

RECORD MIRROR

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7p

GLITTER BAND BOMBSHELL:
the truth about Gary

Be Bop is axe victim

BE BOP DE LUXE — tipped as potential chart makers — have split. Following the recent split of Cockney Rebel by Steve Harley, 1974 hopefuls Be Bop Deluxe have gone the same way.

Leader Bill Nelson is reforming a band under the same name and auditions are currently being held. Among those already auditioned are former members of Cockney Rebel.

The band, who have been together since 1972, played their last date at Biba's on Monday. Nelson reckons they will be off the road for about six weeks.

Reason for the split is not exactly clear, but Nelson is obviously aware that when the outfit formed in Leeds he had no idea they were going to make it out of the city.

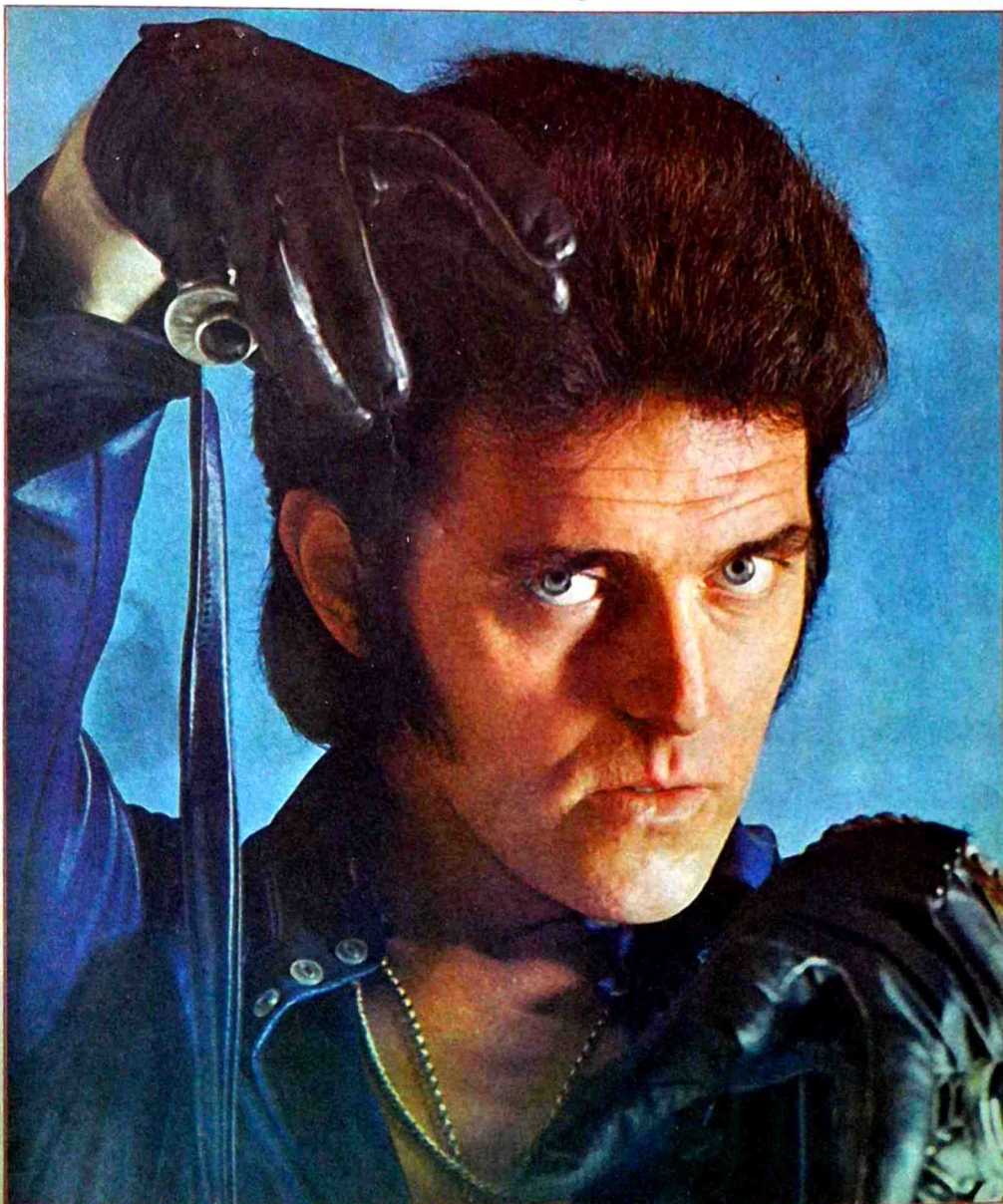
Commented Nelson this week: "I have decided to reform Be Bop Deluxe so that the new group will be more in keeping with my current writing and general musical direction."

"To this end, keyboards will almost certainly become an integral part of the new band — the name Be Bop Deluxe will remain".

BEATLES RETURN!

—plus Bert

plus new
charters:
K.C. & the
Sunshine
Band
and
CARL
DOUGLAS



ENTERING a room to be greeted with cold, calculating stares from the Geordie gang is about as appealing as climbing into a boxing ring to take on Henry Cooper — you know before you begin there's no chance of coming up trumps.

To make matters worse, I was one of the last reporters on the afternoon's agenda which meant by this time the fellas had had just about enough of being asked the same boring, unane questions and could not, would not, bother to conceal their intolerance.

My first question (to Tom) was about their absence from the music scene in this country. Did they view themselves as being established to the extent of not having to bother with going on the road so often?

Tell, no. We haven't been working in Britain because we've been working on the Continent — it's as simple as that. We're definitely not resting on our laurels or neglecting our British fans. Let's face it, there's a lot of money to be made abroad and we intended to make a lot!

How were you received abroad?

ENJOY

"We got such a reception that it was frightening sometimes," said Vic, the newly married member. "I really enjoyed playing in Australia because the audiences were so responsive. They knew how to enjoy themselves. The audiences over here have been spoiled because they're used to having the creme de la creme of the pop world entertaining them whereas Australia who is virtually starved of seeing the best entertainers. They become absolutely ecstatic whenever a British or American band visit them. Must admit it gets a bit scary at times, especially when we played to an audience of over 5,000 people, which we aren't used to over here. I tell you, when hundreds of girls started shouting I thought to myself 'any minute now the bloody stadium will be in complete and utter chaos'. Thank God it never got to a critical stage otherwise I'd have been the

BY JANICE ILES

first to run!"

Next they went to Japan where they had a certain amount of competition to deal with — cos David Cassidy was in town as well. This also meant that there were more than the average amount of screaming schoolgirls hanging around.

You can say that again. There were times when we were imprisoned in the hotel room!" Vic explained.

Even when we arrived at Tokyo Airport at five in the morning there were loads of Japanese girls waving their banners and cheering — it was a fantastic greeting which we never expected."

During their stay in Tokyo, Geordie didn't do any live concerts, instead they concentrated on TV appearances and radio shows and doing the odd pop interview. They had time to see a David Cassidy concert and afterwards visited a club they'd tell me about the social aspect of their visit!

"We've got to keep it clean otherwise we might embarrass you!" said Brian Gibson.

Their Scandinavian trip also went down well, so much so that Brian Johnson hailed it the most enjoyable tour he's done.

"We enjoyed Sweden very much," he said. "It had a great atmosphere about it which is hard to describe. And it was well laid on and organised. Not like over here. You ought to have seen our dressing rooms, they weren't like the old flea-pits you get

POP SCENE'S DEAD HERE SAY GEORDIE

... but
this lot
won't lie
down!

over here. Ours had a beautiful jetty and a huge bar stocked up with booze. At first we thought we'd have to pay for the drinks but when I enquired the guy said to me 'They're free, we like to please the people who come over here and play for us'."

So because of the hospitality bestowed upon them Geordie had the incentive to produce their best music.

MERRY

Now that they're back in merry old England, with its sweaty dressing rooms and one star hotels, what are they going to do in the way of performances?

"I doubt if we'll be touring," returns Tom. "We've got to see how our latest single does. If it reaches the number one position then we may get a British tour organised for next month. We'll just have to wait and see. Right now it's rotten working in Britain — ask any group and they'll tell you the same."

Brian J agreed, saying: "Yeah, it's pretty stagnant at the moment. Just take a look at all the crap that's in the charts and you'll see what I mean. When Top Of The Pops wasn't transmitted all these rubbishy sounds started creeping into the charts — they'd never have stood a chance under ordinary circumstances."

Tom concluded on a rather grim note: "Yeah, I agree with all that, the pop scene's dead as it stands. It needs more guts otherwise groups are going to get fed up playing in Britain and will eventually go abroad to work."



ARROWS



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