

C J's SPORTING TIMES - MEMORIES OF SOME GREAT MEETINGS AND
EVENTS.

JOE COCKER

MY "MEET AND GREET" WITH A ROCK LEGEND

SHEFFIELD ARENA , SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER 2007

Driving around Sheffield on business in October 2007 my radio tuned to Radio Hallam , I got involved in on "on air" auction and started to place bids for a once in a lifetime opportunity to win seats for the front row of Joe Cocker's return concert at the Sheffield Arena after a 13 year absence from his home City. The package included a special "VIP Meet and Greet" with Joe back stage after his performance

As a huge fan , this was a fantastic auction item, with a major children's charity benefiting from all the funds raised on Dave Kilner's show that morning .

So I placed my bid and for just under half an hour I was the winning bidder ! It was only in the last minute or two that Dave started to try and get more bids in over the air that I was overtaken with a more generous donation.

By now I - and having led the bidding for so long - I had already imagined myself at the Concert in December so with mere seconds left, I rang again, got through and placed a further hurried bid ... and secured the package !

I was totally elated.

Following a truly memorable and excellent performance by Joe and his backing band, - and featuring THAT amazing note in "With a Little Help from My Friends " - which actually drew applause from the packed crowd before the song ended - I was taken back stage to the VIP Lounge with a small group of Joe's friends & guests and then introduced to the great Sheffield born singer . Joe was very charming & modest with everyone and then he turned to myself and asked quietly

" Did United win this afternoon ? - I was on a sound check and missed the result ! "

I knew Joe and his late father Harold were Blades fans but was obviously surprised by his question .

Having just come from the game at Bramall Lane that afternoon , I was able to give him a few details of the 1-0 (Kilgallon) victory over Barnsley in front of over 26,000. Joe was so clearly a United

follower and instead of talking about his career and his many achievements in music , we ended up discussing last year's relegation from the Premier League which had meant he could no longer see live match broadcasts at his ranch home back in Crawford , Colorado.

We continued to walk and talk along the stadium corridors to his dressing room and when I said my thanks and goodbyes I couldn't help feeling that I had been in the presence of a really nice bloke whose extraordinary talent had made this humble man such a legend in the world of rock , soul & blues music.

Joe Cocker remains one of my all time musical heroes along with Springsteen, Orbison and Lennon & whenever I hear one of his many great hits being played , I always have this tremendous memory of meeting Joe back in his home City and talking about our mutual support for the Blades !

FOOTNOTES:

This concert was one of only two staged in the UK during the " Hymn for My Soul " tour in 2007.

On the night I attended , Joe Cocker signed my Album CD and my concert programme , which both remain in my private memorabilia collection.

When Joe passed away on December 22nd 2014 , the match day D J at Bramall Lane , Gary Sinclair , played most of his greatest hits at the home match following his death in tribute to a great entertainer , a son of Sheffield and a fellow Bladesman . It was a sad day in my life.

QUESTIONS

WHAT PART OF SHEFFIELD WAS JOE COCKER BORN & BROUGHT

UP IN ?

Joe was born on May 20th 1944 in Sheffield and lived at his parents home at 38 Tasker Road in Crookes , Sheffield.

WHO DID JOE AND HIS THEN BAND - the Avengers - SUPPORT AT A CONCERT AT THE SHEFFIELD CITY HALL IN NOVEMBER 1963 ?

a) The Beatles b) the Who c) the Rolling Stones

The concert was organised and promoted by Pete Stringfellow and his brother. The bill also included "Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders". The Stones received due acclaim but Joe took the critical honours.

WHAT WAS JOE'S STAGE NAME AT THE TIME OF THIS CONCERT

- a) Joe b) Vance Arnold c) the Big J

The Sheffield Telegraph reported the following day "He is surely a star of the future" , whilst the Sheffield Star commented "On this showmanship and style Vance Arnold must be one of the country's top R & B artists. Fantastic !"

WHAT WAS JOE'S ONLY NUMBER ONE UK HIT SINGLE ?

On 2nd October 1968, Joe Cocker released his cover version of the Beatles " With a Little Help From My Friends " and it reached Number One on 9 th November 1968 - Paul McCartney and John Lennon sent him a telegram of personal congratulations - he was the first Sheffield born artist to have a Number 1 record. This recording stayed in the UK charts for 13 weeks and was a hit all over Europe.

Joe has sang this song live at concerts for well over 35 years - at Woodstock twice, the White House , the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Queen's Jubilee Party at Buckingham Palace in June 2002.

FROM WHICH 1982 FILM SOUNDTRACK DID JOE ENJOY A WORLD

WIDE HIT

- a) An Officer and a Gentleman b) A Star is Born c) Woodstock

WITH WHOM DID HE DUET ON THIS RECORD FROM THE FILM
SOUNDTRACK

- a) Jennifer Warnes b) Barbara Streisand c) Dolly Parton

WHAT AWARD DID JOE RECEIVE FOR THE TOP DUET PERFORMANCE IN
1983?

At the 1983 Awards ceremony , Joe received a "Grammy" for the best performance by a duo for his recording of "Up Where We Belong" with Jennifer from the film

WHAT HONOUR WAS BESTOWED ON JOE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE IN
2007 ?

- a) Knighthood b) MBE c) OBE

Joe Cocker was awarded the OBE in 2007 for his "Services and Contribution to Music"

Joe lived on a ranch in Colorado with his life , Pam at the time of his death WHAT WAS THE RANCH CALLED ?

- a) Shoreham Ranch b) Mad Dog Ranch c) Mountain View Ranch

WHICH AMERICAN FILM STAR OWNED THE PROPERTY ?

- a) Kevin Costner b) Kirk Douglas c) Jane Fonda

Joe died of lung cancer at the age of 70 on December 22nd 2014 in Crawford, Colorado. **WHICH LEADING MAGAZINE GAVE JOE A HUGE**

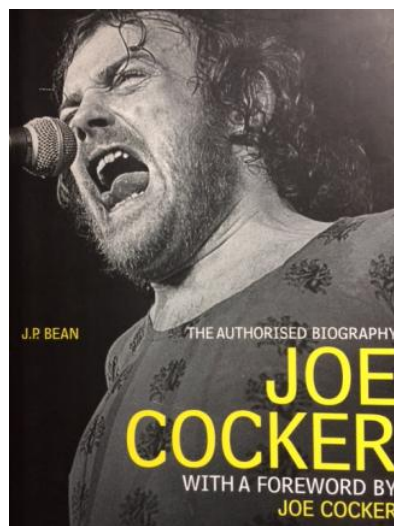
HONOUR ?

- a) NME b) Rolling Stone c) Melody Maker

"Rolling Stone " magazine placed him into the 100 Greatest Singers of all time listings - he had a unique vocal talent and stage delivery .

IS JOE COCKER IN THE "ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME" ?

At 2021 - Joe Cocker has yet to be inducted into the " Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" and a campaign for his nomination remains active and loud to this day led by Billy Joel amongst several others.



Below Joe returns to play
The Black Swan in
Sheffield while at number
one with 'With a Little Help
From My Friends', 13
November 1968.





