

GERMAN BIGHT GOLDEN LION 29TH JAN

German Bight are a new rock band to Bolton and at last, after weeks of rehearsing, are now hitting the road.

After Cymbaline split, drummer Mick Ryan and guitarist, Robin Hill decided that the show must

go on. Thus entered bassist, Mark Haslam, then off they went down to Jamm for (what else?) some jamming. After weeks of getting it together, enter Paul Clavell and his trusty saxophone - "Need some help lads?"

- So here we have it:-
- PAUL CLAVELL.....VOCALS, SAX
 - ROBIN HILL.....GUITAR
 - MARK HASLAM.....BASS
 - MICK RYAN.....DRUMS

The numbers in their set were basically a mixture of rock and blues with one exceptionally good ballad called "Just Another Woman". Paul Clavell's vocals on this were really good and his sax solo was brilliant (which goes without saying), as was his version of the theme from The Old Grey Whistle Test, a well performed solo. A jazz instrumental called "Sunburst" showed Paul's sax talent to the full, but in my, and many other people's opinion, there just wasn't enough of it.

The band did three old Cymbaline tracks, some of which you may have heard before, but which have been much improved - "Tiger in the City", "What's the Griff" and the instrumental "Dance of the Werewolf", with a superb (as always) drum solo from Mick Ryan.

Robin Hill had a few surprises in store for the audience with one amazing guitar solo in a track called "You're so good." He also gave a solo performance to cries of "Angus!" from the audience, who were disappointed to hear that no AC/D tracks were included in the set.

As for cover versions, the band did only one - "Ain't



Talkin' Bout Love", which in my opinion was a bad choice. This was the least well played of all their numbers but the audience seemed to love it.

Mark Haslam played very good solid bass which included some very intricate runs. These really came through in the bands theme tune, "German Bight", one of the best tracks of the night.

But the highlight of the evening must have been "Once Bitten", which even had the bar staff, not quite banging their heads but wiggling their hips. This was a quite heavy but very catchy number, well sung and well played and even more so in the encore (yes, they got two).

Apart from a few problems, the major one being the snare drum busting it was a very enjoyable evening, considering it was their first ever gig.

This band has a lot of talent and all it needs is more confidence (more pints before going on stage?) and a lot more gigs.

S.D.

