

Excerpt of The Hollies Tour from Malcolm Lenny's book

"Shoulders I've Rubbed"

October '64 we had just been signed up to do a 6 nights a week, 3 week tour headed by

**THE HOLLIES.**

With **HEINZ**, the ex-Tornado, **JESS CONRAD**, the incomparable, **THE DIXIE CUPS** from U.S.A.

**THE TORNADOS**

**WAYNE GIBSON & THE DYNAMIC SOUNDS**

**THE HI-FI'S**

**THE WILD BOYS**

This was a great show. It was all 5 original **HOLLIES**. **ALLAN CLARKE**, **GRAHAM NASH**, **TONY HICKS**, **ERIC HAYDOCK & BOBBY ELIOTT**.

The Wild boys backed **HEINZ**. The **TORNADOS** backed **THE DIXIE CUPS** and we backed **JESS CONRAD**.

Now don't laugh! Jess would be the first to say that he wasn't a great singer but he was such a good-looking bloke with a really cheeky sense of humour that he went down a storm. It became a battle between Jess and Heinz as to who got the most screams from the girls in the audience. At one of the shows, Jess stepped out on top of the mighty Wurlitzer Organ in the pit, to get closer to the girls. Not to be outdone, Heinz jumped onto it and went straight through the rigid plastic cover and there he stood up to his calves, unable to move. Brilliant!

Some of the highs from that tour were that **THE HOLLIES** were at number 5 with "We're Through" and we were on the front page of the NME advertising "I keep Forgettin'". There was no danger of us knocking them off the top.

I was out getting a coffee with **ALLAN CLARKE & HEINZ**, when we were spotted by some girls. We ran! It didn't matter that I was a nobody. I was with two recognisable big names so I had to run too. We only just got back to the theatre or I'm pretty sure we'd have been torn to pieces. I might have enjoyed it. Who knows?

**When we played Douglas Palace Theatre on The Isle of Man, we opened the second half of the show with The 4 Seasons “Rag Doll”, I had the high falsetto voice. The opening bars were greeted with such screams from the crowd that the back of my neck still tingles when I think of it today.**

**THE DIXIE CUPS weren't on the show that night because they had to do a TV show so, we were joined by the great MARTY WILDE. I say great because he was such a consummate professional and handled his audience beautifully.**

**I think CLARKEY, as we all called him, had a birthday on that night, so JESS put on his best dinner suit, looking like a waiter and walked onto the stage with a bottle of champagne and glasses for six right in the middle of their act. Perfect timing?**

**After the show, we all went to the casino. Some for a bet. Most for a drink or three.**

**Now, the keyboard player of THE DYNAMIC SOUNDS was a blind guy named PETER COOK, who became known later as PETER LONDON and made records under that name. He became mates with ERIC HAYDOCK from THE HOLLIES. Those two and Mel Wright, known to us as Wrighty, and me, were in adjoining rooms in the hotel. After a few sherberts, it was time for bed. We all made our wobbly way up to our rooms. We shared a bathroom with those two and it was between the two rooms. We said our goodnights and watched them open the door to the bathroom and fall in the empty bath, “rissed as pats” so no one was hurt.**

**Wrighty and I couldn't move them so there they stayed 'til the morning. Allegedly they had no memory of the event. Surprising really.**

**At one theatre, the HOLLIES tour manager was asking the stage manager for certain lighting plans for certain songs. He said, ” You'd better talk to the lighting guy”.**

**He walked to stage front and called out ,”JEREMY!!!”**

**A voice in the darkness answered, “Yeeeees”. And this thing of beauty came to the stage front. All baggy jumper and open-toed sandals. Know what I mean?**

**The tour manager started on about the lighting plans, coloured this and coloured that, when “Jeremy” interrupted him and said,  
“ How d’you want them? On or off?  
The lights were just white and on or off and that was that.**

**When the show reached Huddersfield, we had an amazing jam session on the stage after sound-check time. I forgot to mention that RICHIE BLACKMORE was in The WILD BOYS backing HEINZ. We became quite good buddies for a while.**

**The jam was RICHIE, TONY HICKS, JIMMY O’BRIAN(Tornados Organist) CLEM CATTINI AND WRIGHTY on drums, TED HARVEY on bass and ME. 2 drummers and 3 lead guitarists? Jeez did it rock!**

**It was a real shame when that tour ended because we had all got on so well. No posers, no showing off, just musicians having a good time. Sitting on the tour bus with stars like The Hollies, all singing various songs together was what it was all about.**