

Should anyone have any further details or reviews etc then please contact The Hi-Fi's through the website.
Likewise copies of the actual record labels are wanted to include within these pages

RELEASE DATE TITLE A SIDE TITLE B SIDE RECORD NO COMPOSERS

UN-RELEASED DEMOS
THE HI-FI'S

Recorded at Denmark Street studio

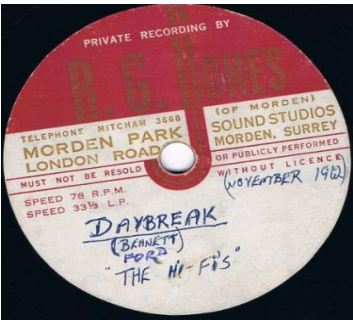
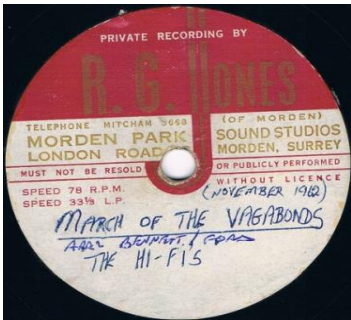
1961 EP	Mystery Girl	Who Am I	none	not relevant
	It's Now Or Never	The Heavens Cried		

Recorded at IBC Sound with Glyn Jones as engineer etc, Portland Place, London

1962 EP	Runaway	Hello Mary Lou	none	
	Running Scared	Surrender		

Recorded at R G Jones Sound Studios, Morden, Surrey

Nov 1962 single	March Of The Vagabonds. A classical piece arranged by Brian Bennett-Len Ford. A. side			
	Daybreak. Main tune written by Brian Bennet, guitar part by Len Ford. B side			



Recorded at IBC Sound with Glyn Jones as engineer etc, Portland Place, London

1963 single	Giant Of A Man	Part Time Lover	none	Brian Bennett / Ros Howard A & B sides
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Press reviews and Cuttings

STUDIO SNIPPETS NEWS OF TOMORROW'S HITS

BILLY FURY CUTS FILM NUMBERS

30 MAR 1962

RECORDING pace quickened at Decca's West Hampstead studios with Mike Smith busy on a single with **BUDDY BRITTEN**, Tony Meehan recording **THE GALLIARDS**, who include Jimmie MacGregor and Robin Hall, and A & R team leader Dick Rowe worked with **IVOR RAYMONDE** and **BILLY FURY**.

His first stint with Billy Fury was to put the finishing touches to Billy's recordings of numbers he features in the forthcoming film musical "Play It Cool." There will be an EP and a single. The second was to decide and prepare more titles for his next waxing date.

MANTOVANI and his orchestra were in the studios for another album, and

turned up also with a string orchestra to make some contributions towards his next Fontana album.

EMI were surprisingly quiet at Abbey Road. Not even old faithful **VICTOR SILVESTER** reported for any more of the light strict tempo fantastic. Only session I've heard of was a Norrie Paramor one with young singer **IAN VINT** for Columbia.

John Schroeder was busy for Oriole with two new instrumental groups. One of them is a trad band with a rock foundation known as **THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS**. The other is an outfit Schroeder tested early in the week, and signed up within a couple of days.

They are **VERN ROGERS** and **The Hi-Fies**, and Schroeder was particularly impressed with their use of the electronic Univox attachment to the piano à la Johnny and The Hurricanes.

New 'king'

He also cut a vocal single with another Oriole new name in the field of beat balladry. The name in question is **REY ANTON**, and my Spanish dictionary tells me that "rey" means king, so we'll have to see if the Anton voice lives up to its noble title.

Alan Freeman of Pye did more titles with the hit-parading **KENNY BALL** band, and Tony Hatch was in action for the same label with the **ALEXANDER BROTHERS** (for an LP) and **MIKI AND GRIFF** (for a single).

Piccadilly's Ray Horricks cut another single with **DONNA DOUGLAS**, the bright young thrush who aroused favourable comment in the British heat of the Eurovision contest, and also took a session with a new girl called **CANDY SPAR**.

CLEO LAINE—LP titles **JOHNNY DOUGLAS** and his orchestra reported to the Kingsway Hall to cut another LP for the RCA Camden label.

Pianist **RONNIE ALDRICH** also worked on a long-playing set under Hugh Mendel's supervision which I understand will be in the Decca Phase 4 series.

Jack Baverstock seems to have reigned supreme at the Philips waxworks last week, recording for the Fontana label. He did a single with a young lady called **PATTI LYNN**, and more titles with **CLEO LAINE** for her forthcoming LP.



JEANS. The other is an outfit Schroeder tested early in the week, and signed up within a couple of days.

They are **VERN ROGERS** and **The Hi-Fies**, and Schroeder was particularly impressed with their use of the electronic Univox attachment to the piano à la Johnny and The Hurricanes.

Studio snippets from Croydon Advertiser paper review dated 30th March 1962

Take Me or Leave Me

I'm Struck

7N35130 Brian Bennett/Ros Howard

Brian Bennett - vocals, keyboards

Len Ford - vocals, guitar

Tony Sharron (aka Busson) - vocals, bass

Mel Wright - drums

FLEET STREET AND TIN PAN ALLEY DARTS TEAM JAZZBAND BIG NOSE KATE 7N 15535		MIKI and GRIFF THERE'LL NEVER BE ANYONE ELSE 7N 15534
THE HI-FI'S TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME 7N 35130	THE VISCOUNTS IT'S YOU 7N 15536	
TONY HATCH ORCHESTRA THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM 7N 15537		

Pye Piccadilly press advert, probably in the NME

THE HI-FI'S—Take Me Or Leave Me; I'm Struck (Piccadilly N 35130)***—A South Country quartet singing and playing (piano, guitars, drums) the Hi-Fi's debut for Piccadilly with plenty of dash to recommend them.

A review possibly Melody maker

Take Me Or Leave Me chanted and thumped with infectious exuberance is liable to have plenty of customers taking rather than leaving. I'm told that the team's keyboard leader Brian Bennett wrote both numbers on this release. **I'm Struck** isn't quite up to the mark of the upper side song, but it'll do.

A review possibly New Musical Express

18th Jun 1963
Pye Piccadilly

A side of the demo is wrongly entitled "Love Me Or Leave Me"



PYE RECORDS (SALES) LIMITED, A.T.Y. HOUSE, GT. CUMBERLAND PL., LONDON W.1 Tel: AMBassador 5502
THE HI-FI'S

"TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME"

"I'M STRUCK"

PICCADILLY 7N 35130

With vocal and instrumental groups from the North dominating the disc scene at the moment, it is perhaps a refreshing change to introduce a group from London.

THE HI-FI'S are four young lads born in and around London, who make their disc debut on Pye's Piccadilly label this month with "TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME" and "I'M STRUCK".

The group consisted originally of an instrumental line-up of four, plus vocalist Vern Rogers, playing the main ballrooms in the South of England. They have been on the same bill as Cliff Richard & The Shadows, Adam Faith, Billy Fury, Joe Brown and many others. Recently they toured with the John Leyton package show which included Mike Sarne, Jet Harris & Tony Meehan and The Four Seasons.

Their ability to harmonise and to give authentic musical backing to the various vocalists, was instrumental in their successfully auditioning against several other groups. THE HI-FI'S, having now developed their own vocal prowess, have parted with their singer and look forward with confidence to whatever comes their way.

BRIAN BENNETT leads the group on piano and electronic organ, backed by LEN FORD as lead guitarist and GARRY PETERSON on bass guitar. These three also perform the vocals. MEL WRIGHT plays drums and sings occasionally.

Brian is responsible for all the musical arrangements and has written numerous numbers, including the two on their first disc. He left school at 18½ and worked for a music publisher for a year prior to turning professional. His hobbies include snooker, table tennis, darts and chess.

Mel Wright formed the group six years ago in the skiffle era. A very competent percussionist and all-rounder, he is able to double on guitar and piano. In fact, the group quite frequently switch round, playing someone else's instrument. Mel's main concern, apart from drumming, is the maintenance of the extensive equipment used and transport. Doesn't claim to have any hobbies, but is generally to be found head first under the bonnet of a car, or surrounded by an assortment of electrical components.

Len Ford went to school with Mel and they have been buddies for over nine years. Len has had several jobs since school and turned professional with the rest of the group some six months ago. The quality of his guitar playing is sure proof that the constant practicing has paid off. He has, over the years, developed from a three chord skiffle maniac, into a versatile (and volatile) young guitarist.

Len's hobbies are his fiancée, collecting records and mending his alarm clock. Just can't get out of bed, once he has the chance to get into it.

Garry Peterson is the youngest and newest member of the group. He joined in May after auditioning for bass guitarist. Garry has been in three groups since leaving school at 15, and has played guitar since the age of 11. After playing piano in bars for a while he changed to bass. He has toured Sweden, Germany and France. Claims no special hobbies.

All very young, Brian is 20, Mel and Len are 19, and Garry is 17. Lend an ear to "TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME" - it's an impressive first which could pave the way to a bright future for these talented lads.

ENQUIRIES: PHOTOGRAPHS: PLEASE CONTACT: Patricia A. Pretty,
Press Office,
Pye Records Ltd.

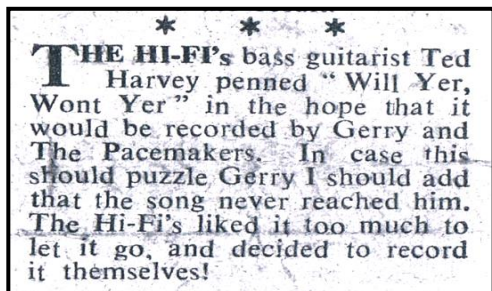
release date 18th June, 1963

May 1st 1964
Pye Records

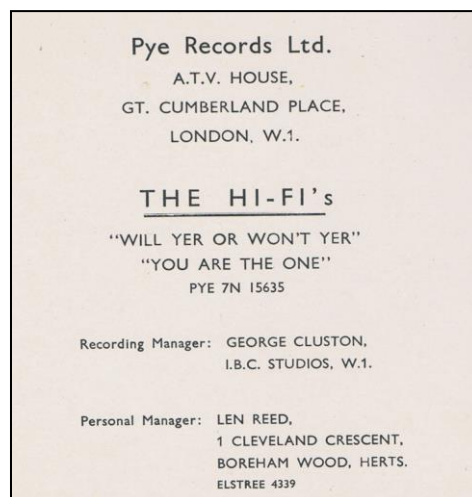
Will Yer or Won't Yer She's the One

7N15635 Ted Harvey A & B side

Ted Harvey - *vocals, bass*
Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*
Malcolm Lenny - *vocals, guitar*
Mel Wright - *drums*



Record Mirror May 16th 1964



Advertising flyer



USA release on Interphon records

Oct 30th 1964
Pye Records

I Keep Forgettin'
Ted Harvey - *vocals, bass*
Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*
Malcolm Lenny - *vocals, guitar*
Mel Wright - *drums*

Why Can't I Stop Loving You 7N 15710

Lieber/Stoller; Ted Harvey

Cameo

Also had USA release Dec 1964

C 349



Review with a story unknown paper NME No 929 1964 Oct 30th Features The HI-FI'S- Kinks -Cliff and The Stones

I Keep Forgettin'

Why Can't I Stop Loving You 7N 15710

Pye Records picture sleeve



Pye Records press release courtesy of Paul Pelletier of Record Information Services

<http://www.record-information-services.info/index.html>

One of the wrong details on this press release is Brook Meredith should be Brook Trickett

PYE PRESS SERVICE

NEWS OF ARTISTES AND LATEST RECORDINGS

PICCADILLY – PYE JAZZ – PYE GOLDEN GUINEA – PYE INTERNATIONAL – CAMEO PARKWAY – COLPIX RECORDS
PYE RECORDS LTD. A.T.V. HOUSE, GT. CUMBERLAND PLACE, LONDON W.1. Tel: AMBassador 5502

THE HI-FI'S

"I KEEP FORGETTING" – "WHY CAN'T I STOP LOVING YOU"

PYE 7N 15710

Pye recording group THE HI-FI'S have a new record called "I KEEP FORGETTING" which could take them right to the top. It is a great beat number which is catchy enough to create great interest and really take the charts by storm. The boys perform the number in the professional style which is now associated with their name.

On the flipside the boys choose a faster number with a double tracked vocal, written by the group's bass guitarist TED HARVEY. The title is "Why can't I stop loving You".

This group - BRIAN BENNETT, MEL WRIGHT, TED HARVEY and BROOK MEREDITH - was originally formed seven years ago when the boys were still at school. Since that time, their ability to harmonise and give authentic musical backing to various artistes has been recognised. It helped them to audition successfully against several other groups to appear on package tours. They have appeared on the same bill as Adam Faith, Billy Fury, Joe Brown, John Leyton and many others.

Now the HI-FI'S are extremely busy. At the moment they are touring all over the country with The Dixie Cups, The Hollies, Wayne Gibson and the Dynamic Sounds, Heinz, Jess Conrad and The Tornados. Next month they have a number of radio and television dates, including "Saturday Club" and "The 5 o'clock Club".

The boys certainly have all the talent. All they have been waiting for is the right number to take them to the top, and "I KEEP FORGETTING" could be just the number to do just that.

FOR RELEASE ON OCTOBER 30, 1964.

ENQUIRIES: PHOTOGRAPHS:

Please contact
Miss Patricia Pretty
PRESS OFFICER

Feb 26th 1965 **Baby's in Black** **Kiss and Run** 7N15788 Lennon&McCartney/Ted Harvey
Pye Records

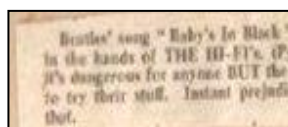
Ted Harvey - *vocals, bass*
Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*
Malcolm Lenny - *vocals, guitar*
Mel Wright - *drums*



Pye Records press release courtesy of Paul Pelletier of Record Information Services
<http://www.record-information-services.info/index.html>



Review in New Musical Express



Review in The Disc



Has anyone got better quality
copies of these reviews ?

press service

POGGADILLY
JAZZ
Golden Guinea
INTERNATIONAL
CAMEO PARKWAY
COLPY RECORDS

PYE RECORDS LTD., A.T.V. HOUSE, 67, CUMBERLAND PLACE, LONDON, W.1 Tel: AMBassador 5502

THE HI-FI'S

"BABY'S IN BLACK"
"KISS AND RUN"

PYE 7N 15788

THE HI-FI'S have recorded some first class material, and it is amazing that they have not reached the hit parade long before now. Their new single on the Pye label, however, could be the one. It is a Beatles' song, written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney and the title is "Baby's in Black". The number has strong vocals and a great beat backing and the result is one of their best records so far. On the flipside the boys sing "Kiss and Run" which was written by one of the group members, Ted Harvey.

This group was originally formed just over seven years ago when the boys were still at school. Since that time their ability to harmonise and give authentic musical backing to various artistes, has been recognised.

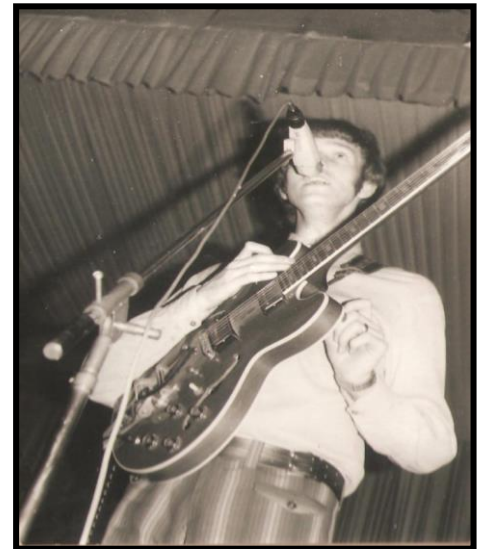
Now the group are extremely busy and continually in demand. On Friday they appeared on "The Kathy Kirby Show" by request, and it was the second appearance on that show in two months.

For the first time this year the boys are doing a summer season. From May until September they will be at St. Helier in Jersey and although this is a lucky break for the boys, it has stopped them from visiting America. They were picked to accompany Julie Rodgers to the States in April but as their summer season coincided, they could not go.

THE HI-FI'S have a 'clean' image and have been described as having "short hair and gentle guitars". Between now and May they will be doing one-night stands all over the country.

FOR RELEASE ON FEBRUARY 26, 1965.
ENQUIRIES: PHOTOGRAPHS: Please contact Miss Patricia Pretty,
PRESS OFFICER

Germany Releases



Malcolm Lenny Star Club March 1967

1966 **I'm A Box**

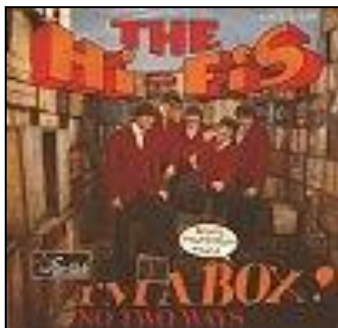
No Two Ways

148 578

Gary Unwin A side

Star Club Records

Brian Bennett-Malcolm Lenny- Mick Douglas B side



Gary Unwin - *vocals, bass*
 Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*
 Malcolm Lenny - *vocals, guitar*
 Mick Douglas - *vocals, guitar*
 Mel Wright - *drums*

1967 **Also had USA release June 1967**

UA 56010 Gary Unwin A side

United Artists

Brian Bennett-Malcolm Lenny- Mick Douglas B side



May-67 **Snakes and Ladders**

Tread Softly For The Sleepers 148 584 STF Brian Bennett - Mick Douglas A & B sides

Star Club Records



Gary Unwin - *vocals, bass*
 Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*
 Malcolm Lenny - *vocals, guitar*
 Mick Douglas - *vocals, guitar*
 Mel Wright - *drums*

1967 **Snakes and Hi-Fi's 12" Vinyl LP record**

158 035

Various composers

Star Club Records

Gary Unwin - *vocals, bass*

Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*

Malcolm Lenny - *vocals, guitar*

Mick Douglas - *vocals, guitar*

Mel Wright - *drums*

For a full review of this LP vinyl record go to this website;

<http://badcatrecords.com/BadCat/HiFis.htm>



"Snakes and Hi-Fi's" track listing:

(side 1)

1.) Tread Softly For The Sleepers (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas) -

2.) Here I Stand (Jack Nietzsche) -

3.) Snakes And Ladders (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas) -

4.) Grade A Girl (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas) -

5.) What's A Bulb (Gary Unwin) -

6.) Calorie Ann (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas) -

(side 2)

1.) Up And Over (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas - Malcolm Lenny) -

2.) Odd Man Out (Gary Unwin) -

3.) I'm A Box (Gary Unwin) -

4.) Your Haunting Me (Gary Unwin) -

5.) Uwe Aus Duisburg (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas) -

6.) My Cards Numbered 17 (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas) -

7.) No Two Ways (Brian Bennett - Mike Douglas - Malcolm Lenny) -

1968 **London Look**

McKillroy Is Watching You

D 19 931

Gouldman A side / Karrash - Moslem B side

Decca Records

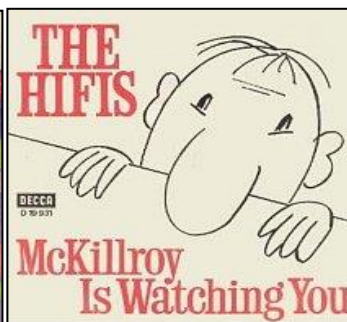
Gary Unwin - *vocals, bass*

Brian Bennett - *vocals, keyboards*

Tony Coates - *vocals, guitar*

Mick Douglas - *vocals, guitar*

Mel Wright - *drums*



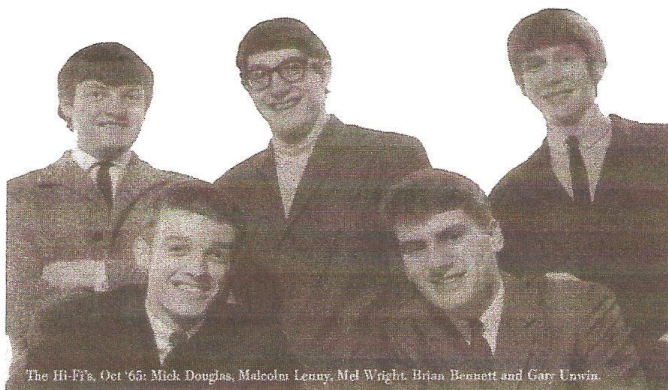
2012 **Snakes & Hi fis -THE HI-FI'S** CD reissue, Wooden Hill Records WHCD 022 Various composers

Gary Unwin - vocals, bass
 Brian Bennett - vocals, keyboards
 Malcolm Lenny - vocals, guitar
 Mick Douglas - vocals, guitar
 Mel Wright - drums



By David Wells.

The Hi-Fis' came from South London and made their first recording in 1963. The group comprised of leader Brian Bennett (organ), Mel Wright (drums) and two ex-Packabeats - Ted Harvey (on bass) and Malcolm Lenny (on lead guitar). In October '65, Ted Harvey left the group and was replaced by another ex-Packabeat - Gary Unwin. Gary agreed to join on the proviso that his friend Mick Douglas could join too. Mick had played guitar for Chris Andrews and Adam Faith (his credits included the Top 5 single 'The First Time'). It was this line-up that recorded the Ricky Nelson song 'I'm Not Ready For You Yet'/'Heaven Knows' (written by Cook/Greenaway). It was recorded at a studio off Park Lane in Mayfair with Bunny Lewis as A & R man. Incredibly, the single was never released and as Malcolm says *"In my opinion, they were some of the best things we ever did"*. When the group heard that the label had decided not to release it they were mortified. After a total of four singles (none of which charted) and with little work on the horizon, in November '65 the group accepted a six week booking at a club in Konstanz, on the Swiss/German border. At the time, many British groups relocated to the continent where they found fame and fortune which they couldn't get over here. There was intense competition then and even Meek artistes became far more popular abroad than they were here in Britain (The Honeycombs in Japan, Michael Cox in Sweden). At the end of their six week booking, The Hi-Fis' had conquered the town. They were invited back shortly afterwards, where they played at Monchengladbach, Hamburg and Duisberg. They quickly became one of the most popular groups on the German club scene. They played at the famous Star Club where they made friends with other British regulars such as The Remo Four, Ian and The Zodiaks, The King Pins, The Boston Showband (with Paul Raven) and The Liverbirds. They also backed Tony Sheridan, Jess Conrad, Graham Bonney and Gene Vincent. They also toured with The Hollies, Big Dee Irwin and The Dixie Cups as well as doing shows with The Four Seasons, Vince Eager, Mike Berry and Julie Rogers. The group were named in a Bravo magazine poll as being the third most popular live group in Germany. Star Club manager Manfred Veissleder signed the group up to the club's own record label. Their first single was released in December '66 - 'I am A Box'/'No Two Ways'. Both sides were written by the group and was promoted on German TV. The single reached No.1 and their follow-up 'Snakes and Ladders'/'Tread Softly For The Sleepers' reached No.4. Again, both sides were written by the group. This was followed by an LP titled 'Snakes and Ladders', all self-written except 'Here I Stand'. The latter was written by Jack Nitsche and previously recorded by The Ripchords. The LP was released in June '67, but despite Malcolm Lenny playing on all the tracks, he is not included (unfairly in my opinion) on the cover. He left the group in April to return to Britain and was replaced by Tony Coates, a former member of The Zodiaks. In early '68 a third single was released - 'London Look' (written by Graham Gouldman), b/w 'McKillroy Is Watching You'. The A-side had previously been released as a promo only by Hermans Hermits. It was around this time that drummer Mel Wright left, to be replaced by Derek Cashin. But with the relative failure of their last release, things were beginning to change. Missing Britain, the group returned to their home-country but the musical tide was turning against them. Despite interest from Chas Chandler, who wanted to turn them into a Barron Knights - style cabaret act, The Hi-Fis' realised their greatness had passed. Bowing to the inevitable, they decided to cut their losses and go their separate ways.



The Hi-Fis, Oct '65: Mick Douglas, Malcolm Lenny, Mel Wright, Brian Bennett and Gary Unwin.

MN: Gary Unwin remained in Germany playing bass for Boney M for many years and writing 'Automatic Lover', a No.4 hit for Dee D Jackson in 1978. Tony Coates and Derek Cashin were founder members of mid-70's group Liverpool Express. Mick Douglas and Malcolm Lenny are now with the group Happy Daze. Brian Bennett became MD for the stage production of 'Hair'. He was also MD for Patti Boulet. He died of cancer of the spleen in 2001, aged 54. Mel Wright joined a group called The Chess Set (with Malcolm Lenny and Ted Harvey). After that he went back to his old profession as a carpenter. He died in 2005 of a heart attack, aged 56.

Text missing from bottom of page; - "old profession as a carpenter. He died in 2005 of a heart attack aged 61"



THE HI-FI'S • SNAKES AND HIFIS

One of the finest examples of the beat-bands-go-bonkers syndrome, the psychedelic pop album *Snakes And HiFis* was released in Germany in mid-1967 by exiled British group the Hi-Fi's, and has long been established as a highly sought-after rarity on the worldwide beat/psych collectors market.

Boostered by no less than fourteen bonus tracks (most of them previously unreleased) from the same timeframe, this first-ever reissue of *Snakes And HiFis* has been produced in conjunction with the group, and features extensive liner notes and many previously unpublished photos.

ORIGINAL STEREO ALBUM

1. Tread Softly For The Sleepers
2. Here I Stand
3. Snakes And Ladders
4. Grade 'A' Girl
5. What's A Bulb
6. Calorie Ann
7. Up And Over
8. Odd Man Out
9. I'm A Box
10. You're Haunting Me
11. Uwe Aus Duisburg
12. My Cards Numbered 17
13. No Two Ways

BONUS TRACKS

14. London Look
15. McKillroy Is Watching You
16. I'm Not Ready For You Yet*
17. Heaven Knows*
18. Mickey's Monkey*
19. I Get Around*
20. Summer In The City*
21. In The Midnight Hour*
22. God Only Knows*
23. Yellow Submarine*
24. I'm A Box (mono single mix)
25. No Two Ways (mono single mix)
26. Snakes And Ladders (mono single mix)
27. Tread Softly For The Sleepers (mono single mix)

* previously unreleased



Wooden Hill WHCD022 8 23566 47202 5

This compilation (P) and © 2008 Wooden Hill, 13 Barricade, St. Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 7RB - Email: woodenhill@hotmail.co.uk - www.12thplanet-woodenhill.co.uk

Associated releases to the Hi-Fi's

UK release

Dec-62 **Be Everything To Anyone**

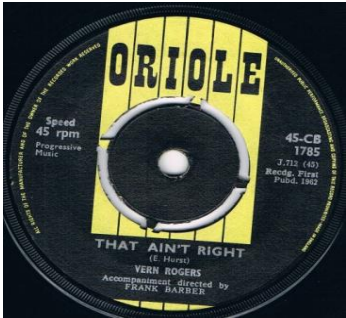
Oriole records

VERN ROGERS (aka Roger Newell)

That Ain't right

CB 1785

Pomus-Jeffries A side / E.Hurst B side



Apr-63 **He's New To You**

Oriole records

Can't Complain

CB 1826

Brian Bennett - Ros Howard B side



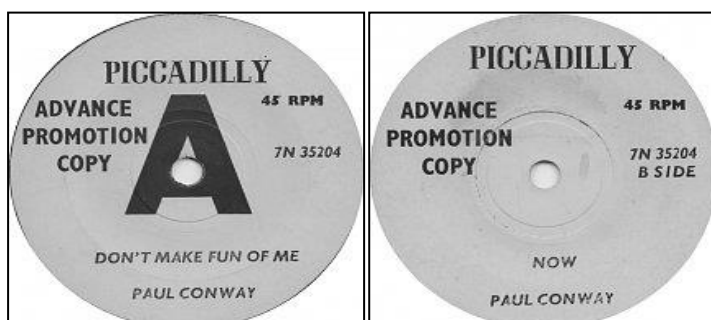
Nov-63	I Will	One Way Love Affair	CB 1885	R Silver - P Owen A side Brian Bennett - Ros Howard B side
Oriole records				



Apr-64	Anna (Go To Him)	Pride	CB 1923	Alexander A side / Madara-White B side
Oriole records				



9th Oct 1964	Don't make Fun Of Me	Now(That You Don't Love Me)	7N 35204	Miller - Greenfield A side Frere - Manston B side
Pye Picadilly				

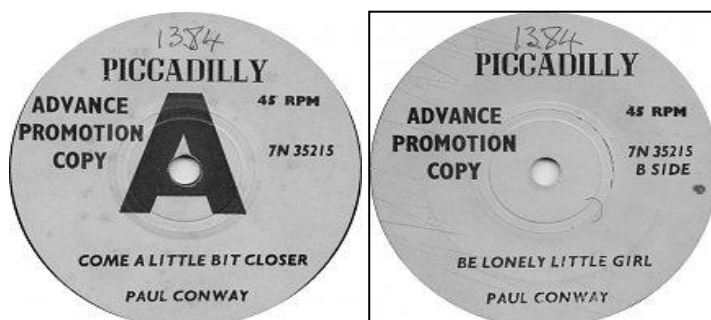


27th Nov 1964
Pye Picadilly

Come A Little Bit Closer

Be Lonely Little Girl

7N 35215 Boyce - Hart - Farrell A side
J.Schroeder - R. Conrad B side



JONNY ROSS

The Jonny Ross B side was written by Len Ford who was ripped off.

The Fahey name was the son of Brian Fahey composer of "Sign of the Swinging Cymbal" theme tune to radio's Pick of the Pops

The son was the publisher and would only publish it if he had composer credit also "ce'st la vie"

7th July 1967
Columbia records

Too Much Love

Forget About Him

DB 8225 Ornadel - Callander A side
Len Ford - Fahey B side



◆ [Jonny Ross; a comment on website 45CAT from Jonathan Dowson August 2014](#)

Len I saw that you were trying to locate Jonny Ross.

Jonny Ross was known as Peter Oliver in the 1970s and was a member of The New Seekers 1973-74. The group's...

|