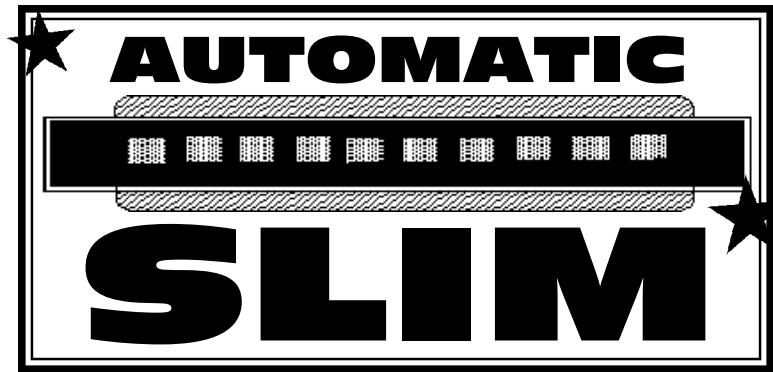


SLIM'S ROCK FAMILY TREE



LINKS AND CONNECTIONS ON THE

ESSEX MUSIC SCENE: 1974-99

PRE-HISTORY:

TIM'S LINKS

MILLIONS of terrible punk bands formed in the wake of the 1977 explosion - the Corgis was one. One, co-incidentally, was also the sum total of the gigs they played - at Maldon Labour Hall. Future 'Slim' guitarist Ian Cundy was in the audience that October night. He met Tim again a couple of months later and asked him along to a rehearsal for a new band which was being put together by ex-merchant seaman Des Purcell, who owned the local music shop and provided a Saturday morning hangout for the local musos. Paul Norman went on to carve a career as a semi-pro organist in the social clubs of his native Cambridgeshire.

DAZ Persil and the Automatics never actually survived beyond the rehearsal stage (after an endless number of suggestions, this name was as close as they came to a working title) but it cemented the Tim and Ian's musical and personal relationship. It split after about six months, when Ian and drummer Mark departed to form Paradox.

ROCK covers band, featuring the 14-year-old Roy Hodges on drums and Tim, still on bass. Played about eight gigs in the Maldon/Burnham area - many of them sharing the billing with Ian's band, Paradox. After re-inventing themselves, briefly, as The Magnox Reactors, they completely disintegrated. Roy and Martin would subsequently play together on and off in the ensuing years in various bands before Roy joined 'Slim.

POP/ROCK trio, in the then, current style of Elvis Costello/Joe Jackson. In its six-month history, the band played about 20 gigs across south-eastern England. It also recorded a demo of original songs (at Pussycat - later VSS Studios - Ingatestone, whose owner, Ray Durrant would later introduce Tim to future Slim bassman Howard Bills and drummer Chris Love) which attracted some serious industry interest, but ultimately failed to land a deal. Towards the end the band developed serious r'n'b tendencies...

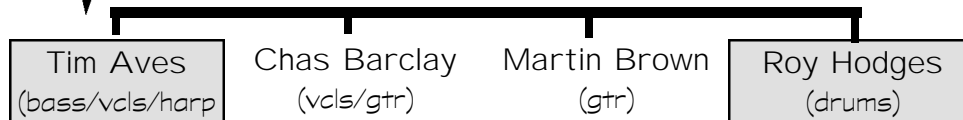
THE RABID CORGIS 1978



DAZ PERSIL AND THE AUTOMATICS 1979



VIEUX CHAPEAU 1979-80



left to form Paradox

Various rehearsal bands with Martin Brown. Would eventually join 'Slim in 1990

EMOTION PICTURES 1980



Goes on to found 'Slim with Ian, Howard and Chris



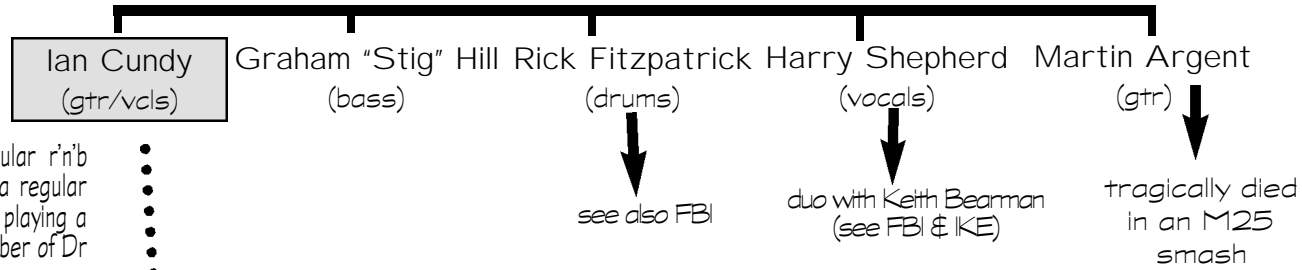
PRE-HISTORY:

IAN'S LINKS

FOR many years, T-Bone Steak were the most popular r'n'b pop/rock covers bands in the Maldon/Burnham area, a regular fixture at the area's carnivals, dances and social functions, playing a staple diet of pop standards, always laced with a goodly number of Dr Feelgood tunes. The line-up varied over the years, taking in a number of local musicians. In fact, the band never officially folded - they still get together to play the odd reunion gig for charity, with a variety of different players.

WITH an impressive set of strong, original songs and well-chosen covers and a powerful and tightly-rehearsed live act (they had their own rehearsal room in a sound-proofed outbuilding behind Mark Chamberlain's dad's pub, The Ship in Burnham High Street) Paradox were the local band everyone expected to make it, Sadly, despite a couple of stunning demos, many great gigs and some record company interest, their big break never came.

T-BONE STEAK 1974-8



PARADOX 1978-80

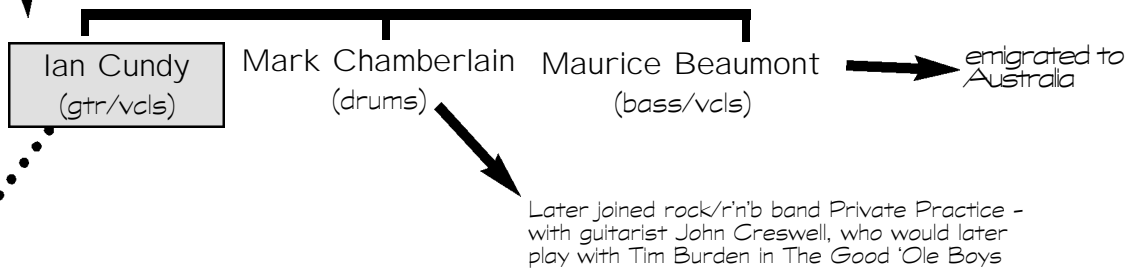
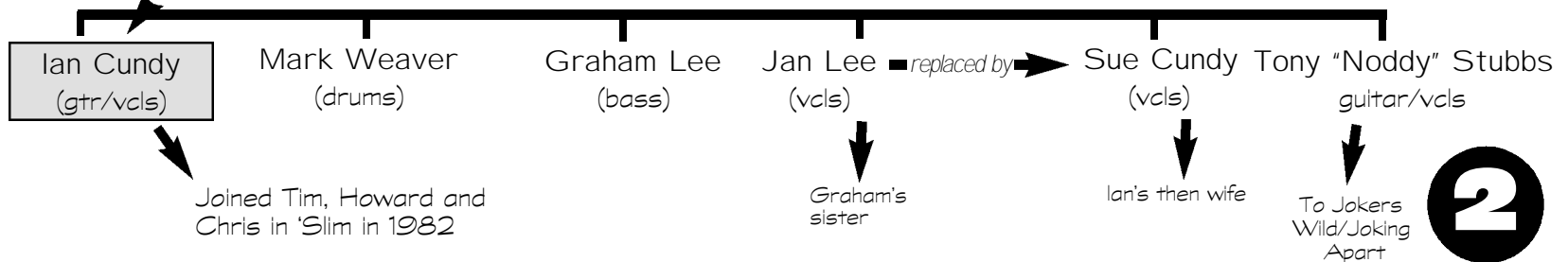


EXHIBIT A 1980-81

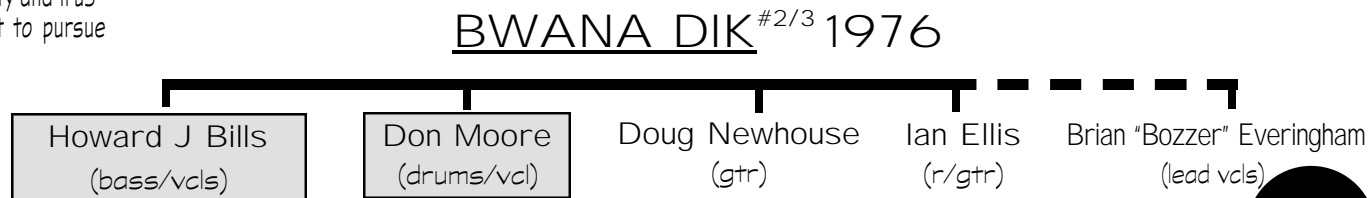
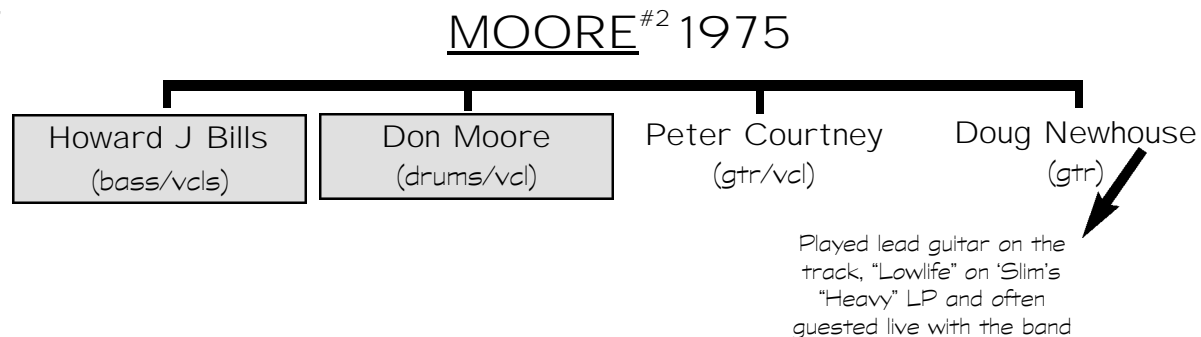
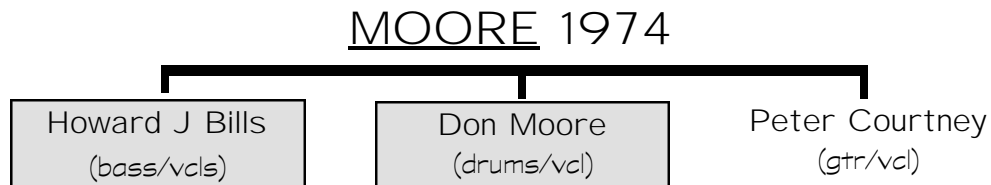
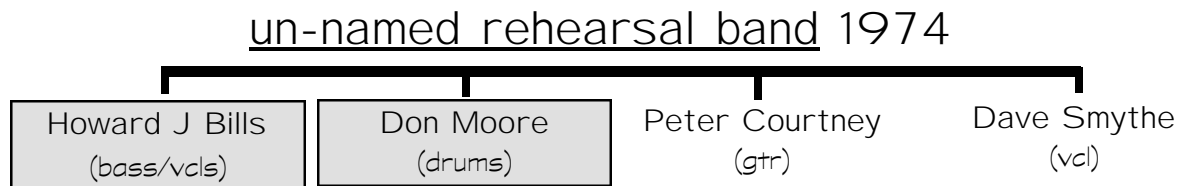


PRE-HISTORY: THE BRAINTREE AND WITHAM CONNECTIONS

ORIGINALLY a "bedroom band", Bwana Dik played for five years with the same rhythm section and a variety of other guitar players and singers. When original singer Dave Smythe departed, Don Moore took over vocal duties, as well as playing drums, supposedly until a new vocalist could be found. In practice, this never really happened and the band - now named Moore - began to play regularly at local hops and youth clubs in the time-honoured fashion with Don still vocalising.

The most significant change came when Peter Courtney and Doug Newhouse joined, taking the band into a different league, musically and allowing them to work a greater range of venues. Peter Courtney left not long afterwards. (In later years, Doug would often appear as a guest guitarist at 'Slim gigs - while his off-stage antics on tour with 'Slim became the stuff of legends!).

Young Ian Ellis won his first gig, as rhythm guitar replacement for Peter Courtney. By this time, the name had changed to Bwana Dik (after a Frank Zappa song) and the repertoire had expanded to include a number of original songs. Australian ex-pat Brian Everingham took over on lead vocals for a period, expanding the sound of the band. That elusive big break never came, however and he and Ian Ellis - the latter growing in confidence and ability and frustrated at playing second fiddle to Doug Newhouse - left to pursue other avenues to stardom.



PRE-HISTORY:
BRAINTREE
AND
WITHAM #2

THE years 1976-9 saw Bwana Dik truncated to The Dix and the band working intermittently until 1979. (They reformed for one night in 1994 to play one of Jerry Hill's charity shows with 'Slim at Witham Rugby Club.) During one of The Dix' periodic shutdowns, Ian Ellis approached Don Moore to drum for his heavy rock band, Diesel. He remained with the band for the duration of its three-year life, supporting recording artistes such as Nutz and Maribou Stork.

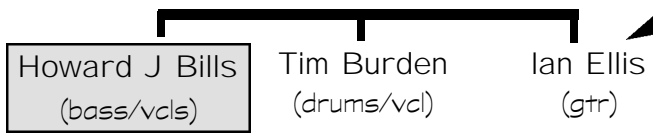
IN 1980, the demise of The Dix and Diesel saw Ian Ellis and Howard join another singing drummer, Tim Burden, in hard rock band, Smak, playing mostly original songs. The limitations of the singing drummer format brought in Don Moore on drums, allowing Tim Burden to concentrate on his vocals. Smak (later shortened to SMK) pursued a policy of self-promoted gigs in halls in the locality, using large hire PA systems. Tim Burden left in 1982 and the band folded soon after.

(When Howard joined 'Slim it was to the confusion of many old friends who believed it was the same singer called Tim and the same guitarist called Ian!). Tim Burden eventually returned to the scene in The Good Ole Boys, while Ian Ellis pursued his passion for all things Hendrix in Pali Gap.

THE DIX 1976-9 ← — Operating simultaneously — → DIESEL 1976-9

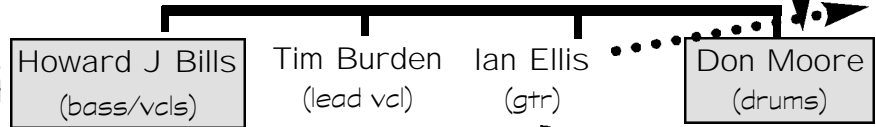


SMAK 1980



Played drums in a number of bands, including London outfit, Shark Taboo, punk legends the Pork Dukes and Porky and occasionally, Porky & the Tunnels - the latter also featuring Doug Newhouse, John Skelly (see Booze'n'Blouze) and flat-mate Howard Bills - before working with 'Slim first as live sound engineer, then on drums.

SMAK/SMK BAND 1980-82

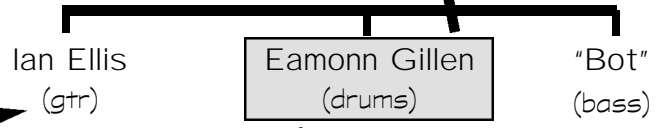


Joined Ian, Chris and Tim in 'Slim, 1982

Later surfaced in The Good 'Ole Boys on drums/vcls

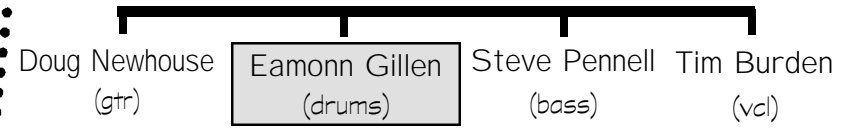
Has since occasionally played guitar for the Jane English Band (see The Rockin' Armadillos)

PALI GAP 1981-?



Don Moore re-appeared briefly in 1985, when in a mighty rock band, Full Throttle, which included Eamonn Gillen on drums, and Tim Burden on vocals. Their high-water mark was probably supporting at 'Slim's annual May show in Essex University's cavernous main ballroom.

FULL THROTTLE 1985



STRANGE BREW 1988-90



Joined 'Slim in 1991

After a long layoff, Don Moore joined blues-rock covers band, Strange Brew - in a bizarre career chance, assuming the role of frontman/vocalist, where he says his Mr Bean-like stage presence earned him few admirers!



AFTER a year or so without a band, Tim advertised as "New Lee Brilleaux seeks new Figure/Spark/Wilko/Gypie to form "new Feelgoods". The ad threw up a rhythm section, but no guitarists. The trio subsequently auditioned half a dozen guitarists. None worked out, so Tim asked long-time musical mate, Ian Cundy, to join "temporarily" so the rhythm section wouldn't lose interest. A rehearsal room (at VSS) was booked - only for the rhythm section

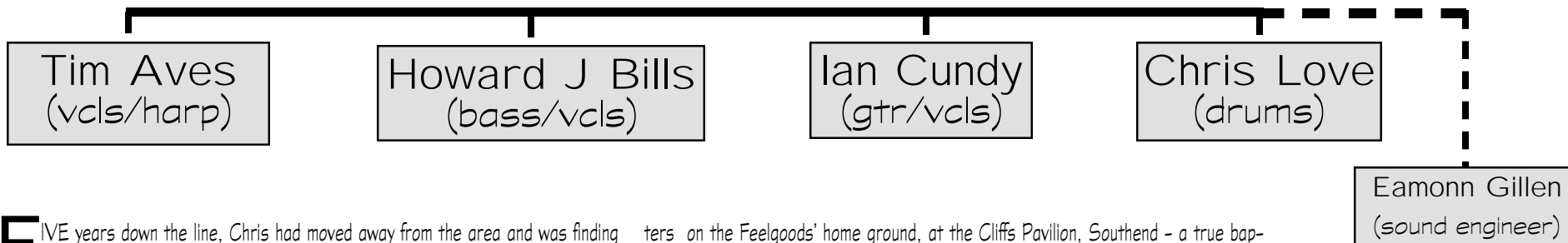
to announce it'd found another gig! Tim called VSS owner Ray Durrant to cancel the studio and asked, as an aside if he knew of any bass players or drummers. Ray suggested Chelmsford-based Chris Love, an occasional member of his showband. Chris, in turn, had the number of Witham's Howard J Bills in his book, but had never worked with him. The resulting rehearsal went well and within a couple of weeks, the band had worked out a set of sorts (mainly

Feelgoods/Howlin' Wolf covers plus a couple of originals) and recorded its first demo on VSS's then-brand new 8-track. The first gig was at the Treble Chance pub, Basildon on Thursday November 4, 1982. Howard's flatmate, Eamonn Gillen became roadie/sound engineer.

RECORDINGS: Julie B/ Tame Man (single); Shoot! (Tape LP); The Spoonful EP (EP); Slim Live! (Vinyl LP)

AUTOMATIC SLIM

Nov 1982-Dec 1987



FIVE years down the line, Chris had moved away from the area and was finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the demands of a tough day-job and 'Slim's escalating gig-habit - 2-3 shows a week all over the place.

Finding a replacement proved dead simple. Eamonn Gillen, Howard's flatmate, and the band's long-time sound engineer, was the obvious choice - in fact he had already helped out on the odd gig when Chris couldn't make it in the past. The handover came as the band prepared to embark on the 1987 Dr Feelgood UK tour as support act and Eamonn found himself playing his second gig with 'Slim, facing 2,000-odd pun-

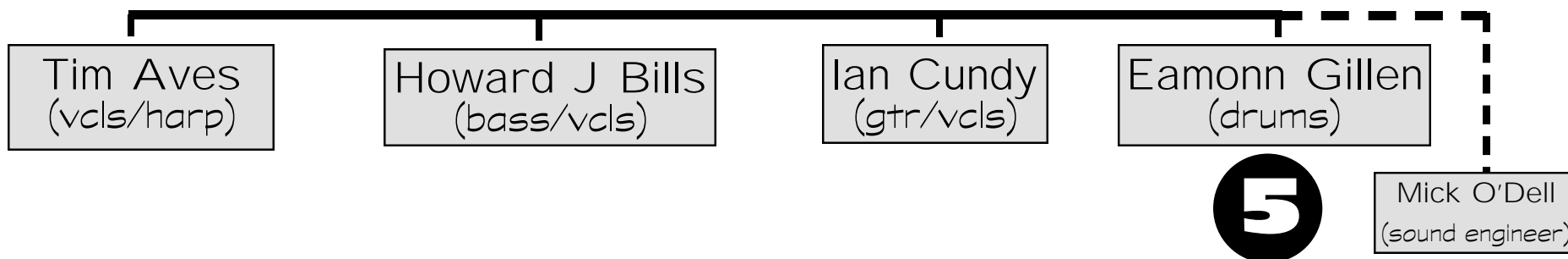
ters on the Feelgoods' home ground, at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend - a true baptism of fire! He went on to play many shows all over the UK and to record the band's "Heavy" LP and a special session at BBC Maida Vale for the Radio 2 Paul Jones Rhythm'n'Blues Show.

Mick O'Dell started helping the band with their sound on the great Scottish tour of winter, '84, and stayed on, initially alongside Eamonn and later on his own.

RECORDINGS: "He Ain't Heavy (He's the Singer!)" (Vinyl LP); Paul Jones Session

AUTOMATIC SLIM

Dec 1987-Aug 1990



BY the time the new decade dawned, Eamonn decided he wanted to leave the band to pursue other interests. Tim had last seen Roy Hodges years before when Vieux Chapeaux split up. Back then, Roy was just 14 and had to be driven to gigs and rehearsals by his dad! The intervening

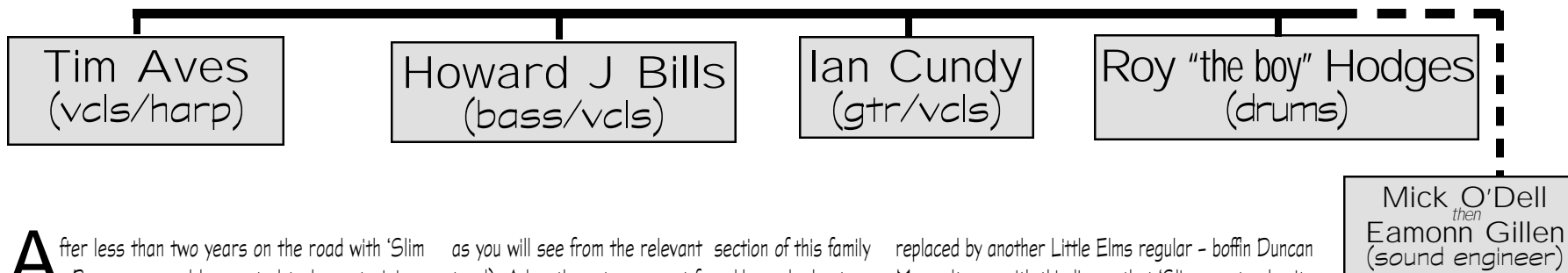
years had seen him strike out on his own - buying a house in Witham close to Howard and Eamonn's "local", the Little Elms, where he became one of the regulars and starting coming out to see 'Slim. When Eamonn announced he was leaving, the band considered a few candidates, but plumped for

Roy, partly for his playing ability - but just as importantly, because he fitted well in the band's tight social circle.

RECORDING: Several tracks on "10 Years Live - Out-takes and double-takes" LP

AUTOMATIC SLIM

Aug 1990-Dec 1991



After less than two years on the road with 'Slim, Roy announced he wanted to leave to join a rock band. It was a shock to all concerned, but he remained good friends with the other guys - Roy played at the band's subsequent 10th and 15th reunion birthday gigs, on both occasions supplying the right-handed drum-kit for Chris, Eamonn to play.

Roy's replacement was left-hander Don Moore, who had played in Smak with Howard prior to 'Slim's inception (dates, names and details remain somewhat hazy

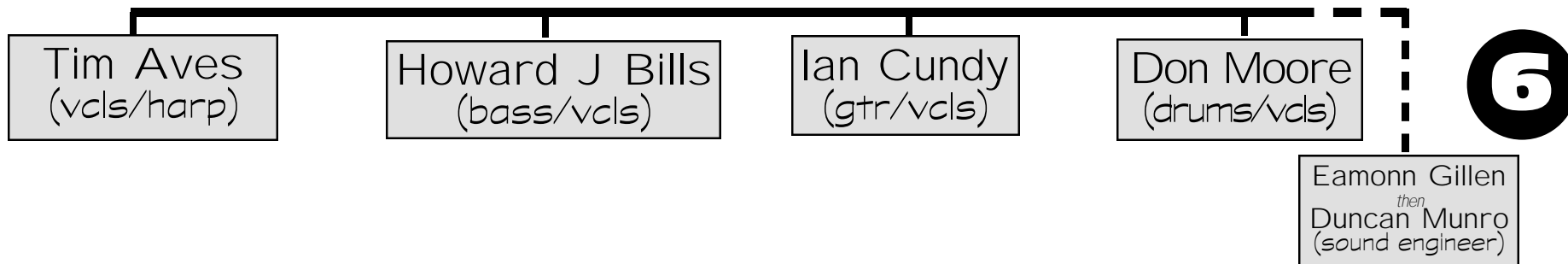
as you will see from the relevant section of this family tree!). A lengthy estrangement from Howard -due to a misunderstanding over the demise of Smak - ended when Don turned up one night at a Slim gig, determined to bury the hatchet. A few months later he was invited to join the band, adding an extra voice to the band's vocal line-up and going on to become the band's longest-serving drummer. When Mick O'Dell decided to relinquish the sound engineer's post in the early 90s, Eamonn returned for a while and was then

replaced by another Little Elms regular - boffin Duncan Munro. It was with this lineup that 'Slim was to play its last gigs. In September, 1998, Howard announced he was quitting and the other three agreed to call it a day, rather than seek to replace the irreplaceable. Thus 16 years of rock'n'roll history drew to a close with the band's farewell gig on February 26, 1999.

RECORDINGS: Tracks on "10 Years Live - Out-takes and double-takes" LP; "Live '95" (Unreleased live LP)

AUTOMATIC SLIM

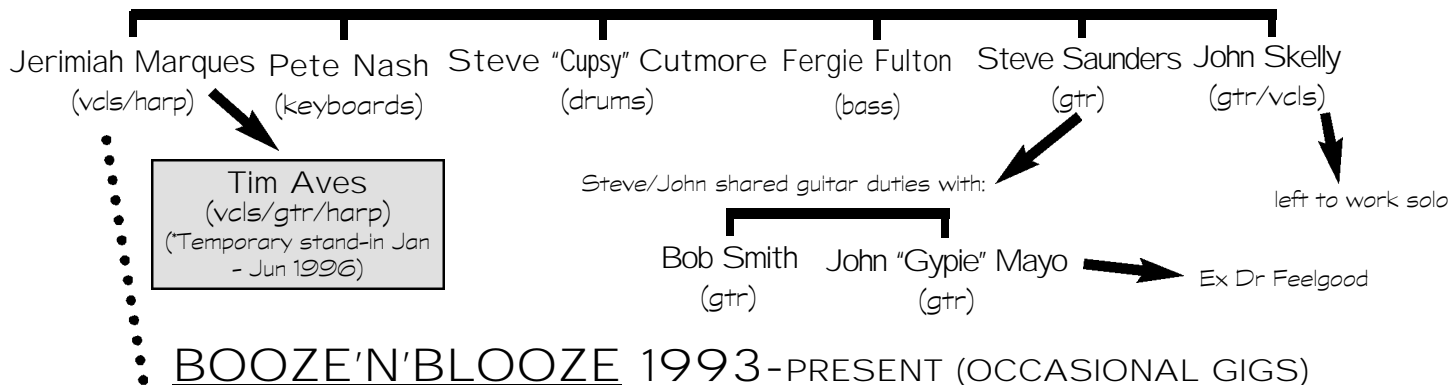
Dec 1991-Feb 1999



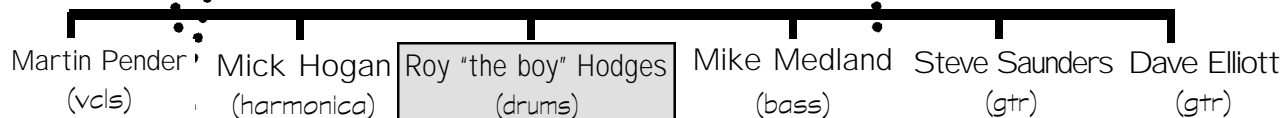
BOOZE'N'BLOOZE 1986-93

For many years, to 'Slim ,Booze'n'Blooze were "the other firm." A friendly rivalry existed during the bands' heydays, with both bands playing many of the same venues and occasionally even sharing a bill. Both entered the 1988 Banks' Best of Blues band competition. Slim didn't make it past the first round. Booze'n'Blooze beat hundreds of other bands from all over the UK to make it to the prestigious, televised finals - then went on to win the competition and the chance to record an all-expenses-paid LP with top producer Mike Vernon. They also toured in Europe and supported the legendary Chuck Berry on a full UK tour, culminating in a storming show at the Hammersmith Odeon. The band's lineup included a variety of guitarists in its early days, including ex-Dr Feelgood man Gypie Mayo, though the lineup below was probably the most consistent and successful. Jeri left the band after the Chuck Berry tour (he would later work again with Pete Nash and Gypie Mayo in the trio, The Marques Brothers). Tim Aves was asked to stand in as frontman in the spring of 1993 while a permanent replacement was sought

RECORDINGS: Booze'n'Blooze (Cassette LP); Runnin' Late (Vinyl LP)



HOG'S EYE 1997-9



THE GROOVE DOCTORS 1998-PRESENT



THE MARQUES BROS 1995-99



THAT man was Londoner Andy Taylor (ex-Rude Mood), who quickly formed a prolific and successful songwriting partnership with Pete Nash, resulting in the 1994 CD, Motorway Lights (to which future Rockin' Armadillos guitarist Owen Barry, then 14, contributed some, uncredited lead guitar). Steve Saunders left in 1996, as the band's gigging activities were scaled down due to family illnesses. Other members turned to other projects, though Booze'n'Blues is still in business as an occasional gigging band, using Ipswich guitarist Tim Le Grice.

RECORDING: Motorway Lights (CD)



TIM GETS THE BLUES... simultaneous side projects

THE blues scene in Essex has always been a complex and incessant thing, with myriad links between many musicians - working alliances forged and broken; musicians forming temporary, one-off pickup bands. Chelmsford, for instance had a thriving weekly blues jam, every Tuesday in the YMCA. A dozen years later, it's still

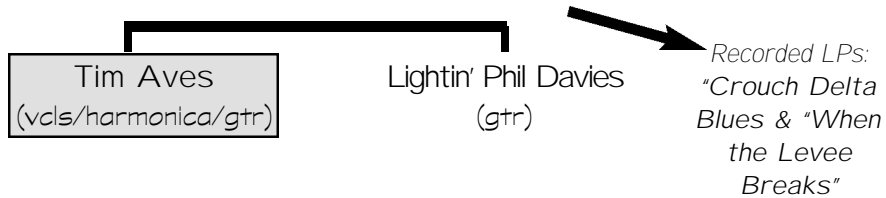
going, albeit now in the Bassment club, with a rather different house band. Tim Aves was a regular at that jam, at the early sessions of the Juke Joint club which started in Basildon and at the Monday night jam sessions at the legendary (and sadly now-defunct) Dr Feelgood Bar on Canvey Island. His growing interest in more traditional,

more American forms of blues put him in the centre of many dubious one-off liaisons. First, there was a country blues duo with Norfolk guitarist Phil Davies, from the band, Scratch. The duo worked the area's smaller venues for a few years, occasionally adding other musicians - most often Booze'n'Blooze's joined-at-the-hip

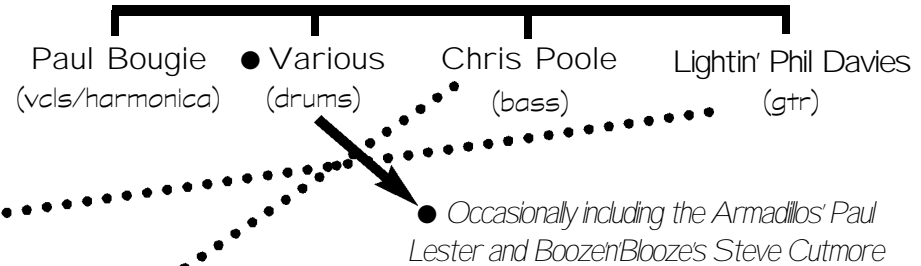
rhythm section - and young guitarist Owen Barry - under the "All-Star Blues Band" tag or as LFD. Tim and Phil also did many supports for visiting US acts at the Juke Joint. At the club's request, they then formed a band - T-Bird Rhythm - which made its live debut, opening for Dallas guitar ace Bobby Mack. In the early days, it was a

moveable feast - 'Slim drummer Don Moore even sat in when the band supported Clarence 'Gatemouth' Brown and regular drummer Paul Lester was off playing with his main band, Doghouse. Likewise, keyboard man Alex Murkin was sometimes drafted to fill out the sound if Phil couldn't make it

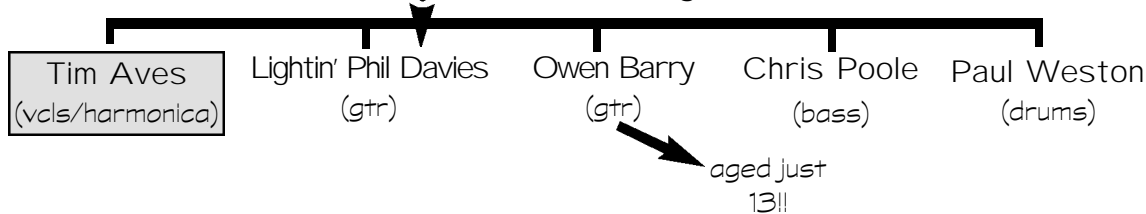
SLIM TIM & LIGHTIN' PHIL 1992-98



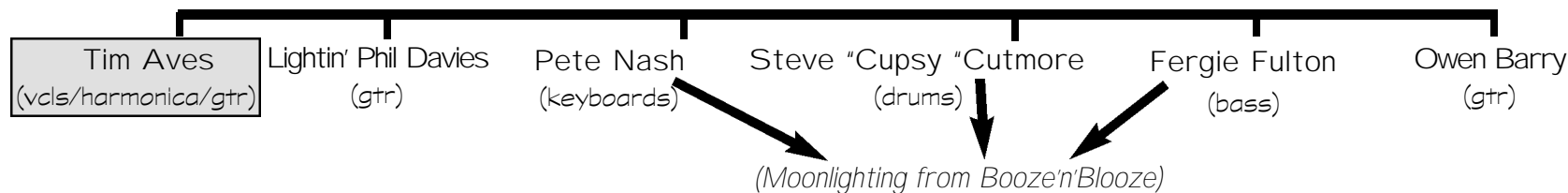
SCRATCH 1985-95



LFD (Loud, Fast and Dangerous) 1993



SLIM TIM AND LIGHTIN' PHIL'S ALL-STAR BLUES BAND 1992-4



MORE SIDE PROJECTS

OWEN & JOSH 1991-2

11-year-old school pals form instrumental duo

Owen Barry
(gtr)

Josh Bray
(gtr)

T-BIRD RHYTHM 1994-5

Lightin' Phil Davies
(gtr)

Tim Aves
(vcls/harp/gtr)

Paul Lester
(drums)

Rob Barry
(bass)

Owen Barry
(gtr)

August, 1995: Alex Murkin joins an increasingly active T-Bird Rhythm on keyboards; Jane English joins as vocalist and the band changes its name to the Rockin' Armadillos (the Armadillo is the state emblem of Texas, from where the band draws inspiration for much of its music). Phil Davies leaves shortly afterwards to concentrate on a fresh passion - Hawaiian and ragtime music.

WAIKIKI BROS 1995-2002

Lightin' Phil Davies
(gtr/fiddle)

Mike Pender
vd/whistle/accordion/washboard

Kevin "Bertie" Bassett
(gtrs/ukelele)

THE CRAZE/WOODOO CHILLIES 1992-5

Robert Barry
(bass)

Owen Barry
(gtr)

Owen Mansfield
(drums/vcls)

Josh Bray
(vcls/gtr)

Tolley
(vocals)

FRONTSIDE 1998-9

Robert Barry
(bass)

Owen Barry
(gtr)

Steve Moore
(vocals/gtr)

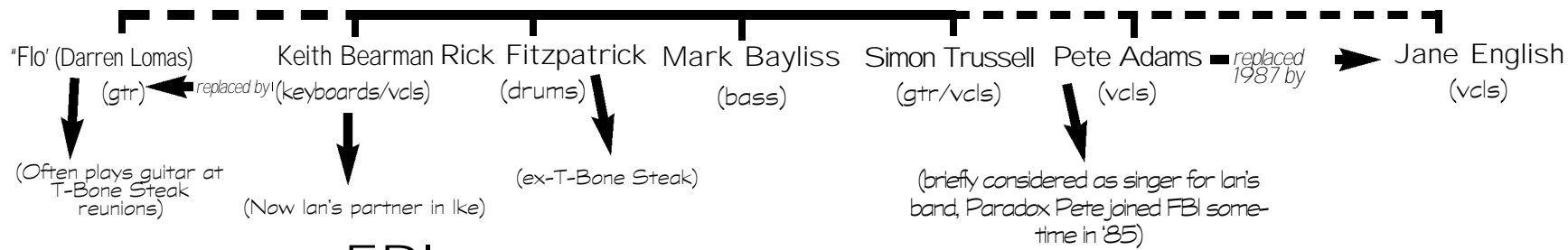
Dean Hilborne
(drums)

Son of rock guitar guru Phil Hilborne

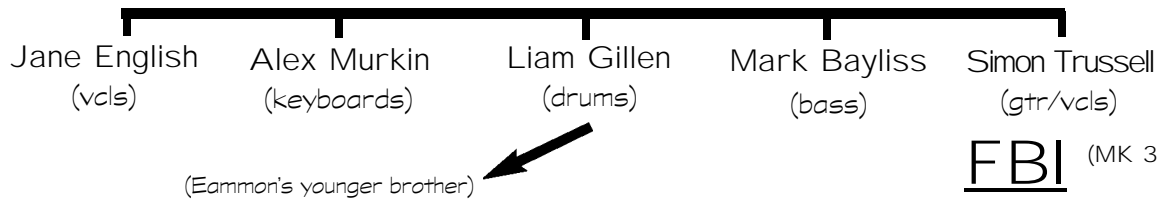


BURNHAM CONNECTIONS...

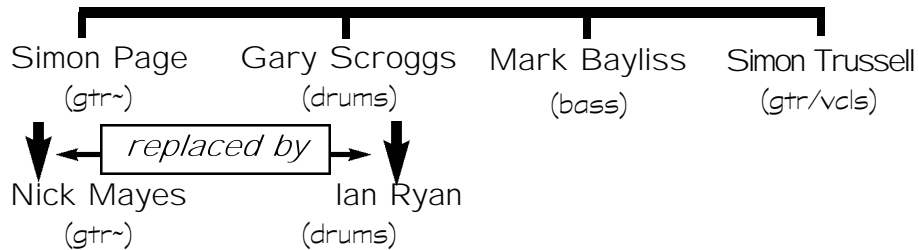
FBI 1985-1987



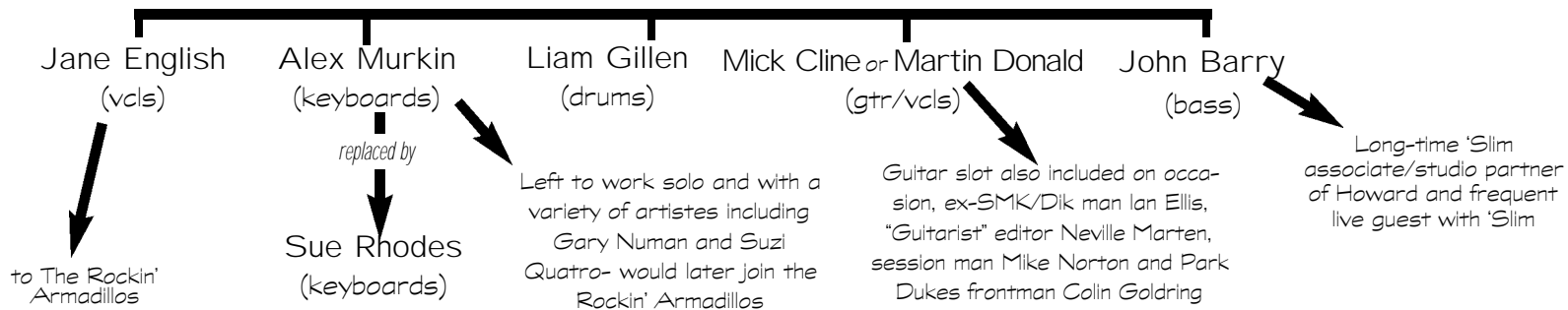
FBI^(MK 2) 1987-92



FBI^(MK 3&4) 1993-2004



THE JANE ENGLISH BAND 1993-7



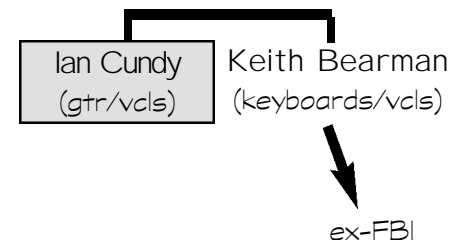
1999 - AFTER THE BIG SPLIT...

After a couple of years, T-Bird Rhythm had played with some of the biggest names on the blues scene and were branching out away from the blues clubs circuit, with the lineup of Tim, Phil and Paul, plus Voodoo Chillies' duo Owen Barry (1994 Young Guitarist of the Year) and brother Rob, becoming increasingly settled. The crunch came when the band were offered a support slot with The Fabulous Thunderbirds. The name T-Bird Rhythm (named for the Texan band's first LP) was no longer deemed appropriate. At the same time, the band decided to expand the lineup to make Alex Murkin a permanent member and add Jane English's vocal talents (she'd

sung harmony vocals with Tim in The Southern Sputniks, a one-off Georgia Satellites tribute at that year's Burnham Festival.) The seven-piece Armadillos played about ten gigs, before Phil Davies left to pursue his growing interest in acoustic blues. The six-piece Armadillos have gone on to carve a name for themselves on the UK blues circuit, playing at many major international festivals and winning rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic for their debut LP. They even followed 'Slim in winning the coveted accolade of a session on Paul Jones' BBC Radio 2 R'n'B show. In the middle of 1998 - just as Jane's vocals

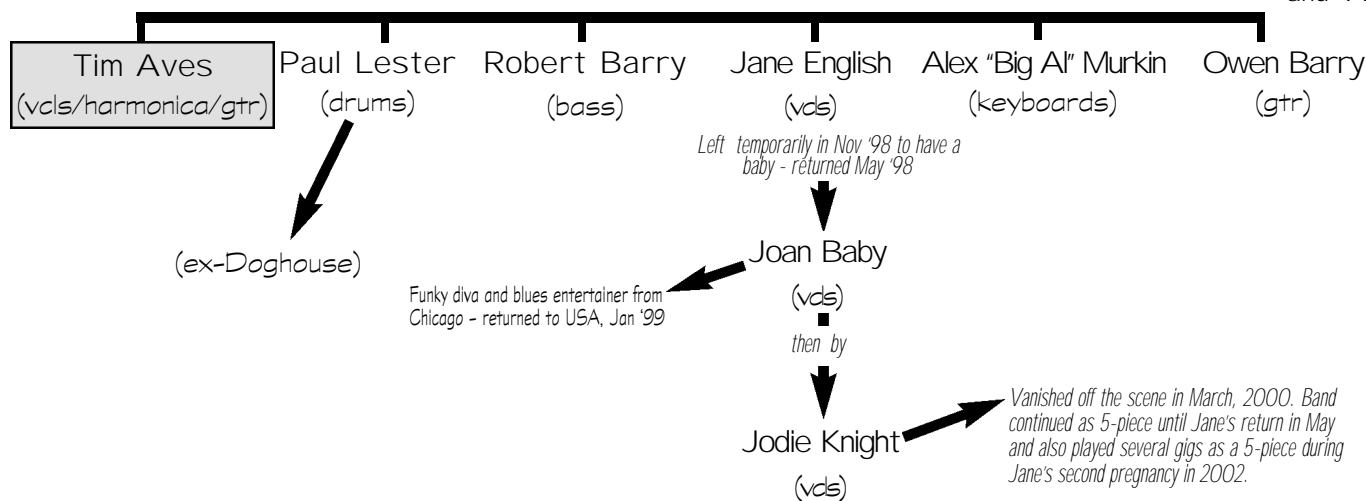
were truly making an impact - it became apparent she would have to curtail her musical activities for a while... for the best of reasons. She was having a baby. While Jane was off having baby Olivia, born, April 1999, the Armadillos gigged, first with Chicago blues diva Joan Baby, then with a young local singer called Jodie Knight, who played a dozen or so gigs with the band, before mysteriously vanishing. Jane returned for the band's Mayfest appearance at the end of May, 2001 and appeared on the band's 2001 CD, "Armadillo in The Road". She had second baby, Susie, in July, 2002, continuing with the band with only the briefest break during the pregnancy.

IKE: 1998-2000



With 'Slim off the road Ian Cundy joined forces with a long-standing figure on the Dengie Hundred music scene, keyboards/vocals man Keith Bearman, who worked, briefly with the Armadillos' Jane English in FBI to form pop duo Ike - that's I for Ian K for Keith and E for Eric (the drum machine!)

THE ROCKIN' ARMADILLOS 1994-2002



COMING UP TO DATE... (1)

THE ROCKIN' ARMADILLOS: 2002-PRESENT



LOS TRES ARMADILLOS: 2002-PRESENT



left August, 2002
replaced by

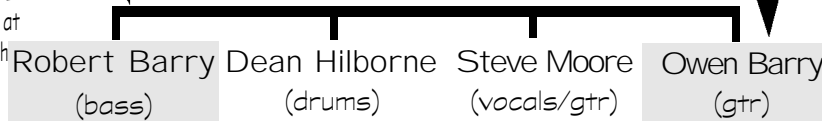
Alex Hall
(guitar)

Although Fakie never officially disbanded the band last gigged in May, 2001. Rob, Owen, Steve and Armadillos drummer Paul Lester (who had been known to "dep" on the odd Fakie gig, wearing a long wig!) appeared at the Burnham Festival in July 2001, playing a set of Pearl Jam numbers as "Verses".

During the summer of 2001, Owen was head-hunted to join hot rap-metal outfit Rush Cartel. The band made their live debut, opening in Bradford for top rock act The Lost Prophets in September, 2001 and played several showcases before dissolving, though Owen still frequently works with Cartel drummer Windsor McGilvray and bassist Kaz. While still working with the Armadillos Owen remains busy on the London studio scene, as an in-demand session player and has toured with a number of acts, including a stint as a member of ex-5ive guitarist Ritchie Neville's road band.

Change of name from Frontside to Fakie - a band in Australia already owned "Frontside"! Released "Flip" EP - recorded live at the 1999 Burnham Festival

FAKIE 1999-2001



RUSH CARTEL 2001



RITCHIE NEVILLE BAND 2003-4



After seven years with the 'Dillos, keyboard player Big Al decided he wanted to move on to pastures new in the summer of 2002.

Rather than hire another keyboard player, the band decided to move to a two-guitar lineup, recruiting Alex Hall, an old jamming pal of Owen and Rob's Voodoo Chillies/Craze mate, Josh Bray. Alex had been making big waves on the Essex scene, playing guitar with Red, White and Bluesey/Hokum and was a natural choice for the band.

This lineup has gigged constantly ever since and recorded a session for BBC Radio 2's Paul Jones R'n'B Show in Spring, 2003. One track by the current lineup appears on the 2004 "Essex Delta Blues - A Sampler" compilation. A brand new Armadillos CD is due out in mid-2006.

In the meantime, Tim, Rob and Paul have also been playing acoustic blues in a trio called Los Tres Armadillos (also featured on the "Essex Delta Blues" sampler CD).

COMING UP TO DATE... (2)

IKE called it a day early in 2000, as Ian became increasingly involved with hard-working Southend band, The AM5. Ian played many gigs with the band during the year, before quitting to spend time developing a new acoustic duo with his partner, Sheena Butt. Initially called Ian and Sheena, they now appear - and have released a CD as Kundalini Drive. It has proved a very fruitful partnership in more ways than one... It has yielded many finely crafted original songs - and two young sons!

Meanwhile, Howard has remained true to his pledge that 'Slim would be his last band - he sold most of his equipment and played barely a note after the band's farewell gig. Don played occasional gigs with Tim, Ian and other musicians under various circumstances - never more bizarre than the one played with Tim, Owen Barry (Rockin' Armadillos) Fergie Fulton (Groove Doctors) and Simon Trussell (FBI) in the summer of 2000, on a raft in the middle of the river Crouch at Burnham!

In Spring, 2001 Tim, Howard, Ian and Don briefly reunited for an impromptu set at a jam in the Bassment Club, Chelmsford and followed this with a full reunion gig in Witham Rugby Club marked 'Slim's 20th anniversary in November, 2002. To mark the occasion, they also released a new CD - "Growing Old Disgracefully".

Since then, there's been nothing stopping the boys... They now get back together four or five times each year to play one-off gigs for the hell of it... something that looks likely to continue happening for many years to come!

IKE 1998-2000

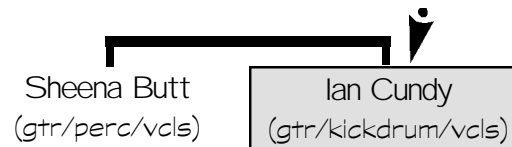


THE AM5 early 90s-2003



IAN AND SHEENA

later KUNDALINI DRIVE 2000-PRESENT



Compiled, written and designed by Tim Aves

(based on a brilliant original idea by Pete Frame)

I BEGAN this project as a bit of fun in an idle moment in October, 1998, a few days after Automatic Slim took the decision to split up.

Little did I realise then just how much of a job it would turn out to be to document the incestuous and tangled web of musical and personal relationships linking a relatively small group of musicians over the space of a quarter of a century.

It's a fascinating story and I would think everyone who reads this will learn something new about the individuals and bands in question - I certainly learned a lot in the process of compiling it. The thing is that in this respect, 'Slim are not all that unusu-

al. Most bands which manage to survive any length of time will have a similarly complex links and connections.

In many ways, the hardest part was finding a way to lay out all this information out in logical, coherent fashion that makes some kind of sense to the reader. I've done my best to achieve this - though I'm aware that in the process, I had to omit bands, musicians and side-projects which, for the sake of completeness, perhaps should be here.

Maybe one day, when I have more time, I'll go back and draw up the definitive version, giving the likes of Ray Durrant, Chunder, Spud, George Andrews and Darren

Woodford and bands such as Porky and the Tunnels, The Pork Dukes, The Good Ole Boys, The Fabulous Wankettes, Carmilla Rouge, Less Than Bless'd, The Breakaway Blues Band, Blue Jam Factory, Doghouse, The Cobras, Third Degree The Makeshifts, etc etc their rightful place in history.

Special thanks to Don Moore, for helping write the section on Braintree and Witham scene in the Seventies and early Eighties, and to Ian Cundy, Howard Bills, Steve Saunders, Jane English and Simon Trussell for filling in missing names dates and background information.

Tim Aves - February 1999