



(Header by Sven Kramer)

Last year's RB Experience was supposed to be a one off. We didn't know exactly how it was going to go until it happened. In the event, it was an amazing experience. Lots of excitement and a lot of happy (and, I think, surprised, people). Before the end of the evening Russ was saying, "Let's do it again". The intention was always there but we had to wait until other things fell into place before we could fix the date. Southern Maltings is the perfect venue for us but it is becoming popular and busy and they didn't have a lot of available Saturdays left. So, with only six weeks to go, we decided to go for 6th April. Lots to do in a short time. It worked, though, didn't it?

Before I go further I would like to apologise to all the readers who weren't able to come. Because of the short notice some people who would have liked to be there were already committed to other things and it is quite a long way to come from Japan or the US for an evening, no matter how special it is. We did, though, have 14 people fly and Eurostar in from five European countries. Thank you to them and everyone who travelled not quite so far, for joining us for the party.

We have to be careful with numbers as the absolute maximum for the venue is 250. That is why we needed a system. I really appreciated your cooperation with our ticket and Paypal set up and it really did make it easier for us on the night.

There are lots of people to thank for their combined effort in making this a success. Firstly, **massive thanks to Russ** for doing this again. He really is a star in many ways. Thank you to the wonderful Roulettes, Russ, Bob, Mod and Pete. All of us Roulettes fans, and there were a lot there, never imagined this could happen. Thanks to those other amazing and talented musicians in the band, Steve Smith, Derik Timms, Mike Steed and Roly Jones. Thanks to Bob Henrit's new band, Blue Submarine, who opened the show. Thanks to the guest artists...Chris Andrews, who came with Jurgen (Adam Faith) and Spencer, from Germany for this, Bob Bradbury and Nicky Amos (Sandy Shaw). Also to Roly for his solo and Brian Barry, who added to his dream. Thanks to Sven for generously providing the badges for you to keep as a memento and for designing and providing the t-shirts. And thanks to Ian Street for coming all the way from Portugal to MC.

THE RB 2019 EXPERIENCE

WARE
UK 6TH APR 19
russballardmusic.com



Thanks to Nigel Manders at Southern Maltings for all his help with making the evening special, even though he is not as involved there as he was last year. Also to Mark, Terry and all the volunteers at the venue for all their hard work. Go to the Southern Maltings FB page and scroll down to see a post on 9th April with some great b&w photos of the evening. Link below. There are a few photos attached here from Sven, Carole and Michele.

Thank you for all the lovely emails and messages I have had since the party. It is so good to hear about your happy 'experiences' and your feedback is very much appreciated. I have included one this time, from Richard, who wasn't able to be there last year.

This is quite a Roulettes oriented newsletter so Dave Williams has written an article about them for this month and we have a 'Reader's Profile' from Matt, which also features our 60s 'boy band'.

Sue

SOUTHERN MALTINGS PHOTOS

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernMaltings/?epa=>



[Southern Maltings](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernMaltings/?epa=)

Southern Maltings, Ware. 1,183 likes · 886 were here.
Official page of the Southern Maltings working to develop this historic building into an amazing new creative arts and entertainment venue.

www.facebook.com

FROM RUSS

What a great night at The Ware Experience....I think some of the younger people there were wondering what was going on, on stage, at certain times. Amazing as it seems to us, who were there in the sixties, there are people who don't remember Adam Faith, - [as a singer]. However, we were there, Pete Thorp, Mod Rogan, Bob Henrit and myself, as 'The Roulettes' - by Adam Faith's side, on stage and on record, for three years. We were teenagers, that's why it's such a sweet feeling, that we can get together now, intact, - [well almost], and relive memories, with the help of our old friend, Chris Andrews, who wrote many of the songs of that time.

Because Tel or Terry, - [Adam's real name] - died fifteen years ago, we had to find someone who could sing those songs from the sixties - and who would believe, Chris found that very man in Dortmund, Germany....Jurgen Weber. So, Chris, with wife, Alex, along with Jurgen and his musician

friend, Tomas, all flew in to Stansted, to perform with us in Ware, at Southern Maltings, on Saturday.

I met Chris, Alex, Jurgen and Tomas at their hotel and, after being told their rooms wouldn't be ready for an hour, I invited them back to my house, where we could relax, while their rooms were being made ready. Amazingly! it turned out, - [after chatting to Jurgen] - he was a huge Adam Faith fan and knew all the songs, [what a result]. So there we were, ready to 'tread the boards again', just like the old days.... Adam Faith and The Roulettes....hit medleys, along with La Bamba, Bad Time and Mustang 'Sausage' Sally, [By Mod], and Chris, on form, with 'Yesterday Man ' and 'To Whom it Concerns' along with great rock and roll. He's as good as ever. And Nicky Amos beautifully sang some of the songs Chris wrote for Sandy Shaw.

The show was opened by Bob's band, "Blue Submarine", playing the best of classic blues tunes we all know. Great vocals and guitar and hot, wailing harmonica.

*There were many old friends in the crowd, who joined the spirit of the evening. There were some new faces, people I didn't recognise, but after chatting to them were really nice. I've said it before, the chemistry between the performers on stage and the audience is magic and one needs the other....When everyone is in the mood...what could be better....Thanks for being there everyone - Let's do it again!! Love, Russ
xxx*

RB EXPERIENCE

For the few of you who won't have seen this on Facebook already, here is a 9 minute compilation video of the evening. Huge thanks to Sven for putting this together.

<https://youtu.be/8Ckq5xyEzIs>



[THE RUSS BALLARD EXPERIENCE 2019 / Russ Ballard, The Roulettes](https://youtu.be/8Ckq5xyEzIs)

Russ Ballard and friends live ...a very special evening!
[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/8Ckq5xyEzIs)

T-SHIRTS

There are just a few 'RB Experience 19' t-shirts left. If anyone wishes they had bought one and didn't, here is your chance. The sizes available are 4 x L, 7 x XL, 1 x XXL. There is also 1 x XL Estoril t-shirt...an exclusive if you are planning on going to the gig in Portugal.



The cost of the 'Experience' t-shirts is £10 and the Estoril t-shirt, £15 plus £3.50 postage, without tracking, for both. If you would like to buy one, or more, please just drop me an email here and I will arrange it for you. Payment will be by PayPal. We have left the Paypal account open.

LETTERS

What an astonishing event. Right from the sweet music of the first musicians. As an opening act they hit just the right spots.

Then came The Roulettes. The last time I saw The Roulettes playing on stage was at Brooklyn Technical College in Birmingham just after they had stopped backing Adam Faith. It was, I think, 1965. I met them in their dressing room and I was pretty much in awe of them. Fred, the roadie, gave me one of Bob Henrit's drumsticks, a stick I treasured until sometime in the 2000's when my wife used it to stir a tin of paint. Anyway, they were terrific that night in 1965 and over 50 years later they were terrific last night too. They played their biggest hit, Bad Time, although incredibly I knew the lyrics better than Mod. Mod Rogan's risqué sausage story was very funny. Mod enjoyed it the most.

Then I was dumbfounded when a German guy went on stage and sang Adam Faith hits in such an authentic manner. What Do You Want, Poor Me, Someone Else's Baby, How About That. Adam Faith is cruelly overlooked these days - he may not have the world's best voice but he was a great performer. I'm sorry not to have caught the German guy's name, but he was sensational. The musical backing was brilliantly done with great sounding "plucked violin" strings done between Peter Thorp and Steve Smith. Unbelievable.

Then, Chris Andrews was brought up on stage and does songs from the later Merseyside sound that Adam adopted with the help of The Roulettes in order to compete with all those bands from Liverpool. The First Time, It's Alright, O.M.G. Just when I was thinking what next?, a young lady appeared and sang Sandie Shaw hits written by Chris Andrews. She was wonderful. Chris sang some of his solo hits. Wow!

Eventually, the main man was singing his own songs starting with Dream On. Y'know, I'm a few years younger than Russ and when I met him in 1965 I looked younger than him. So what happened? He now looks about thirty years younger than me. It's probably the one thing I don't like about him! Russ never

disappoints. His playing and singing was top class and he seemed to be enjoying it too.

Apart from those already mentioned there was one musician that held everything together with solid and professional musicianship and that was the guy playing bass. He was dexterous and musically quick witted. He had a great sound too.

The evening passed very quickly. Me and my friend Terry had a great time. Terry never really knew much about Russ other than me banging on about him. Last night Terry became a real Russ fan. And I managed to spend a few moments with my drumming hero Sir Bob.

Regards

Richard

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

Rocking with The Roulettes

This month a quick look at Russ's first professional band **The Roulettes**. Many of you having recently been treated to a taste of their music at RB Experience '19, might be interested to learn a bit about these four musicians who put on a dazzling display, which I'm sure you are dying to share, so I'd better keep it short and brief.

Russ and **Bob Henrit** have a musical history together stretching back to their early teens. Bob being slightly the older of the two first started playing when he was about 12 years old. Back then teens were playing skiffle music, popular because if you weren't fortunate to own an acoustic guitar you could still participate using homemade or improvised instruments such as washboards and tea chest bass. Russ, meanwhile, was taking piano lessons which taught him the rudiments of music. As he practised his scales and worked his way through the classical pieces composed by **Bach** and **Beethoven** and **Mozart**, he didn't particularly find playing enjoyable. Similarly, Bob had one drum lesson and immediately realised that the style of drumming he had in mind was in conflict with the strict tempo style favoured by his teacher.

Around this time teen idol **Adam Faith** was looking to replace his 7-piece backing band led by **John Barry**, with a smaller unit with a harder edge to compete with the emerging Merseybeat sound. A band known as **The Strangers** were

recommended to him and following a successful audition, they were re-christened **The Roulettes**, fitted out with new stage clothes and embarked on a heavy tour schedule. There would be a number of changes in personnel over the coming months, **Peter Thorp** being the only member who would last the lifetime of the band. Eventually the line-up would stabilise with **Peter Thorp** on lead guitar, **Henry Stracey** on rhythm, **John Rogers** on bass and **Bob Henrit** on drums. When Henry left the band, Bob and John recommended **Russ Ballard** as his replacement. I've seen it said that **Russ** gained the position without playing a note, **Adam** recruiting him on his appearance. **Adam** would soon realise that **Russ** was not just a cool dude in shades, but a very capable guitarist who could also play piano. His arrival in **The Roulettes** saw **Peter Thorp** switched to rhythm guitar. In May 1963 tragedy would enforce another personnel change. **John Rogers** died in a car accident whilst travelling to Sunderland to join the band on a week-long variety run in the North East. The other members of the band had travelled by train. To fulfil their commitments, the band moved quickly to recruit a new bass guitarist, and after auditioning some local musicians **John "Mod" Rogan** filled the vacant position. This would become the definitive **Roulettes** line-up, the one that graced the stage at Southern Maltings in Ware on April 6th of this year, some 56 years later!

After a period of backing **Adam Faith**, during which they recorded a live album at **Abbey Road** to a select audience, which I believe included our newsletter editor, [👍] the band eventually struck out on their own, releasing their music through Pye, then Parlophone and finally Fontana records. They would release eleven UK singles and one LP **Stakes and Chips** over the ensuing four years before their break-up in 1967. Notable releases included **Chris Andrews' Bad Time** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTMKVCpZXtM> and **The Long Cigarette**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unBSi53YKdw> They also recorded some great self-written B sides including the **Henrit-Ballard** composition **Mebody** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kaEwBBbDPo>



Anyone who has an original copy of the **Stakes and Chips** LP in good condition should take good care of it. It is worth a lot of money! As I write this, I see there is a copy on eBay advertised for £700. For those of us with smaller pockets, there is a CD version available featuring additional tracks for a fraction of the cost. There is a much later **Roulettes** vinyl release on Edsel titled **Russ, Bob, Pete and Mod**, which I own and can recommend.



After **The Roulettes** parted ways, Russ and Bob would go on to join **Unit 4 + 2**, as the + 2, helping them gain chart success with the hit single **Concrete and Clay**, before going on to form **Argent** with **Rod Argent** and **Jim Rodford**

READER'S PROFILE

Matt Courtman

As my name suggests, I'm Matt, I'm approaching 40 and I'm from Ely north of Cambridge. I'm a huge fan of music from the 60's. I can remember as a small child of about 5 years old, in the summer my mum taking me to work with her in the 80's, where she worked as an apple picker. I'd be put in an empty large wooden crate with a small battery record player, headphones and a pile of 45's. Very happy memories, you wouldn't get away with this these days. I can still recall playing (to death) 'Hello Little Girl' which was on the Embassy label by a group called the 'Typhoons', and to this day I still prefer their version to the original by the 'Fourmost'. Another favourite was 'Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue' by 'Shane Fenton'.

Anyway, music has always been my passion and I've been collecting vinyl for almost 25 years now. I like to buy 45's by people/groups which I didn't know, and about 10 years ago I purchased a copy of 'I Hope He Breaks Your Heart' by the 'Roulettes'. After listening to it I had to buy the other Roulettes singles. I'm lucky enough to have them all now, and a copy of their LP 'Stakes and Chips', which is in my top ten favourite LPs, probably in my favourite three.

I've been fortunate enough to meet Mod on a couple of occasions, who is an absolutely lovely man. I first met him at the Shepherd's Bush O2 in February 2012 when Argent were performing. Mod kindly got Russ and Bob to sign my LP cover. He also got all four members of Argent to sign the cover of their first LP. I'm also a big Zombies fan, seeing the four original members perform at the O2 was another memorable evening. Chris White is another true gentleman.

Mod also introduced me to Peter when Russ was performing in a venue near Leicester Square, although there were no tickets left so I couldn't see the gig. I've never had the chance to meet Russ in person which is a pity, but having all four Roulettes handle and sign my LP is great.

My 16 year old nephew Connor has caught the music bug off of me, and I often take him to record fairs and we've been to a few live shows. Most recently seeing the Bootleg Beatles at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. Connor too is a big fan of the Roulettes, he has a few singles, his favourite being 'I Can't Stop'. Like me he loves 'Stakes and Chips' and has a recent re-release of it on vinyl.

Best wishes,
Matt (Courtman)

CASINO ESTORIL

After all this excitement....more to come! Don't forget the concert in Portugal on 25th May. I know quite a lot of you are going. Who else?

RUSS BALLARD LIVE



+ VERY SPECIAL
— GUEST —

**BRIAN
SPENCE**

RUSS BALLARD

Live
with his band

MAY 25TH

**CASINO
ESTORIL**
SALÃO PRETO E PRATA

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

THE OFFICIAL RUSS BALLARD NEWSLETTER

RUSSBALLARDMUSIC.COM

© kcameronline.eu









THE **RB** 2019
EXPERIENCE



