

BOROUGH BLUES

FEBRUARY 2013 Page 1

***This Month at the BBC – 2nd Feb 2013
“The Billy Walton Band”***



In the history of rock n roll there is a long tradition of guitarists trading in their jobs as sidemen to become virtuoso frontmen in their own right. Early on Jimi Hendrix played in Little Richards' band and Eric Clapton worked with numerous groups like John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, The Yardbirds, Cream and Derek and the Dominos before starting his legendary career as a solo artist. Even Stevie Ray Vaughn had a stint as a member of David Bowie's touring band before going solo. There seems to be something about apprenticing with another artist that brings out the best in some guitar players. After spending years honing their craft it becomes impossible for their unique style and personality to be held back. Such is the case with Billy Walton.

Since the age of 15, Walton has plied his craft in the Asbury Park/New Jersey shore music scene – most notably as the guitarist/vocalist for Boccigalupe & the Bad Boys which features Tony Amato a veteran of the Asbury scene since the 70s (the nickname ... Boccigalupe was actually given to him by Bruce Springsteen & Little Steven Van Zandt). During his time with Boccigalupe, Walton has played countless gigs in both the United States and Europe and sat in with numerous of rock luminaries including Springsteen, Gary US Bonds and Stevie Ray's backing band, Double Trouble.

The 30-year old Walton's talents are no secret among everyone in the Jersey shore music scene and with the founding of the Billy Walton Band there's little doubt his reputation will grow far beyond the Garden State. The Billy Walton Band's sound is a combination of hard blues reminiscent of Hendrix, Clapton and

Vaughn mixed with a healthy dose of Warren Hayes and Derrick Trucks.

Live, Walton has always been an explosive performer with jaw dropping talent but with the addition of bassist William Paris, Richie Taz on sax, and drummer Johnny D'Angelo the Billy Walton band churns out a singular brand of funky blues that has deep roots in both the jam band musical tradition as well as the Jersey shore Walton has cut his teeth on.

***Next Month at the BBC – 2nd March 2013
“Chantel McGregor”***



Much anticipated return of the ever-popular Bradford lass to the Borough Blues Club once again.

Chantel got her first guitar at the age of 3, and at age 8 became the youngest ever to pass a rockschool grade. At age 12 she started singing and playing at local jam sessions and within a few short years was doing the

same on national television and radio. At last year's British Blues Awards she was best female vocalist. We anticipate that the club should be filled to capacity so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

***GIG REVIEW: The Red Hot Pokers
Gig Review and photos: Liz Aiken, 5th January 2013***

A warm New Year welcome was given to The Red Hot Pokers featuring a veteran of the Van Morrison band, John “Ned” Edwards, with his reformed band who was such a crowd pleaser at the clubs summer festival in July last year. Johnny gave a master-class in leading from the front with excellent vocals that were both clear and powerful combined with great musicianship on the





instrument of choice depending on the song including Guitar, Mandolin and Fiddle. Johnny also ensured that at all times he was the perfect foil for his excellent trio of backing artists on Bass, Drums and Keyboard. The timing of the band was impeccable, the volume perfect

ensuring everyone was having a great time, in addition as the evening went on his rapport with audience grew and grew – this was real Saturday night entertainment to warm you up when it is cold outside.

This was a walk through the history of blues music that included, Big Bill Broonzy's, "Big Bills Blues"; and demonstrating skills on the Mandolin Robert Johnson's, "Love in Vain" and Willie Dixon's, "Red Hot Mama"; which definitely raised the temperature and got the club rockin' and a rollin'.

The Red Hot Pokers were sparse in their approach allowing the lyrics and blues line of the music do all the work. The result was a faultless delivery of old-time American blues played tight and proud of the origins and need no new labeling to try and explain/justify the music this was pure entertaining Blues.



The Crusaders, an instrumental allowed all the musicians to demonstrate their individual and collective talents showing why the band was as popular tonight as they were back in the summer. The rendition of Jimmy Rogers, "Gambling Bar-room Blues" was simply spellbinding and by now the audience was definitely eating out of Johnny's hands, wondering what could top this... well the band did with more and more great music, including Chuck Berry's, "Nadine" and Johnny Cash's, "Twenty-Five minutes To Go". The music just flowed from the band it was a cascade of delight, and as the depth of sound washed over the audience, it was obvious that they were

enjoying playing as much as we were enjoying listening to them. Papa George Lightfoots; "Wine, Women and Whiskey" was played traditionally whilst having a twist of Dr Feelgood's magic who made this song so famous. Dance music was not forgotten with the fiddle used to beautifully express "Cajun Love"; in this waltz number from the Bayous. Following this was a little bit of funky blues courtesy of The Meters "Cissy Strut"; then back to blues with Blind Willie Johnson's; "Soul Of A Man" with its soulful slide guitar sound. The keyboard player was not going to miss out on showcasing his immense skills and this he did with class on the Ray Charles number; "Mess Around".

The eclectic play list delivered by The Red Hot Pokers was balanced providing a great mix of blues and soul classics given the Johnny Nedd treatment to make them the bands own and not just reproductions demonstrating that, if played well with love a passion and aplomb, a pleasurable night can be had for everyone without an original number played, just class music played by classy musicians.. What a great start to the new year the bar has been set very high from the off and the members are going to expect some high class entertainment after this opening gig of 2013.

FORTHCOMING GIG's

- 2nd Feb Billy Walton Band £10/£8
USA born livewire blues/rock guitarist and singer has appeared with a host of big names including Bruce Springsteen, Double Trouble and Gary US Bonds
- 2nd Mar Chantel McGregor £12/£10
Sure to sell out as she is consistently the act most requested to return to the club!
- 6th April Laurence Jones Band £7/£5
A blend of Blues and Rock with a groovy and catchy modern edge. Laurence released his first professional album "Thunder In The Sky" in June 2012.
- 11th May Ned Evett (The glass guitarist)
- 1st June Tres Hombres
- 6th July The Idle Hands
- 3rd August DSW
- 7th September The Motives feat Matt Taylor
- 5th October Willie and the Bandits

Borough Blues News

Thoughts, comments or suggestions on how to improve gig nights or the club can be forwarded to info@boroughblues.com or just speak to us on the desk!

That's all Folks