

EXPORT WIGAN PIER. 3 April

This was the first time I had been to Wigan Pier and I was quite impressed by the place. It's fitted out with carpets and quite plush seating (not the sort of place to be filled with greasy bikers). It also has two floors for a change, the top one being a balcony where you can actually LOOK DOWN on the group (gasp! what will they think of next?). The disco made a bit of a change too; it wasn't one of those "play all the classics" discos, but covered a much wider spectrum including all sorts of dubious songs which are collectively grouped under the heading of "rock."

J.G.SPOILS came on some time between nine and ten (I can't remember exactly when) and they didn't leave much impression on me. It wasn't too easy to distinguish one song from another and to be honest, I could've fallen asleep, although they did do a very good cover of "Doctor Doctor". I also remember noting that the song with just one guitarist was a bit of a flop too.

EXPORT, on the other hand, were a different matter. They are very tight, very competent and already have an album and a couple of singles under their belt. They were well received and throughout the set, the applause was tremendous, - obviously a very popular group. The first thing I noticed about the band was the size of the drumkit; it must have been the smallest kit I've ever seen on stage, but it didn't matter because the drummer got so many rhythms and beats into the songs that a large drumkit wasn't needed. They played all their own songs of which none were disappointing; particularly good was their latest single, "Gonna' rock, Gonna' roll." The guitarist made extensive use (perhaps over-use) of the chorus pedal and the vocals and bass blended well into the whole sound. Altogether a very good set.

Just one moan: lager was 72p a pint, so next time I go down there, I'll just have to go thirsty.

SHADER



SWAN.

3-MAY.

SHADER, A BAND BASED IN LONDON, HAVE BECOME A MUCH TIGHTER OUTFIT SINCE THE LAST TIME THEY PLAYED THE SWAN AGAIN THEY WERE ON ANOTHER OF THEIR SELF-FINANCED BRITISH TOURS. THEY PLAYED ALL THEIR OWN MATERIAL

(WITH THE BASSIST ROLLING ABOUT THE FLOOR, LOOKING LIKE A FAT LEMMY) FOR 1½ HOURS WHICH IS COMMENDABLE I CAN ONLY REMEMBER THREE SONGS IN PARTICULAR STANDING OUT - "PRISON WALLS IN TERRACED HOUSES," "BAD NEWS BLUES," AND "BANGING ON A SHIT HOUSE DOOR" (THE LAST TWO ARE ON THEIR SINGLE). "B.O.A.S.H.D." HAS A DRUM SOLO BY PAUL BENTLEY LASTING 7 MINS 38 SECS (I TIMED IT). SADLY, THE ATTENDANCE WAS LOW AGAIN.