

READING ROCKS ON



Rock Festival 77 at Reading.

Pictures by Marilyn Baylow



Martin Sims of Stax Marx at the Festival yesterday

THOUSANDS of rock fans braved mud and rain on the first day of the festival to hear music by the first nine bands on the line-up.

By the time the fans leave Reading they will have seen 30 bands — from England, the United States and Holland.

Eddie and the Hot Rods stole the show on the first night. The English rock band, who now prefer to be known as just the Rods, received a rapturous response from the rain-drenched crowd.

Lead singer Barry Masters turned somersaults and climbed the scaffolding at the rear of the stage as part of an impressive act which kept the audience enthralled.

The music began on time. Punk rockers Stax Marx were some support with their energetic appearance in the face of sound problems, and an almost bone-dry crowd.

In the end, the group, which had 17 years in "professional" contact, started tearing the audience to shreds "out of, get off". The response they received was minimal.

Reels

A complete change of style for the next band, S.A.D.s, who turned out to be one of the "real" acts of the day. Their brand of hard-driving rhythm and blues set the crowd on and dancing. Slingshot and Vamp Little Steve Smith is small in stature but big in talent. The U-bowls were listed out in black leather and looked as if they would be more at home on Top Of The Pops or Supertramp than in Reading.

The American band Kinfish seemed to take some time setting up their equipment and getting the balance right. Consequently, their set was very long and the music was Coast-style music hardly set the crowd on fire.

Five Hand Reel, with jaunty Irish and Scottish airs and feet again. Although beset by sound problems, their happy music was just what was needed to get the night moving. The band were the last to take the stage before the big bands took the stage.

BY DAVID MURRAY

Less Star produced a very professional but heavy rock dynamic. Although it was their rock 'n' roll style which drew it.

Their set was very loud. The band, however, was last night. The stage produced a wall of sound which built up the audience into big groups.

The band, who include keyboard player Tom Jones, drummer Neil Young, and bassist Steve Nieve, were Reading, played with the sound right.

The boys were difficult to hear, but they kept up their sound with rain with the banding sound.

Antics

Then on came the Rods. Their appearance at the festival had their sides and necks.

The new production of the highest sets in the land, out in the park, made the band look like a circus. Georgia Quid This Year and the Marketing Company were the last two of the highlights. Barry Masters controlled the tempo superbly and his stage antics were a cut. The band were from Ireland; by preference after the night was raised by the baroque style, might have had difficulty following the Rods, they were so much sound problems, which seemed to be the last guitar was "out" in the mix, they were down like a storm.



The early crowd settles in

The story of the rock festival in a picture



■ The day the photographer was beaten by the weather! JIM DEBURI took the first of the six pictures needed for this composite shot of the rock festival site, starting from the right. In sequence, by the time the last frame, on the left, was taken — within 30 seconds — the rain started to fall. The camera was mounted on a tripod on the top of the Brewhouse Field behind the Stage Road. The lens was a Thom Vinters; the film was Kodak SP of 2500, at a second of 1/8.

Squelching good time is being had by all

By FERGUS SHANNAN

READING finally started rocking yesterday afternoon amid a sea of mud, wet tents and smiling faces.

Wearing one of the biggest smiles was festival promoter Harold Penlington. Undaunted by miserable weather and huge extra cost because of the rain, he regarded the caked mud on his boots cheerfully.

"I know from past experience that it always seems to rain over Bank Holidays. But, as the saying goes, the show must go on," he said.

"It's cost me an enormous amount of money to bring in extra roadways and other things because of the rain. But I'm happy, and so are the fans."

He was quite right about the audience. Braving mud a foot deep in places and rain, snaking queues to get in, the fans accepted everything with remarkable patience and good humour.

For them, Mr Penlington had good news — a firm commitment for his part in the future of the Reading Rock Festival.

THAT DISTINCTIVE FESTIVAL AROMA

Despite limitations imposed on the size of the audience, Mr Penlington is happy with the success of the festival in Richfield Avenue.

As he pointed out, he has recently signed a new agreement with Reading Borough Council for holding festivals on the site.

The arena filled steadily yesterday

afternoon as fans from all over Britain and Europe took their seats on the sodden ground to await the first of the 30 bands set to entertain during the three-day festival.

They were ready to spend their first evening in the unique festival atmosphere that springs up among the gathering glom of excited fans.

The distinctive aroma of incense, hot dogs and firewood was drifting across the festival site as punk rockers Stan Marx and the Festival Underway band by Stan Marx, they didn't go so far to work with the fans but first came usually find themselves becoming an Aunt Sally for the audience if they don't set everyone alight with their first note.

JUST ROLL UP YOUR DENIMS

The best bands are yet to come. Hours of heavy, grinding rock and progressive punk music ahead before the bill-toppers, The Lizzies (touché) and the Sensational Alex Harvey Band (tomorrow) take the stage.

Fans from the main arena, thousands of fans spend their time in the muddy mud, waiting for their chance to see some fan favourites like the heavy "boots" others simply get in to see some acts and see their first note.

The problem of surface water has been eased by Mr Penlington's decision to install a sewerage system this year. The sewers also act as drains, although many parts of the festival site are still under water.

Outside the site, traffic built up in the centre of Reading as last-minute fans streamed towards the festival. In Richfield Avenue, a long queue of fans built up to buy tickets at the gate.

The festival organisers say all the advance tickets have sold out, but tickets are still available at the gate.

THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL



A NATIONAL APPEAL

To mark the occasion of The Queen's Silver Jubilee, The Prince of Wales is leading a national appeal. Her Majesty, in giving approval to His Royal Highness's appeal of a national appeal, has indicated that she would like to focus on young people in Great Britain and the Commonwealth, and in particular to give them greater opportunity and encouragement for programmes in and services to the community.

Owing to inflation, many existing youth organisations, doing excellent work, are in the need of funds and have had to abandon or curtail worthwhile projects. The proceeds of the Appeal will provide much needed help for these organisations.

OBJECTS OF THE APPEAL

After discussion with his Advisory Committee, and with the Queen's approval, The Prince of Wales has decided that the funds raised will be held in trust and used as follows:

(i) to encourage and enable young people to work together to help others of all ages in the community

(ii) to make available, as soon as possible after the close of the appeal, grants to meet specific job or personal projects throughout the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

(iii) the support projects for the benefit of young people of all Commonwealth countries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO PROCEEDS OF THE APPEAL?

The proceeds of the appeal will be administered by The Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust, and up to one half of the money raised in Berkshire by the close of the appeal on April 30, 1978 will be immediately available for use in approved projects in Berkshire.

The balance of the money received, both nationally and locally, will be used to create a capital fund, the income of which will provide continued support to the future for ongoing and new projects approved by the Trust.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can provide active help for the appeal by supporting all or any of the special Jubilee Events listed on the opposite page.

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■ The fans are sitting, if not very comfortably, waiting for the music to begin.

ture — one minute sun, the next rain



FORTHCOMING JUBILEE EVENTS

AUGUST 29
JUBILEE
JAZZ & FOLK
FESTIVAL

Following the Reading Rock Festival, the Evening Post and NJF Marquee are staging, on August Bank Holiday, August 29, a special one-day Festival of Folk and Jazz. The ticket proceeds will be donated to Reading Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund.

The festival will consist of a folk session and a jazz session. Tickets are £1.75 per session or £2.50 for an all-day ticket which is very good value for a line-up of top artists including Chris Barber, Jimmy Witherspoon, Richard Digance, Humphrey Lyttelton, Elkie Brooks, Five Hand Reel to name just a few. If you look in our entertainments section you'll see the full line-up of stars.

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SEPTEMBER 17

Michaelmas fair at the Village Hall, Barkham.

OCTOBER 1

Book and Jigsaw Sale at the Roman Catholic Church, Wokingham Road, Earley.

OCTOBER 7

Dance at Ryeish Green School, Shinfield

OCTOBER 8

Autumn Fayre, St Mary's, Winnersh

OCTOBER 12

The Berkshire Silver Jubilee Committee are to hold a public auction of antiques and fine arts at Englefield House, Theale.

OCTOBER 22

Barn dance at St Peter's Hall, Earley

Wetfeet tribe?



Braving the weather at Richfield Avenue, these fans kept drier than most in their Indian wigwag.

Splashing out



The Thames comes in handy for washing mud-caked feet.

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QUEUES, FUN AND MUD



■ The view from the stage



■ The week's rain didn't stop the queues



■ Chuck Flemming of the 5 Hand Reel.



■ Ken Hensley, of Uriah Heep, at Reading Festival yesterday.



■ The site at its worst... thick mud

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■ Barrie Masters, of Eddie and the Hot Rods.



■ Uriah Heep on stage yesterday.

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