

# BOROUGH BLUES

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## **This Month at the BBC – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 “Marcus Bonfanti” plus “Sicknote Steve”**



To date Marcus Bonfanti has been in my opinion the best blues vocalist to have appeared at the Borough Blues Club since its inception.

The sheer energy and inimitable style of this guy throughout his outstanding performance last year was enough to endear all present, but the voice was the thing. The tone and depth of feeling conveyed by his lyrics were an absolute inspiration, from the moment he walked through the audience playing harmonica and onto the stage to perform his first track totally unaccompanied, we knew this was going to be something special and we were not disappointed. Marcus has been nominated again this year, for the British Blues Awards, for best blues vocalist and best acoustic guitarist. Needless to say we are very much looking forward to this gentleman's return!

Support is from “Sicknote Steve”, who would be worthy of the admission fee by himself. So much more than a tribute to the legendary “Seasick Steve” the enthusiasm and dedication to his craft will influence many. An evening not to be missed for sure!

## **Later this Month at the BBC – 16<sup>th</sup> June “Aynsley Lister”**



Regarded as one of the UK's finest proponents of rocking blues, this is a rare chance to see Aynsley

Lister up close and personal in a stripped down, intimate setting. Don't be fooled into thinking solo means 'limited and plodding'; his solo performances are the perfect platform to witness his amazing ability to sync rhythmical chords, bass lines and stinging lead guitar whilst singing and accompanying it all with his custom-built stomp box! After live sessions for BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris and Paul Jones and performances alongside the likes of Buddy Guy, John Mayall and Robert Cray, Aynsley became the only British artist to be featured in Classic Rock's Top 10 Contemporary Blues Rock Artists.

Expect an evening of finely crafted songs performed with a passion and conviction that will have you hooked from the very first chord.

'Superb' – **THE TIMES**

'His guitar playing is a fire hazard' – **MOJO**

## **BLUES FESTIVAL 2012: 7<sup>th</sup> July**



Counting down to our big event on 7<sup>th</sup> July – This has been a great day out in the past and we have a great line-up this year featuring the likes of the Red Hot

Pokers and The Worried Men. The full line-up is set to run as follows:

- The Workshop Band
- Sam Andrews Band
- The Worried Men
- The Red Hot Pokers
  - Dawson Smith
  - Blue on Black

The day will start at 1pm and as usual the final act will be inside the club and will be ticketed separately. The first five acts can be seen with a festival ticket at bargain price of just £5 for a whole afternoon of quality blues!

## **GIG REVIEW: The Motives Gig Review: Adrian Bold, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

The Borough Blues Club Committee will consider avoiding Bank Holiday weekends for gig nights after a very disappointing showing for an incredible Motives performance on May



5<sup>th</sup>. This hugely professional band deserved more than the fifty or so people who came to see them.

Matt Taylor, who has a tremendous pedigree, a great voice and fluent and expressive guitar skills, fronted this recently formed band that played a set mostly of their own compositions. With two-times British Blues Award winner Andy Graham on bass (he is also nominated this year), the mercurial Johnny Dyke on keys and the hugely experienced Roy Martin on drums the band demonstrated the reason for their growing reputation as a force in British Blues.

Dave Leek introduced the set revealing that Matt had forgotten his suit and black tie – the bands signature uniform - but there were no further slip ups in an otherwise faultless

performance. Highlights included "Never tell a lie" from their new album "The Motives featuring Matt Taylor" (to be launched in the UK on 11<sup>th</sup> of June but available for the first time at this gig) and the quirky "Leap of Faith" which is nominated for the Kevin Thorpe award for "Best Original Song" at the 2012 British Blues Award. (A second song titled "Gangster" is also nominated). It seems that this band have a long way to go and will develop a great following. Those who joined in the bands audience-participation encore "Walk On" on Saturday night may already be on board – let us hope there are many more for the return of this terrific band!

In support with a great set on Saturday were Mike Markey and Nick Jones – old friends of the Borough Blues Club. They have been building their reputation on the blues scene with festival and radio appearances and deliver original blues with their own unique slant. Mikes gravelly voice and rasping harp are accompanied by the intricate and lightening fast picking skills of guitarist Nick Jones. With such delightful songs as "I want to Squeeze your Lemons" (Blind Boy Fuller); "Fishin' Blues" (Henry Thomas) and "Living with the Blues" (Sonny Terry and Brownie M<sup>c</sup>Gee) they charmed the audience and provided a great foil to the electric Motives who followed.

It's a pity there were not more there to see it – I guess we will avoid Bank Holiday weekends in future.

### FORTHCOMING GIG'S

2<sup>nd</sup> June Marcus Bonfanti  
According to many who witnessed his festival night performance this year, the best this club has ever seen bar none. Absolutely outstanding vocals and so much energy!

16<sup>th</sup> June Aynsley Lister  
The blues man with the 'boy-next-door' looks, the dextrous guitar fingers and the silky voice; the one that plays contemporary blues as if it's the most natural thing you can do.

7<sup>th</sup> July "Festival" plus Blue on Black  
All day event outside with 5 bands including "The Red hot Pokers" followed by our regular gig inside the club featuring Blue on Black. Put the date in your diary it should be a cracker!

4<sup>th</sup> August Ted Crook and Blues Highway  
Old favourites at the club. Ted is as good a harp player as you could expect to see!

8<sup>th</sup> September Hokie Joint  
Hokie Joint takes 5 pieces of youth and experience to create a ground breaking, song-driven twist on the genre, performing their own unique brand of dirty, roots based groove

music

6<sup>th</sup> October Babajack  
BabaJack is an acoustic blues/ folk band from Malvern that is fast becoming an established band on the Folk and Blues Festival circuits in the UK and into Europe

20<sup>th</sup> October Ian Siegal  
Very high profile internationally acclaimed performer – first visit to the Club

3<sup>rd</sup> November Innes Sibun  
Ex- Robert Plant band guitarist who set out on solo career to play blues. Has made seven albums. "A national treasure" CLASSIC ROCK magazine. "The best blues you will hear all year" TOTAL GUITAR magazine.

1<sup>st</sup> December Buddy Whittington  
A welcome return for this American Giant of the Blues – nearly a decade and a half in John Mayall's Bluesbreakers but now a genuine talent as a blues front man

8<sup>th</sup> December Eddie Martin  
A truly blistering electric guitar player who blows a mean harp and scrapes a mean slide

### Borough Blues News

**GTFM Radio** The Club Chair, Adrian Bold, and Band Booking Officer, Dave Leek, were guests on GTFM Community Radio "Bob and Norm's Blues Show" on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April. The show goes out Monday nights between 8.00pm and 10.00pm on 107.9 FM or through a live feed on [www.gtfm.co.uk](http://www.gtfm.co.uk).

Dave and Adrian were able to give the history, aims and activities of the Borough Blues Club, to talk about some of the quality performers who have appeared at the club and to present the future gigs. This should help promote the club since the "Blues Show" goes out to a wide audience on Wales' first Community Radio project. We will put a recording of the show on the website if we can obtain permission from Bob and Norm – and you should give the show a hearing – it contains a lot of information about the blues scene in South Wales.

**AGM** The Club held its AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 and the audience received reports from Chair, Treasurer, Workshop and Membership Coordinator. There being no other nominations the standing committee members were re-appointed. The club is in a good state of health having made progress in the last year with bigger name bands coming to the club and the membership increasing to 160. The minutes are available at [www.boroughblues.com](http://www.boroughblues.com)

*That's all Folks*