



Creature had found an ideal site, the St John Arms in Melchbourne, Bedfordshire. With a large field for camping next door, the pub is no stranger to hosting rallies, and so was unfazed by another bike event. Then he set about sorting out advertising, finding sponsors, organising trophies, persuading almost a dozen bands to play for free, ordering t-shirts and portaloos and doing a hundred and one other jobs. It all culminated on a sunny but blustery weekend in May, and it was clear from the start from Creature's pre-rally fears that nobody would turn up were completely unfounded.

The main entertainment was taken care of by the many bands that had generously agreed to play for nothing, finishing with the mighty Beermonsters and, although we didn't know it at the time, it was a final chance to see a band which has become legendary on the rally circuit because the members are now, as they say in showbiz parlance, pursuing different projects. A special mention in dispatches must go to The Doughboys, the name under which duo Drew Rivers and Rob Nicholls play. I'd managed to miss the impromptu jam session that Drew held with Stevie, which I much regretted after hearing the Doughboys's superb selection of tunes, including a cracking cover of one of my favourite songs, The Who's

CREATURE'S ANY SPARE CHANGE RALLY

We've all done it. Whether fuelled by over-exuberance, frustration or alcohol, at some point every one of us has said, "I could do that!" It might be in reference to running a rally or making lasagne, but it will have been about *something*. The trouble is with asserting that you could do a thing is that, sooner or later, you'll be brought to account. I can't vouch for Creature's lasagne-making abilities (I suspect that Mrs Creature takes care of those sort of things), but, at some point last year, he did happen to say, "I could run a rally!" So friends in the Wozwolf RC said "Show us..."

TO be fair, Creature had been considering the idea for a while. A familiar sight at rallies in his pirate hat, either pointing a camera at people or, more often, behind his record decks as a DJ, Creature has suffered with his health for some time and thus is a keen supporter of the NABD. To this end, he donates to the organisation a percentage of the fee he receives for each disco booking as well as passing around a bucket at events and persuading folk to part with their spare small change for the NABD. It was this that inspired the name of his own rally; although quite a few ideas were considered, the clear choice was Creature's Any Small Change Rally.

It must also be said that many of us who know Creature were concerned about him taking on the organisation of a weekend rally. Even the smallest of events involves a great deal of work behind the scenes, and we were worried that it might take too much of a toll on his health. But once Creature had made his mind up, no-one was going to change it, so people did the obvious thing – they mucked in and helped.



CREATURE'S ANY SMALL CHANGE RALLY

'Behind Blue Eyes'. If you get a chance to see The Doughboys, or Drew playing in his own right, then take it. I will confess that I didn't actually see many of the bands because I was busy either doing some serious sitting around and drinking tea, or some rather less serious bike show judging with Chris Ireland and Phixer from Brit Chopper.

Saturday afternoon was punctuated by some silly games, although half the time I had absolutely no idea what was going on. Much of it seemed to involve water and flour. I vaguely understood the wet t-shirt competition, but, despite being asked, I refused to pick a winner in case I hurt the losers' feelings. The shivering, soggy lads had suffered enough. Creature took the opportunity to improvise a raffle, auctioning off one of the fluorescent yellow – and now soaking wet – event t-shirts. Jester put his hand in his pocket to the tune of £25 (nice one, chap), but if he was hoping that his good lady, Minxy, was going to promptly put it on, he was sadly mistaken, and he did look quite disappointed when I produced a plastic bag for Minxy to put the wet shirt in.

On stage that evening, Creature presented Rick Hulse with a cheque for £1229.55 – but that wasn't money produced by the rally. Oh no, that wedge of cash had been raised by Creature from his disco, web site and from selling



bits and bobs over the past year. The Any Small Change Rally will more than double that donation with over £1600 having been raised at the last count.

Although there were people who supported and helped Creature – the sponsors, the bands and, most notably on the day, the good people of the Wozwolf RC and the Slappers and Trollops – there was one lady in particular without whom he would have been unable to pull the rally together, and he had a chance to thank her publicly on stage, bringing a lump to the throat of many of the crowd. So, Mrs Creature, take a bow!

words & photos: **BLUE**

SHOW WINNERS

BEST CHOP:
Tim Holdin –
Moto Guzzi

BEST TRIKE:
Diane Bunyard – VW

BEST STREETFIGHTER:
Keith – Yamaha FJ

BEST ENGINEERING:
Chris Ireland – Indian

BEST PAINT:
Conrad – Yamaha

BEST IN FIELD:
Harley Shovelhead

CLUB ATTENDANCE:
B.A.L.L.S.