

LICORICE (Brian Locking)



Introduced by Cliff with an inconsequential quip about the centre of attention "not being an accomplished banjo player", Locking is featured on harmonica on this self-composition, a bluesy piece made available on the Italian *Atlantis* CD adverted to in connection with **BARNEY'S BLUES**. This CD gives a broadcast date of 1961, plainly erroneously since Locking only joined the group in April 1962. On one copy in circulation the tune is directly preceded by Cliff's *Down The Line*, a sequence known to have been broadcast, uniquely so far as is known, on the show of 13 January 1963.

Between (at least) August and December 1962 Locking had been performing the 1961 Acker Bilk hit *Stranger On The Shore* on his harmonica as part of the Shadows' stage act in both the UK and France. LITTLE 'B' was also part of that same set, so plainly the policy at that time was to highlight the virtuosity of the players. It appears they were not adventurous enough to allow Locking to include an unknown self-penned composition, but this was evidently deemed acceptable (probably following the success of this harmonica break on stage) over the airwaves. In the light of all this, LICORICE was most likely recorded late 1962/early 1963.