

Red Herring @ The Classic Rock Bar Sheffield

A name to watch at the moment is Red Herring led by Iain Hearfield, a brilliant and experienced troubadour. Iain has played for many years on two continents and is an excellent guitar/singer/songwriter.

This Sunday night gig was another stunning set by this ultra-tight band on a mini-tour of the North of England. The two-set gig included a great repertoire of songs, both covers and originals and considering this is only a three piece band consisting of Iain on guitar/vox, Dave Samuel on bass and Howard Evans on a massive drum kit, the overall sound was awesome.

An impressive version of Standing On Shakey Ground and an equally superb rendition of Tom Petty's Refugee in the early part of the first set endeared the band to the audience. Continuing with the momentum, The Taste song, Same Old Story with its repetitive riff and the song Tina Turner and John Mayall recorded, Undercover Agent for the Blues kept the blues theme alive in this rock bar.

Although suffering with a sore throat, Iain just managed to pull off the Freddie King classic, Going Down. This is a seriously good version too! To finish the first set this excellent band played the original composition, Rockin' For Bob, a song about a good man whose life ended too early.

The second set was equally good and included Rory Gallagher's Walk On Hot Coals and Tattoo Lady, both great renditions! Another Iain Hearfield set of originals including Hooper's Last Stand/Asylum/Complicated were a grand affair and very well played. A blues-rock gig wouldn't be complete without a Jimi Hendrix song, so the Bob Dylan penned All Along The Watchtower proved to be a great crowd pleaser. Iain is a very advanced guitarist and made this song come alive. Last Orders at the bar had been called a long time ago but shouts for an encore were approved by the manager and the band played a rousing version of Shadowplay, with Iain's Stratocaster making all the right noises and looking the part in its semi-distressed sunburst finish! What an enjoyable concert. I wish I had more space to elaborate on this great power-trio, but alas, I haven't. Go see 'em yourselves – you'll enjoy it!

Steve Lally