

LOVELY TO SEE THE NIMMO BROTHERS BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

a musical one. Ben is a young gun rising on the blues/rock scene, but from this show of professionalism he played on and carried the audience with him. On stage fellow band members patiently waited. Once power was back, Ben and band played a slightly reduced, but nevertheless resoundingly-good programme from his repertoire. Much cheering ensued from a grateful audience when they left the stage. Ben and the band showed just what troupers they are.

Larry Miller Band. Having taken last year's Sunday afternoon audience and organisers by storm-force rocking blues, Larry was invited back to perform again but programmed late evening. Larry and the LMB devotees were in for a thunderous good rocking time, though they can also take it down a level or two and surprise you with a slow burner of a blues song. Larry's ascent to top festivals here and abroad was not a meteoric rise, but a steady, hard, sure-footed climb. I can recall seeing him in the Reckless Engineer (Bristol) some fifteen years ago. The pub was packed and many a Bristol musician showed up that night as, like me, they had heard talk of this guitar slinger making a name for himself on the biker scene and a few pubs and clubs around the M4 corridor. Well he's served his apprenticeship and has emerged a flying-with-honours veteran, fully decorated (and dressed to kill, no prisoners taken) rocking blues hero. The likes of Hendrix, Gallagher, Moore feature in loud long salvos from Larry's brilliant guitar work, but his own material can level you equally

as well. This he did to the delight of all present on that now-cooling, cloudy descent into night. His band: Derek White, wonderful bass that was cannoning off Larry's lead riffs and stage interaction, along with wonderful drums creating a Gattling gun rattling beat, and handy worked keyboards, with a touch of a lighter metal, all joined forces with LM and made a fantastic festival show even better. I was amongst many wondering why he wasn't headlining.

The Union. They may have been voted best new band 2009 having formed from the Thunder fallout, and had three very well received albums, but for me I was still shell shocked from LMB and decided five numbers into their set to retire to my tent and lick my wounds (soak my dance wearied feet in hot soapy water). From there I could hear The Union and the cheers from their many loyal followers. After the exuberance of LMB they sounded rocky, but not exciting enough to get me back into battle fatigues, rifle re-loaded and bayonet fixed – no, if I was to fight another day at this festival it would be tomorrow!

SATURDAY

Nat Martin Band. It's difficult being the first band on at any festival, but even as an unknown, to me and some others they proved themselves with a great sound selection of soulful blues. They had sent their CD to the Linton Committee and impressed them. The crowd that afternoon were impressed as well with fine guitar work and vocals loud and clear. Their keyboard player laid down some fine funky jazz-laden music, and the rhythm section kept everything afloat and on time. A cracking little band and a nice intro to a full day's festival line-up.

Mitch Laddie Band. What a great outfit this turned out to be! Mitch has been influenced, nurtured

and championed by Walter Trout no less! It is so good to see and hear his protégées as an assurance that his thundering good rocking blues are taken up and built upon by the next generation of bands. Mitch and the band impressed the audience and had us dancing. They in turn appeared to be enjoying every moment too.

Connie Lush and Blues

Shouter. It's been a while since I last saw Connie and the lads and so it was a pleasant job to get out on the dance floor and boogie on down to this classy Liverpool lassie with endearing hot-fired vocals, and an astounding lead guitarist backed up by a tight, stupendous rhythm section. What more is there left to say? This is their second visit to Linton and justifiably so. Always a crowd puller and pleaser and festival stalwart is our Connie and the boys.

Nimmo Brothers. Lovely to see them back together again and exciting the audience into feverish dance reaction. To say they could do no wrong is an understatement. They ran through a tremendous programme of mostly their own material that thrilled to excess.

Eugene 'Hideaway' Bridges.

EHB is yet another festival stalwart and second time appearance here at Linton. Eugene is a larger than life figure in all senses of the word; large with mighty powerful vocals to match, and guitar playing that is sublime! One minute you are all bopping and rocking around, then he strikes a blue bent note and slows down a pace and you're rooted to the spot in awe of a heart wrenching slow, moody, thought-provoking song that IS the BLUES! When he asked Steve Nimmo to join him it erupted into a storming friendly guitar duel. Awesome! When it was all done he left the stage to rapturous applause and cheering, deservedly so! Eugene finished off the set and there was no doubt

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