

Roger Smedley (1951) – The Dave Clark 5...

Aged 15/16 I played guitar and piano. I formed a Skiffle Group with some boys from Tottenham Grammar School and Eric Page, a TRINITARIAN, about a year or two older than us. We played at Dance Halls and Jazz Clubs, then somehow got an interval spot at the Tottenham Royal! That led to a gig at a Spurs party, also at the Royal in a banquet room upstairs (P1) (1).

We then got a surprise spot run by a Canadian entrepreneur; Carroll Levis (P2) (2) at Finsbury Park Empire- a really lovely place and he invited us back a few months later - we were really bad as I'd lost my original boys to further education and got a fun few others together on the quick!

I left Trinity after 5th year, started a happy job in a City Bank when Dave Clark invited me to a Band he was starting and names it the Dave Clark Five + 1. We tried Dance music, and his Estate Agent Boss helped us along the road.

Almost immediately we got to gig at Buckingham Palace - only a staff dance - where we hired a couple of Sax players and made a feeble attempt at pleasing the crowd when we decided to play some Rock 'n' Roll during the interval. Great success so it stuck forever!

I was bad for practice sessions at the Greyhound Pub in Phillip Lane where Dave lived. Had some good times but National Service was looming up and I was a year or two older than the others and turned out that the 'call up' would finish for those born after September 1939 - I got caught only 5 days before that deadline so went in to earn £1 per week! Mike Smith took my place and made Dave Clark Five (P3&4) (3) the great success it would not have been with me!

I married my most beautiful Mary in 62, returned to my Bank job and met up with the boys now and again but didn't envy them popping back and forth to America.

Strange journey home from work on the tube, where I sat opposite someone with open newspaper showing front page headline "Dave Clark ousts Beatles at NO.1. Spurs ousts Liverpool to go Top of League."

Finally, I nearly caught up with Bass Guitarist Rick Huxley - another original and a lovely guy but by the time I got close through a mutual contact - he died. I think Dave and one other are still alive.

And I'm still trying to please Mr.Chick up his ladder in the woodwork room.

References:

Ref.1 https://tottenham-summerhillroad.com/tottenham_royal.htm

Ref.2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carroll>

Ref.3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dave_Clark_Five

Video 6 minutes duration -The Dave Clark Five: Concert in London (1964) | British Pathé from The Royal, Tottenham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSLi4pWxKEg>

Dave Clark Classic line-up - from Ref. 3

- Dave Clark – backing and occasional lead vocals, drums (1959–1970; 1970–1972, Dave Clark and Friends spinoff group)
- Mike Smith – lead vocals, keyboards (1961–1970; 1970–1973, Dave Clark and Friends spinoff group; died 2008)
- Lenny Davidson – backing and occasional lead vocals, lead and rhythm guitars (1961–1970)
- Rick Huxley (ex the Riverside Blues Boys, the Spon Valley Stompers) – backing vocals, bass guitar, rhythm guitar (1959–1970; died 2013)
- Denis Payton (ex the Renegades, the Les Heath Combo, the Blue Dukes, the Mike Jones Combo) – backing and occasional lead vocals, [tenor](#) and [baritone saxophones](#), harmonica, rhythm guitar (1962–1970; died 2006)

Additional information:

<https://www.justfortherecord.co.nz/.../dave-clark-five.../>

The band started out as the Dave Clark Quintet in 1957, with Clark on drums, Dave Sanford on lead guitar, Chris Walls on bass, Don Vale on piano (and arranger). In 1958, Sanford was replaced by Rick Huxley and people were confused by the meaning of the word quintet, so the band renamed themselves the Dave Clark Five, with Stan Saxon on lead vocals, Huxley on rhythm guitar, **Roger Smedley** on piano and Johnny Johnson on lead guitar. Mick Ryan replaced Johnson in 1958 and Jim Spencer joined on saxophone, while **Smedley** left. Walls left in 1959 and Huxley became the bass player. Mike Smith joined on piano in 1960, and Lenny Davidson replaced Ryan in 1961. In 1962, the band changed its name to the Dave Clark Five when Saxon left. The group was Clark on drums, Huxley on bass, Smith on organ and lead vocals, and Davidson on lead guitar, adding Denny Payton on tenor and baritone saxophone,[3] harmonica and guitar.

Photos:

P1. Royal in a banquet room upstairs
Band upper left corner: Howard Barkway, Bill
Miller, Eric Page (Trinity), Roger Smedley



P2. Caroll Levis



P3. The Dave Clark Five in 1964.
L-R: Mike Smith, Lenny Davidson, Denis
Payton, Rick Huxley, Dave Clark



P4. The Ed Sullivan Show in 1966.
L-R: Denis Payton, Dave Clark, Mike Smith,
Rick Huxley and Lenny Davidson.

