



# PIRATES UPDATE

## No 4 - Winter 2001/2

### LAST GIG OF YEAR AT THE WORCESTER PARK CLUB ON SUNDAY 09 DECEMBER

The atmospheres good and so is the sound system so the lads are signing off the year at one of our favourite venues! *Don't miss it!!* The Worcester Park Club, Malden Road, Worcester Park, (opp. B.R. Station), Surrey. Worcester Park is just off the A3 or easily accessible by rail (c.15mins) from London Waterloo main station. A Travelcard will even get you there! Box Office 01784 460094 or 0208 568 0612. Tickets £10. There are no booking agents or credit card sales on this one, just ring to confirm and your ticket(s) will be reserved for collection on the night after 7.00pm. Doors 8.00p.

### I NEVER WENT ANYWHERE WITHOUT MY PIRATES BADGE

Chris Denver used to be a familiar face at Pirates gigs in the late 70s/early 80s and helped us with mailings on the old Fan Club. We put a 'where are you now' feeler out in the previous Newsletter and thanks to the internet, finally made contact.

We persuaded her to try The Borderline and this is her take on gigs then and now.



*I want more Honey Hush - John gets berated in '86.*

"Oh, to be twenty two again! Going to Dingwalls, the Nashville Rooms, the Marquee, even the wilds of Sheffield, just because it was my birthday and they were doing a gig. Stage front, knees crushed, ears throbbing from the amps, more than likely drunk in a most unladylike manner, yelling my head off for *Honey Hush*. Yep, The Pirates in the late 70's and early 80's, blowing the so-called punks and new wave bands away. Years before, bopping round the estate to *I'll Never Get Over You* with my mates, I remember thinking how cool Johnny Kidd was! I wasn't really aware of Messrs Green, Spence and Farley then. But the punk explosion meant going to gigs, loads of gigs and who were the band to see? Not for me the Pistols, or the Clash or the Damned. Why The Pirates? Because they were the best. They played original stuff, rock 'n' roll classics, R 'n' B that I'd never heard before. Three guys who sounded like four! Of course, it was hard to be objective back then. The Pirates gave me so much, aside from the music. They were nice guys, even if I never could manage a sensible conversation with the Living Legend that is Mick Green. I met so many great people. The whole scene was like an extended family. I never went anywhere without my Pirates badge! I had no idea the band were at it again until the wonder that is the internet informed me and the persistent Mr Futter insisted that we are never too old to rock 'n' roll! The gig at the Borderline was superb, only marred by Frank's enforced absence. Age does make a difference - I stood sedately by the side of the stage, sober, and thanked the sound engineer for the reduction in decibels, and quietly bopped on the spot, as opposed to the old head-banging days. Mick and John so obviously still enjoy playing, and the years just rolled away. I even found myself shouting for *Honey Hush* again! Wonderful stuff. Oh, to be twenty two again! And do you know, just for a brief moment, I was!"

### ODDS 'N ENDS

Mick has continued to do the odd session with Ivan M...What have you missed? UK gigs to date:- Worcester Park 3x, Dingwalls 2x, Grey Horse 1x, The Borderline 3x, Stamford Arts Centre 1x...Mick used a Telecaster on *I'll Never Get Over You* and the other Kidd singles despite always being photographed at the time with a Gibson... Leeds is possible gig venue for Feb...

### LOGO T-SHIRTS

There were a number of smart b&w T-shirts at the Dingwalls gig. Member Sam Wharton managed to bag one and wanted to proffer thanks to the benefactor. We been unable to find out who was behind this act of generosity. Can the producers make themselves known to us? I'm sure there is enough of us out there to make a follow up screening run viable.

As most of you know the sole reason for Pirates Phase 3 was on account of Frank's health problems. It's also why a then clearly reluctant John was persuaded to return to the colours. The Sept '99 Kingston gig was supposed to be a *Last Blast* one off Frank benefit but things have had a momentum all of their own since then. The man continues to be beset with unimaginable physical difficulties but his spirit is undimmed. (The 20ft 'Welcome Back' banner unfurled at The Borderline was a tremendous fillip!) Although we have had to row in John Lingwood as replacement drummer on three occasions Frank is still the man in possession and we hope he will continue to be for a good while yet!

### THE KIDD TV DOC

Despite being relegated from a prime post main BBC 1News 10.30pm slot to the graveyard shift after midnight, this series nevertheless enjoyed respectable audience figures and received a fair bit of favourable press comment. (Apparently, a typical bit of 'not invented here' politics going on at the BBC.) Hopefully, most of you will have viewed it and for those who didn't there were interviews with Mick and John and live footage from the Dingwalls double header. Suits & shades? Don't ask! Johnny Kidd's widow Jean also made a poignant contribution - still genuinely upset to recall his loss despite the 35 years that have elapsed since his untimely death. In case you wondered why there was 8mm home cine footage of Alma Cogan in her bikini and Terry Dene playing pitch and putt but none of Johnny Kidd, you might do well to address the question to that star percussionist Dave Clark who, not for the first time, resolutely refused to even discuss the matter of the 60s TV archive that he owns with producer Paul Pierrot. And when you do, you can ask him who it was who actually played drums on 'his' flaky records...

### MOJO WEB SITE

Posted by 'Dibster1' this turned up recently on the Mojo web site (Mojo4Music - Enlightenment) - "In the late 70's I went to see The Pirates 3 or 4 times when they reformed on the back of the New Wave scene, though they were as far removed from that scene as you can imagine. Anyway they were absolutely brilliant live and the crowds loved them. I believe Mick Green was the main influence on Wilko Johnson and was recently in Van the Man's band. They must be in their late 50's/early 60's. Do The Pirates still perform together?" Er, yes, sometimes...



**WAY BACK THEN**

Rare shot of the lads in cherubic mode with Fred probably from 1963. Beyond that we have no further info!

### SHADES OF BLEU

One of the rarest recordings in whole of The Pirates archive *Shades of Bleu*, amazingly had a spin on Brian Matthew's 'Sound of the 60s' on BBC R2 in October. Even many camp followers have never heard this 45 which was recorded on the Polydor label in 1966 after the split with Kidd and featuring Frank, John and John Morshead on guitar (Mick had by then joined Kramer). Frank seems to think this psychaedic (seriously!) offering was written for them by Justin Hayward. This interesting experiment, not too fondly recalled by the participants, signally failed to dent the charts. B-side was *Can't Understand*.

### PIRATES ON CD

These titles featuring the Mick, Frank and John Pirates line up, are currently in catalogue in the UK:-

- **Out Of Their Skulls Plus**  
Zircon Zirc 1003 (20x tracks)
- **Skull Wars Plus**  
Zircon Zirc 1006 (20x)
- **Happy BirthdayRock & Roll Plus**  
Zircon Zirc 1010 (20x)
- **Out Of Their Skulls (Double)**  
West Side WESD 201 (51x)

Contact your record shop, or you could Freephone Magpie Mail Order on 08700 711611, or alternatively, try these:- e-mail:-magpie@highnote.co.uk web site: www.magpiedirect.com

### WANTED - YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

Many of you receive band info by e-mail, but there are others who have given us e-mail addresses on slips which are difficult to decipher or just do not work! If you've let us have your e-mail address and have never heard, anything, can you please e-mail us to confirm your correct details. ThePirates2000@aol.com Alternatively sendus your e-mail and postal address:- Pirates, 3 Denman Drive, LONDON, NW11 6RE For cyber info go to the excellent Kidd site run by Adrian Barrett:- www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/ frontrow/4888/