stripped of the World Cup? The French lost the final and there was loads of fighting afterwards according to people I know out there. Where is the call for them to be banned? If it was the English it would be a different story. One law for them, one for us. Up the Hornets!

Anything else to add ?

Keep doing what you're doing mate. For me Punk was always about the attitude. More than the music or clothes. If you don't like the records out there, start your own label (you did that). If you don't like the music press, start your own fanzine (you did that too!) – so that's the spirit that still excites me. It's the 'can do' and DIY attitude and standing on your own two feet. If you can help others along the way by doing that then that's a positive thing.

POLY-ESTERS

Local Blackpool band causing a bit of a stir hither and thither. After our people spoke to their people we were able to fix up this interview just in time for Rebellion 2016. Conducted via e-mai with SyphiLizz, Ellis, Catlow and Nat.

Can we do an interview ?

SyphiLizz - Well for starters you can put yer trousers back on Andy this isn't The Saturday Morning Punk Rock Show you know....right what ya wanna know?

How long has the band been going, how many gigs have you played and how many releases to date?

SyphiLizz-We've known each other for years, but I think it was around New Year's Eve couple years ago we decided to form The Poly-Esters. Let's just say it was our response to some overtly manufactured, disposable acts on the scene.

ELLIS -Yeah We have been together since January 2014, gigging since June 2014 and I think it's about 30 -40 gigs. It's just the one release so far, a 3 track EP titled 'First Cut', featuring Cracked, Foolin no one , and Binge and Purge.

What other bands are / have the members been involved with ?

CATLOW-I've been gigging with bands since I was 16. The first was Pink Hearse, which was an amazing experience and how I ended up meeting some awesome friends (including the other Poly girls). After that I did a lot of acoustic stuff and quite a few different projects with other people, and then two years ago the Poly-Esters happened!

Syphi Lizz- I came to the game late, only picked up a bass in my early 30's. So while I've not been at it that long I'm the old bird of the bunch. First band was SWALLOW, but had to give that up once I became a Barnyard Masturbator (tee Hee).

Nat – Started in the Side Show Sirens and our first ever gig was Valentine's Day 2006 at Jenx with Swallow and The Chatsworth's. We then lost Joey Class and moved on with the The Drop out Wives. Still creating noise to this day with Dan Webster, Stormy Weathers and Rixo.

Was it a conscious decision to form a female only band ?

NAT – I wouldn't say so, just four friends wanting to get together and jam out .We have always had a great deal of respect for each other and the music we've previously made . Blackpool is a good place to start - we are all like-minded individuals we just thought ... why the hell not?

Is it true that you all hate men and all men are really banned from joining the Polyesters ?

KEZ- like Nat said we are just musicians that happen to be female, no one ever asks guys if they made a concious decision to be a boy band. I mean it's not like having a cock precludes you from joining The Poly-Esters. We just don't need a 5th member (tee hee "member") and I don't see anyone leaving, we are fuckin solid ! Also because we all share vocals - No one is the lead FACE- The sound is heavily reliant on every one of us. If someone left we couldn't just replace them and carry on, we aren't like interchangeable disposable material to just mould into a pretty little "girl band" that can be dressed up paraded around and sold like meat. Ohhh i started to rant a bit there didn't I ... well in conclusion, no we love men, just no room for cock in the Poly-Esters ... It's all about the balls!

You have a really great website http://www.thepolyesters.co.uk/ - who does this for you ? Is it true you is sponsored by Microsoft ?

CATLOW- I made the website, it's nothing special, but thanks! It's pretty much just a glorified Tumblr page, that's as far as my skills go. And yes, massive Microsoft sponsorship in the pipeline... We're collaborating with Bill Gates on our next EP.

To help those who haven't heard you guys, you describe yourselves as a punk/grunge/riotgrrrl band. So is that a bit of The Slits, Sleater Kinney and L7 all rolled into one ? I'm not sure how to describe your band's sound and I notice reviewers haven't really drawn comparisons … how would you describe your sound ?

Nat- It's difficult to pin point our style of music and I personally try not to pigeon-hole ourselves, as we all inject our own music styles into the songs we write. Obviously we do relate to Riot Grrrl, Punk, and Grunge, but there is a mesh of other genres in there as we all have different influences. If you want to break it down, you could hear a lot of things from Garage Pop to Stoner Rock !

SyphiLizz - I think that's because our sound is still evolving, we write all our own material , and all bring something different to the mix when we write together. Personally I love it hard n fast, so if i'm involved its gonna get raw.

CATLOW- yeah, it's a mixture of all of the above. We never really set out to sound like a particular genre; we just write and play whatever we want, as long as it's loud and strong and has some feeling behind it.

What are your main historical and more recent influences – who would you like to be compared / likened to ?

SyphiLizz- Historical influences....hmmmm Amelia Earhart, I wish I had a moustache like Burt Reynolds and you can't deny the prolific work of Genghis Khan ... ohhh sorry u mean musical influences ? Well my record collection (the old round spinny music things kids) ranges from Toots & The Mytals to The Fits, from Peggy Lee to The Plasmatics. I was once asked if I was related to Wendy O'Williams that was quite a compliment to be likened to such a striking woman.

NAT- For me, my influences range from The Butthole Surfers to Jacqueline Taïeb. I'm a huge fan of Mudhoney, The Melvins, Sonic Youth, Velvet Underground, Electric Wizard and The Seeds. I also dabble in some world music delights. As a band, to be compared to Babes in Toyland, L7 or the Detroit Cobras would be awesome.

ELLIS- L7, 5678's, X-Ray Spex, Babes in Toyland, The Slits.

I've checked out Band-camp and YouTube – I particularly like your tracks 'Fooling No-one' and 'Dirty Tracks' – what is the subject matter of these two tracks.

CATLOW- I guess I can answer Fooling No One… I hate music that isn't genuine, I think we all do. Fooling No One is basically a shout out to a certain so-called "band" who call themselves punk or whatever, but are far from it. I love all kinds of music, and always support other people who are just going out there and doing their thing, but I met a particularly wanky guy (who thought women should only be allowed on a stage if they look like super models and wear nothing but their bra and pants) and without going into it too much, that's what inspired the song. Yes, wanky.

NAT- Dirty Tracks is a story about a woman who flees her local village to move to the city, resorts to prostitution and ends up killing in order to survive.

SyphiLizz- ha ha ... love how straight up you delivered that Nat, no dressing that story up is there chuck ?

Your releases to date - Where did the band record them? Are they self-released? How have they been received? Are they available as vinyl, CD and downloads?

ELLIS-We recorded our EP 'First Cut' last July with our buddy James Routh (of Sonic Boom Six). It has had a great response, the release led to an interviewed with Sean Mcginty from BBC Introducing and our tunes have been getting regular play on numerous BBC channels since, and 6Music (Garry Bushell) which was more than we expected to be honest. Overall we are very pleased with it, we are looking forward to releasing an album, but we also don't want to rush anything. I WISH our EP was on Vinyl, that's what dreams are made of. You can download it FREE on Bandcamp.com though; but please feel free to donate anything you can.

SyphiLizz-yeah Never dreamt the likes of BBC would pick it up so didn't bother with a "CLEAN" radio edit & it got butchered by the censors edit/bleeps cos we are potty mouthed bitches. So its fully DIY, garage studio ,self-funded, self-released . It all goes back into producing the next CD so dig deep donate anything you can spare -if you are skint you can still download it FREE... that's important to us, we've been there. so go ahead if you are broke and feeling a little down treat yourself to a little moosic on us. But if u got a few quid spare just come see us live and grab a real CD. Hell buy me a whisky and you might even get your mits on the last of our limited edition badges. T-shirts should be ready for rebellion

Some of the reviews on the site suggest the band will be picked up by a big label ? Has much interest if any been expressed from industry or rekkid label people / promoters ?

CATLOW -Who know's what could happen … We're absolutely loving it at the moment and we're starting to play some awesome venues, so it'd be cool to just keep doing that and take it wherever we can.

SyphiLizz - ha ha ... I dunno what you've heard but don't get too excited . Yeah we've had some radio play and well there's been flirtatious interest from various camps but nahhh we've no grand aspirations of being snapped up and booked for stadium tours. We are stoked to announce we will be supporting UK Subs 11 Dec @ The Star & Garter in Manchester. We've done a lot of work with Stu over at STP records (Vice Squad, Dirt Box Disco, Rust, Barb Wire Dolls, Healthy Junkies & loads more) and love gigging with those guys, sadly as you know their home territory the Star & Garter is still facing closure, so (I think?) they will be concentrating on CD distro in the future.

In terms of marketability (and I don't want to come across as patronising here) what do you think the current attitude is towards all-female bands with attitude within music ? Will there be some interesting bands getting wider publicity ?

CATLOW-In my experience it's been mostly positive. Lots of female musicians have stories of being talked to like an idiot by sound guys and having crowds giving them abuse but we've always had a lot of respect from people. You get certain guys who'll just turn up because they hear some girls are playing, but as long as they come to our shows and end up actually enjoying the music,that can only be a good thing I guess. It's not like it's anything new either… although we're often the only princesses at the sausage party, it's not as uncommon as it once was.

SyphiLizz - Ha Ha fuck off Catlow can't believe you just said "princess at the sausage party", i wanna savaloy now ya bitch!

Nat- Male or female or a band of both, for me it's the music that counts and if they sound good then I'm all for it. There's been a lot of amazing and influential all female bands over the years but I don't label these with just gender. There may be expectations, but surely it's all about the music ! I don't go out to create music to speak on behalf of feminism, although I have every respect for the girls making waves in music. I make music to indulge in my personal satisfaction and hopefully bring something unique to the band

Out of interest and sort of on the same subject I got the Savages album last year – thought it was crap – then I saw them play on 'Later with Jools Holland' (who isn't really Dutch but used to be in The Beatles) and was really impressed – what do you link think of them ?

CATLOW-Savages are an awesome band, lots of power and emotion. Over to Nat for this one, I think she's a fan?

NAT- I wasn't familiar, but since this question came up I have taken a trip to the Savages world and found them to be a very melodic band with experimental tendencies. Effective vocals with an emotional punch and with a hint of Siouxsie and the Banshees! I would need to delve more into this band before giving my full opinion, but so far "Husbands" is right up my street ! I did find myself being pulled into the "Adore" and "Shut up" video... very haunting indeed.

How do you weave your politics into your music ? Are any of you active politically ? You don't know Donald Trump by any chance do you ?

CATLOW- There's not a lot of that in our music, yet… But the current climate seems like the perfect breeding ground for some anarchy. This weirdly acceptable right-wing attitude sweeping the country, and a guy who's name means 'fart' potentially becoming the leader of the free world. Perfect time for a revolution.

SyphiLizz-TBH so far the material we've been producing hasn't been that politically motivated. Like "Rats" is simply about the shocking levels of deprivation here in Blackpool, "Punch Drunk " is about twisted obsessions, when you know you love something/someone so hard, so much, it hurts, it's destructive but you still can't stop, "You & Me" is driven by those sick stalker type obsessions, an unrequited love that turns really sour. On reflection now u mention it on the most part anything I write ends up kinda seedy, dark, and depraved...i guess that's just were I've been mentally when I write..

A lot of people like Taylor Swift. She has a massive house and lots of money. I will be recording a cover version of 'Shake it Off' in my tangerine underpants next week. Do you think this is disrespectful of me towards Taylor ? Do you think here is a future for Taylor ? Should Taylor now retire and move to the side and let more interesting bands like The Poly-Esters take over ?

CATLOW- Swifty's alright but she's no Miley Cyrus. I am not ashamed to say that I am madly in love with Miley Cyrus. I think a Poly/Miley collaboration could 100% happen. Did you know she wears dildos on stage now? You don't get that at a Taylor Swift gig.

The Blackpool scene – what are your thoughts about how it is these days ? Are there any new bands we should be aware of ?

NAT-Well we've always had the utmost respect for the Blackpool band scene, it's been around since forever and I'm sure it will continue to thrive, the social connection and the variety of music that exists in this seaside town is unique and dedicated - and it's a true honour to be part of it. Some aren't 'brand' new, but you should check these bands out : Sin Circus, Black Eddy, Du Pig, Daybreaker , Father Stone and The Tirikilatops. Now there is a versatile collection of bands that are amazing live!! Go support your local scene godammit !

Syphi Lizz - ohhh also keep your ear out for Eye The Bomb you can catch them on the Rebellion Introducing Stage Sunday @ 2:45.

What bands are you lot listening to at the moment?

NAT- Mink Deville - Cadillac Walk, Death - For the whole world to see (note - not the death metal band), Curtis Mayfield - Back to the world. Sebadoh - Bakesale, Dwarves - Blood, Guts and pussy, Death Valley Girls, TY Segall and LA witch

ELLIS- Me ? I like Bonobo, nightmares on wax, DJ Shadow, Dj Yoda, dub, reggae, mega chill music. But when we get together its usually L7, sonic youth, x-rayspex. Anything we can have a little dance to really, or head bop.

CATLOW: I love hardcore American stuff, like F-Minus and Circle Jerks, I like bands who play like they mean it. I've also been listening to The Coathangers a lot recently. And Johnny Cash is my homeboy.

Do you like football – do you support follow any football teams ?

CATLOW- I come from a massive football loving scouse family. I've never been that into it but it's been drummed into me since I was a baby that I am a Liverpool fan, and my mum and dad would disown me if I ever said otherwise.

SyphiLizz- No, but I've seen your recent cheeky snapshot of you sporting nothing but you Oyston Out Blackpool footy club scarf Andy , weren't you in India at the time ? rather risque dontcha think lad ? (Qatar during Ramadan …. riskier).

Although you might deny it, I know you have my stolen my old Hohner bass guitar and continue to flaunt this by using at gigs. I identified this forensically by a vintage Erase Today sticker which dates back to the late Victorian era. Do you not think it's time to finally come clean on this ?

SyphiLizz(-Jeeeesus I knew he was gonna bring this up again. Well Andy we've been over this (soooooooooo many times now, he even wrote a 2 page spread in NME attempting to trace the history-seriously guys!!!) While its certain that this bass does have a fine linniage traceable back over many many years , we have indeed ascertained it's been in and out of the pawn shop more often than my grandmothers best china and it's been passed through many fine musicians in this town .... and sadly at some point in the very early 80's it was stolen from you ... but my friend , i legitimatly bagged it for the princely sum of 1/2 Oz of hash 10 years ago off Stormy Weathers (of The Drop Out Wives),and had the good sense to look after her well. I think it's safe to say you can no longer lay claim to her, she's my baby now !

What time and date are you on at Rebellion 2016 ?
What do you think of the festival and is it good for Blackpool and its punk scene ?

CATLOW-We're super excited to be opening up the new outdoor Tower Street Arena on the Thursday at 12 noon. Rebellion is brilliant for Blackpool. Aside from it bringing amazing bands, music, culture, and fans from all over the world … it helps local trade massively. It's so nice to see all the bars and cafes and restaurants full, people enjoying our town. I won't hear a bad word said about Blackpool. It's like someone slagging off your mum.

ELLIS-We are on at 12pm in the outdoor arena. It is a brand new stage that has been custom built for the event, and we will be the first band to play on it ...what an honour!!

Rebellion Festival is by far the best thing that happens to Blackpool, once a year on a usually sunny august weekend the town fills itself with colourful diversity and we unite. I always feel at home with that scene, and we are actually at home so it's a wicked atmosphere! It is good for the Blackpool alternative music scene, the rebellion revellers are always the most polite and the locals always comment on how lovely everyone is that attends the event.

What are the plans for the band going forward?

NAT- We will be in studio soon to record our first album, so keep a look out!!

CATLOW-As I said before, we're just loving what we're doing. Going forward it'd be cool to get out there to new places, crowds and venues. And yeah get working on our album later in the year.

Interview with SIMON WELLS

I was recently working out the chords to the excellent Slide – the opening track to Southport's Southern Soul CD (2014) – as I would love to play a cover on my SMPRS … when I got chatting to Simon on F/B. As a lover of all things Snuff and Southport this musical segueway seemed like an ideal opportunity to set up an interview. I first met Simon when Southport played with The Great St Louis at the Dog and Partridge in Poulton – over a pint of Banks' Flat Cap if my memory serves me correctly … here we go.

BACKGROUND …..

Let's start in the beginning. Where are you from, where did you grow up and when / how did you get into music / punk / the local scene ?

I was born and raised in North West London, in a nasty sink hole estate called Neasden, I loved it, great people amazing shit hole of a place and full of everything life can offer except opportunity and ummmm nice stuff. I was into every type of music, I mean EVERYTHING! But the big eureka moment happened when I bought the eight miles high Husker Du single the day it arrived at rough trade shop Ladbroke Grove, I wore the grooves out on that fuk'r. I just wanted to make punk after that.

My first encounter / knowledge of you was your role in Snuff.
How did that happen ? How long were you with Snuff – what songs did you write ? What's your favourite Snuff album ?
Why did you leave Snuff ?

Duncan Redmonds moved to North West London when he was 18 or so, Andy Crighton was born and raised on the next street to me. Me and Andy had been in bands together for a while, eventually Dunc came and played with us at a rehearsal and immediately there was a chemistry and a couple of Snuff songs popped out immediately.

We recorded the first album Snuff Said about a year later. We all contributed to songs in Snuff originally, and so all our names were on the songs. Often one of us would have a riff or a part and the others would add the rest, we'd write lyrics together etc. and generally just work together. I played on Snuff said, Flibbidydibbidydob, Snuff Reach and contributed a lot of writing stuff on Demamussabebonk.

Duncan sacked me before it was recorded though so I didn't get to play on that record.

Were you involved with Your Mum, GunsnWankers
or Footballers' Wives ?

I was the drummer of Your mum, I also played in Footballers wives, I'm not allowed anywhere near Snuff now though in case I show them how it's really done!

CURRENT ….

Southport have been around for ages. I think the first time I heard about you was when I interviewed Leatherface in Stockport and Frankie had a Southport t-shirt on. So just how long has Southport been going, tell us about the various line-ups / members, why you are called Southport ….. how many releases to date have Southport done ?

Well Southport initially started in a pub with a mate asking me if I'd have a jam with his young nephew who played the drums. We got a rehearsal studio and I made up a few songs for us to play on, and dragged the dude who worked at the rehearsal place in to play bass. After something like three rehearsals we did our first gig and a couple more. I then decided to quit it and record what we had for the young fella on the drums to remember it by. I gave one copy of the recording to a dude called Ian Armstrong who had Greg from Go-Kart records staying with him at the time. Greg liked it and offered us $15k for it this became the first CD 'Nothing is Easy' , so we made a CD and booked a tour. The night before we went on tour the young fella says his girlfriend won't let him go and he's leaving the band, so I rang the Baby Silverskins legend that is Duncan Thompson, he listened to the songs in the car on the way to the first gig and played them perfect, better than ever.

Around 2001 Duncan couldn't do it anymore and I lost touch with Nick Philpin (the bassist), and then one night I was a bit drunk with Declan Kelly and we started the band again now with Lloyd Chambers on bass. This took us through to Armchair Supporters after which Lloyd's job moved from South London up to York so he had to leave the band. Dan Goatham took over on bass and this line up took us through to the Southern Soul LP. Then Dan had a rush of blood to his arse booked a festival tour of Germany that me and Dec kept saying don't book it we'll lose money, the drives are mad, it's not possible but he booked it anyway. so me and Dec said ok ffs we'll do it, but then a few days before the tour Dan said Oh we're going to lose money and the drives are terrible we should cancel. By then it was too late though and we had upset every promoter in Europe (hehehe) so we split up. There was a brief reform two years ago with Skruff Owen on drums and Wesley Wasley on bass which was an amazing line up but sadly no recordings. Wes has played on a Japanese Split EP that has just been released this month.

Gigs – how many do you reckon the band has played ? Tell us about the best ones and have the band toured ?

Well we started gigging 17 years ago in 1999. So I have clue.....ummmmm 2.6 gazillion? Or maybe 39?

What other bands have / are the Southport members involved with?

Wow now you're asking.....um Dec Kelly was Midway Still, Lloyd Chambers was Blocko and Bear Trade, Duncan Thompson, Dogpiss, Baby Silverskins. Dan Goatham, 7 Day Conspiracy and Spoilers, Skruff Owen, Leatherface, Abrasive Wheels and HDQ, Wesley Wasley, Milloy, One Car Pile Up, Consumed, Pot Kettle Black.

The Southport sound and delivery is right up my street. How would you describe it ? What are your main influences and which bands do you tend to be compared / likened to?

I would describe it as Right up your street!!! I just say we were a punk band but some say melodic punk. I think my first biggest influence was the Husker Du records I got as a youth and Black Flag and the Minutemen. Then all the thrash bands Bad Brains, Die Kreuzen, The Nils, Minor Threat etc. etc.

What is your favourite Southport release and why ?

The last album Southern Soul is my favourite as it was the first time we had actually rehearsed and went to a proper recording studio and had the amazing Dan Goudie to produce it. It sounds great and was a joy to make from start to finish.

I am transfixed by Slide as you know – I think it's an amazing song. Where did that melody come from – please tell me a bit about the writing process, the chord structure and the lyrical meaning …

I can't say there's any particular method I have for song writing, sometimes I have a tune on the guitar or piano first or sometimes a vocal melody or a lyric. I've come to learn that if I have a theme for a lyric then that's all I need but it's easier said than done! Most of my songs are very simple basic three chord stuff, I need to know I can still play 'em when I'm completely hammered.....shit happens x

What bands are you and the band listening to at the moment?

I haven't seen the other band members in ages so I have no idea what they listen to, but me personally I'm bang into Neil Diamond, old Soul, new soul, R soul, Carol Hodge (she's sitting beside me right now!!) , Petrol Girls, Wonk Unit (always and forever) Two Sick Monkeys. Oh and all the Snuff releases since I left them, they're a lot better now.

FUTURE …..

Have you ever played in Blackpool or at Rebellion – would you like to ?

No I never have and yes I'd love to but despite everyone ever that I've played with and known being asked I have never been so I guess it won't happen now as I'm not sure the band are going to be playing anymore.

What are the plans for Simon Wells and the band going forward?

I have no plans for Southport, I've been homeless pretty much for a couple of years and although I'm gonna try and settle down South near Brighton, I don't know. I've been working on an acoustic type show and I'm recording an album now. I'm really enjoying making it, it has some Southport songs some Snuff songs and some new songs on it. Carol is playing some piano, Duncan Thompson is playing some drums/ double bass and Duncan Redmonds is gonna do some fiddle on the Snuff songs. My friend Matt Cade is producing it and making it sound amazing.

Anything else you would like to add Simon?

"when eating toast in bed, always maintain the position of the toast over a suitable plate."

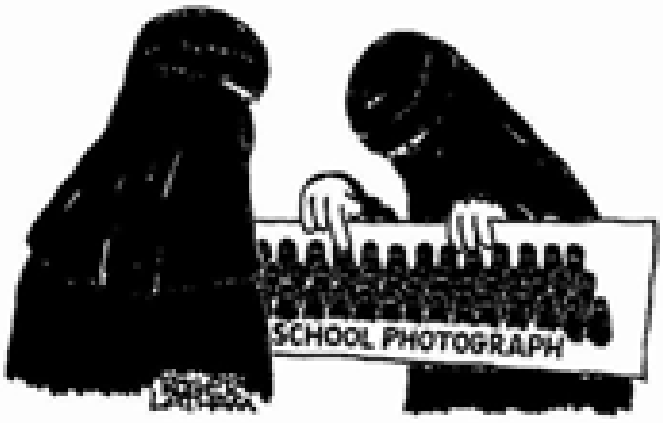
Simon Wells, Aged 49 and a half July 2016 in Wigan.

SARAH IN SAUDI

Being a true sandgrown'un of a certain age, I thought I was well equipped for dealing with a sadistic, masochistic culture. Coping with cat calls and wolf whistles at eight months pregnant on Blackpool promenade, being surrounded by swearing groups of stags in fancy dress when out my then children, taking my mum to what was once a beautiful park to find it full of respectable people hanging out with cans of Stella 10.30 am on a Sunday. What better initiation could I have??

Ha ha, doing a laugh in the face of danger moment, they should try living in Blackpool, far more deadly. My mates, typically in a northern way like to take the piss, well, you'll be on the lash. (all 50 of them!) I laughed along and quipped myself, ha ha don't worry I won't lose my head .

So off I went on my travels. The first thing that struck me once I got to Saudi Arabia is that I was the ONLY woman out in public. The ONLY woman on the aeroplane and in an airport waiting area, the ONLY woman in a sea of approximately 1,500 males. The second thing I noticed, besides the snarls and stares, was that no one stopped to let me pass. No big thing except I do consider myself a bit of a looker (delusional at times I know) and my inner diva was most put out . Why you may ask, was I also surprised that no one offered to help me with my luggage? Naive you might say, but surprised I was nonetheless.



"That's me, there"

Well, the next shock, as already mentioned, I expected men to stand aside, I unwittingly headed towards a doorway at the same time as an elderly gentleman. One would expect a polite "I'm sorry', or perhaps a joke and a laugh or an 'age before beauty' moment.

The old wisened man started waving his walking stick at me and I had to jump to avoid it colliding with my body!! He then stepped forward for a better aim all time waving his long beard and shouting at me in Arabic .

I later found out, identifiable by the long beard and stick that this geezer was actually one of the Muttaha , religious police who look for " haram" (any crimes against religion) and act accordingly. One of my colleagues was actually spat in in the street by Muttaha because she did not have her head covered.

This brings me to what is considered " haram" in Saudi Arabia. Pretty much everything the hedonist culture of Blackpool celebrates in it's wonderful gaudy style Music' Singing' Dancing, Drinking, Gambling, Pre- marriage relationships with opposite sex (never mind the same sex in any capacity)., That includes talking, walking with or even looking at, so much so that it is haram for women to watch male sports i.e. a football or basketball or even a simple tennis match.

A similarity with Saudi and Blackpool (sorry Pool – a bit Rodney Marsh that) is the absence of culture, cinemas, plays, live music, cultural exhibitions are also banned.

Things are particularly bad for women, we are not allowed to drive, to travel without a male relative or drink or eat in any area other than designated 'family' areas or even try clothes on in shops !!!

Imagine a hot day, a Costa Coffee on the promenade and people sat outside drinking in the sunshine. How nice. You go in to order a coffee, thinking you will join the customers sitting outside. You are scowled at, shouted at, pointed to go outside, somebody takes you, clutching your coffee money in hand round the back of the cafe. You are shown an airless, windowless room at the back with a small counter. You are told that is where you can order your coffee and sit and drink it.

Out and out pure discrimination, add to this that my first accommodation in Saudi was in a five star holiday complex with a swimming pool, except that, although men could swim, play and frolic (and frolic they did, homosexuality is rife) the nearest we as females could get to the swimming pool was looking at it, sweating, covered in head to toe with our black abeyas.

I am all for respecting the culture of where I live, Saudi Arabia has a fantastic emphasis on the family and the home and children and my female students are a wonderful group of loving, innocent, kind, gentle girls. And it is not all bad. I live 40 minutes from the hedonistic Bahrain (the Blackpool of the Middle East) packed with nightclubs, bars with live music and no rules. It is accessible by a four lane bridge linking the two countries, the causeway.

My goodness, when it gets to weekend, we, the westerners are crammed into honking taxis, which aggressively cut each other up to gain a small advantage as the traffic is so bad, it can sometimes take two hours for what should be a 30 minute journey .

And why is the traffic so bad ? …surely there can't be so many Westernrs wanting to escape? Indeed some even embrace the Saudi culture and enjoy it !!!

No, you look at the other cars, music blasting out of the stereos, it's Saudi males, every bit as desperate as us to escape their oppressive country!!!!

I first saw Ted Dibiase and the Million Dollar Punk Band play Rebellion 2015 - one of the most original and enjoyable performances of the weekend. I think thats partly because I had no idea who they were or what to expect. Unusual name, quite eccentric on-stage antics which I think was a bit of a parody on wealth accumulation . . . but rather than just surmise I thought it probably better to either confirm or deny these perceptions by asking the band some questions. So here goes - interview conducted via F/B and e-mail with the band persona no less.

How long has the band been going, who are the 3 members, how many gigs have you played and explain the band's name please ?

Mr Shrubsall and Mr Randall have successfully run Ted Dibiase and the Million Dollar Trading company Inc. for a number of years, from the Cayman Islands. We formed the band partly because our own PR company was so dreadful and partly as a way of reducing our tax liability. Who knew condoms were tax deductible ? We grew Salty the drummer in a laboratory from a ball of hair which was blocking the drain at our first Rebellion festival. We keep trying to leave him with strangers at gigs, but he keeps on finding his way back to Kent.

What other bands are / have the members been involved with ?

Other bands? No, dear boy. We do donate considerable funding to the Conservative party, in return for certain information. For example, did you know we've already bought the next 2 elections? Wait and see if I'm wrong.

I checked out your F/B and it would appear that your band is from Kent – tell us about Sittingbourne – is it really the garden of England ?

Kent is one of our many "homes". However, the greenery is mainly due to the quality of the fertiliser in the soil. Who knew dead prostitutes were so full of minerals? Forget baby bio, get some baby mama in your vegetable patch.

I also checked out your band-camp page http://tdmdpb.com/album/ted-dibiase-and-the-million-dollar-punk-band - are 'an audience with' and 'small hands' both releases ? What format, DIY or on a label ?

I don't understand the question and I refuse to acknowledge it. What kind of ghastly little rag is this being published in anyway? Why am I wasting my time on this when I could be snorting cocaine, of the backs of several black concubines?

Your latest release Demmamessybeardybonk is based on the imagery of the Snuff album – why ? …. is there a link with Snuff ? Why the bearded imagery btw ?

That's in the hands of our lawyers. The little shits that put that out never paid us any money. Fuck those guys.

My mate 'Brian the Beard' runs a beard club / community group in Blackpool – would you be interested in joining or having sexual relations in any way ?

Is that a club for closeted gay men to find female companions? If so we're in! we'll invest 50 large, as long as we can make Brian's disappearance look like an accident.

I love Snuff and I expect you guys do too – Sunny Daze is one of my fave tracks. What are your highlights out of the Snuff back catalogue – what is it about Snuff that you like so much ? Why this album in particular instead of instead of the others ?

Snuff? We prefer something stronger, and more South American up our noses.

To help those who haven't heard or seen you guys, how would you describe yourselves, your look, feel and attitude … how would you describe your sound ?

Come to a show, and embrace the excess. Basically all the other bands we play with are shit. They can't help it, they just are. I feel sorry for people like Daz from Rebellion. He spends thousands of pounds on vastly inferior and often American bands, then we turn up and make them look like a bunch of bloody amateurs, which obviously they are.

I enjoyed your stage show last year– snorting coke and smoking cigars – a big piss-take I assume – tell us more why you do this and how this came about – was it something you conceptualised when you started the band ?

Piss take? Look mate, if you don't like cocaine and cigars, then that's your look out. I suppose you don't like champagne, and banging hookers either? Prick!

The legend Jonny Wah Wah was on stage – is he a friend ? If so how come ?

Ah the human Christmas tree that is Jonny wahwah. I remember when On Trial UK opened for us, in some turgid little club in the north of England. I said to him "WahWah, you're not much of a singer, you dress like a mentally retarded homosexual, and your personal hygiene would make a colostomy bag blush, but I like the cut of your jib. You stand up straight, and you acknowledge that your band is a second-rate bunch of Damned wannabees, without any pretence" From that day on we have stayed in contact. Mainly so we know where he is and we can avoid him.

What are your main historical and more recent influences – who would you like to be compared / likened to?

Great leaders in History. Thatcher, Hitler and of course greats of entertainment like Jeremy Clarkson and Jimmy Tarbuck".

Is there a political dimension to your music ? Are any of you active politically ? You don't know any Tories by any chance do you – we hear there are lots in Kent ?

We know all the Tories that matter my friend. You will know them too soon enough.

Is there much a punk scene in Sittingbourne ? What bands have come from there ?

Turgid old shit is what it is. We try and do a little for charity in the local punk scene, we did some work for the less fortunate at www.upthekent.com, but they are all fucking dreadful.

What bands new music are you lot listening to at the moment?

We all like classical music in the limo on our way to gigs. Think Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries. Gets the blood pumping.

Do you like football – do you support follow any football teams ?

We almost bought Tottenham at one point. True story. Turns out it was full of jews. Nasty business.

What time and date are you on at Rebellion 2016 ? What do you think of the festival and do you think it could be better in any way ?

Thursday Arena 16:40. It'll be downhill from there for the festival I'm afraid. My advice would be to just get a day ticket for the Thursday.

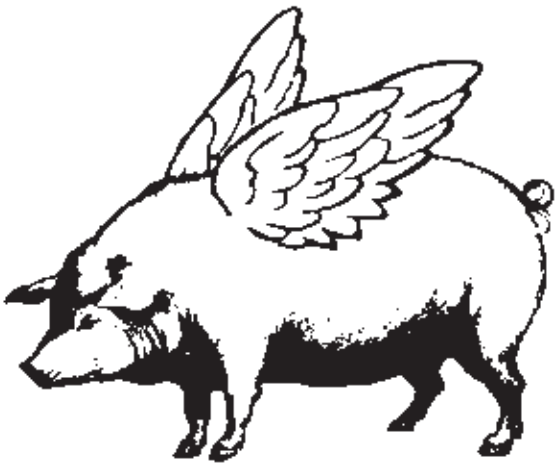
What are the plans for the band going forward?

More Gigs, More Coke, less poor people. Also, we're going to buy Doncaster and shut the fucking place down. Although if you've ever been there you'd have thought the locals are giving it a good go themselves.

Anything else you would like to add?

We'd like to congratulate Theresa May on become the party leader, and for her 3 consecutive General Election victories. She's a wonderful woman, with the silkiest thighs…..

dü pig



Interview with

DU PIG

I have had the good fortune of knowing Sean (Bean) for many years - we have played music together and once almost formed a band. He is a grand dame of music and art on Fylde Coast having played in bands such as Superstring and Chang. He also knows Paul Mcartney very well who (for the record) used to go out with Stellas mum. At Xmas time Du Pig played a gig at Bootleg Social and they did the same thing again a few months later - but with different songs written by Iggy Pops ex-lover. I have to declare that I have also spent some quality time with Matt (he is the drummer who used to be in Metallica - and knows their singer James very well - apparently). Matt used to live at Aunty Sarahs house on Fleetwood Road - he likes beer, girls and cars. They also have a bassist who I havent met yet. I caught up with Bean at a swingers party on a warm summer night when the air was thick with temptation.

How long has Du Pig been going, how many gigs and releases to date?

We've been A Thing since October 2015. There have been only a few gigs because we decided to concentrate on writing and recording before we unleashed the songs live. The first half of our debut album C'Thattul is out right now, from all those unreputable capitalist on-line stores… or, weirdly enough, available with hand-painted sleeves, far cheaper, through our facebook page or at gigs.

What other bands are the members involved with?

Just Du Pig. Is that not enough?

The sound is quite distinctive. If I suggested you're like a mash-up of Nirvana, The Fratellis, The Stereophonics and Radiohead – what would you say to that?

I'd say you were being 50% very-complementary, and 50% offensive.

Aside from Erase Today and The Nolans what are your main influences ?

Prescription pain killers, dirty fuzz bass, and coffee.

I have listened to the album a few times now. It grows on you like a fungus does on a dead body. I love the artwork. I noted from the liner notes that you have a few other grand old dames of the Blackpool music scene involved. Tell us where and when you recorded it. Why you did it ? Did you approach industry leaders like Simon Cowell or is it a self-release ? How has it been received so far? How does the Rox readership get hold of it?

We set ourselves a challenge to record Side A of C'Thattul in one day. It was all recorded by Simon Morgan from The Drifting Classroom, live in our rehearsal space (a converted brick kiln) on a Sunday in February (amid torrential rain and arctic temperatures) then we chucked a live guitar overdub on there, and added the vocals. It was all very straight-forward, really. Tominey, from Superstring & Iota, and Stormy Weathers, from The Drop-out Wives, also popped in and added a couple of vocal lines. It was all self-financed. In fact, we still need to pay Simon for engineering it for us. The cheque's in the post, I guess…

How has the album been received? Usually, we just hand it over…

C'Thattul's available by PM-ing us through the facebook page, or dealing with us in real life at any of our gigs. Batch one, with hand-folded & hand-painted sleeves, sold-out immediately. Batch two is available, also with hand-painted sleeves. Failing that, your readership can get hold of it without having to deal with humanity, by heading over to iTunes, Amazon, Google-play or Spotify...

I like the name Du Pig. One because it supports pigs and two because it has Du in (with an umlaut) – what's the rationale, meaning behind all that sexy and powerful imagery ?

I appreciate that you think there's a rationale behind anything we do but, in reality, if we told you all what it means at this early stage, it would spoil our in-joke.

The Blackpool scene – is it any good these days ? Would it exist without Chopper playing in 17 of its 20 bands ? Is it a good place to cut your punk rock teeth in?

It's definitely a good place to learn how to be self-reliant. The 'scene' always ebbs and flows. It's never stagnant, at least. And Chopper's a lovely chap, he lends me comics. The Blackpool scene is a lot more honest than people think, you can always get realistic & helpful feedback from other bands. We've been in this scene long enough now to not know anyone who's involved in it nowadays. Everybody's dead, man. It's a hell of a town, in many ways. All the punk rockers teeth have rotted away. Fett will do that.

What bands are you and the band listening to at the moment?

You want a list? Mars Volta, Halo Orbit, The Jesus Lizard, Big Sir, Richard Dawson, Father John Misty, Cheap Trick, Rossini. Recently, we seem to have been listening to a lot of Sabs, Deep Purple… all the classics, man.

What do you think about Rebellion?

Do you mean the concept, or the festival? The festival's great, you can display your individuality by wearing combat pants and a black t-shirt… like… every… body… else.

Have you ever kissed a man ?

Are you telling me you don't remember?

What gigs and plans do you have in the near future?

Plenty. Bobby's Burns night is either on the way, or we've played it, depending on when this is published. There's a Rebellion fringe night on August 5th at Cedar Tavern, which we're taking over as a Shit Shirt Night. The more garish, the better. In a sea of black, the brightest and cheesiest shirts will be the punkiest. I dunno - follow us on fakebook & you'll get to stay up to date with every single thing we do.

What is the name of the bassist – what is his favourite colour and does he like Indian food?

His name is Pig 1. Bean is Pig 2 and Matt is Pig 3, from now onwards.

Pig 1 says his favourite colour is blue. He likes Indian food.

Anything else you would like to add?

Pig 1's name is also Matt. But this is all a huge secret. We have nothing to add.

THE EUROS DIARY OF BLACKPOOL ROX

A Drunken Blog of our time in France - June 2016

Ding dong dong do and we are back in the Euro room. Currently listening to Snuff on Apple Music going twixt CDG and Orly.

Bad start - slept in - bad shaving cut - just made last call for flight too .... Good flight , pity I can't access FB otherwise I'd post pictures of the bag of crisps and the sandwich I had.

Only 1 Pool flag was yanked from the walk-in wardrobe from Rox Towers (have u got yours Trimm Trabb btw?) I did find AP's but it's older than the Dead Sea Scrolls carrying the dry aroma of Spain 82 - days of six-packs when we weren't invisible to trout under 40 years of age.

Tweet Tweet My Lovely - (Snuff) what a great album - makes me proud to be an English transvestite, isn't it Gay Pride this weekend ? Say hello to Vendor if you see him think he's coming over with his new friend, Marcus. Traffic jam - WTF - Taffy Phil has been at it in Marseilles apparently- impressive as the gremlin isn't there until tomorrow .... The rest of the Pool lads are catching flies btw. Big Jason from Manchester is with us sporting his ACDC shirt - he's off to the Austria Hungary game, proper old school rivalry - Princep's grandson's mob are turning out 'The Black Hand'. He's from M20 - Phil that is - I told him Hammers used to live there but surprisingly he doesn't know him but he knows Big Cas .... they're all at it

2 Mackems on our bus - nice lads - just educated them about Hooton 3 Car and Leatherface - last time I looked they were both asleep. Think I've got a dose of Enfield narcolepsy - goes the other way .... This bus is a bit smelly. Someone's appled FFS - just what we need - surrounded by crawling lorries at 23 degrees. It's 11:20 according to the red thing blinking at the front of the bus. Is that Blackpool Supporters Trust time or some made up EU convention ? 24 degrees now FFS - where's the thread killer to send a chill down your spine when u need him? Val de Fontenay, AXA building, graffiti they've got it all these sauf service Frenchies.

Watch out for the Oyston Out scarf, DSOL's flag and my lucky tangerine pants. If you bump into Tarps please tell him that I fell in love with him in a different dream and I can't shake off the Midsummer Night spell. Can you all be nice to Mr Dynamism - he's only doing his best.

Anyhow the flock are stirring so I'd better resume my role as carer - not complaining like as I'm just pleased to be involved at my age (43) .... I will drop you fine folk another line later on - I've got a song lined up for YouTube tomorrow's big game v the liberal minded Russians. Rock on x

DAY 2 ...

Great night last night -top pub (Red Lion) drinking w Walsall, Villa, WBA, Geordies and Mackems - all good lads (despite the w-nk the papers print), Almost lost the flag on way into MXXXXXXilles - worried as DSOL's Lancaster Bomber Squad would have killed me.. Boarding the flight from Orly to MXXXXXXilles and we suddenly realised. Muggins had to go back through the gate to the security desk where I spotted the faithful old Brazil bag - a few shakes of the head and knowing glances from v sexy French ladies in uniforms and all was restored to Roxian normality. In the queue we longest legs ever, complete with 7 inch FMS's 'she' must have towered 6 foot 5 inches - fit as however are unfortunate after careful Roxian consideration I pointed out to the younger ones it was 'Gheeser alert' - on reelection and the fact glances were returned (remember I am invisible to women now I'm 42) we all agreed it must be a bloke. Amazing what they can do these days.

A few John the Breadzzzz and we were all in MXXXXXXilles. Staying next door to a pub is both ace and fortuitous - fancy that ? Pool's main boy telephoned whilst en route and mentioned a rendezvous at a themed East Ender's pub called v Queen Vic. I love Barbara Windsor what a great idea I thought but as news came through about the police showing off with their batons and tear gas we thought we'd keep our powder dry until tomorrow.

Watched the game - the French fans were great - loved our rendition of 10 German bombers - loved even more the 'Owen is a rapist' chant.

Well done France - the older wing men charmed a few foxy girls - funny how they laugh when you buy them drinks and explain your tattoos before suddenly turning invisible when conversation turns to counselling their thoughts on 'casual Sex' with older men.

Anyhow all back into bed after too many shots - somebody didn't make it to the bog on time so used Gaz's training shoe - the individual will remain nameless but I can confirm it wasn't me.

Speak tomoz peeps X

Day 3 - Russian paramilitaries and miscommunication

It started well enough. Rox rose at 6am frogmarched the Magnificent 7 young un's into town. It was a brisk 3 mile walk aided by Red Bull and lively banter. A few smudges at a WW1 memorial and we descended on the Old Vic scene of last night's bottle throwing excuse for sensationalist headlines. Blackpool's egg man was there and said it was one lad lobbing a bottle - great opportunity for the Robo-Cops to offload some of that tear gas procured from respectable arms dealers and hygiene corporations like G4 and Monsanto - diversity is the way forward these days. We met with the Toad's firm and about 17 South Shore lads who had driven in 2 motor homes (Pool everywhere ! Every credit). We all trundled up to Barbara Windsors East End theme pub - one of our 7 had his sexy camouflage top on and is a renowned football hooligan - as soon as the 8 foot 6 inch bouncers clocked him (we will just call him Jeff Hurst for the benefit of Billy SMARTY and Halle BERRY if they are doing their job) we weren't getting in. How embarrassing ! The only group not allowed in the pub despite a constant stream of shutters going in and out. I said I know Theo the Foot's rocket-polisher and can get him on his yacht for a proper reach around 7 ball .... Nothing .... I even whispered that I know someone who could tell you a big secret re Peter's whereabouts but the big guy just kept saying 'tooo full, non, non, non'.

Every cloud has a silver lining or linings in fact. We moved on to a different bar down the road which was far better, less crowded with far easier bar access and even bumped into Andy Pilley. A good few years my senior but looking pretty good after his team's rapid ascent up the Leagues. A quick chat and a laugh about Geoff Hurst's top and a sneaky smudge which for some reason is trending on Twitter. AP deftly avoided any chat about BFC which is probably best because I know you'll be reading this Big Un but its probably I don't want to confuse you by mentioning football when you are foci sing all your efforts on Quayle hunting and duck torture .... so I won't.

2 cabs back to The Red Lion for the Albania game and we are back in the room. Helped a young lad set up the outside bar and who suddenly descends like a sexy Michael Hutchence in sunglasses but a sunburned Michael Callaghan fresh from working on Bono's mare's mansion. Bonus.

We were then joined by the Leeds massive - some big lads but we were OK as we had Geoff Hurst and Welsh Phil speaking non-stop at 100 miles per hour to confuse every body. 'Did I tell you I've not slept for 2 days, I'm not Welsh and I've not stopped drinking for 2 days' - yes Phil, about 5 times in the last 15 minutes. Always good to see Andy and the lads, proper fans, disappointed about Cellino but 100% behind us and our sorry plight with what Andy's mate kept describing Karl Il Sung as 'that massive fcuking whopper of a chairman' you lot have.

We awaited various groups headed up luminaries such as young Albert, Pepsi, Eggman and MC to pitch up at v Red Lion but most didn't materialise owing to travel issues and all the stories of trouble in the town w the Ruskies. Tales came through of liberal tear gas usage and lots of skirmishing caused by the Ruskies - you've probably seen it all on TV by now.

We trundled off to the Fan zone for the second half of the Wales game. Never seen one so empty - a total sandy wasteland. Seriously about 250 people in s space that could accommodate 5,000 - a bit like Gloomers 2017/18 in the apocalyptic year clown shoes closes our fine club.

The scouser couldn't help himself and half-inched a few momento plastic beer mugs (that's the lads Xmas presents sorted) hid them in v bushes and hot footed it off to v game.

A XXXXXXed but pleasant guy from Rochdale with 2 sons who are both Blackpool fans spotted the OO scarf and was actually the godfather of Gilksy came for a smudge. He was so elephants he kept returning telling v same story again and again. We had to escape another of his boomerang, Groundhog Day interrogational revisits, Gilks is off to Hearts or Bolton btw.

Off to the ground lots of riot police and a lot of claret on shirts, cuts and bruises on the England fans. Apparently stories of random groups of English getting picked off by humourless, overly-serious 'we are here to hurt you' Russians.

Logistics were crap as ever (unless you were in corporate - obviously) and one group were denied entry and tear-gassed. We marched all v way round v ground to join a claustrophobic confined space funnelled into 3 entrances. Tension rising and tempers frayed as we were being delayed unnecessarily and going to miss the kick off. What a joke. I can speak a bit of French - tried my best w the stewards - no joy. Rox + 2 then hatched a cunning plan. A spare aisle blocked off with 2 grey wheelie bins looked vulnerable- assisted by a couple of volunteers we sneaked down parted the bins and hey ho a floodgate opened - hundreds sauntered through into the big concourse and got into see the game. Blackpool Rox man of the people x

After the game we beat v police cordon and got back to v Red Lion - it was rammed. A lot were dragooned to the Ild Vic area and got stuck in v port area. All the bars were closed, the taxis wouldn't pick people up. Nasty incident of a motorbikes rider showing off and hitting a bollard, bike in 2 pieces, passenger ok but rider suspected dead ? England fans isolated milling around amongst locals amidst a heavy atmosphere.

Young Pool lads traipsed back and bedraggled to the Red Lion - some caught up in the trouble were a bit traumatised. Rox gave the boys a pep talk about sticking to our knitting (drinking and having a laugh) and all will be fine.

Anyhow off to bed - see you all tomorrow peeps x

Day 4

Breakfasted in The Greenwich on the sea front - as we are in France I had a banana split and coffee - the food of kings. I would have taken a picture of my food, circulated it on Facebook and possibly tattooed it on my forehead but I had an option of nailing my chocolates to the wooden decking of The Greenwich - and as that was more beneficial to humankind that's the option I went for.

We watched the Croatia v Turkey game in v Fanzone. Far busier today but still only one quarter full. I hope whoever guesstimated attendances doesn't put on gigs for a living. UEFA don't half rinse you on the beer and insist on this crap token system. We also discovered that the beer in the ground is 0.5% proof FFS - I thought we were more sober on leaving the ground after 5 pints than when we entered it - remarkable UEFA, who do I vote for ? These XXXXXXs would take caffeine out of coffee sell it back to us and if discovered blame the English thugs - a bit like that pr1ck of an in-house solicitor the Oystons have just employed would do - yes you, you kn0bhead if you are reading it.

All stripped down to boxers / shorts and dived into sea. Beautiful sandy beach with great vista and attractive ladies - almost rivals the Gold Coast. We all walked about half a mile barefoot - that hurt - but good endurance training for reading some of the crap people are posting on here.

Back in HQ (Red Lion) to watch v Northern Ireland game - shame they lost and the Polish goal went through Cathcart's legs. After 15 minutes drying out w a Guinness and crisps, a rather strange thing happened. I always find this a quirky thing but for some aesthetic reason I get singled out as being a bit of a skinhead (I do have short hair and I is white) with potential right-wing sympathies (why ??) when as you all know I'm little more than an Izzard sympathiser (a lesbian inside a man's body) and politically nothing is further from the truth. Anyhow we were befriended by 2 Neo-nazi, Blood and Honour types. They were Finnish skinheads and amazed by our working knowledge of Skrewdriver. Next minute they were buying shots for v English and recounting tales of a day out sieg-heiling and antagonising people at various locations in Southern France. I did explain that I am a lefty pinko and regularly lead a revolutionary charge at Tory corner in The Thatched but as I knew Ian Stuart Donaldson's back catalogue my leftist tendencies did not matter one iota. In fact I think they liked me even more and bought us more shots. Things got even quirkier when the lovely blonde barmaid (Sylvia) who had been serving us for a couple of days started showing off her right wing credentials. She announced that she is a proud Bulgarian with a Skrewdriver tattoo on her neck. FFS she and her boyfriend (doh!) even come across to Blighty for an Ian Stuart Donaldson reunion every November. It's a strange, curiously cultish phenomenon all this Skrewdriver adulation. We get a strain of it at Rebellion when SDE gets hoodwinked into booking some dodgy bands. I hate the politics but I find it hard to hate people (apart from Jamiroquai) and I think a lot of them like the fashion, music and look more than the ideology. Hopefully I won't be outed as a nazi sympathiser. It's an odd world at times and for want of a better cliche I guess it takes all sorts.

The beer continued to flow and the bar got quite animated as more English and Germans came for a few libations. All friendly and good natured. A social thankyou to Lord Forte for the text message - all will be explained in the fullness of time..... Off to bed now peeps - Big Foot's hatch awaits the Blackpool massive - see you in Monaco !

Day 5

Bit of a quieter day yesterday. We left quaint little MXXXXXXilles and caught the train across to Monaco. Button and Hamilton had been texting saying we just had to come over so we did.

Met some England fans at the train station who were so traumatised and ticked off that they were heading home. They had tickets and accommodation but were going to watch it from home. What a shame, I felt sorry for them. They showed us some footage they had taken of when it first kicked of with the ex-NKVD. It was from the Saturday afternoon and I recognised all the flags and where it was shot straight away - right outside the Hard Rock where watched the Australia v England rugby game a couple of hours earlier. They also had a picture of a small ginnel off the square piled high with chairs - apparently the Pravda boys had spent a while collecting chairs from all the restaurants and stockpiled them ready for the big onslaught.

0n the train (as seats were spXXXXXX) we sat / leaned where we could. Got talking to a top lad from Scunny and his mate from Leeds (loads of Leeds lads here btw). The Leeds bloke hadn't missed a Leeds home game since 1972 did the Armfield final in 74 and has hardly ever missed an England game (home or away) unless it conflicted with Leeds ... he chose the LUFC Japan tour in 2002 rather than the World Cup. Great record ! He has also done most of the 92, most Scottish grounds and German grounds - thought I'd done a few but this lad was a proper Marco Polo.

Heard some great tales about Ken Bates, Cellino, their campaign against Ridsdale (which worked) and lots of England away stories.

Got into Monaco (Monte Carlo to be precise). Snaffled a great ringside table at the Monaco Brasserie (right beside all the UEFA and Labour Party yachts) for the ROI v Sverige game. The beer, food and banter flowed so much so we stayed for Italy. 2 sweepstakes on the result and the goal times - Milky Mark had 2-0 and Gaz the goal- time.

A few more bars. A few more ciders and assorted England fans (Lincoln, United, Exeter and Leeds). The Leeds lad is coming over with a load of old boys for a Hacketts reunion in Blackpool in August. 20 years ago they used to use that as their weekend HQ for getting off their canisters and arranging rave parties. Really good chat about the drugs trade and Blackpool's role in it - interesting info for Nr Mili's much awaited time on the subject.

We are off to Paris tomorrow to meet up with some more Pool lads. We will be Fan zone from mid afternoon hopefully (don't tell ISIS though - as we've already bought Wales tickets). We follow the online news as best we can but the first hand reports are interesting. We all hate the tabloid reporters and UEFA who really seem to have a fetish of demonising us. We hear lots of reports / rumours of England fans either dead or critical and 10 badly injured. We also heard 2 English charged and convicted but no Russians FFS !

Also heard the FSF had commented (or one of their team) that it was England fans looking for trouble. If what I have seen on people's phones happened in Blackpool there would be afraid charges, dawn raids and TV/newspaper coverage in abundance.

The English disease ? - the authorities stereotyping disease more like. I also believe Putin's henchmen (even the ambassador ?) are glorying in the violence. What a bunch of d1cks, get your top off Putin and do some bareback horse riding - what a tool. Lots of rumours about what's going to happen in Lille. Aside from MXXXXXXilles in 98 there had been nothing like this at a World Cup since Italia 90. I remember the police then tear gassing at the drop of a hat and wading in with their night sticks at the first opportunity. You all really should listen to 'Securicor' by Crass 'I'm a private in a private army'. It got so bad in 90 that any reporters who were fermenting trouble were given short shrift or worse. I remember seeing one camera crew get all their equipment smashed up during the riot prior to the Ireland game. They were in tears and in fear of their lives - I remember stopping a few lads from turning over their broadcast van too, so it

could have been a lot worse - a lot of vehicles ended up upside down that day. Reminds me of stories of a police car at Oxford v Blackpool in the FA Cup. I wasn't there as I was revising for the baccalaureate or something but I know someone who was .... PETER ! Yes PETER was definitely there .... has anyone seen him lately ?

Anyhow breakfast and the road to Nice calls - take care peeps and as Billy Bragg sung 'remember there's 2 sides to every story' .... In fact there's far more than 2 but 2 is good enough for starters

Day 6

Brekkie on v harbour and cab to Nice and we're on our way to Paris. No sign of Jensen, Lewis or the rest of the Grand Prix crew though - just as well coz they don't get our humour really.

Funnily enough the Leeds fan I referred to yesterday was in Brazil 2014 and schlepped up from Rio for a few days to an exclusive resort. He was in a nightclub with Dave from Scunny when Leonardo Di Caprio waltzed in with about 50 supermodels ! They were the girls or something. Having no idea who LDC was he turned to his mate and said 'who the fcuck is that flash XXXXXX ?'

Flight delay was more than over-compensated for, when I received word from Nicola at the FSF to let me know I was one of 3 nominated candidates for 2 FSF board member seats. If elected that can't do our cause any harm. More details to follow re dates, candidate profiles etc I think my ticket should be crisis clubs and the ineffectuality of governance procedures against poor / bad owners that don't cherish and nurture the precious asset that a local football club is .... Leeds, Charlton, NUFC at the moment but with all the money in football more are likely to follow. The 3 bears were all snoring around me so I celebrated this little bit of good news with a little bottle of Easyjet red wine (Syrah - Eschenauer 2014) and only 6€ ! Ding Dong Do !

To be honest I'm feeling a bit ropey after 5 days on the sauce. Everything's getting a bit loose - more fibre required. Captain just announced we are in Orly in 15 minutes. Very well spoken young guy, English too, reminds me of Vendor apart from him being old and half-Scottish - he will keep insisting on swimming past the pyramids that lad. Anyhow will have to wake the Bears and get them ready for Paris .... See you later folks ...

Day 5,6 or 7

I am losing track DavPick - hope you and your good lady are tending that garden and keeping the neighbourhood respectable.

Staying by the Moulin Rouge - OO la la - unfortunately it's full of drugs and brass around here so we'll be getting ourselves off to the FanZone I imagine.

Iceland did well I thought - well done sons (did ALL their surnames end in son ?).

Missing my guitar, hope I'm back in time to film SMPRS 7. If you have any requests do let me know. Someone asked for The Sound of Silence - think there might be some irony in there.

Weather was a bit poor last night. Pelted it down in Gay Paris - good job I packed sensibly unlike the others. The three ears ? Oh yes they are all fine - either drunk or asleep I imagine. Encouraging them to do an open top bus tour today - so good luck with that Rox ! Brings back memories of 3 slightly larger bears on amount Fuji.

Looks we might have travel arrangements for Lens nailed if Carlos delivers on his promise. Best avoiding the trains - a driver there and back is the best bet.

Should be fun in Lille today - love West Stand's post about pre-booking a quiet mid week break for him and the missus there - I checked on booking.com for you Westy lad, tell your missus everything in Raqqa has gone now (Ramadan) so it'll have to be Lille - let us know how you get on ?

Anyhow - must dash got a championship to win

Day 7

Yesterday was a great day. Awake early to sort out ones social media duties. Staying in a top hotel for a couple of days so I took full advantage of the facilities. Had a nice pre-match bath listening to one of my fave bands - Guns n Wnkers - they were an offshoot of Snuff and only released a few tracks. Not an Apple Music but you can get them on YouTube - check out this one Sunstroke of their 'For Dancing and Listening' EP - https://m.youtube.com/watch?list=RDEMe_gwQdUO0c5iDpD7aY5Hww¶ms=OAFIAVgE&v=POKk6XgySPc&mode=NORMAL I'm proud to say we put them on in Blackpool circa 93 with Erase Today at the old Tache. They were amazing.

We firmed up in reception and set off. We are right next door to the Louvre so we checked out v pyramids and latest installation - not quite the Grundy but pretty impressive nonetheless.

Walked by the Seine in the direction of the Eiffel tower. Had a chocolate brownie, chocolate doughnut and can of coke to celebrate life. Thoroughly searched going into Fanzone which spans quite a big area with a few streets cordoned off. A few beers watching Slovakia beat the Ruskies 2-1 win.

Highlight was the crowd kicking and heading a couple of balls around. It was great fun until one lad cut his head open and the police stepped in to stop it. Don't know how he did it but there was plenty of claret - nothing scopula of staples won't sort. When the ball came our way Ross Duckworth volleyed it and knocked a pint out of my hand 50% of which went all over my jacket. Couldn't resist it so an Andy Higgins header splashed my next pint all over my t-shirt and jeans - soaking in Carlsberg . A perfect excuse to to strip off to expose my man-boobs and Dead Kennedys tattoo □ .

Chatted with a couple of Leeds lads from Temple Newsham and a few scousers selling Slivakia tickets. After game 1 we joined the young South Shore massive by the 4G 5 a side pitch to watch the Rumania game from the stand - the game was nothing to get excited about really.

Couldn't help noticing that the 5 a side pitch was being bossed by about 30 French (mainly North Africans) who wouldn't let anyone else get a game. After some persuasive intervention three teams got involved - a group from Northern Ireland some chirpy XXXXXXneys (who reckoned northerners are only good at rugby) and us lot.

The football was pretty good but negotiating who was playing/staying on with the French and the XXXXXXneys was harder than any business dealings I've ever had. It was between us and the North Africans to play the Irish. They even threatened to take the ball if they didn't get to play first. Security (in the shape of this massive dreadlocked guy who thought he was Jack the Fcucking Lad) marched on to try and sort it out. We lost the coin toss. It was like they'd won the World Cup, jumping and dancing and sticking their tongues out.

The Irish beat them. It was hard work getting them off the pitch - like herding cats. We grabbed Niall and Hayesy, Gaz in goals with me, Sam and our Joe. The Irish had a couple of tricky lads to be fair and went 1 up. Our Joe equalised 1-1 and the ref blew up early so it was a penalty shoot out. I've never seen as much arguing in my life. Gaz saved the first one then the keeper saved from our Joe. The Irish scored and went crazy, fcuk me it's just a game of 5 a side. I slotted the next in the top right to equalise then it all kicked off again - nightmare. The XXXXXXneys and the French were bang at it so we shook on a draw with the Irish. WHUSC might be pleased to know I came through it ok - first game of 5 a side since July 2015 .... did I ever mention he broke my ankle in a pub in Lancaster at the pre-season Pool game ? Thought I might have ....

A few more ales, emails and texts in the build up to the France v Albania game. The 5 a side became a bit of a free for all. It was South Shore versus the Rest of the World for a bit. We beat them pretty easily. It reminded of when we had a kick around in the Fanzone at the World Cup in Brazil. All of our lot were miles better than allthe locals - all this stuff about the Brazilians and the way they play the beautiful game, that journos and pundits (who've probably never kicked a ball - a bit like that kn0bhead chairman of ours) wax lyrical and jodrell over is a load of shoite. I'm no Barry Bannan but they were even applauding me doing all around the worlds and catching on my shoulders (well it worked once out of 5 attempts - heh heh).

We exited at HT as we wanted to get back to see our mate Carlos who was sorting out transport for the Wales game. We've got a driver who is hopefully collecting us at 9.00 driving 2 hours to Lille (breakfast) and then in to Lens and the big game. I hope we beat them and there's no more trouble. The fixture reminds me of Scotland in Euro 96. I couldn't see the Jocks beating us then and I can't see Taffy B0llocks beating us now - despite what Jamesy's dad reckons.

Anyhow it's 7.00am here time to get moving and wake the 3 bears. Hope all you AVFTT'ers have a good day wherever you are watching the game.

Expecting over 100 Pool today in Lens ..... some big hitters like Deano BOOM BOOM Taylor, George the General and Geoff DANNY DYER Hurst (that helicopter is for me you know) swelling the ranks so it should be entertaining. Let's just hope we get the result.

This blog was brought to you courtesy of Carlsberg, Macdonalds and Adidas-thanks for reading - in the Fanzone the sponsors reign supreme and there are NOT any alternatives - please exit by the gift shop ! COYE - UTP - OO !

Day 8 - Final Day of First Leg

It's been emotional and hilarious. The group I have been with, some for the first time, have been top drawer. Funny, quick-witted and 'don't give a fcuk mental' each and everyone of them - there is great hope and optimism for BFC away trips going forward.

Sat in my adopted early morning HQ- Coffee Shop surrounded by talkative Parisiens all focused on their early morning shot as they studiously scribble their lottery slips (FFJ - PARIONS) as the 3 bears slumber ..... it's my last blog for the time being. I hope you've enjoyed reading it as much as I've enjoyed writing it - sometimes I've been pssing myself as I recollect the previous day's activities. Anyhow here goes.

Like all previous 7 yesterday was great but doubly great after Sturridges extra time winner. Top of the group, the TBs put to the sword and finally an excuse to get elephants trunk.

Nadia (non cherie) collected us at 8.00am - a tough, no nonsense Parisian taxi driver and professional smoker whose English was worse than my pigeon-French. Joined the Bears in a 2 hour sleep until we hit a wet Lens. First crisis wears that we had left our novelty flashing Eiffel Towers (a new addition to the Saturday Morning Punk Rock Show) in with the flag so we had to get her to come back as the police would not let us take them in the ground. She was only 2 minutes away but it took almost 30 for her to dump the car and walk round as their was a 'suspect package' on a coach and the police has blocked off the road FFS. I said it's probably someone's packed lunch (the lunch-pack of Notre Dame humour was lost on Officer Friendly).

Anyhow minus the 2 flashing Eiffels we trundled into our second obstacle. No beer past here said Officer Friendly 2 - no idea why as it was all plastic glassed up. One of the cops was fascinated by my Stone Island jacket for some reason ?

Into the town and there's a few flags up, crowds building round the pubs and the rain is abating. Flag up, interest generated, beer purchased and footballs flying around and the fun began.

Quick interview with a journalist from French footy monthly So Foot Nicolas. jucha@sofoot.com . At first we were wary as all he wanted to talk about was hooliganism. He had interviewed lots of Russians after Saturday's events in MXXXXXXilles and the conversation got interesting. He described So Foot as like 'When Saturday Comes' and it focuses on football culture to narrate stories about society. He was fascinated by the BFC / Oyston story and wants to come over to meet us + LUFC + CAFC + NUFC to learn more about how Wnkers like Douch-Le-bag and Joffrey are so damaging to our local communities. Let's see what happens - I've mailed him.

I also got chatting to some Chariton boys Matt and Dick who had a Roland Out flag. Interesting to hear about their current and previous struggles. Getting their ground back, in their opinion, was largely down to spontaneous activities by groups of young lads. They reckon their Trust got too close to the new regime and a few of them now work for the club so they focus their energies on backing the efforts of independent group CARD (Charlton Against Roland Douchulet).

In any struggle there is always a danger of getting too close to your oppressors. Big words for a minor football struggle some might say but power operates in the same way at all levels. In Trades Unions, International Politics, Political Parties and institutions like Football Clubs .... particularly in times of crisis as we are. Power welcomes collaborators, it's almost like a sentient spectre that protects itself by any means necessary- it also then uses this fresh blood to justify itself and extend its life. To rid yourself or your social group of the disease with which power infects often unfortunately drastic surgery is required otherwise it will linger like a spiritual cancer. Stay independent, stay open and accountable, no quarter to those cnuts who are rinsing our fellow fans of money, jobs and wellbeing. In fact fcuk them and their quislings, as they have no place in the fair society we yearn for .

Flag packed, beer guzzled and off to the ground. Massive queues. Smallest ground with a poor infrastructure for one of the most over-subscribed games of the tournament. No shortage of corporate signs though - don't UEFA just get it so right ? They are always on target like the old Gheeser who has the fit wife because he uses the right shaving gel.

As we jostled through the throng we bumped into a jubilant crowd swarming around Chris Kamara . Our Joe got a great selfie with the man himself - quality. He disappeared to a rousing chorus of 'there's only one Lionel Richie' looking back laughing as ever mouthing 'fcuk off' to his devotees.

Game was ace in the end - will leave the match reviews to BRR2 and those who watched TV as they will probably have a better perspective. All I will say is Hart has concede 2 weakfish goals, still rate the lad but he seems a bit too over-excited and too little composed for me. Great double sub saved Woy his job and bagged a brace so thanks for that but the old saying 'strikers win games but defenders win tournaments' is my best contribution to the England debate at this stage.

On the way back we bumped into Jack Whitehall. His trout started pulling her face as we got a few selfies -'it's not you she's just tired' he declared .... I winked back, power relations at it again. You bring in the dough but they make decisions for you - same as it ever was and ever will be in the human animal kingdom.

Back into Paris for the Germany Poland game - Milik FFS ! Met up with the rest of our group who had been in the fans park - they had a drunken, wet and eventful day. Good chats in the Moulin Rouge area with ROI and NI boys and Belgians who follow England. The singer of the pub band had everyone up for 'Wonderwall' - he had an OO scarf on, hope someone got a pic. Highlight of the night was our Joe side-swiping England's number one hooligan and putting the slinky dancer on his backside. I was at the toilet but am told it was hilarious.

Anyhow it's 8.30 here, airport cab arrives in an hour or so. Will doubtless see some of the AVFTT faithful at The Etihad tomorrow. Thanks for bothering to read and bump ..... It's been emotional

encounter with

COLLEEN CAFFEINE - CHOKING SUSAN

I encountered Colleen and her band at Diggers Rebellion pre-shows 2014 / 2015 in The Tache in Blackpool. Certainly an entertaining band to watch - I think Colleen held up the GABBA GABBA HEY for Sedated a band from Forest Hills / Forest Gate (Blackpool) last year. I kept seeing lots of Colleens pictures popping up on social media and with news the release of her book and a re-visit to Rebellion and an impending appearance on the literary stage I thought its about time we did an interview to get more informed about the Detroit band...

Let's start in the beginning. You guys were formed in Detroit in 1999. Did you all grow up in the Motor City – a city with a great musical heritage ?

Hiya and thanks for talking with me! Yes we all grew up in the motor city and have yet to escape from it. I think our filthy surroundings help us bring a desperate punch to our punk.

Tell us about your upbringing and when / how did you all get into music / punk ?

All of us have been lovers of that fine punk genre since we were youths. To us it was the only thing that reached deep down into our bowels and made us feel and made us react. Before punk,it was like we were all constipated.

I have never been to Detroit – what was / is the local scene like in the city (bands, venues, zines) ?

The scene could be incredible. It could be tight, supportive, creative and thriving. It could be friendly and encouraging. It could be because we are so rich in talent... but alas ….

Please tell us about the various line-ups / members and why you are called Choking Susan ….. how many releases to date have the band done so far – are these DIY releases on an established label ?

We've gone thru members like a junkie goes thru dirty needles . One of our ex band mates named us from a cheesy 70's porno that none of us have seen . We've been lucky enough to have two CDs put out by the fine people of STP records out in Manchester England and have 6 other DIY's that we released ,our latest being recorded now and will be ready in time for Rebellion called" I Hate My Life".

I came across a quote when you said 'we've kept ourselves raw and inspiring' – how do you believe you have managed to do this ?

By not being successful..

Has the music changed / developed over the 15 years you've been together ?

I don't think it has actually and I feel that's a good thing. I'm not much into bands changing their sound and experimenting with something that may be more popular because it can take away from the real and the raw. I prefer live music

and CDs to polished ones, blemishes and all unless of course one is searching for commercial success but i don't think anyone gets into a punk band thinking they are going to get wealthy. That's not the point

Skulls – '…… does punk rock pay the bills ?

No it doesn't but it does keep therapy bills at bay having this sort of an outlet' –

The band seems to have done quite a lot of touring. Tell us about the best tours / gigs...

The best tours and gigs are when people show up to see us and when we can find food and have a bed to sleep on at the end of the night that I don't wake from the next morning pregnant.

Do you guys have paid employment outside the band –yes we all have day jobs... how do you manage the money / costs and the demands of touring ?

You are flirting with me aren't you.. (not really no ?)

Does the band share song-writing duties ?

The band collaborates on the music. I write all the lyrics. The subject matters seem to vary quite a lot –

Enlighten us as to your process and the lyrical content / meaning ?

Most of my lyrics are true stories so the songs pretty much write themselves. I just try to make what happens in real life rhyme.

The Choking Susan sound is quite unique - how would you describe it ?

Punk, the only way we know how to do it...

What are your main influences and which bands do you tend to be compared / likened to?

I'm a total Ramone freak and have been forever. The rest of the bands influences vary from Slayer to Beethoven . Maybe that's why we sound unique.

What bands / artists are you and the band listening to at the moment?

We just listen to ourselves.

You have quite a powerful social media presence – how much of your time does this take ?

I never thought about it. I guess I'm like most people with a phone always in my hand.

.. Some of your posts get hundreds of likes on Facebook what is your motivation to do all this ?

I'm lucky and feel grateful when someone takes a moment out of their lives to interact with me and share some of their life experiences with mine..

You also play in other bands, playing bass in one called The Whoremones – is this a Ramones covers band ? … how long has that been going ?

Yes it is.. ….an all-girl Ramone cover band that's been around for about 3 years with revolving members..

Who is in the band ? Currently we are replacing a drummer ..

Jessie Ramone is singing,Roxy Ramone is on guitar and me,CeeCee Ramone on bass..

Adventures in Cuntopia – life of a punk-rock prom-queen. I haven't got a copy yet as Amazon.co.uk are wringing people dry for £25.00 a copy …… I'm looking forward to the interview on the literary stage at Rebellion this summer. Why did you choose the title ?

I feel like life is an adventure .. mine just happened to be in a ridiculous place called Cuntopia..Sorry about the price. I'd give it away free if I could.

What inspired you to write the book and how did you get on with Ellora's Cave Publishing ?

Many crazy life experiences needed to be released. I wanted to make people laugh,smile and cry and connect..

I've seen you play a fair few times - how many times have you played in Blackpool at Rebellion?

This is our tenth year and we couldn't be happier or more excited to be there.

What are the plans for Colleen and the Choking Susan going forward?

We are hoping to not die soon

Anything else you would like to add ?

Yes, thank you anyone for reading this, that or anything else, for watching, listening or talking, thank you for thinking and for being thought of, thank you.

MUSIC REVIEWS

The reviews section has a slightly different format to normal for issue 11. Owing to us (well me) being short on time (owing to working three jobs, defending Gods club against the Evil Empire, indulging myself with the SMPRS imprint and taking up heavy drinking again) this time around the responsibility for reviews comes under the very capable Steve Scanner. If some of you dont know your punk rock eggs as well as you should my mate Steve Scanner does his own reviews as part of his web-based scanner fanzine (which is now based in New Zealand and started life in a hail of phlegm, defiance and attitude as an A5 print zine back in the Summer of 1998 - back in Ipswich, England). I first got to know Steve after sending him our justsaynotogovernmentmusic releases such as Four Letter Word, Z28, Erase Today, Travis Cut which he seemed to like. Nowadays (almost 20 years later) hes still going strong and his zine and Hey Suburbia podcasts are available on www.scannerzine.com/apps/podcast/ - please check them out . . . the latest one number 49 includes GOVERNMENT ISSUE - ROUGH KIDS - NERVOSAS - SUPER FAST GIRLIE SHOW - CULTURE SHOCK - THE RUTS - SWIZ - GRIPPER - HALO OF FLIES - GAS HUFFER - GAUNT - COWS - MUNCIE GIRLS - MISCHIEF BREW - STEAKKNIFE - PURE HELL - BAD COP/ BAD COP - BASEMENT BENDERS - MAD PARADE - CAREER SUICIDE and is a great mix of music from all the genres under the broad church that is the eclectic and elusive beast - we have named and refer to loving as punk rock. Or as Tipper Gore once said the Punk Rock - how sweet.

CULTURE SHOCK - Attention Span {Bluurg/ Alternative Tentacles} Well - this is a turn-up! I never thought I'd see another CULTURE SHOCK album; least of all because when I interviewed vocalist Dick Lucas back in 1998 I asked him about a CS reunion and he replied there was no chance as guitarist Nige passed away in 1993. So, in his place comes CITIZEN FISH guitarist Alex and we have ten new tracks - the band's first new output in 25 years. So - how is it? Have to say, on first play, it was more like a simple CITIZEN FISH album with more dub. Successive plays saw each track take a life of its own be it opener 'Visibility', closer 'Sky High' that could be the highlight and comes on like the original PiL, the up-tempo groove of 'Start At The Back' or the dub-groove of 'Someone Has To Pay'. Then there's 'Mindwash' with its guitar histrionics, 'Things To Do', 'Private Revolution'... Yeah - another great album from Dick Lucas and Co and of course it's laden with Dick's clever-witty, political view. Is it on par with 'Onwards And Upwards' or 'Go Wild'? I've lived with those albums for over 25 years so it's not really a fair question, but any of those tracks listed stand up to the old material and the closing line of 'Things To Do' is as potent as anything Lucas has written yet: "And when there's no need for it - we'll take the politics out of music." Do I need to say more? Pretty much an essential purchase for 2016. (28.06.16)

DWARVES - Are Younger And Even Better Looking {Recess/ Greedy} Of all the DWARVES albums, this one from 1997 stands as my favourite. That's no doubt aided by the fact I saw the band do a blitzkrieg set at Camden Dingwalls on the tour to promote this but fact is, there is some brutal, rocking DWARVES classics here be it opener 'Unrepentant', the bruising 'We Must Have Blood', the pop groove of 'Everybodies Girl' or the slow burning, antagonistic 'You Gotta Burn'. Every track is a slice of prime-time DWARVES greatness and I ain't even mentioned the hedonistic nihilism of 'I Will Deny' or the insanely addictive 'One Time Only'. Sure, 'Blood, Guts And Pussy' might be more in your face, but this is a better album. Not only that, but this is an expanded version including a raging live radio set from 1997 that features the album's best bits along with 'Drug Store', 'Smack City' and the lurid, relentless 'Fuck 'em All'. There are also another 10 studio tracks including a couple of alternate mixes of album tracks and additional goodies like the Rock 'n' Roll groove of 'The Wicked' and another grinding DWARVES classic in 'Haunt Me'. It's a double album, pressed on blue vinyl and the only negative is the actual packaging. Sure it's in a lovely gatefold sleeve laden with bare breasts, but there's no lyric sheet (unlike the original), no suggestion of where or when the radio show was recorded (bar 1997) and no suggestion where the additional studio tracks have been taken from. That could be seen as a minor quibble, but I kinda feel re-issues should have all that additional info to make it a complete package. Anyway - the music fucking rips - nuff said! (24.06.16)

EXTERNAL MENACE - Off The Rails (Violated} Live recording of this underrated Scottish band, taken from what was possibly the band's last ever gig at the Rebellion Festival, Blackpool 2015. You get ten tracks that fly by in a matter of 21 minutes, fusing UK SUBS and SATANS RATS 70s UK style Punk with more brutal early 80s Punk a'la PARTISANS 'Time Was Right' era and even a few DISCHARGE-ian guitar bursts. Highlights? 'No Uniform' that highlights those DISCHARGE guitar bursts, 'No Views' that's a quirky 70s-esque Punk blast and 'Political Poverty' that's a bruising take on the band's late 70s demo track while closer 'Someday' includes a guest vocal slot from VIOLENT SOCIETY's Pat Society. It's 'Shoot To Kill' that takes disc highlight though with some great guitar lines and pointed anti-drug message. As live albums go, it's a decent document of a band that deserves more attention but, given the duration of the disc, it seems a bit odd that Violated has chosen to seemingly chop some of the in between song banter; noticeable cuts can be heard - especially during the earlier half of the disc. Old fans need this, newer fans should find this a good starter for ten. (21.06.16)

Fat Music Vol.8: Going Nowhere Fat {Fat Wreck} Latest Fat Wreck sampler consisting of 25 tracks from the label's current roster of bands. If you're a fan of the label, there's plenty here to please, be it the BANNER PILOT opener through TOY GUITAR, LEFTOVER CRACK, GOOD RIDDANCE, SNUFF, MORNING GLORY, CJ RAMONE and NIGHT BIRDS. There's some great unreleased/ rare goodies too, in particular SWINGIN' UTTERS and WESTERN ADDICTION unreleased tracks, and PEARS and NOFX rarities. Of course there are tracks that blow too - MASKED INTRUDERS vomit-inducing, cliched blandness, ME FIRST AND THE GIMME A BREAK, STRUNG OUT's pseudo-metal bluster, MAD CADDIES limp Ska and, oddly, a let down from LAGWAGON with a track from the 'Hang' album that sounded a lot like Black Sabbath! The good stuff certainly wins out though and there's a neat fold out insert with track details on too. A good starting point if you're new to this Punk thang and Fat Wreck only means NOFX (or worse, ME FIRST.. (06.05.16)

FLAME ON - Corrupt Mind {Boss Tuneage} Hmm... Maybe the BT Retro series has dug a bit too deep here. Y'see this is an 80-min, 32 track comp from a late 80s band outta Stoke-On-Trent, England which, during its four years of existence only released one 7", the three-track 'Corrupt Mind' EP on Emotions Records in 1991. It's an OK fusion of SENSELESS THINGS type stuff if mixed with the guitar damage a'la DINOSAUR JR. The remaining 29 tracks are from three demos recorded in 1990, '89 and '88. It's pretty heavy-going to do the lot in one sitting (unless you were in the band) but the '90 demo has a good fuzzy tone about the guitars and includes what could be the best track in 'Hold You Tight'. The '89 demo has thin production and includes the dramatic 'Fashion Conscious' and the appallingly named 'Lesbo Pussy Hunt' while the '88 demo is flat and quiet and includes a spirited take on 'Hanging On The Telephone'. Not too sure how many people this will appeal to - it's surely something I won't come back to too often - but it's a limited pressing and if you wanna chance something a bit unknown from the late 80s... Well... Give it a go. (22.05.16)

FLATLINERS, The - Division of Spoils {Fat Wreck} Monster 23-track compilation of various unreleased gems, b-sides and covers that is, without a doubt, a for-fans-only release. I'm not the biggest of fans but did find a lot of enjoyable tunes here including a couple of unreleased crackers in 'Hot Trouble' and 'This Guy Reads From A Card' that could actually claim to be the best track here. Other highlights included 'Wynford Bridge', a clever cover of JOHNNY CASH's 'Cry Cry Cry', 'Christ Punchers' that features a refreshing look at religion (without endorsing it), 'Broken Men' and a surprisingly rocking take on a ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT tune. If you ain't heard FLATLINERS before, think a fusion of GOOD RIDDANCE and IRON CHIC with a bit of Ska (especially the older material) and, oddly, I kept hearing a SOCIAL DISTORTION vibe to some of the guitar leads. A few stats for ya: This includes four unreleased tracks, five covers, the earliest track dates back to a 2002 demo and like all good comps, you get references of when tracks were recorded, where they appeared and full lyrics. FLATLINERS fans - you need this. (29.05.16)

JOHNNY MOPED - It's A Real Cool Baby {Damaged Goods} Finally, after a mere 38 years, the world finally has the official follow-up to the 1978 debut, 'Cycledelic'. Along with guitarist Slimy Toad and drummer Dave Berk, MOPED has recruited a couple of fresh faces and, somehow, made a totally credible album that's both fun and well-played. You have spiritual (or is that spitual?) sequels to 'Incendiary Device' in the biting 'Ain't No Rock 'n' Roll Rookie' while 'Honey Bun' is clearly in the 'Darlin', Let's Have Another Baby' mould. Other crackers include the scathing 'Simon Can't', the joyous REVILLOS-esque Pop of 'Super Woofa' and the sedate closer 'Something In My Head' that evokes 'Strawberries'-era DAMNED. Highlight of all is 'I Believed Her Lies' that's laden with melodic, singalong qualities but retains a great '77 style spirit. There are a few fillers, most of all 'Bert Bullethead' that's little more than pub rock and the rather obtuse 'Paint My Aubergine' (that kinda mirrors '3D Time'), but the 16 tracks here work amazingly well as a record. There's even a '1-2 cut your hair' reference in 'Ain't No Rock 'n' Roll Rookie' - with that, how can ya go wrong? (12.06.16)

LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS - The Southern Surreal {Alternative Tentacles} This is the first time I've really crossed paths with the SHACK SHAKERS in their 20 year history and I have to say, I'm pretty fucking hooked! This is the band's first album in five years and it's an eclectic mix of Southern Swamp Blues, dark Gothic moods and voodoo Rock 'n' Roll - think GUN CLUB and NEIL YOUNG deflowering SUPERSUCKERS and you might be in the right ball-park. Highlights are plenty: 'Cold' comes on like NICK CAVE playing JOHNNY CASH, 'Christ Almighty' is a riotous hootenanny and the eery 'The Dog Was Dead' pivots around a dark spoken word piece by actor Billy Bob Thornton. Elsewhere the swinging beat of Calypso has never sounded so taboo as it does on 'Dead Bury The Dead', 'Young Heart, Old Soul' could be lifted from any cult 50s Rock 'n' Roll classic while out-right highlight is 'Mud' that fuses CRAZY HORSE with THE CRAMPS. There are some great musical performances throughout here too, be it brass, banjo, fiddle or piano and it all welds together to create something compelling and vaguely decadent. Best enjoyed with Bourbon... (11.06.16)

MEAN JEANS - Nite Vision {Fat Wreck} After a long association with Dirtnap Records, Portland's MEAN JEANS deliver their first product for Fat Wreck and it's a rather impressive three-track 7". The title track has that classic high-octane, catchy Dirtnap Punk sound - think STEVE ADAMYK, BAD SPORTS etc and is hopefully an indicator of how good the new album will be. The flip features 'Now I Wanna Be Yr Dogg' and '69 Tears' both of which display a couple of things. First, the band's sense of humour in taking a couple of well known song titles and skewering them and secondly that both tracks sound like an homage to the RAMONES. The former in particular could be a cover from something on 'Animal Boy' while the latter would not be outta place on the recent CJ RAMONE album. No doubt this will bring the band to a whole new set of listeners and, while it's not that 'classic' Fat sound of LAGWAGON/ NUFAN, it's certainly catchy and spikey and fun and can hold its own with the band's previous, rather excellent work on Dirtnap. BUT, if you're after Crusty, Anarcho Punk - you'd best stick with Profane Existence. (24.05.16)

MISCHIEF BREW - This Is Not For Children {Alternative Tentacles} This lot have been together for 15-years apparently, but this is the first time they've crossed my path. The band's outta Philadelphia and that city plays a massive part in the lyrics of this album. Soundwise, think early AGAINST ME! fused with BAD RELIGION and SWINGIN' UTTERS in their Folkier-sounding stuff and you're close. Plenty of highlights here be it the mournful closer, 'Slow Death Hymn', the raucous title track or both 'City Of Black Fridays' and opener 'Two Nickels' that emphasise the AGAINST ME vibe. Best track though has to be 'Lancaster Avenue Blues' that features a soaring violin and barbed lyrics about the renaming of neighbourhoods in the name of gentrification. Other notables include the Swing-Jazz groove of 'Danger; Falling Pianos' and the most clearly localised song about Philadelphia 'O, Pennsyltucky!'. Given the strength of 'Lancaster Avenue Blues', I would like to have heard much more of those fiddles, but all in all, a totally convincing album that's gonna have me searching out the band's previous releases. (17.06.16)

NIGHT BIRDS - Mutiny At Muscle Beach {Fat Wreck} Third album from a band that seemingly can't put a single foot wrong. Just like the previous 'Born To Die In Suburbia', this is pretty much impossible to fault. If anything, this album sees the band developing a defined sound of its own. Sure, there are still big hints of ADOLESCENTS and a few nods to DEAD KENNEDYS, but this sounds much more like a band having found its sound - and it knows how to nail it. You want highlights? Check 'Life Is Not Amusement For Me' that includes a great touch of Farfisa Organ, the warp-speed of 'Lapsed Catholics Need Discipline', the drama of the title track, a great cover of THE KINKS' 'King Kong' or the impossibly addictive closer 'Left In The Middle'. Then there's my own personal favourite in 'In The Red/ In The Black'. What makes this particularly relentless is the space between songs is barely noticeable; from the blitz of the opening '(I'm) Wired', the songs just punch straight in - no time to pause for breath, consider the song you've just heard or prepare for the next assault. Come the end of the album there's only one thing to do - play it again just to confirm it really is that good! You know another album like that? 'Group Sex' - and yes - 'Muting At Muscle Beach' could well be just as classic. (30.06.16)

PEARS - Go To Prison {Fat Wreck} Originally self-released back in 2014, Fat snapped up this New Orleans band and it's easy to see why. This is a raging 10-track slice of Hardcore that fuses classic sounds but brings them bang-up to date. Think AVAIL (circa 'One Wrench') fused with GORILLA BISCUITS and then add the extremities of NEGATIVE APPROACH aggression and DESCENDENTS (there's even a neat little 'DENTS lift at the very end) melody and you're close. Add a bit of discordant, jazz-core riffage and you're closer still. Highlights are plenty but closer 'Grime Spree', 'Terrible' and the deranged opener 'You're Boring' could all make a claim, but 'Forever Sad' takes the title with an anthemic, bouncy chorus and grizzled 'core verses. There's even a cover of RAMONES - 'Judy Is A Punk' that sounds a bit out of place amidst the blitz of sound, but somehow PEARS make it work for them. Angry and refreshing stuff, and quite unlike any other Fat band so far. (02.05.16)

SCREECHING WEASEL - Baby Fat Act One {Recess} A musical by Ben Weasel was never something I expected to hear, but here it is - Act One consisting of a 27-track double album. To give you a simple outline of the story, we have Tommy Swank (performed by Weasel) who's the singer of Serpentello and a night club owner. He's managed by Baby Fat, a disfigured paraplegic (played by Blag Dahlia). The setting is at the club for the funeral of Mojo, Swank's pet chimp. The funeral is rocked with the arrival of an aggrieved father and, on arrival home, Baby Fat is swept away to fetch a backdrop for the band. Some of the road crew accost Poveretta (played by Kat Spazzy) - believed to be Baby Fat's partner but who is actually his daughter. Swank then drugs her, she passes out and in her unconscious state vows revenge. Act One comes to an end. Yep, it's not exactly a gracious story line, but it does flow and is aided by a great theatrical insert with additional dialogue. As for the songs? On their own they're not among the band's best but placed in the context of the album there is a genuine sense of drama and theatre about them. There's excellent duets between Weasel and Spazzy, lots of use of piano and additional appearances by Todd Congelliere among others. Don't expect to hear 'classic' WEASEL songs though. Of the 27 here, it's only 'Without Belief' and possibly 'Kewpie Doll' that could be viewed as having that classic SCREECHING WEASEL sound. Without a doubt, this is Ben Weasel's most adventurous work to date and, given the quality of the arrangements and general song structure here, it could be viewed as his best work to date. That said, 'My Brain Hurts' still remains the band's defining moment. (13.05.16)

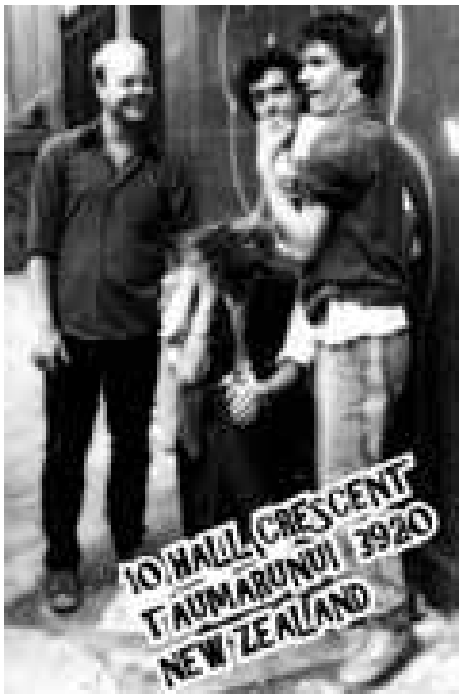
SUPER FAST GIRLIE SHOW - Don't Go Down Gentle {DIY/ Antipop) Debut album from this trio outta Liverpool, UK that eschews the usual 6-string guitar assault in favour of dual bass rumbling destruction. Comparisons with COP SHOOT COP are kinda inevitable but these guys bring in a NOMEANSNO attack, BLACK FLAG bludgeon and an occasional BEASTIE BOYS (a' la 'Sabotage' gone Scouse) delivery to the vocals. Songs are to the point (but never wallow in thrash or noise) with those basses flying a damaged freak flag, dualling and battling and totally convincing. There's wah-wah, distortion and all kindsa effects on them but they are relentless. Highlights include the bruising 'I Don't Care' that emphasises the NOMEANSNO structures, 'Stones' that has more punch the the entire career of Mike Tyson, the closing 'Pub Fight' that's got an insatiable groove while the out-right highlight is 'Mind Control' that thuds along on a bass line that could even have a paraplegic shaking his booty. I might have referenced all Yank bands here, but there is a distinct British (in)sensibility about this - and I like it. (25.06.16)

WYCH ELM, The - Crashberry Waltzes {Troposphere} A five piece outta Des Moines, Iowa and a varied mix of tunes are on offer here, but somehow those tunes coalesce into a solid Indie Rock/ Art Punk disc. You get five songs pressed on a vivid pink 7" with the lead track, 'Poison Control' being a droning, atmospheric track that comes on like a fusion of ALL ABOUT EVE playing BOB MOULD with a fuzztone guitar; I like it. The flip features four songs with a distinct ARCHERS OF LOAF vibe running throughout. 'Sorcerer' takes a DINOSAUR JR slacker attack while closer 'Ever Falls The Twilight' sees a return to the atmosphere created in 'Poison Control'. Of the remaining tracks, 'Stop Expressing Yourself' is urgent and unhinged while 'Action Packed' goes off in a myriad of directions. Have to say, I prefer the stuff that has Cheyenne singing; the dreamy, esoteric quality of her voice certainly lifts the tracks she sings on. If a bit of Indie Rock from a new band with a penchant for twists and turns is your thing, this could be your thang. (26.06.16)

WHITE MURDER - Form Early {Razorcake/ Recess} Second album from this LA quintet that features three lads on the instruments and two gals on the microphones. It's raucous gear too, that fuses BIKINI KILL, Devoto-era BUZZCOCKS, BLOODY GEARS and a hint of RVIVR in parts. There are lots of highlights among the ten tracks here including the snappy, fuzzy Garage Punk of 'Middle Class', the belligerent 'Roosevelt' and the addictive stop-start riffage and bitter chorus of 'Backbone'. Best track however is a dual between the slow-burn, intimidating lurch of 'Place Your Bets' and the bass-driven, tom-heavy '529'. The dual vocals have a great, sneering attitude about them while the lads delve deep into Garage Punk perfection to pump out beats and riffs that take equal parts from early DILS and prime-time GAUNT. Delightfully bruising - but not in a knuckle-dragging HC way. (19.05.16)

PAGANS/ GUILLOTINES - Split {Just 4 Fun} Sometimes you hear flat out, filthy Garage Punk Rock 'n' Roll that, even though a million bands have cranked out similar jams, it just hits like a fucking hammer. That's the case here on this orange 7". But then, ya gotta consider that the A-Side is the almighty PAGANS, one of the earliest of Cleveland's Punk legends. The track here, 'Hopped Up' features original vocalist, Mike Hudson, Ben outta RICHIE RAMONE's band and even Richie Duguay who played on a Guns 'n' Roses record! Thankfully, it's a rip-snorting slice of Punk that can square up to the likes of 'Not Now, No Way' and 'Street Where Nobody Lives' and holds its own without sounding revisionist. Smoking stuff Mr. Hudson - new album please? Flip the 7" over and you get two tracks by Houston's GUILLOTINES. Both are noxious blasts of pure Rock 'n' Roll Punk energy, both an ode to drinking and, if it's possible, imagine a fusion of THUNDERS' HEARTBREAKERS Punk and MOTORHEAD pace and aggression and you're there. A great split EP and if the PAGANS mean nothing to you, you better get this and get fucking educated mofo! (31.05.16)

Get in touch with Steve
www.scannerzine.com
www.facebook.com/Steve.Scanner



FANZINE REVIEWS

Gadgie – 31, 32, 33

Marv has been churning these out for years. All quality reads – liked the interview in 31 about PUNK FOOTBALL interviewing one of the FC United chaps. Come and meet the owners – great photo

Gadgie – 31, 32, 33

Produced / printed by Andrew at Corndog this is 149 page A5 booklet.Nice intro from Sharon (the wife) about Marv – as they say behind every successful man is an astonished woman.

Alterna – TV

Quirky, cut and paste photocopied x-change and penpals newsletter which includes lots of bits of information on everything from panties to zine reviews.

No price supplied (so I expect it's free) but I expect a zine will equate to a trade – Get a copy from Anna Heys, Westmead, Green Street, Little Hadam, nr. Ware, Herts SG11 2EE – review by Andy Higgins

Anarchoi - - #18

Interviews with Standard Union, Hacksaw, a UK Death Charge/Noctophyle tour report plus part 3 (and supporting contributions) of an article on 30 years of punk (covering the period 1996-2006) and articles / features on Campary Records (Germany) and Corndog PR. A4 combination of typed / hand-written and cut/paste with an anarchist flavour. – James Gemmell 3 Hazel Grove, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 7JH – review by Andy Higgins

Everlong - #8

Interviews with The Scrub, Graham of Crimescene Records (I thought he was coming to live up in Blackpool a while ago), The Straps, an interesting chat with J.R. from Goldblade and now of Richard'n'Judy fame, Jessie Eastfield, Captain Everything and The Unseen. Quite a few live reviews and rekkid reviews. Good as ever with a neat focus on the local Bristol scene – available from Dave Lown, 7 Nicholas Lane, St George, Bristol BS5 8TY or from Shane Baldwin, 1 Shilton Close, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 9UZ – review by Andy Higgins

Fear and Loathing #61

It's quite a while since I last got a copy of Andy's long running zine, so I was pleased to get hold of a copy. This issue celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Damned (interviews and features) and carries interviews with David Thomas of Pere Ubu, Jayne County, Killing Joke and early London punk band The Now. A very comprehensive CD and DVD section, with short and snappy reviews. I am really impressed with the amount of live reviews that Andy serves up which include everything from the Stooges, Bob Mould, Pere Ubu and the Gang of Four to The Epoxies – at times he seems to average about 3 gigs a week. You can get it for £2 plus p&p from Andy Pearson, 17 Medway Avenue, Witham, Essex, CM8 1TF - review by Andy Higgins

Noisy #3

Neat little Essex based A5 zine with colour cover, which appears twice a year. This is an Essex punk special focusing on 'Romford Punk' a 'Southendpunk.com website' and of course those scallywags from Dial House (Crass). Local interviews and gig reviews, with a smattering of music reviews. It's only 50p a copy. Get in touch with Sophia via info@noisyzine . review by Andy Higgins

Oi Warning #2 and #3

It seems only 5 minutes since the first copy of Sean's zine appeared in my mail. He is certainly putting in the hours as this even chunkier A4 issue carries a few more interviews (The Wretched Ones, Deadline, Klasse Kriminale, No Solution, Alleged Bricks, Abuse and Up To Vegas) than issue 1. In the intro he also mentions that his girlfriend Cynthia has set up an Oi Warning my space page, so you network across the ether of the information super highway. Again focussing on street punk with an international flavour. Communicate via oiwarningfanzine@aol.com and obtain a copy from Sean at PO Box 333, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4WU £2.50 UK, £3.00 Europe, $6 US and ROW (all including postage). - review by Andy Higgins

Ox #3

Long running Deutsche fanzine. Excellent quality, tonnes of reviews – including some output from the JSNTGM/ ROX factory – however as it is all 'auf Deutsch' my rather rudimentary A-Level qualification from yesteryear is insufficient to decipher what the fook they are saying abart things ! - review by Andy Higgins

Repeat #2

131 A4 pages constitute this mammoth offering which came accompanied by a V/A Repeat CD. Inspired by the Manic Street Preachers (which amounts to pictures and articles of the aforementioned appearing periodically throughout its pages) this issue of the zine carries loads of reviews, news and articles. A real tour de force in a pretty hap-hazzard / cut and paste kind of way. Very much a DIY and proud of it kind of feel, and is almost like a jumbled anthology of fragments from the past 12 months. Great value and doubtless a lot of hard work. Contact can be made via rosey@repeatfanzine.co.uk and copies can be obtained via PO Box 438, Cambridge, CB4 1FX £2.00 + £1.14 and SAE. - review by Andy Higgins

Suck til I Sag #4

Tom and Scarlet's irreverent A5 zine carrying interviews with Little Whores on the Prairie, Resistance 77 and Garry Bushell. Quite a few gigs from around the Midlands area plus various items such as 'Scarlet's Sexy Stories', lots of naked bodies here and there, an emphasis on alcohol and jokes about Britain becoming a Welfare Country. Not the most serious zine in the world ! Available for 50p, and I should mention that this is a benefit for the Special Olympics Fund – no address to hand so e-mail tomfoolery@fsmail.net - review by Andy Higgins

TrakMarx presents "The Damned" 30th anniversary edition

Words supplied by scene luminaries such as T.V. Smith, Gail Higgins (Heartbreakers Tour Manager '76) Dee Generate (Eater) and others 'who were there' such as Kris Needs and Henrik Poulsen. The 30 page commemorative zine is broadly divided into 'the early days' and 'somewhere between 1978 and now' and interspersed with first hand recollections of Damned shows / records. Ex Blackpool Rox editor John Robb recounts his early memories of hearing New Rose, and indeed the current clown who edits aforementioned magazine also recounts hitching to see the Damned from the M55 roundabout and discussions over the Black Flag logo with over zealous traffic cops. You can grab an online copy in PDF format by e-mailing Jean Encoule wastebin@trakMARX.com . A worthy effort and a must for Damned aficionados. - review by Andy Higgins

Unfit for Consumption #10

Last print issue of this chunky A4 b/w zine from Limerick. Will however be continuing as an on-line resource under the monicker www.hardcoretimes.com . This issue includes interviews / features with (amongst others) Mike Watt, Windings, Revolution of a Sun, Waiting Room and El Bastardo. Cool lay out, lots of music and DVD reviews. Hope it does continue. Get it from Trev Meehan, at the address 46 Rosturra Crescent, Woodviewe Park, Limerick, Eire – not sure of the price so drop him an e-mail (trevmeehan@hotmail.com) . - review by Andy Higgins

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