

Under New Management by Da Management

Da Management are a hardworking band, made up of seasoned veteran musicians, and they gig regularly. They specialise in 50s, 60s and 70s classics, which they call "music from the golden era of pop". It was a period when music was full of enthusiasm and verve, and many people believe there will never be another time like that.

Live music has been badly impacted by singers with backing tracks, DJs, Karaoke and Open Mic nights. The first three are cheaper for clubs and other venues, but there is no substitute for an honest to goodness live band. Open Mic nights are free for the hosting venues, and whilst they do allow young and upcoming acts to get some exposure, that's another hammer blow for working bands.

Another disappointment for live music lovers was the long period when clubs and other venues were closed, due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Da Management, like lots of other gigging bands, lost many bookings when they had to stay at home, and live music was banned. It wasn't easy for bands, nor venues, during the period when restrictions were in place.

It became much more difficult for Da Management, when three members decided to leave in August 2020. Losing members of a popular band is never a sought-after event. Bands rely on the musical dexterity of their members, and they also build good relationships with each other. The camaraderie between musicians is one of the reasons why they enjoy each other's company.

Two of Da Management (Billy B and John Bobin) had been in the habit of going to see an excellent band, called The Boomers, who played similar music to Da Management. When The Boomers took a little break from their gigs, Da Management recruited two first class replacements, who were in The Boomers together with Dave Bronze. Dave has played with Eric Clapton, Tom Jones, Procol Harum and a multitude of other very well-known names. (Look him up on Ye Olde Internet. You will be astounded by his well-earned CV.)

Bob Mundy and Paul Milligan (both founder members of The Boomers) joined Da Management willingly. Billy B and John had previously worked with a great drummer as a dep. and also for some recording sessions. Dek Robinson (for it was he), was also approached. He was happy to join and was welcomed into the band.

Early rehearsals proved the new line up would be terrific, with three very strong lead vocalists (Billy B, Bob Mundy, and Paul Milligan.) With this

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injection of superb vocal expertise, the band has excellent harmonies. To round things off nicely, Paul is a fabulous guitarist, and Bob is a talented rhythm guitarist. Dek is a veritable powerhouse of a drummer, but he has that rare expertise - knowing exactly what to play at exactly the right time. Billy B, an outstanding vocalist, and John Bobin, a bass guitarist with a pedigree as long as your arm, have been delighted with the new line up.

The musical marriage of two Boomers with two long-standing members of Da Management, plus a drummer who can whip up a storm or play delicately, with equal aplomb, has been a wonderful success.

With five members, who all have a wide repertoire, it was hard to choose the very best songs, as there was such a veritable cornucopia of riches. It was difficult to decide what to leave out. Da Management is a covers band, not a tribute outfit, and they say that suits them as they can continue to have a very wide-ranging song list.

The new line up of Da Management is as follows:

BILLY B (Vocals/Harmonica) Billy B has been in various bands, including Mo Shorty and Dave Chancellor and The Exchequers. He then spent many years with The Alvin Jones Band, a very successful function group. He also sang with The Hard Blow Blues Band and In 2 Deep.

JOHN BOBIN (Bass Guitar) John has been a member of The Phantoms, The Fingers (AKA Daddy Lindberg), (Mickey Jupp's) Legend, Salty Dog, In 2 Deep and Hunt, Runt Shunt and Cunningham.

BOB MUNDY (Vocals/Guitar) Bob was a member of the Freddy Mack Extravaganza, an eight-piece Tamla Motown/Soul band, and was a professional session musician, for Pye Records. Bob was also a member of The Deadbeats Soul Band, The Chaos Brothers and The Boomers, as well as going out as a solo performer.

PAUL MILLIGAN (Vocals/Guitar) Paul paid his dues in several 'covers' bands. Later on, he became a co-founder member of the 70s pub rock band, Skint. Paul also spent 15 years playing blues with The Heaters. In more recent years, he was in Small Town Rumour, and he then re-united with ex-Skint band members (Bob and Dave), to form The Boomers, playing 60s pop and rock classics.

DEK ROBINSON (Drums) Dek started playing drums in a pub in Ipswich. He has also played with Animal Farm, Plimsoll Sandwich, and Tangent. More

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recently, he has been a part of Krackers, Willy and the Wallies, Rave On, Just Backdated, and the Luminors.

During lockdown, the members kept their spirits high by remote home recording and solitary practice sessions at home.

During the long and dreary lockdown, lyrics and chords sheets were exchanged, and ideas for arrangements were finalised for great new sets, once Boris allowed clubs to reopen. Zoom meetings enabled the band to keep in touch and to bounce ideas off each other.

Da Management also selected twelve songs for a new CD to introduce the new line up to eager audiences, who also welcomed the opportunity to hear live music again. There are ten covers and two original songs written by band members on the CD.

The new album, Under New Management, was released in October. It has garnered some acclaim in press coverage and several radio plays.

Feedback on the Facebook band page about the CD and gigs has been immensely encouraging, with much complimentary appreciation, and the band is really enjoying playing live, once again.

John Bobin said "We can't believe how well our recent performances have gone down. The audiences' warm reception for our band has been truly amazing."

Da Management say audiences should have fun, as well as enjoying the music. They love to see a packed dance floor with people smiling and laughing.

Details of how to buy Under New Management are shown on facebook.com/damanagementband and it can be listened to (and downloaded), by using this link: damanagement.bandcamp.com

The last word goes to John Bobin. "We play our favourite music. We do what we love, and we love what we do."

<http://www.markbass.it/artist-detail/david-bronze/>