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After their marriage broke up Dixon sentence was to

Jazzmen hit right note for unity

By IFAN PAYNE

REVIEW

IN these days, between strike and dole, called summer vacation, music in our nation's capital lies in the doldrums awaiting cooler weather.

All praise then to the Cardiff Jazz Society and their second jazz promotion at Gibbs on Thursday evening. This time it was the turn of reed player Al Gay to join Cardiff's own Bob Tunnecliffe Quartet.

Al Gay is a competent and stalwart jazzman, never flashy but always dependable whether he solos on tenor or soprano saxophone or on clarinet.

It is a measure of both his experience and also of the professionalism of the Bob Tunnecliffe group that the two sought to blend together and to create as much of a musical unity as possible.

As one might expect the interplay between the group and the visiting soloist started out hesitatingly enough on *Undecided* but, even at this early stage of play, it was clear that all were concerned to interweave their various contributions in harmony.

Examples of this could be heard in the fligreed laying out of *Autumn Leaves* and in the concluding A'Capella trombone and sax duo at the end of the same number.

The clarinet and incisive soprano saxophone provided variety during the evening as did the occasional Latin rhythms. Indeed, the Bosa Nova *Watch What Happens* was a tighter performance altogether.

I also enjoyed the dependable contributions from Roy Pike throughout the evening on piano.

In these slothful summer days one cannot expect too many sparks to fly from Al Gay's straightforward but undemanding reeds. But on the other hand there are few better ways to mellow out after a day of relaxing in the sun.

Cardiff Jazz Society's next presentation at Gibbs will be Tony Lee with the John Silva Quartet on Thursday, August 9 at 9pm

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