

CREATURE'S ANY SPARE CHANGE RALLY

Of all the events talked about on the 100% Biker forum, even more so than even Faro or the Bulldog Bash, Creature's Any Spare Change Rally was probably the most eagerly anticipated. Folk'd been talking about it since the middle of last year but, despite this, poor old Creature was still panicking that no one'd turn up. Mate, I don't think that was ever likely to happen ...



If you haven't met Creature then there's a good chance that you don't do that many rallies because he's almost part of the fixtures and fittings on the scene. He runs his highly regarded disco at a good number each year and, with his pirate hat and Polly-the-parrot shoulder puppet, he's one of those folk you can spot at a distance which is generally a Good Thing – if you see him at a rally, it's a sign that it's going to be a good party 'cos he doesn't do pants ones.

The Any Spare Change Rally was his first attempt at putting on such a bash – done to raise funds for the NABD, of which Creature is a particularly vocal supporter, it was held at the St John's Arms in Melchbourne near Bedford and it was, quite simply, a really good craic. He'd done his smooth-talking best and persuaded a whole host of bands to play for next to, if not, nowt and done deals left, right and centre to ensure that as much of the money raised would be able to go to NABD to help them get the more unfortunate among us back on the road and keep them there. I'll tell you exactly how much he raised in a moment, but let's talk about the rally itself first, shall we?

Despite the fact that much of May was almost a throwback to the days preceding the drowning of Atlantis, the weekend of the rally wasn't actually too bad. People started arriving mid-afternoon and continued to do so pretty much all evening and into Saturday morning too. Once ensconced in the bosom of the rally field (steady ...), they made their way to the marquee where The Magdalins, General Skullduggery and The Alma-Boobies (and the disco, o' course) kept the party rocking until the 3am kicking out time whereupon the gathered faithful made their way happily and unsteadily back to their tents to sleep the sleep of the intoxicated.

Understandably, not that much went on Saturday morn, but by lunchtime the majority of the revellers'd recovered enough to start to take notice of the entertainment laid on for the afternoon. A large part of that was a series of potentially quite messy silly games – water balloon throwing, drinking and eating contests – and one that, to an unenlightened onlooker, would have looked like a bunch of bikers laughing at a group of badly-dressed epileptics in mid-fit. I think it



had something to do with balloons tied to ankles but, as I missed the beginning, I'm not willing to commit myself further until I get more info. Rally virgins (and anyone sitting too close too) were unceremoniously de-flowered with eggs, water and flour ... no, that's not actually true, they weren't unceremoniously de-flowered at all - there was plenty of ceremony, that's what made it so funny. It was a seriously chilled afternoon – we all just sat around in the sunshine (yes, there was some – don't know how you did that deal, Creature, but I'm ever so impressed!) and let the world flow by. Chris Ireland and Phixer from Brit Chopper judged the impromptu bike show, and Rockers Catering provided sustenance for the masses too. The pub served up a very palatable pint of Greene King Abbot Ale, and Some Kind Of Mushroom (great name for a band that!), Termoil and Drew Rivers provided the sounds to accompany the afternoon's merriment. Yeah, it was a good afternoon and no mistake.

Later that evening, Stevie 'One Man, One Mandolin' Simpson, The Doughboys, Exhibit A and Supernaut all played their hearts out for the assembled crew and, as the beer flowed, the party got wilder and wilder ... as you might've seen from that pic we used in last month's Rogues' Gallery. The legendary Beer Monsters rounded off the evening with, sadly, one of their last sets ever and, I'm told, had the place bouncing long into the night.

At the time of writing, the amount raised for the NABD stands at £1535.40, but it's still rising as people continue to buy tee-shirts and badges.

If you'd like to buy one or the other or both, log on to his website at www.dejavuroadshow.tk

I'll leave the last words to the man himself. Take it away, Creature! 'I would like to thank everyone who turned up and made the great weekend that everybody tells me it was. I would also like to thank all the following - everybody who sponsored me from a few pennies to over £100, without your generosity the rally would not have happened; all the clubs who host rallies and either book me or allow me to wander around their rally/disco with the NABD tin and raise over £1200 last year; all my friends in the bands who offered their time to come and play their hearts out for me; Wozwolf & Slappers n' Trollops, many thanx folks, you made all my plans work and your help and advice guided me through all the planning and the weekend; John and his staff at the St John's Arms for all their help and work over the weekend; 100% Biker and Britchopper for turning up and making my day complete; Rick Hulse for turning up - without his talks throughout the weekend I would not have made it to the end ... thanx mate, you're a star!; but most of all to my wife who bore the brunt of my frustration and anger when trying to get the rally organised and just for being there when I need her.' 

