

Fire and Ice in Rockford's nightclub and Jack's Live Venue

Rockfords nightclub and Jack's Live Venue is bringing Europe's newest and most entertaining theme night to Roscommon. The 'fire and ice night' will involve some of Ireland's top fire performers, live cryojet display, music from Ireland's number one upcoming club duo 'Muzzy G and Jazzi Jay' and much, much more. This night is exclusively for over 18's and promises to be the ultimate party experience.

Rockford's Nightclub and Jack's Live Venue will be transformed into the ultimate clubbing experience with a massive concert system, stage, 8 ft digital screens, 360 degree laser show, amazing fire show, live dance performance.

The Muzzy G and Jazzi Jay full DJ set will feature unique Ice King stilt walkers, fire performers, podium dancers, four flame jets, fire and ice visuals, confetti blastshand held cyro jet and sky tracker.

Muzzy G & Jazzi Jay have been in the forefront of the Irish entertainment industry for five years and have become Ireland's number one DJ/MC tag team. They have performed the length and breadth of the country, gathering a huge fan base, ranging in age from 14 to 25. This has been developed through their work as the headline artists on the 'Partynite Tour', Ireland's number one teenage tour and the 'Escape Tour of 2007/08 and the 'Full Moon Party' of 2009/10.

These over-18 nightclub tours for Corona Extra and Tiger Beer respectively, featured over 100 tour dates per year.

Over the past five years the lads have developed and built an excellent reputation for themselves both in Ireland and internationally as artists and producers, having performed and worked alongside some of the biggest names in the industry, such as Akon, T-Pain, Guru Josh Project, DJ Manian, Special D, Scooter, Basshunter, Ironik, Cascada, Ultrabeat and many more.

The 'fire and ice night' is on in Rockford's nightclub and Jack's Live Venue this Saturday night.



The Urges and Solarus in The Coachmans

Local band Solarus will join well-known group The Urges on stage in The Coachman's Inn this Friday evening, May 28th.

The Urges started out in a garage in late 2004. With little or no musical knowledge they set out to write nothing but stripped down raw rock and roll. Heavily influenced by every major psychedelic band from the 60's and early 70's (Electric Prunes, The Doors, and The Pretty Things). They have gone on to produce off their own back their first single Around and Around and Around Again which topped the Irish charts in 2005.

Within two years after gigging hard around Dublin and the festival scene in Spain and Portugal, they were invited to record an album in Portugal which became the album Psych Ward. Since then they have played with such big names as Wild Billy childish, Paul Weller, The Buzzcocks, Kulashaker, Baby Shambles, Ocean Colour Scene, The La's and just about every garage band since the 60's.

In the last two years the Urges have been playing most major festivals throughout Europe, including an appearance at Oxegen in the same line up as David Bowie, PJ Harvey, Kings of Leon and The Strokes. In early 2009 they were invited to play the twelve-date tour of Music Hall of Williamsburg in New York City then on to Mexico City for two dates and the remaining nine dates where in Austin Texas in the southern United States. In 2008 The Urges

where signed by Wicked Cool Records and their album was re-released on to the world market (available from Amazon and most good record shops). The Urges effortlessly drift in and out of different timings and melodies but constantly maintain an authentic yet primitive sound which always leaves the crowd crying for more.

Solarus is a classic rock/metal band influenced by Zeppelin, Metallica and Jimi Hendrix. They will support The Urges this coming Friday in The Coachman's Inn. All the band members are from Roscommon and attend The Melting Pot Mix, a group set up to give anyone interested in music and the arts an opportunity to showcase their talents.

The Melting Pot Mix provides access to different instruments and a forum to exchange ideas and learn different playing techniques. Through this group front man Lyle Dove founded the band and Solarus was formed with Andrew Hanley on lead guitar, Benjamin Stratford on base and Paul Costello as guest drummer. Initially they started out playing covers and played a great set at the Phil Lynott tribute night at Roscommon Art Centre earlier this year. Recently Solarus has been working on some original material, which they played live for the first time last Saturday at The Melting Pot Café when they rocked the town. The guys have been working hard in preparation for their support set for The Urges and are looking forward to bringing their own material to the Coachman's Inn.

'The Special One' and 'The Special Two (Jedward!)'

It's Monday morning and the papers, as always, are full of the many conflicting aspects of sport, with all the highs and lows that automatically follow winners and losers. Of course a huge amount of coverage is given to the winner we've come to know as 'The Special One' – Jose Mourinho. His achievements with Porto in 2004, and this year with Inter Milan, are remarkably similar insofar as he won both Champions Leagues with teams that would be nowhere nearly as talented individually as many others in the competition.

However, his ability to produce teams that have the sum of all the parts far outweighing the sum of the individual ones has long been a hallmark of his genius. Again with the Inter team, we have many examples of players whom he effectively rescued from the scrap-heap. Prime amongst them were the scorer of the two goals in the final against an average enough Bayern Munich, Diego Milito – a striker who had spent most of his professional life in relative obscurity at Zaragoza and Genoa. Also there was Real Madrid reject, Wesley Sneijder, who, having been branded a trouble-maker and a failure in the Spanish capital, went on to play the best football of his life under Mourinho. And so, as he moves, we wonder how the supremely talented, but spoiled, Ronaldo, among others, will react to his arrogant Portuguese countryman – I can't wait to find out!

Before I move on from 'The Special One', Chelsea fans will no doubt wonder why I didn't mention his three years at Stamford Bridge. The reason is that while he certainly delivered there as well, he did it on the back of Abramovich's billions, and literally bought his way to success. He wasn't short of a few bob in Inter either, but he had to buy players who had question marks hanging over them and he had to trust his instincts. That he again came up trumps is testament to his greatness. And so as he and his Inter team enjoyed the fruits of their success on Saturday night, I'm sure that the name, Shane Duffy, never entered the equation. Yet, as Mourinho's men fought for the biggest achievement of most of their professional lives, the young Derry lad was in an even bigger battle, because he was actually fighting for his very life itself.

A freak accident in a training match on Friday evening meant that the Everton youngster was losing blood at such an alarming rate that the team surgeon was sure he would die on the relatively short journey from Malahide to the Mater Hospital on the northside of the city centre. Fortunately, although not without a couple of close calls on the way, 18-year-old Duffy is now on his way to recovery and while we don't know yet as to what effect all this will have on his future career, at least he is going to live.

As I said, it shows the highs and lows of the life of a professional sportsman, and, as with most aspects of life, for every one that hits the top, many more are struggling, a lot of them badly, as they try to make it at the highest level. Accidents in sport are getting more common. The recent tragic death of Philly McGuinness in Leitrim was another example – one would have to wonder if the price is now becoming too high. Now, nobody is more into sport than I am and I can't imagine life without it, but a letter by some doctor to the 'Irish Independent' after the recent Leinster victory over Munster in the Magners League semi-final, put it all into perspective. He said that the ferocity of the collisions was frightening and he more or less said that human bodies cannot take the punishment that rugby players at the top level are being subjected to. The most telling thing he said, bearing in mind that rugby has long been seen as a game for the elite in society, (I don't agree with that view), was that he doesn't want his own sons to take up the game as it's too dangerous – enough said. Anyway, I suppose no matter what happens, children will always want to play sport and it will carry on regardless – freak accidents can always happen and there's no point in too much hysteria. Anyways, I hope Shane Duffy goes on to make a full recovery and has a great career with Everton and maybe even makes it to a World Cup Final with Ireland.

Talking of the World Cup finals, one of the papers last week did a comparison of four of the present-day English squad, with four of the true heroes of the last England winning team of 1966. Gordon Banks, who was one of the best goalkeepers of all times, despite being partially blind in one eye, was earning £35 per week and it rose to £45 when

they won, was living in a semi-detached terraced house and drove a second-hand Ford Cortina. Today, Steven Gerrard earns £100,000 a week, lives in a £2.5 million mansion and has a fleet of luxury cars, including a couple of Ferraris and Aston Martins. I've often said it before, but our Premiership footballers are outrageously overpaid! What would they expect if they were to, (and it's possible), win this year's World Cup?

Talking of world champions, I was shocked even though I'd known he was ill, to see the photographs in last week's papers of snooker player Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins. He looked almost skeleton-like, but, in true Higgins style, he vowed that he is going to play in some tournament in Belfast later this year and that "the Hurricane will blow again". Somehow, I doubt it, but with him you never know.

Also last week, Jedward had the pleasure of meeting myself and Carol. I am, of course, kidding, but we did actually meet with the two lads and they were the nicest, most obliging and pleasant lads you could ever come across. They didn't mind in the least having to wait to get their photos taken with us and I told them that if things went well for them in the future I'd consider giving them an exclusive interview for the Roscommon People! We'll see if they ever make it that big!

Also, I want to wish 'Our Plaiice' proprietor Joe Kerr a happy 40th birthday. The bash was in Gannon's on Saturday night and it turned out to be a night (of course), of good food, music and craic. I recently told you of the great musical talents of Ciarán Cunningham. Well, he was back again and absolutely captivated an enthusiastic crowd.

Finally, for this week, we have two events to look forward to on the coming weekend. Both are on Friday night with the Kilbegnet Drama Group staging their 3-act-play in the Hall at 8.30 pm. Seamus Ward, Seamus Keane, Mikeen, Bobby Jennings, Theresa O'Rourke, to name but a few, will all be doing their thing and it will be a great night's fun. Afterwards it will be time to go to Gannon's to support the annual Bothar Night Out! It's all in honour of the late Tony Nicholson and Pat Carton and his Bothar team have a major Darts Tournament, which has many budding Irish Phil Tay-

lors coming, as well as a charity auction which yours truly, (that's me), will be conducting. I don't know yet what items are up for auction, but each year the committee get great bits and pieces and there's always good value to be had. I hope to see you all there – bring the wallet and support one of our great charities.

'til next week,
Bye for now.



Frankly
Speaking ...
with Frank Brandon