

# Cruiseflash – August 2017

100% unofficial  
newsletter for P&O Blues  
Cruises

## Bargain Blues

### – **book now!**

Those of you who keep a close eye on our 'Blues@Sea' Facebook Page will be aware that last month there was a sudden, unannounced, increase by P&O in the price of the November Blues Revue.

This decision was reversed with the alert that **the £99 price may well increase on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

**DON'T DELAY!!!! Phone 0800 130 0030**

(Currently there are almost 250 'cruisers' signed up)



### 5-4-3-2-1 (*Countdown for Kaz*)

For many years it's been the ultimate accolade for UK blues artists to appear on the **Paul Jones** BBC Radio 2 Blues Show. In this edition (which focusses primarily on the great 'Swamp Blues' harpist Slim Harpo) a Kaz Hawkins track is featured. Kaz is at the start of her final tour with this

fabulous multi-national band – 'Cruisers', of course, get two 'bites at the cherry' in November. This programme is well worth a listen -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09039ny>



### Ciao!

Perhaps the least well known 'Blues Revue' act (to UK fans at least) is **Veronica Sbergia & Max De Bernardi** (Italy)...but that's about to change.

They swept to victory in the 2013 European Blues Challenge (as 'The Red Wine Serenaders') and since then have performed across the Continent with their country blues and ragtime, hokum, jug band and rural music from the 20's and 30's. Veronica and Max who use strictly acoustic instruments such as ukulele, washboard, kazoo and

resophonic guitars, are terrific musicians and a lot-of-fun!

Check-them-out on this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj1rWJBUUJ>



### Out of the studio into the Spinning Top!

**Norman Beaker** and his band seem to be constantly on the road ...particularly on Mainland Europe. Little wonder then that their three most recent albums have been live recordings – in Prague, in Vienna and at the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne. With a pocketful of brand-new songs though, it was time to book a studio and get to work! **'We See Us Later!'** is the result and, if you can't wait until the 'Cruise' in November you can get it at the Album Launch at the Spinning Top, Stockport on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September.



## 'Ido-Ido'

Congratulations to Mardi-Gras stalwart, **Dom Pipkin** and Hannah Poppy who were married earlier this month ...with a New Orleans theme, naturally! Here's our good wishes card to them – New Orleans trio The Dixie Cups with 'Chapel of Love'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgVOOG4zZnY>

There are lots of past and future 'Cruiser Artists' on show at the Great British Blues Festival (Colne) on August Bank Holiday weekend.

**Tom Attah** is hosting his Acoustic Roadhouse; **Katie Bradley** is there plus **Dale Storr**, **Ian Siegal**, **Marcus Bonfanti**, **Lisa Mills**, **Julian Burdock** and this November Cruise's 'must see' **Kaz Hawkins**. There is a marketing team from P&O there too – say hello if you see them. [www.bluesfestival.co.uk](http://www.bluesfestival.co.uk)

## Choc 'n' Roll?

Michael & Barbara (*of Parchman Productions*) were aboard the P&O's Pride of Bruges recently 'fact finding' for a potential music event on the Hull – Zeebrugge route early in 2018. Belgium is famous for its chocolate, of course whilst P&O events present stand-out music – watch this space! (And also this website - [www.bluescruiseuk.com](http://www.bluescruiseuk.com))

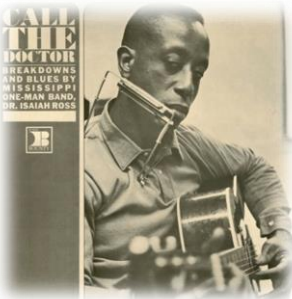


## Front Cover Accolade

Gracing the front cover of a prestigious magazine such as 'Gitarre & Bass alongside Elvis Presley and Roger Waters gives an indication of how highly guitarist **Kai Strauss** is rated in Germany (Some of you will remember him with Memo Gonzales and the Bluescasters ten-or-more years ago and no doubt rate him equally highly.) 'Cruisers' will have tickets for one of his two private one-hour-concerts in Amsterdam on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. (More details to follow)

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> - Line-up** Norman Beaker Band with Jon Amor, Kyla Brox, Tom Attah and Johnny Hewitt; Kai Strauss Electric Blues All Stars (DE); Kaz Hawkins Band (NI); Veronica Sbergia & Max De Bernardi (ITA)  
Booking – [www.poferries.com/blues](http://www.poferries.com/blues) Phone 0800 130 0030

## Trust me, I'm a Doctor!



Congratulations to **Tom Attah** who was awarded his PhD recently. Through years of study Tom has become the first real 'Doctor of the Blues'. (Dr. Isiah Ross got his name through carrying his harmonicas in a doctor's bag whilst Dr John was self-styled – although he was later awarded an honorary doctorate)

## Can't wait to see Kaz and Jon Amor?

They both feature on an excellent line-up at the Carlisle Blues & Rock Festival on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> September. <http://carlislebluesfestival.com/>

Very special thanks to all of our 'Street Team' for 'putting the word out there' – either through personal recommendation or by distributing flyers - David, Mike, Fiona, Adrianna and John, Tim and the all the rest...Cheers!

[www.bluescruiseuk.com](http://www.bluescruiseuk.com)

