

BOROUGH BLUES

March 2012 Page 1

This Month at the BBC – 4th Feb 2012

**“King King”
plus “Cal Newman”**



“Softly softly” is not a maxim that King King are familiar with. Since surging into life two years ago they have barely stopped for breath, their electrifying sound and scorching live shows have generated more of a thunderous

roar than a buzz. Last year has seen them bring their inimitable brand of multi-faceted blues rock to the Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival, the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, Abertillery Festival and even Glastonbury. This was in addition to a seemingly non-stop series of rousing live shows across the UK and Europe, much to the delight of the band’s burgeoning fan base. In the midst of all this, a particular highlight of 2010 was King King’s invitation to perform within the hallowed walls of the BBC’s Maida Vale studios. The boys’ set went out on Radio 2 and won the approval of DJ and blues aficionado Paul Jones who was moved to remark: “Here at Radio 2, we think Alan Nimmo and King King are going to go all the way”.

Support is from Cal Newman who will be on stage at 7.45pm

Next Month at the BBC – 3rd March 2012

“Danny Bryant’s Red-Eye Band”

Danny Bryant was born in Hertfordshire in July 1980. First hailed as a ‘young guitar prodigy’ Danny began playing guitar aged 15, turning professional just three years later, and in the last decade has paid his dues clocking up endless miles of traveling and approximately two thousand shows in many countries around the world. After a decade of hard toil he now gets the recognition he so well deserves, being acknowledged by those in the business as one of the cream of the crop of this generation of blues artists, ably backed by his rhythm section of his father Ken on bass and Trevor Barr on drums. In a career already littered with highlights including many sold out club tours across Europe and numerous major festival

appearances that have seen the power trio perform on the same bill as such names as Joe Cocker, Carlos Santana, Buddy Guy and Peter Green to mention a few; Danny and his band have steadily carved a huge and loyal fan base around the world.

March will see the release of “Night Life”, a live CD/DVD recorded last summer in the Netherlands and capturing the band doing what they do best – playing explosive blues rock with passion. Get your tickets early as this should be a very popular gig!



**GIG REVIEW’s: Still Got the Blues,
The Borough Blues Band, Chantel
McGregor, Lauren Balham**

Gig Reviews: Adrian Bold, 4th – 17th February 2012

Two gig nights this month – with an extra special show mid month due to the availability of Chantel McGregor who is very popular at the Club after last years sell out performance. But first off it was intended that Doctor’s Orders would play the regular gig on the first Saturday with the Borough Blues Band in support. In the event the weather conspired against the headline band who were unable to travel from the Midlands because of snowfall. Still Got The Blues (nicknamed the ‘SAGA band’ by one member - rather disrespectfully, I thought) stood in at the last moment and, after a disastrous start due to the rush to get started and a faulty tuner, put together two sets which filled the gap.



Ian Friend on
Guitar for Still
Got The Blues –
he’s the younger,
good looking one

I will not comment on the performance since I played – along with two other committee members, the multi-talents of Keith (Boom Boom) Barwood and Adrian Powell – except to point to the great abilities of lead guitar Ian Friend who displayed skills to match most of the guitar stars we have seen at the club.

It was a great night for Still Got The Blues since it was the first gig night they have played at the Borough Blues Club in six and a half years despite being involved with the club for the whole of that time.

The revelation of the night, however, was the performance of the Borough Blues Band who put together a superb set of very varied and interesting music despite also losing some members due to the weather. Gareth Leaman, alone on guitar, displayed exemplary skills and is a young man who may go far with the right band and experience. There were good vocal performances from Allison Ward and Steve Savidge and a rendition of "Five Long Years" (Eddie Boyd) by Little Dave Lewis with solo guitar by Gareth Leaman which was later described as one of the finest ever heard at the club. The rest of the band, too many to mention here, played their part to the full and brought rapturous applause from the slightly partisan audience. An excellent night!

The visit of Chantel McGregor was eagerly anticipated and the show was a complete sell out with the club packed out fairly early on to hear local talent Lauren Balham perform on plugged acoustic guitar and vocals. Lauren, who is just seventeen, (there's a song there somewhere!) has a lovely voice and a pleasant guitar style – and pleased the audience with a set made up mostly of self-penned compositions. Lauren received great encouragement and clearly enjoyed the experience. She is an up and coming talent, and, though not really blues based, will make her way in the music scene and could well return to the Borough Blues Club in the future.

Chantel McGregor charmed the club again. Though she is also a young talent she has a superb stage presence and a great attitude; sings like an angel and plays mean electric guitar. She has good song-writing abilities, too, though mixed her own songs with some terrific covers. Again, not all the material was blues – and I have to confess that Chantel's rendition of "Edge of Glory" in the acoustic opening to the second of her sets has opened my eyes to the talent of Lady Gaga – much to

the disgust of Adrian Powell – and I have played the track regularly since the gig!

Chantel has a new drummer in Chris Taggart who could certainly be heard and is clearly from a rock background. Together with Richard Ritchie they provided a solid platform from which Chantel was able to demonstrate her considerable talents. When you consider that Chantel regularly plays to very large crowds in huge venues and works on BBC TV and Radio, we are very lucky that she is still willing to appear at the grass roots of the blues here in our little club in South East Wales. Most people enjoyed this thoroughly 'down to earth' lady and we hope that Chantel will return at some point in the not too distant future!

FORTHCOMING GIG'S

3rd March King King

First appearance at the club for this highly acclaimed outfit lased largely around Alan Nimmo's impassioned vocals and intricate guitar work.

7th April Danny Bryants Red-Eye Band

First hailed as a 'young guitar prodigy' Danny has paid his dues in the last decade clocking up endless miles and approximately two thousand shows around the world.

5th May Matt Taylor

Matt is currently working on a new album due to be released March 2012 so a timely first appearance for this well established guitarist.

2nd June Marcus Bonfanti

According to many who witnessed his festival night performance this year, the best this club has ever seen bar none. Absolutely outstanding vocals and so much energy!

16th June Aynsley Lister

The blues man with the 'boy-next-door' looks, the dextrous guitar fingers and the silky voice; the one that plays contemporary blues as if it's the most natural thing you can do.

7th July "Festival" plus Blue on Black

All day event outside followed by our regular gig inside the club. Put the date in your diary!

Borough Blues News

Our AGM will be coming up soon, check website at www.boroughblues.com for details and to check out club and gig information. Also, you can buy tickets at wegottickets.com.

That's all Folks