

THE 2ND ANNUAL PRESTON ROCK IN BLUES FESTIVAL

HOSTED BY THE TONIC LIVE LOUNGE AT THE BEARS PAW

SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2015.

MC MR CHRIS POWERS - VINYL DJ

This wonderful live music event, which featured five acts of very talented musicians who travelled from far and wide to entertain us, was successful in bringing to the table excellent music and a mix of genres to tickle the taste buds of live music followers. Preston was lucky to have them all under one roof.

KENT DuCHAINED Delta Blues Georgia USA

Kent was the opening act, a musician of some repute, Oh Yeh, with his steel guitar (Leadbessie) that has been with him for some considerable time but sounding as sweet as a nut in the hands of a maestro. A raconteur, a brilliant musician and songs that filled your imagination, Oh Yeh you were there listening to stories about Muddy Waters, Bukka White, Howlin' Wolf, Willy Dixon and Johnny Shine with inspired songs to go with them, superb.

THE BROTHERS GROOVE from Birmingham

Blues with a very funky beat they are masters at it and are comfortable in their own groove with a pumping bass line from Deano Bass a twin attack from guitarists Shaun Hill (vocals) and Nige Mellor and kicking the beat is Jim Simpson. They treated us to six original works and four covers, the originals are on their C Ds entitled PLAY THE GAME followed by AT THE CROSSING. The vocals and guitar work of Shaun is superb on the song "Another Girl" - brilliant.

THE BLUES DUO from Chester

Tommy Allen and Johnny Hewitt they are the most exciting duo I've heard and they give it all. The Blues harp work of Johnny is outstanding. He gets sounds out of his harp that scientists haven't heard yet, the vocals of Tommy are in your face blues the song "Why'd You Treat Me" (You Tube) says it all for me it doesn't get better than this, perfect.

WILLE & THE BANDITS from Cornwall

This magnificent trio are the cats whiskers in what I call dynamic progressive heavy rock, with soul blues overtones, with forceful vocals and lap guitars at the maximum from Wille Edwards, a six string bass guitar and a modern double bass from the very able Matt Brooks and a mix of beats influenced from all points of the compass controlled by Andrew Naumenn, it's a melting pot to dive head long into.

ROSCO LEEVEE & THE SOUTHERN SLIDE from Kent

This band combines British rock and Southern rock with a blues edge which explodes into life. The guitar of Rosco Levee is as you would expect, powerful and precise, his vocals are reminiscent of Paul Rogers and Steve Marriot a perfect combination, with Andy Hayes on rhythm guitar, Simon

Gardiner on bass guitar and one of the best rock drummers I've heard south of Birmingham, Dave Tettmar and new member to the band on Hammond organ and electric piano Steve Watts.

Rosco and his band give the Rock genre the 2015 make- over.

Keith Blackledge

Independent National & International music reviewer