

THE LIVERBIRDS - The first ever all female group.
(a short version)

It all started in 1962 when myself, two cousins of mine and a friend of ours (all sixteen at the time) found ourselves talking to our idol John Lennon at the Cavern. Trying like mad to impress him, I told him we were a female group, but still practising - he said "what a great idea" and offered to give us any help we needed. Well, that was it; a few days later off we went to Hussy's in Stanley Street (the shop in Liverpool where all the groups bought their instruments) to buy our's, only deciding when we got there, who was going to play what. Two guitars, a bass and a set of drums were bought on the HP, the cheapest we could get, and of course: no amps. Off we went that night to the Cavern again with our guitars and drum-sticks. To our delight we didn't even have to stand in the queue or pay to get in. This was just great, we told everybody, we were a girls group called "The Squaws", (still practising of course and still couldn't play a note between us). We bought our outfits, had our photographs taken, big articles in the Echo and Merseybeat, we were so busy working in offices and shops in the day time and carrying our instruments around the clubs at night that we just didn't have time to practise. When Bob Whooler (the M.C. at the Cavern) started to pester us to finally play there, we thought, we had better get a few days practise in. One of our other cousins was going to help us, he could play two or three chords. Well, what a shock we got, when we realized it wasn't as easy as we thought. We were hopeless and that was that - we decided we had better stay in for a while and let it all die down. That was the end of "The Squaws".

About four weeks later two girls came to our house, they told me, they were a lead guitarist and drummer, who wanted to start a girls group and were looking for a bass player and rhythm guitarist. I had to admit to them that I couldn't play anything - Val, the guitarist, said: It doesn't matter. What would you like to play, bass or rhythm? I'll teach you. I decided on bass.