



PIRATES UPDATE

No 6 - Summer 2003

CAN WE HAVE OUR GUITAR PLAYER BACK?



Sporting the lounge lizard approved tour blouson, Mick duels with another considerable sideman Chris Spedding in Liverpool. Pic:- Caroline Torterat

In a prodigious run of form which includes stints with Macca and Van (and shortly to include a TV Dame), Mick has, as many of you will know, been heavily involved with the Bryan Ferry Band both on the road and in the recording studio. It started in February '02 and still shows no sign of abating. To think it was only a few years ago Mick was seriously considering a pretty substantial offer for the famous Fender Telecaster from Ronnie Wood as it appeared the notoriously fickle music biz had almost totally forgotten about him! Naturally, this has hamstrung us somewhat in terms of slotting Pirate gigs in, but we are all delighted that the man's rich talents are at last being recognised on a wider stage.

MM SMALL ADS REVEAL TOP AXEMAN

The Pirates, both on stage and in the recording studio, have been blessed with some top rank guitar talent including Joe Moretti, Big Jim Sullivan and the current incumbent is no slouch either!

One of the strangest members to all too briefly join the club was Mike Taylor.

In 1966 Frank and John were still going out under The Pirates banner as a solo turn with guitarist John Morshead. A six week stint at the US Army base in St. Nazaire, France, was lined up but two days before they were due to leave, Morshead dropped a bombshell: he wasn't going.

Frank did what anyone would have done at the time and scoured the classifieds in the back of 'Melody Maker'. He alighted upon a guitarist looking for work

and they arrived at Victoria Station to meet a guy in his early twenties with rather a lot of hair and a home made guitar. He had only a passing knowledge of the Kidd back catalogue and from the instant of boarding the train, the journey was spent frantically routing! According to John the first two numbers on the first night were all over the place but then it all clicked into gear... Frank and John were of the opinion that he had a huge natural talent with the ability to pursue a long time career in music but he apparently returned to his academic pursuits and nothing has been heard of him since. If anyone know where he ended up, let us know. Strangely enough, John Morshead has never been heard of since either - to no ones great regret....

FOR THE VERY LATEST BAND INFO GO: www.johnnykidd.co.uk

Continuing thanks are due to Adrian Barrett for giving us web space on his excellent tribute to Johnny Kidd site. We don't have the time/resources at Pirate plc to keep up a regular stream of Newsletters so this is the place to find breaking gig info etc. Plus you can contact us via email at: ThePirates2000@aol.com or post at: Pirates, 3 Denman Drive, LONDON, NW11 6RE. All queries get answered - guaranteed!!

SUMMER GIG ACTION!

4 SATURDAY 28 JUNE - TIVOLI THEATRE 3

WIMBORNE, DORSET

New manager Charlie North Lewis is to be congratulated in his efforts to bring live music to this traditional theatre venue in this beautiful market town. Support will be provided by promising, emerging local axeman Scott McKeon and his band 19-27 West Borough, Wimborne, Dorset, BH211LT. Wimborne is c. 90 miles from London and enjoys good motorway connections around the south. Tickets: £12.50 in advance/£14.00 on the night Doors 7pm Box office: 01202 885566 Mon-Fri 10-4 Sat 10-1 Promoter's Web Site: www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk/stage.htm

4 SAT. 09 AUGUST - THE BORDERLINE 3

WEST END OF LONDON

Compact, good atmosphere guaranteed. A favourite band venue. Manette Street, (Off Charing Cross Road), London W1. 2 mins. Tottenham Court Rd tube (Central/Northern lines), buses along Oxford St. Tickets: £12 in advance, £14 on the night. Box office for personal callers 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat: Bar Salsa, 96 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 1AH. (Telephone Bookings: 020 7395 0777. Ticket Agency: Stargreen: 020 7734 8932 (+Booking Fee). Doors 8.30pm. Promoter's Web Site: www.borderline.co.uk

UNCONFIRMED DATES - CHECK THE WEB SITE...

Scarborough: Yorkshire Coast College, October

North London: Ace Cafe, N. Circ. Rd 'Kidd Nite', November

KIDD/PIRATES ON CD & IN PRINT

Two French market releases, 'Your Cheating Heart' and 'The Johnny Kidd Memorial Album' were hard to get vinyl import LPs in the 70s. They were later re-released with the imprimatur 'Johnny Kidd Rocker' in vinyl, with the lad's 'My Babe', 'Castin' My Spell' single. They have now been re-issued on CD (minus the single) via BGO Records (BGOCD580). There are 30x tracks with all the hits and more. Kidd historian/archivist Alan Wheeler can supply copies for £12.90 each including p&p. Cheques should be made payable to 'Cob Records' and sent to Alan at the address below. Alan can also supply copies of the the Kidd biography by Keith Hunt entitled 'Shakin All Over - The Life & Times of Johnny Kidd' (Magnum/MAGIM 901). This near A4 size book has over 200x pages of painstakingly assembled interviews, quotes and cuttings of J.K.'s life. Keith Hunt tragically died just before the books publication.

The best stripey-trousered video footage of the band 'Live at Dingwalls' (MMGVE006), is also available from Alan. Professionally commissioned by Warners, only 6x numbers, but great atmospherics! Send a cheque for £16.99 (Book), £15.99 (Video), including p&p made out to 'Alan Wheeler' at 8 Gainsthorpe Road, Bobbingworth, ONGAR, CM5 ONG.



BACK THEN No 86

"Say fellas, waddya think of my new Italian suit?" This interesting pic was taken during a break in rehearsals for TV show 'Ready Steady Go' when J.K. arrived late and had to do the run through sans his stage gear.

TRUE TO HIMSELF - AS USUAL!

When Mick first joined the band, it was with the sole intention of playing r&b, not pop. 'I'll Never Get Over You' was all set to be recorded at Abbey Road. A&R man Wally J. Ridley insisted they emphasise the intro and the ending. The guys were not sure, especially Mick. They got a 'poppy' take to Ridley's evident satisfaction and a spectating Alan Wheeler was asked what he thought of it and replied that it would be a hit as it sounded 'commercial'. Mick stepped forward and uttered the words "What's commercial?" Alan was right - it reached No 4!

SNIPPETS...

'Peter Gunn' is still in the can from the Shakin'/'Honey Hush' BBC TV TOTP2 session.