

For those of us that did not attend the September Pakefield Festival, we have been sent -

A Member's "Eye View" of the Pakefield Festival, September 2008

September Pakefield 2008, all in the same format except that they seem to have made the evening meal earlier, ie. 6pm. I guess it is so that everyone gets dinner before the evening show. We found that the amount of really good players were limited. The amount of dealers that had small concerts on their stands seemed to have been more this year.

Of course the majority of people were waiting for the launch of the Tyros 3. Having sat through the launch with a couple of friends (one of whom was dead keen and possibly up for buying one to update his Tyros 2), none of us were over impressed. Yes, it did have some extended sounds and gimmicks but we did not think that any of it warranted exchanging a 2 for a 3, or paying the extra cash. Not what we expected, really.

We also sat through the launch of the Version 2 Korg PA2x with 42 new platinum styles, new sounds effects and all with single touch settings. Also Version 2 Korg PA800. This was really very popular indeed and it happened that they did sell a lot. The explanation of the technology was clearer to people and it seemed that the dealers definitely had the time to explain to anyone that did not understand: excellent.

The new Wersi Apollo was there and one lady did actually manage to get hers delivered after the week, having waited since last year. There was another one on show which did create some interest though not sold during the week. There was a visit from Uli and a new manager, so fingers crossed there.

Brett did play one afternoon, on the stand for Allan Ellis, and of course drew the crowds yet again.

The new Roland organs were demonstrated by Tim Flint and David Thomas. They really have improved and seemed to be very popular.

The new Lowery was on show and looked very impressive but mainly as it is covered in flashing lights and heavy wood - beautifully finished though a very large instrument for the home. It was played by an American Organist, Jim Wieda (new to most people). He did the evening concert but although he played very well it was not felt that it brought the best out of the organ.

Ralf Schink gave a great performance as did Peter Baartman, both European players who are stars in their own right. Lovely performances.

Tony Fenelon gave us piano music second to none. Superb artiste. We also had Peter Hayward, so nice to hear the piano in all its glory. And of course we also had Rosalie Birchmore playing piano, which she plays beautifully, and she looked really glam. She also did a duet with Brian Sharp (the Dream of Olwen): excellent.

Brian Sharp was awaited with great anticipation as always and he did not let his audience down in any way: magnificent.

By mid week we were all looking forward to Brett arriving to really lift the week, as did Tony Stace at the start, but it seemed to be a bit ordinary for a couple of days after that.

The unusual thing we had this year was an awful lot of music played for dancers. Most of our group found it a bit too much. It was supposed to be an Organ and Keyboard show, not a show for dancing after all.

The late night sessions were all very good. I think perhaps the Steve Lowdell night was the best by a whisker. We think he could have gone on all night until 6 in the morning. He was certainly at his best for all the jazz lovers.

Other players were Janet Dowsett, Jean Martyn, Elizabeth Harrison, Andrew Nix, David Thomas and Keyklix (Ian Griffin & Richard Bower), Chris Jones, Daniel Watt and of course the great John Mann who really did a star act for us. There was also James Sargeant, Nicholas Martin, Thomas Horton and the great Rod Pooley.

The most thanks go to David Thomas who really did an excellent job on the camera for the two screens either side of the stage. He had the most amusing caricatures and pictures depicting all sorts for the artistes as they played. He added so much to the whole thing: excellent.

I do think a great time was had by all and there were queues to book again for next year. I think this shows that it was another successful year.