

QUEEN'S HALL SELL-OUT

TYNEDALE ACCORDION CLUB were hosts to a wonderful evening's entertainment on Friday, 17th August, when they presented Canada's top musicians — Bobby Brown and The Cape Breton Fiddlers, The Scottish Accent Band, Graham Townsend (North American Fiddle Champion) and Scottish star Robin Brock and Band.

Club chairman Eddie Harding opened the show and introduced Robin Brock and his Scottish band who really set the pace and standard for the night with a varied programme of slow airs, waltzes, marches, reels and jigs, etc.

Robin, who is very well known locally, had Jim Johnston on second box, Ron Kerr on fiddle, Stan Saunders on bass, David Flockhart on piano and Gordon Young on drums — all top Scottish musicians.

Robin Brock took over as com-pere and introduced Bobby Brown on stage, explaining though he's an exiled Scot it was his first visit to this side of the border and also for all of his band.

The capacity audience gave him a rousing reception and welcome to Hexham. He opened with the Cape Breton Fiddlers playing a selection of tunes, some Scottish, some North American, all played with their own style and expertise not comparable to any other.

Wise cracks, jokes and wit between selections from Bobby Brown kept the Queen's buzzing and laughing and raised the temperature somewhat.

Graham Townsend showed his exceptional talent, playing French Canadian and North American selections. His rendering of the "Orange Blossom Special" and the "Mocking Bird" certainly had the audience going.

Pianist Kathy Fraser showed great versatility, singing five sentimental folk numbers very sweetly. Since hearing Kathy sing two years ago, her voice has matured and improved to a degree of

excellence unsurpassed by many a top recording star. She also showed that she can handle other instruments by playing a modern tenor saxophone, accompanied by Bobby Brown on piano and Tom Szeszaniak on bass.

Bobby played several tunes on harmonica, starting with a slow air, progressing to a 6/8 march, giving away his Scottish birth and upbringing.

The enthusiasm shown by all of the players, especially pianist Kathy and drummer Fred Collins, was reflected by the audience in their applause and approval.

Fiddler Sandy Machtyre showed how well he can use his feet as well as his hands when, together with his wife Lucy, they gave an exhibition of North American folk dancing, some of the steps being very similar to our local rant steps and certain clog dancing steps.

Interval time saw a mass exodus. Everyone wanted a breather, a cool down and a blather about what they had just heard and seen; almost unbelievable.

Most people that I talked to said that this show was the best thing to hit Hexham for a long while, certainly much better than gas explosions, fires, etc.

The second part of the show continued at the same pace and quality; nothing but the best of music and humour from Bobby Brown and cast.

The Scottish Accent Band featured in several numbers, individual artistes showing great talent and versatility in their own music; probably one of the most



The Canadian Cape Breton Concert Party that toured Scotland and the North of England. In the centre, front row, is the exceptional Graham Townsend (with the beard) and the Mayor of Hexham, Mr Jack Prescott.

unusual being a slow air bowed on the double bass, very precise and sweet.

Robin Brock and band joined forces with Bobby Brown and cast for a grand finale, playing mostly

Scottish tunes. What a heart-stirring finish to a well-presented feast of music, superbly arranged and played.

Surely a return visit in the not-too-distant future is a must, not only to satisfy some healthy musical appetites, but also to accommodate a lot of disappointed people unable to obtain tickets for the show. Hastie ye back.

G. H. J.

Diary

ARMADALE: Masonic Arms Hotel—24th October, Walter Perrie.

PORTWILLIAM: Gaol Community Club—13th November, Neil Sinclair-Thio.

BALLOCH: Griffin Hotel, Alexandra—21st October, Bobby Macleod.

FORRES: 14th November, Graeme Mitchell SDB.

BANCHORY: Burnett Arms—29th October, Currie Brothers.

HIGHLANDS: Drumossie Hotel—19th November, Alastair Hunter SDB.

BELFORD: Community Hall—26th October, Supper Dance, Paddy Neary.

KELSO: Ednam House Hotel—31st October, Marion Anderson SDB.

CRIFEFF: Arduthie Hotel—1st November, Janet Kowalski.

LOCKERBIE: Blue Bell Hotel—30th October, Fraser McGlynn.

DUNBLANE: Hydro—13th November—Billy Anderson and Albany.

PEEBLES: 25th October, Robin Brock SDB.

PERTH: Salutation Hotel—27th October, Dance, Fraser McGlynn SDB.

DUNFERMLINE: Northern Road.

INVERMATHA: Govan, Masonic Hall.

STRANRAER: Buck's Head Hotel—5th November, Malcolm MacLean and Frank Henry.

WALMER: Walmer Hotel, Bridge of Allan—28th October, Kerrin and David.