

PRESSURE (CONT)

Alan Maskell adds a sharp bite to the rhythms with his guitar, content to give the songs continuity and occasional bursts of very back-beat strumming without ever overstepping the limit into bouts of ego tripping guitar solos most guitar players love. The musical frills of Pressure's sound come from the Atherton brothers, Steve and Mark. At worst, their synthesizers provide welcome distractions from the rhythms but at their best are exciting and adventurous which gives the backing of the songs something to compete with against the vocal lines. Janice, the vocalist, is the focal point of the band. The tunes she sings are made more melodic by her feminine but strong voice and she seems to be able to put just the right amount of feeling into the words. On top of that, she really does demand the attention of the audience. That's easy for her because she does look and dress fantastically. With a little more experience at moving and handling a microphone on stage, any audience would find it hard not to be bedazzled.

Pressure's songs are all self-composed and very commercial, especially the opening number "Cadillac". Others which stood out on the night were the dramatic "Don't Go Out", the pulsating "Generator" and the unusual song "Cats". My favourite was "Mirage", a haunting number with a chorus that rings in your ears long after it's over - very commercial.

The P.A. was handled by Explorer Sound of Warrington and they did an excellent job, in fact I thought the sound they got was better than the sound the disco was giving out.

Pressure are well worth seeing. They enjoy their playing and this comes over on stage. Sadly though, and this is true of all the bands I've seen at Scamps, they have to play to an audience which although obviously enjoys the music, is just too shy and lifeless to shout approval or clap or dance. Pressure got as much applause as I've seen any band get at Scamps and that includes those on the records they play. Still, I enjoyed it and showed it.

Jack Moss.

13TH CANDLE

I arrived at the Golden Lion with a certain amount of apprehension. The group was new to me; hardly surprising since I later found that this was the Manchester based band's first gig in Bolton, and I had no ideas about what to expect. Thirteenth Candle conveyed little about what sort of music the group played, so on the way there, I toyed with the name, and tried to build up a mental image of the group. I was pleasantly surprised.

Thirteenth Candle, which incidently consists of bass guitar, lead/rhythm guitar, keyboards and drums, play what can only be described as a "mixture of rocks". Their repertoire includes an excellent version of Whitesnake's "Lie Down", and the sound is pleasant enough considering that it is unmixed.

The group's overall appearance is complemented by competent musicianship, characterized by some superb bass riffs and a plethora of their own material, which is on the whole quite excellent. Songs in particular to look out for are "Going to the Fair", "Whisky Mama", "Anything that just ain't Blue", "Time and a Half", "Blood Sucking Woman" and "Feel the Wind". The first four of these are available on a cassette the group have had produced, priced at £1.

Overall a pleasant evening. I gather the group has three more Bolton gigs in the pipeline for the near future. I certainly hope to be able to see them again - they're well worth it!

Dave Molyneux.

Edwin P. Lees

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