

■ THE LILAC TIME, TWILIGHT ZONE CLUB, PORTSMOUTH

Stephen 'one-time slave to the disco beat' Duffy in acoustic guitar shock! The giggling teenage girls shouting nervously for 'Kiss Me' weren't amused. Sharon and Tracey nervously tapped their handbags almost in time with the music. Strangely, they soon found themselves rather enjoying Stephen's new band and even though their parents used to listen to the same sort of thing, it wasn't that bad really. The Lilac Time had jumped the first hurdle in a hell of a long race.

This was their second ever gig and the Lilac Time cruised through tracks from their superb album. Already the warmth and energy generated was enough to put many experienced bands to shame. Duffy kept his mumbling between songs down to a minimum and surprised everyone by turning out to be quite a handy guitar strummer. 'Too Sooner Late Than Better', a Simon & Garfunkel meets the Carpenters song, and the funky ska beat of 'You've Got To Love' are irresistible to any listener. Their single, 'Return To Yesterday', with its Kenny Rogers rhythm and impossibly catchy chorus, sparked off three minutes of serious foot tapping.

The Lilac Time is spring, when wet and weary days are cast aside for a fresh new beginning. They couldn't have picked a better name for themselves.

Freddie Fareham