RETRO DUNDEE

saturday, 7 february 2009

★★★ TECH COLLEGE UNION ARA BOWLING ALLEY ★★★

CHRISTIES Christies Ballroom
CHESTER-LE-STREET Chester-le-Street Club: GENO WASHINGMACHINE
CHORLEY Lancastrian Room: MCALMANS
CLYDE Clyde Club: CLYDE BOWLING
COVENTRY College of Education: RACING CARS
CROMER West Runton Pavilion: CLIFF RICHARD
DAGENHAM Dagenham Sports Club: DAGS
DARLINGTON The Hippo Bowl: WALTER SIMPSON
DORCHESTER The Tavern: ANGEL
DUDLEY Dudley Tavern: DUDLEY
DULEY 2 2 a Club: SUPER DUPER
DUNDEE Technical College: LEMMY'S BIRTHDAY
EDINBURGH Hotel: JACK THE LADDER PT ONE
EDINBURGH Triangle Fob Club: THE LAGGAN
ELGIN Elgin Bowling Club: THE LAGGAN
FIRBACARD Pressdown's Mount: LITTLE BOB GEORGY
GRAMPY Rodney Club: RIP IT UP
GLASGOW Glasgow Club: SHAW
GLASGOW Dennis Margaret Union: BENASSANCE
GLASGOW Wind Eye Centre: THE LAGGAN
HUDDFORD Bath Park College: TRIMS & BUCKET

XTC ON TOUR

JANUARY
20 ENGLEFIELD Middlesex Polytechnic
21 LEICESTER Polytechnic Theatre
22 LIVERPOOL Greyhound Club
26 WOLVERHAMPTON Lafayette Club
27 BIRMINGHAM Barbarella's
28 DONCEST Traditional College
29 GLASGOW Queen Margaret Union
30 NEWCASTLE Top Rank
31 LONDON

FEBRUARY
1 SHEFFIELD Polytechnic
2 LEEDS Polytechnic
3 LIVERPOOL Polytechnic
4 NEWCASTLE University
5 BRISTOL Colston Hall
6 BEDFORD Leagrave
8 READING Bryan's
9 BIRMINGHAM Polytechnic
10 NOTTINGHAM Polytechnic
11 LIVERPOOL Eric's
13 LONDON Lyceum

ON TOUR

June 13th. Sheffield University.
16th. Huddersfield Polytechnic.
15th. Leicester University.
16th. Crawley Club, Lake Havelock Covington.
17th. Rock Garden, Middlesbrough.
18th. Fjorde Green, London.
20th. Tiffany's, Edinburgh.
21st. Dundee Technical College.
23rd. The Club, Bletton-on-Trent.
24th. Boot Club, Nottingham.

This building on the corner of Market gate & Guthrie Street, once had a vast tenpin bowling alley in the 60's. It is said, when it came to be a Bowling Alley in the 70's, so far also were their attributes still generally referred to as the "Bowling Alley" ...

Attributions to the case being from the College of Technology rather than University.

It's Yarabee in the 60's and it's Yarabee in the 70's which always is not good luck.

Performing students get in free and they could each sign in 3 paying guests.

I remember you had to be signed in before 11.00 pm - then the doors closed! This often had to wait a 20 minutes or longer between 10.30 & 11.00 for a lead dash along the Myrtlefield to make it on time, otherwise they'd be left outside.

The rounds were upstairs, so had to run up the same flights.

A wee recreation room with darts, pool table & table football to chill out in. There was a wee bar upstairs, but it was only open for a short time after the rounds finished, so it was a dash back down to the main bar.

The D2 was Brian Wilson, who played a diverse range of music, an aspect that made visiting the Bowling Alley a big draw. The regular DJ was Jimmy Dalgarno Dazzy and then 3 other became known as Brian's Disco.

Brian was a great DJ and he knew his music, he was a great DJ that sometimes you were unlucky to get and sometimes you were lucky to get.

Quite often at the end of the evening there would be an amazing beer fight. Typical student so, nothing unusual there.

Along with his discs and cheap beer, the other attraction was live music. The Bowling Alley was a good place to gig and it was at one time, beginning of the career.

The Sex Pistols, Dire Straits, Simple Minds, Motorhead are just a of the acts that played there. Some of the bands were quite popular at the time.

Dire Straits were just a band playing a set of their songs, they had no hits, low lacklustre, "XTC", too many to mention really.

Nowhere to go in the town at that time, so bands like Gang of Four, Fashion, Steeve Barker, and so it goes.

Some of the bands were quite popular in the music press local them are explored in the above column.

The first one a from on NME and shows Lemmy's Motorhead there on Saturday 7 February 1981.

The second one is from the Sunday Times the Daily Mirror and the Daily XTC performed there on Friday 27 January 1978.

The last one is from the Sun the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Times on Saturday 21 June 1978.

Lemmy's birthday is kind of a make-over (16 lights etc) in the early 80's which means the band is not in attendance.

Although the building is still there tables, it has since gone through further transformations and has not generally an impressive course to it.

Thanks to Ed Drew Nelson for first interior photo.

Thanks to Gordon Robertson for the other two images.

The Bowling Alley now has its own website - go visit Bowlin_Alley

Posted by RETRO DUNDEE at 10:00 pm

Labels: 1970s, 1980s, alley, bands, bowling, college, colleges, colleges, dance, Gordon Robertson, Highfield, Hotels, John Peel, Jimmy Dalgarno, Lemmy, Lyceum, Queen Margaret Union, Rock Garden, Sex Pistols, Simple Minds, Tiffany's, Top Rank, Trimpsons, Trimpsons, Trimpsons

Sex Pistols' gig, which was held in Sheffield's Top Rank Suite on 6 July 1976. Simple Minds gig is ??

The Bowlin' Alley was so highly regarded by the national promoters that they would again take the Top Rank Suite on 6th July 1977 for a Stranglers/Buzzcocks/Jilts gig on a Friday.

A week urban legend??, about the Sex Pistols' gig apparently, Francis Rossiter was on the Bowlinos team and he was the same night as the Pistols gig playing in a Bowling Alley in Leeds, he had a friend who was very amusing and said he was "Johnny" he got up for the stops at the entrance to the "Big Fish" bafflng as they key in court circles. He was a bit of a character, he used to drive around the Yorkshire/Lancashire Lea in a Ford Anglia "Nancy" followed by Donna Summer's "I feel love" followed by George Jones's "Big it up" was just the kind of guy who would do that, he was a character.

I could go on here, but I think I've said enough. Anyway, I'm sure there are lots of people who can tell you more, I'm sure there are lots of people who can tell you more, I'm sure there are lots of people who can tell you more