

REVIEWED BY DAVE 'BIG BOY' BROWN

SINGLES

SOLID GOLD HIT PACK

WILKO JOHNSON'S SOLID SENDERS: Walking On The Edge (Virgin VS214).

May the great British R&B scene never flag. Competent stroll-on stuff from the guitar governor of contemporary rock and his strapping band, now given an apt title. I must admit to split loyalties when Wilko and Doctor Feelgood parted company, but it's nice to see that they're both going great guns. I tell you one thing though, the better established Feelgoods had better watch it: they've got a hellhound on their trail. This song has already appeared on 'Sneakin' Suspicion', Wilk's last encounter with the Dr, but this is a much more distinct offering with not surprisingly Wilko sounding much more confident now he's at the helm of his own hot beat combo. Dig that slapback beat, a credit to his development of Mick Green's basic style. The other 'A' side is a more unusual composition, shared with Hugo Williams, Dr Dupree. Can't wait for an album of stuff this good. Long may he jump.

SOLID SILVER SMASH

THE RADIATORS: Million Dollar Hero (Chiswick NS29).

This number was the climax of their set when I saw them at Dublin and lifts the band out of last year's new wave innovators bracket and into the pop stars of tomorrow league. Tony Visconti handles production with usual precision capturing all the shifts of rhythm emphasis to pull a real wangdang out of the hat. Based on a sturdy beat it features a catchy hook which will hopefully give this so talented band the wider recognition they surely have coming to them. Look out for them doing this one on the much improved teen progs on the box.

AUSTRALIAN ROCKABILLY 12" SINGLE OF THE WEEK

AUTODRIFTERS: Best Bets (ZAKZR002)

Surprisingly enough there is only one entry in this category this week from a bonzer bunch of sheep clippers beating hell out of the old rockabilly rhythm with a furious fivesome written by a wildman from out back called Warren Rough. Tuff monaural stuff which shows a wealth of influences and inspirations, mainly beer. Have you noticed how these Aussie drongoes always manage to come up with a band for every trend we have over here? AC/DC for hard rock, Saints for new wave, Rolf Harris for rubbish and now a rockabilly band. Actually, I've quite taken to this set, but for chrissake don't tell 'em it's good or they'll be over here like a rat up a drain and then we'll never get rid of 'em. Gawd knows where you can purchase this particular collation.



The holder of this week's 'Australian Rockabilly 12" Single Of The Week' Award caught by our candid camera in an unnatural act with an elephant (well, there's not much to do in the Outback). R And B Single Of The Week man Wilko Johnson (inset) looks suitably impressed.

OTHER BIG 'UNS

STOMU YAMASHITA: Crossing The Line (Island IPR2104)

Crosstown traffic from Stomu, Steve Winwood, Michael Shrieve, Klaus Schulze and Al Di Meola. The names alone should indicate we're entering the quality bracket. The music says more, with spectacular guitarwork, soul stripping vocals and stern, solid drumming holding it all together. Live singles are ambitious even today; this one works though and is more than a worthy sampler for the forthcoming attraction, a double live 'Go — Live From Paris'.

OLYMPIC RUNNERS WITH GEORGE CHANDLER: Whatever It Takes (RCA PCS5078).

At the better end of the disco market are the Runners, a band who have yet to achieve the success the weight of their lineup, with Jo Jammer, Pete Wingfield etc, would suggest. This one should arouse the Travolta-clones down the disco dives and also get airplay from the many soul-inclined jocks on the radio these days who are thankfully getting more adventurous in their selections (are they? — Ed.).

THESE YOU HAVE LOVED

SUNSET BOMBERS: I Can't Control Myself (EMI International Int555). Reg Presley lives! Yet Trogg's dynamite seems a little short fused these days: a strange choice for young youths.

THE JOLT: What 'cha Gonna Do About It (Polydor 2059 008).

This trio from North of the border sound to have improved no end since I caught a very nervous set by them down the old Vortex last year. Still in uncertain territory with a Small Faces hardy annual given a harped-up R&B treatment.

BLUE OYSTER CULT: (Don't Fear) The Reaper (CBS6333).

Revived '45 of the victors' 'Agents Of Fortune' album which is the only BOC LP in my collection, mainly due to this particular cut, which on reflection is perhaps more due to its stunning resemblance to The Byrds. Now there was a great band for you . . .

MASON WILLIAMS: Classical Gas (Warner Bros K16011).

In the days when Hugh Fielder was just a twinkle in his dad's eye and Gordon Giltrap hadn't been invented, this chap blended tasteful guitar with strings and things and came up with this music that is just great for intros to TV talk programmes.

ERNE GRAHAM: Romeo And The Lonely Girl (Stiff OFF2).

The latest "Yesterday's here today" from the label that takes pride in its discovery of legends and lunatics. Our Ern tackles the Phil Lynott saga with a certain panache which is unlikely to be a biggie on Diddy Hamilton's show. Ne'er mind, keep up the good work lads.

WHO MENTIONED FOLK?

GAY AND TERRY WOODS: We Can Work This One Out (Rockburgh ROCS202).

If anyone can fill the great big hole left in my heart due to a lack of new Richard And Linda Thompson records, this could be the very twosome to do the trick. A quality song delivered in perfect clarity. Superb stuff but probably doesn't stand a chance in hell due to the nation's

hangups about what is hip. The album from which this is taken, 'Tender Hooks', is highly recommended too.

MADDY PRIOR: Rollercoaster (Chrysalis CHS2224).

Steeleye's sister makes the big step with a song/sound that is both breaking fresh ground for her as a solo artist and yet maintaining a lifeline to the past. Not a particularly outstanding vehicle, but delivered confidently.

A PAIR OF CHARLIES

CHARLIE RICH: Puttin' In Overtime At Home (United Artists UP36394).

CHARLEY PRIDE: Someone Loves You Honey (CRCA PB1201).

Dungaree rock with that pedal steel shiver that is strictly for country cousins. Mind you, not a single dog dies in either song so they can't be too bad.

WORLD AFFAIRS

MARSHALL, HAIN: Dancing In The City (Harvest HAES157).

Seductive groove established via a nagging background rhythm with well placed vocals, instruments and effects making for a disco dancer with a difference. Such thoughtful arrangements deserve special consideration as you swirl beneath those mirror balls (keep your sex life out of this, Brown — Ed.).

ALTHIA AND DONNA: Love One Another (Lightning LIG532).

One t'ing leads to another (groan), as they say. Not in the same class as their former number one but sounds much better than the sounds going round on the Virgin label by this JA duo.

RAB NOAKES: Waiting Here For You (Ring 'O' 2107 115).

Big Terry Melcher wall of sound backs up a fairly undistinguished song. A bit of a wasted effort in fact.

BETHNAL: Don't Do It (Vertigo BET002).

Having taken a bit of a bash through their first LP and single, Bethnal have another shot. It's better, but still doesn't relate to what the band are about. I got the faintest suspicion someone somewhere wants them to be the next young Who band. Should leave 'em to their own capable thing as amply displayed in their energy-full stage set.

HEATWAVE: Mind Blowing Decisions (GTO GT226).

Pick of the UK funk outfits with an impressive lineup of vocalists and sturdy musicians taking it way down to an ultra-smooth, mellow groove. Taken from their rather super 'Central Heating' album, which should slay you soul smoochers out there.

CHRIS SPEDDING: Bored Bored (RAK274).

Ace session guitarist never really manages to get his own stuff off the ground. The end result is as predictably tedious as the subject despite growling guitar injections here and there.

SMOKIE: Oh Carol (RAK276).

Not the old rocker of course, but a Chinichap midtempo whimper with an 'orrid line about "floating along the milky way". That sort of talk is better left to chocolate ads.

PRETTY BOY FLOYD: Spread The Word Around (Ripoff RIP1).

Commendable mover from Ireland with more than a touch of the Thin Lizzy's stamp of quality to it. How could you dislike an honestly named label like that? They operate from 120 Coach Road, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim BT39 OHB. And good luck to 'em.

STEVE HILLAGE: Getting Better (Virgin VS212).

The cosmic cowboy tackles the Sgt Pepper oldie in usual style. The trouble is, releasing cover versions always seems something

of a weakness unless you're going to really do something with it once you've laid your hands on it.

IN CROWD: Back A Yardt (Cactus CT111).

J. A. hotshots under the careful eye and eye of Fil Calender come up with a rhythmic goodie. It takes a tune of distinction still to pull a hit from the reggae cult market. This one could transcend these barriers due to the same magnetic appeal that made 'Top Ranking' such a successful spinner.

THE NO ENTRY BAND: Cold And Lonely Lives (K.A.1).

Self financed EP from Glasgow with an unusual vocal based presence. Has its moments, particularly with the title track with Ilona Turliewicz's lead vocal making more than favourable impressions.

TERRA COTTA: Terra Cotta (TC001).

More homemade sounds from a midweight rock foursome with slight boogie appeal but little else of note.

PHANTOM: Lazy Fascist (Cool Ghoul Cool 001).

Reggae-backed anti-fascist message with "power-dub" flip. The big companies apparently wouldn't touch it 'cos of its political stance, so you'll find it at the specialist shops only for the time being.

T. REX: Crimson Moon/Jason B. Sad (EMI MARC 19).

Two cuts from 'Dandy In The Underworld' LP see first light as a '45 in memory of the late lamented bopper. Fairly typical Bolan style, steady rock beat topped with the distinctive voice and characteristic lyrics.

LITTLE NELL: The Musical World Of (A&M AMS7351).

Got quite hot under the collar at the sight of this Rock Follies nymphet getting wet in a paddling pool, but as for the music . . . well, I suppose it is fun, if you like that kinda thing.