

FROM THE EDITOR

A very happy and exciting new year to all your members! We start the year with a lot of catching up to do. Reorganisation, staff changes, and all sorts of other things have put Junior Beat and Talking Drums way behind schedule, so you have been left in a bit of a vacuum. Now we've started rushing to put things right.

Some of the major new products and events that have been occupying top priority in the last few months will not be immediately obvious because they are still 'cooking', so to speak. Others will be announced very soon (see the next issue of Talking Drums due out later in February) and we'll give you some advance news in this issue of Junior Beat — but keep it to yourself for the moment.

Since the last issue we've lost two valued members of staff who were well known to all Club members. Marilyn Wilson has moved to a firm on the other side of the city,

more convenient to her home. Mal Ward has moved back to London and set up a haberdashery business with his wife, helped in the marketing of some new double glazing products, and now instructs a local marching band in percussion . . . an interesting combination, or at least it will be when he gets it all sewn up. Welcome Vicky Boyd who takes over the hot seat, looks after membership, sorts out any problems, and will keep the whole thing moving in future.

Another bit of good news is that we are redesigning the Club badge. Every member will get one as soon as they are ready. If you have your own ideas for future badge designs we would like you to send them to us.

I thought that we would have a lot of response to Junior Beat Number 10, but we didn't. You can be funny, serious, silly, practical, clever, stupid . . . anything. Are you curious, puzzled, amused, impressed or baffled by anything you've seen or heard? Are you inventive, or talented enough to pass on any good ideas to fellow members?

How do you manage to practice when the neighbour three houses away claims that your rim shots keep his budgerigar awake? How does Eric Delaney play 3 bass drums and a hi-hat with only 2 feet? When is a gong a tam tam (or vice versa). Why did drum kits (sets, outfits) used to be known as traps? Did the snare drum have anything to do with it? What skins were used before plastic drumheads were developed? Which kinds of music do you like? Who are the drummers who impress you most today, and who are the ones you learn most from?

Please write to us.

ROGER HORROBIN

LOOKING AROUND with Iain Henderson

The best and longest letter recently was from Iain Henderson of Chelmsford, Essex. He kindly sent us this photograph of himself and an impression of his visit to our factories. (Because space is limited here, we've had to shorten Iain's excellent write up, so it no longer describes all the different processes and techniques that he and his dad saw).



Blaby Road Factory

Firstly we were shown the massive parts warehouse, where each box contains over 1,000 parts and spares.

Next on to the shell department for a look at the construction of the shells. The shells are made from a three-ply white birch. The shells are first rolled, put into special clamps

and a glue is baked on to join the shells. The shells are then covered in a wide range of unique rich finish materials. The edges are then smoothed over to give a true 'seat' for the head.

We went next to the spray shop where some of the most supreme spray jobs are done, this is why in my opinion Premier beats all other drum companies. In the final assembly room the drums are fitted with brackets, bolts, tone controls, snares, heads, hoops and the Resonator drum gets its inner shell. The drums are then checked for the highest quality.

Finally, completed drums, stands and accessories are stored in orders for individual drummers, retailers and distribution all over the world.



Hoops drying in the Spray Shop



At least 50% of Premier's stocks go abroad.

The whole tour of both factories takes around 2½ hours. Thanks to all at Premier. IAIN HENDERSON

Special Offer for members only

Zildjian's 233-page 'Cymbal set-ups of famous drummers' for £1.50 instead of the usual £2.00. Also shows drum layouts, and gives a brief write up on each drummer.

Quote your membership number on the order, and make cheques and postal orders payable to 'The Premier Drum Company Limited'. Allow a few weeks for delivery because the demand is already high and we have to order repeat supplies from Boston, USA.

What's been happening

Tenpole Tudor have had all their Premier equipment completely serviced recently. Drummer, **Gary Long** does not have a very big outfit but he thinks a lot of it and has it transported in specially designed metal 'flight cases' with large rubber castors that enable it to roll along very easily. Their big single successes were "Swords of a thousand men" and "Wunderbar" but watch out for their albums and live shows. Their big, heavy Tudor swords look impressive and dangerous.

Starfighter is another heavyweight band, with a pink drumkit (that's right, pink, but it looks really good) made specially. Again, it's not a very big drumkit but it does have a 16" x 16" floor tom tom without legs and used as a single mounted tom tom on top of a 24" bass drum. That idea sounds a bit extreme but in practice, mounted on the Premier 391 single holder with a Rokshaft support stay inside the bass drum, it looks and sounds good. Most important is that drummer **Steve Bailey** has no problem in setting it into a good playing position that is not as high as you would imagine.

Brian Bennett has been extremely busy (as have all the **Shadows**) on a long, sell-out tour. They are one of the few bands to have a tour on which all the tickets were sold for every concert. You may have been lucky enough to see the TV recording of one of their shows, transmitted over Christmas. Brian's playing gets better and better – and that amazes me because Brian and Joe Morello were, many years ago, the only two drummers in the world whose solo playing I really enjoyed, because it was well constructed and, above all, musical.

We had a lot of postcards from the **Revillos** whilst they were on very successful tours of Italy, the USA and Canada in the latter part of last year. You'll find it hard to meet a nicer bunch of people than the Revillos. They're polite, well mannered, genuine and very enthusiastic. Their performances also deserve much more press than they get in the UK. I've personally never seen so much energy and verve being exuded so liberally in their highly-charged musical performances.

Nicky Forbes (alias Rocky Rhythm) is the powerhouse drummer and, I think, joint founder and manager of the group with brother Eugene. Nick uses a bullworker to help him keep fit on the road.

Alan Eden (The Mechanics) has just come back from an even bigger tour with **Leo Sayer**, Canada, America, Australia, New Zealand (lamb with every meal), Japan and Bangkok. Something like four or more months on the road, and he couldn't wait to get back to a real cup of tea! Then it was off to Germany for some TV dates with The Mechanics, more playing, and the prospect of another tour with Leo this year.

American **Willy De Ville's** band from New York, **Mink De Ville**, have just spent more than a month in Europe doing concerts and TV shows. They visited Britain briefly at the start of the tour but, after that, we didn't see much of them on this side of the English Channel. Drummer is **Tommy Price**, who not surprisingly knows Clem Burke well. Tommy (pronounced Tommy) has just added 8" and 10" concert toms to his kit which is also in pink – though a lighter shade than Starfighter's and also 3 years older.

Phil Collins has just ordered Premier Soundwave 8" and 10" concert toms to go with his left-handed drumkit and to replace two experimental drums, of the same size, that he has been using on the world tour that **Genesis** finished in England the day before Christmas Eve.

Clem Burke seems to be at home in New York at the moment, and his staff tell me that **Blondie** will be recording another album starting in February, with possibly another USA or world tour following. We're still waiting for confirmation of this surprise news.

New Title

Along with our changes in organisation, new plans and revitalised approaches to world percussion markets comes a subtle change in our title to **PREMIER PERCUSSION**. It says more about what we are and what we do than Premier and Premier Drum. A simple title that will also help us more in overseas markets because it will be more easily understood than our full title The Premier Drum Company Limited, especially by people who don't speak English.

Mods

The 1005 snare drum is now slightly shallower than it used to be (5" instead of 5½") to conform to international standards, and we are now in the process of changing the snares from 16 to 20 strand. More buzz and a better sound. Things get better all the time.

Club 12" tom toms are now deeper, 9". It's surprising how much better the extra inch makes them look.

Duet

Here's a simple duet for you to play with a fellow percussionist, teacher, or anyone who reads music and can tap out the other part. It was written by **Steven Traugh** (see item on page 4). Playing it accurately is not quite as easy as it may look, and it's a very useful exercise in reading, counting, timing and concentration. Play it slowly at first. When you feel comfortable on one part, swap to the other. Increase the tempo only

when you can play consistently without mistakes. You need only a practice pad or one drum even for two people. Later on, you can try playing both parts yourself on snare drum and cymbal, or snare drum and tom tom, or tom tom and bass drum for good practice in independence. **Most important** (for timing, reading and tempo) at the start, **count each bar aloud** whilst you play. Let us know if you would like more reading exercises in future issues.

Concert out lead Duet by Steven Traugh

Cheque withdrawn

The black and silver chequered Premier drumkit that British members have been seeing on weekly TV show 'Top of the Pops' will probably be replaced by a brand new polychromatic red outfit very soon now. As soon as we get the chequered kit back at our works here in Leicester we'll make it the star prize in a special competition exclusively for members of the Junior Drummers Club. There's something to look forward to.

Diesel Power

We were almost as surprised as everyone else to hear of John Coghlan's sudden departure from Status Quo. Still, as he said, 20 years is a long time with the same band, and a change may be a lot better than a rest. We knew that he's had an interest in his own new band 'Diesel' for some time now. This should be a very interesting departure for John.

Some more musical terms

Adagio	A slow movement
Allegretto	Between Allegro (lively) and Andante (rather slow)
Becken	Cymbals
Crescendo	Increasing the volume of sound
D.C. (Da capo)	Go back to the beginning
D.S. (Dal sego)	Go back to the sign ('S')
Dolce	Sweetly
Fine	The Finish
Forte (f)	Loud
Largo	Very slowly
Segue	'Then follows' (immediately)
Molto	Much, very
Troppo	Too much
Poco	A little

Developing hand muscles

Sports shops sell a spring device that you hold in your hand and compress to build up the muscles in your fingers and forearm. Ask the assistant or your physical education instructor for advice on how best to use it. These are the important muscles in drumming, and they should be supple, strong, quick, and relaxed (not tense) for good stick control and prolonged playing, particularly at speed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

On 22nd February 1982 we celebrate our 60th birthday. When people start considering retirement at 60, we are just getting our second breath, ready for a whole new exciting era in Premier Percussion. We aim to remain first and number one.

New outfits, new stands and a new pedal

Here's a news item to keep to yourself for the time being. These new products will be appearing in all good music shops from February onwards, and full details will be published in new leaflets available from your dealer at the same time, and in the next issue of Talking Drums.

What we can tell you is that the new Club 5-drum outfit will move slightly up market with Premier Black drum-heads fitted as standard, and separate tension brackets on all tom toms and bass drums. Two smaller concert toms will be added to the range, and there's a totally new range of Tristands and a new twin-spring bass drum pedal that feels very responsive and comfortable under your foot.

Totally new for Premier is a low price, quality outfit to compete with cheaper imports from the East. Priced under £399 including VAT, but without cymbals, this new 5-

drum Premier Disco outfit comes complete with the new Tristands, pedal, updated 1005 snare drum and special 'disco' decals fitted under the Premier nameplate. There will be a choice of five attractive finishes: silver, black, red, blue and white.



Simon Dear

Simon Dear has been writing to us quite a lot recently from his home at Newport on the Isle of Wight. Apart from playing drumkit in a group formed at school (their Christmas concert repertoire included Apache and other hits by The Shadows) Simon also plays in a marching band. We had the pleasure of meeting him at the British Marching Band Championships at Birmingham last month. He's made a lot of progress in the last few years, and his percussion teacher and parents are very proud of his achievements. Us too. It's always nice to meet and hear from all you members, so please drop us a line sometime and make sure that we meet you if you see us at any event.

Late present

If you've got any money left over from Christmas and haven't got a practice pad yet, our 1637 grey rubber pad on a wooden board is an excellent investment. Under £5.00 at the moment, the particular rubber we use has a very good response and it allows you to practice rolls, and rudiments, and sticking patterns, and rhythms to your heart's content with the minimum disturbance to everyone else. Be warned that demand exceeds supply because they are so popular, so be prepared for a short wait if your dealer has sold out and does not have one in stock.

Asia Major

Carl Palmer's new band, Asia, is keeping a low profile at the moment. They have spent a lot of time in the studio since forming around August last year, but we expected to hear of an album or tour by now. So I phoned Carl's home in Tenerife and was answered by his Spanish speaking housekeeper. As I don't speak Spanish and she doesn't speak English, we didn't get a lot of sense out of each other. Next I tried Carl's Management office, who re-directed me to the recording studio. Success. Asia are just finishing their new album, and it should be released in March. Called 'Asia' it

There will soon be news of a whole new range of Premier drumheads that will extend your playing horizons. Watch out for the new Premier Reds.

The Premier drumstick ranges are also being brought right up to date, with new models and more choice in the Hickory and Lancewood ranges. Even better news is that some stick prices may even come down as a result of improved production and handling methods, and because of the increasing numbers of each model being made. It pays to stick with Premier.

The question's easy. It's the answer that's difficult.

We regret that we cannot answer questions, or enter into correspondence, about individual percussionists or their bands. If you want to know what Clem Burke eats for breakfast, where the young Carl Palmer went for drum lessons, what sticks Phil Collins uses, and what is the latest LP by The Jam, you should write to their fan clubs or to the music press. Otherwise you may have to wait until we publish the information or a feature in a future issue of Junior Beat or Talking Drums.

To get you started: if you are a Tenpole Tudor fan you should join the Tudor Lions, Orient House, 42-45 New Broad Street, London EC2. Membership fee is UK: £3.00; Europe: £4.00; USA, Canada and everywhere else: £5.00. For that, you get access to individual band members, exclusive merchandising offers and every 3 months a package containing newsletters, photos, badges, band profiles, stickers and special surprises. Sounds like a very good deal, but we cannot accept any responsibility for this information. Check with them first, before sending any money.

We contribute

Premier is what Americans call 'a sustaining member' of the Percussive Arts Society.

will have been about 5 months in the making and will, in Carl's words, 'be more musical' than his previous work. The album will be on the Geffen label distributed by CBS in Europe and by Geffen Records in the USA.

Asia the band (line-up Carl Palmer percussion, Steve Howe from Yes on guitars, Jeff Darren - 'Video killed the radio star' - on keyboards, and John Whetton on bass) will tour from April onwards, starting in America and working in England and Europe towards the end of the year. Watch out for confirmation and details in your national music press.

Hickory bounces back

Despite the constant appearance of new drumsticks on the market in all kinds of different materials, there is still nothing to beat a good pair of sticks made from Hickory. Everything about them is right. Balance, weight, response, feel, and even the sound that they make. And drummers prove it time and time again by experimenting with new models and then going back to Hickory. Premier make sticks out of choice white Hickory.

After cleaning cymbals

Keep them looking clean and protect them from finger marks: wipe on a very thin layer of 3-in-1 oil.



Masonata

Los Angeles percussionist and composer **Steven Traugh** has recently written a multiple percussion solo especially for Premier percussionist **Harvey Mason**. Called 'Masonata' the piece was premiered by Harvey on KFAC-FM radio in Los Angeles, and then at the International Percussive Arts Society Convention in Indianapolis last November. The complex part is accompanied by piano and bass only, and calls for Harvey to play four tunable pedal timpani, roto toms, vibraphone, cymbals and other percussion. Arranging all the instruments in a circle around him is the only way for Harvey to cope with the fast changes from one instrument to another, constantly change sticks and sometimes play two instruments at the same time. Watching Harvey perform the piece certainly makes you realise what an excellent all-round player Harvey is. And you cannot attempt a performance like that unless reading music is second nature.

Fibreglass and copper bowled pedal timpani being put together from highly finished components. Assembly of the fine tuning mechanism is very precise. Each instrument is fully tested on completion.

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Premier
1st IN PERCUSSION