

FESTIVAL FEVER

with their "Tight, bright and great rootsy – yes you do need your dancing shoes on" performance – just as it said on their promo label. A valiant performance! The storm had abated by the time The Mustangs came on! I love this band having spotted and noted them at a Swanage Blues Festival some years back and at major festivals around the UK since. Adam vocals /guitar rhythm section Ben and John and harmonica hero Derek played a stonkingly great set of Brit R&B. Many songs from their new CD Pow Wow featured as well as some golden oldies and I overheard many a favourable comment from people sat close to me when they had finished their fine set. The next musical indulgence was the talented and very pretty Chantel McGregor. Guitar musos moved closer to see her play that six string of hers as she played some heavenly great rocking blues as well as entertaining us with friendly chat in between tuning and songs. An engaging young lass with bagfuls of talent and wicked humour she won many a man and boy with an interest in guitar showmanship over after her performance especially the Hendrix!! Next: The Cadillac Kings. It had dried up a little by now and the sun looked as though it may make an appearance! Whether it did or not did not matter as everyone was being delighted by the ultra Mr. Red hot and cool Mike Thomas and the band! In complete control with a penchant for dry wit and satirical p... take along with excellent slide guitar and nonchalant vocals he cut a dash as did the people flooding into the dance floor. We boogied on down, got low down and dirty, we bopped till we dropped and jived like our lives depended on it and rocked to the end of their set on jump jive 40s and 50s style dance beats. Don't think they'll be in church on Sunday!

Thought I might have to sit out the next performance (Alan Nimmo and King King) having seen them earlier in the week but did I? NO WAY! Right down in the very front of stage I gyrated for the whole of their mind blowing set. Numbers were mostly off their "Take My Hand" album that has been playing continuously in my car CD player for months. (it has only recently been usurped by a new CD Voodoo Moon by Savoy Brown!) What a glorious evening singing and dancing along to fantastic songs and rhythms and standing in silent awe at the slow tempo and sublime guitar wizardry Alan portrays in his version of "Old Love". Magic!

Bernie Marsden and Friends, I love this guy and in my humble estimation he can do no wrong. Beautiful guitar technique but modest with it – name dropped –yes but when you've around as long as he has been as great a guitarist singer song writer as he has and in demand as he has been you are entitled to do so. It is alleged that BB King once said of him "Bernie Marsden – now that man CAN play the Blues". In the closing hours of Saturday night he (and his friends) showed

us why he has come by such praise and numerous other accolades. He went through many a White Snake anthem then touched on early Brit Blues and current songs from recent musical ventures. Lovely sound creations from the twin lead guitars and vocals - band and audience went through many a rock anthem that evening – my favourites being: Is this Love, Would I Lie to You, Young Blood (you're Hot Property), Fool for Lovin' You, Can't Get Enough of your Love and the crowd just loved and joined in whole heartedly each chorus of Aint no Love in the Heart of the City. A master class recital all splattered with Marsden good natured humour. I pitied King Mo who had to follow THAT! But having flown in from Holland and being that countries top playing Blues Band they carried it off. They knew they had their work cut out but did it deter them? No way! They settled into a dynamic performance of raucous rocking blues. Many numbers were their own and stood up well against old tried and tested Blues. Sjors Nederlof, Phil Bee, Jules Van Brakel, Colly Franssen and Andrus Robbie Carree who make up this phenomenal line up have won accolades a plenty in their home land and over the continent and this night they conquered a soaked to the bone field full of people in the UK. I own up that I was so tired by now that I did retire early to get some rest so missed seeing the full set BUT I could hear them loud and clear half a mile away when I snuggled down in my dry spacious tent for the night and was still awake to hear their encore – a spectacular version of "Little Wing".

Sunday: Started off dry and windy so we decamped while it lasted. Sure enough as we got to the main stage again the weather broke. So Stratus started and re started when wind and rain and gremlins got the better of them. When they did get under away to play a shortened



Chantel McGregor



Alan Nimmo

Blues Matters! 100

All photos of LintonFestival supplied by Diane Gillard