

SOUNDING OUT



Bathgate's Spinning Wheel took another step nearer the title of Scotland's top all-round band, when they won last week's "Search For A Star", sponsored by Tennent-Caledonian Breweries.

More than 100 people from the Bathgate area made their way to the Usher Hall last Saturday to see the band competing in the contest in aid of the Phoenix Youth Clubs.

Spinning Wheel—Bobby Speedie, Alistair Speedie, Dick Hewat and Alastair Stewart—were presented with a cheque for £200 and a large cup as winners.

Pianist Dick Hewat told me this week that the band were really "knocked out" at winning the competition.

He added: "All that was left to fill the cup with was whisky—and we don't even like the stuff!"

"However, everyone in the competition had a drink and it wasn't grudged."

Dick added that the band would be playing the same songs on Sunday when they compete in the Evening News Lang's

Whisky "Search For A Star" competition.

They'll kick off with one of their own songs, "That's Life", written by Bobby and Dick, then carry on with Gallagher and Lyle's "Breakaway", finishing with a rock 'n' roll medley featuring "Crocodile Rock" and "Rockin' Robin".

I'll be there at the Odeon, Edinburgh, along with nearly 200 locals cheering on the band.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that they complete the 'double'.

A Load of Punk

I'm no square but I'm glad to see Glasgow District Council have stopped these depraved purveyors of so-called punk rock, the Sex Pistols, from playing the Apollo Centre.

I hope this sets the trend for other local authorities to follow.

Punk rock never has and never will be a major force in contemporary music.

A few people have asked me this week exactly what punk rock is.

It's usually played by groups in the 17-20 age group. Their members resemble the type of "wee hard man" we used to laugh at in school.

Punk Rock itself is a collection of simple songs with elementary chord changes and banal lyrics e.g. "I get out of bed and kick you in the head" etc., etc.

Every punk rock song has the obligatory short, sharp guitar solo played with the treble pick-up full on.

That's my definition of punk rock—which would be nothing but a passing phase if it wasn't for the gullibility of certain publications.

Rory's Story

I once heard that Rory Gallagher was one of the most approachable rock stars in the biz today.

Born in Ballyshannon, County Donegal, he was playing his first real acoustic guitar (it replaced the plastic one) at the age of nine, boring relatives with cowboy tunes and Irish folk tunes (guaranteed to break the ice at parties).

Rory joined an Irish showband at the age of 15 while he was still at school.

With the Fontana Showband, Rory was able to tour England and Ireland while getting used to life on the road.

Then in December, 1965, he formed the original Taste, a legendary Irish blues-based band comprising Eric Kitteringham on bass and Norman Damery on drums.

The band made the move to London in '69 and signed with Polydor.

They cut two albums—"Taste" and "On The Boards". These two albums formed the basic repertoire for a good few young circuit bands round about this time.

Taste broke up in early 1970 and by '71 the man had formed a new band releasing the album "Rory Gallagher".

More big albums followed "Deuce", "Live In Europe", "Blueprint", "Tattoo"—and Gallagher made his name as one of the most exciting live acts in the world.

Last year Gallagher signed with Chrysalis and has released two albums "Against The Grain" and "Calling Card".

Gallagher and his band will be at Edinburgh's

Usher H January priced at and £1 a Usher 1 telephone

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