

DREADNOUGHT ROCK IS THE ROCK MUSIC PLAYING VENUE WHICH FORMS PART OF THE DREADNOUGHT HOTEL, WHITBURN ROAD BATHGATE. IT IS FOUND AT THE REAR ENTRANCE TO THE HOTEL, UP A SMALL LANE BETWEEN THE HOTEL AND THE ADJACENT BANK. HANDY FOR THOSE LAST MINUTE CASH WITHDRAWALS FOR MORE DRINK. DON'T BE PUT OF BY THIS STRANGE AND UNINVITING WAY IN AS ONCE YOU ARRIVE AT THE DOOR YOU WILL MEET OUR NORMALLY CHEERY AND HELPFUL DOOR SECURITY STAFF. THEY WILL KEEP YOU RIGHT AND LOOK AFTER YOU ALL EVENING.

THE DREADNOUGHT HAS BEEN A POPULAR DISCO VENUE FOR APPROXIMATELY 35 YEARS, BEING ONE OF THE FIRST AND LONGEST RUNNING DISCOS IN SCOTLAND. IN THE BEGINNING, IT WAS PURELY A FUNCTION SUITE FOR THE HOTEL, CATERING FOR WEDDINGS, 21ST BIRTHDAYS ETC. AND HAD THE OCCASIONAL DISCO NIGHT. IT LATER BECAME THE GUILDED CAGE SUITE STILL DOING FUNCTIONS BUT ALSO HAD A DAYTIME BISTRO. HOWEVER IT SOON BEGAN A REGULAR SATURDAY NIGHT DISCO PLAYING MAINLY ROCK MUSIC. IT WAS ABOUT 1973 WHEN A LOCAL DISCO COMPANY KNOWN AS STUDIO 4 INTRODUCED THE FIRST ROCK ONLY DISCO AND SOME OF THE GUYS INVOLVED STILL FREQUENT THE CLUB TODAY.

WE WILL HEAR THEIR VERSION OF THE DREADNOUGHT HISTORY IN THE COMING MONTHS.

STUDIO 4 WAS OWNED AND OPERATED BY A LOCAL CHARACTER ,JOHN MCPHAIL ,WHO INTRODUCED HIS OWN BLEND OF LARGE SOUND SYSTEMS PLAYING VERY LOUD (BUT CLEAN) ROCK TRACKS TOGETHER WITH THE APPEARANCE OF LIVE BIG NAME BANDS. THIS FORMAT DID WELL AS OTHER DISCO VENUES AT THE TIME SUCH AS THE GREEN TREE AND PALAIS DE DANCE WERE POP TYPE PLACES.

BACK THEN THE DREADNOUGHTS GUILDED CAGE WAS A HEAVILY FURNISHED FUNCTION SUITE FULL OF TABLES AND CHAIRS AND NOT SO TASTEFUL DECORATION.

IT BOASTED AN UPSIDE DOWN LILY POND AS THE MAIN FEATURE ABOVE THE DANCE FLOOR

(NICE TOUCH IN ITS DAY) . GLAD IT STAYED THERE.

BIG CHANGES WERE AFOOT.

IN 1980 STUDIO 4 MANAGED TO HAVE A MAJOR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE BREWERS MANAGERESS AT THE TIME AND WERE ASKED IN NO UNCERTAIN MANNER TO LEAVE THE PREMISES. ANOTHER LOCAL DISCO COMPANY .THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT, WHO WERE SUPPLYING DISCOS TO MOST OF THE OTHER VENUES IN BATHGATE ,WERE ASKED TO TAKE OVER THE RUNNING OF THE DREADNOUGHT CLUB AT THE LAST MINUTE.

THE PROVISIO WAS THAT IT HAD TO STOP THE ROCK MUSIC FORMAT AND INTRODUCE A MORE MAINSTREAM MIX.

DUE TO LACK OF TIME A MOBILE DISCO UNIT WAS INITIALLY PLACED ON STAGE AND THEN THE NIGHTMARE BEGAN.

THE DEE JAYS WERE DELUGED WITH COMPLAINTS NOT TO MENTION MISSILES AND THE THREAT OF A BOYCOTT

THE CHANGE IN MUSIC DIRECTION WAS ATTEMPTED FOR ABOUT A FURTHER 4 WEEKS UNTIL POPULAR OPINION FORCED THE MANAGEMENT TO ABANDON IT AND RETURN TO ROCK TRACKS ALTHOUGH SLIGHTLY MORE MELLOW

BY THIS TIME A COMPLETE REFURBISHMENT OF THE CLUB WAS DUE ,AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POPULAR INITIALLY IT SOON GREW ON THE REGULARS AND THE CROWDS INCREASED WEEK ON WEEK.

IN 1982 THE HOTEL WAS SOLD BY THE BREWERS TO A PRIVATE BUYER NAMELY THE MURTAGH FAMILY FROM BEARSDEN IN GLASGOW.WHO THEN LOOKED AFTER IT FOR THE NEXT 21 YEARS. DURING THIS TIME (AFTER BRIEFLY CONSIDERING SCRAPPING THE ROCK DISCO WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN A BIG MISTAKE) A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERATIONS WERE MADE TO THE CLUB OVER THE YEARS IN CO -OPERATION WITH DOUGLAS CROFT ,MAGIC ROUNDABOUT DISCO OWNER.

IT HAS BECOME FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE WITH LOTS OF EX PATRIOTS RETURNING ON HOLIDAY AND REVISITING THERE OLD HAUNT ,THE DREADNOUGHT.

ITS CONTINUED POPULARITY WE BELIEVE IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT OVER THE YEARS IT HAS CHANGED VERY LITTLE .SO THAT PUNTERS RETURNING AFTER MANY YEARS FIND IT JUST THE SAME FUN AS IT WAS IN THERE YOUTH. NEVER DISAPPOINTING THEM OR THEIR MEMORIES. ALTHOUGH AT THE SAME TIME ATTRACTING NEW PEOPLE WHO LOVE ROCK MUSIC AND WANT TO DRINK AND DANCE AND MEET PEOPLE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

THE HOTEL IS NOW OWNED BY A PRIVATE HOTEL COMPANY ,LONDON & EDINBURGH INNS, AND THE ROCK VENUE LEASED AND OPERATED BY A NEW COMPANY - DREADNOUGHT ROCK LTD.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS WEB SITE WE HOPE TO IMPROVE THE CLUB EVEN MORE BY KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH WHAT'S ON IN THE ROCK CLUB ,COMPETITIONS FOR THE SOUGHT AFTER VIP TICKETS, AND LISTENING TO YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

BUT NO. WERE NOT ABOUT TO DISPOSE OF BILLY HAGGARTY.

HOPE YOU ENJOY BEING PART OF AN AMAZING CLUB BY LOGGING ON TO THIS SITE AND HOPEFULLY VISITING THE DREADNOUGHT IN PERSON MANY MANY TIMES.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTINUED CUSTOM .

SEE YOU SOON IN THE DREADFUL.

DOUGLAS CROFT

Director Dreadnought Rock Ltd.