

Moody Gowns at the Head of Steam

It was Leeds vs. Newcastle at the Head of Steam on Friday. Representing the North East was 1980s inspired whimsical prog-rockers, So What Robot. They were joined by two bands from North Yorkshire – Wind Up Birds and Moody Gowns. It was a close call as to who won the night.

So What Robot's thrilling performance is made doubly so by the astonishing bass skills of frontman, Paul Bentley, who flawlessly riffs his way through the band's prog-pop repertoire while never missing a lyric.

Though less impressive musically, Leeds's Wind Up Birds matched the Newcastle three-piece's enthusiasm. Singer Kroyd gave a frantic delivery of passionate northern poetry, ending each song with an endearing "Taa very much," much to the delight of the Geordie crowd.

Moody Gowns offered punk, post-punk, ska, electronica, you name it – there was plenty to keep you occupied. Singer Nathan Woolsey stalks the stage with a Rottenesque glare, while intermittently whacking an effects pad like an excitable child. Excellent stuff.

The winners, though, were the locals. I seriously suggest you check out So What Robot live this year.

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