



THE KINKS are top at the moment, but they could soon be beaten by the Beach Boys (R.M. Pic.).

Two thirds through 1966 & the chart survey shows some surprises

BRITISH CHART

- 1 KINKS 1091
- 2 BEACH BOYS 1050
- 3 CILLA BLACK 998
- 4 DAVE DEE, DOZY, BEAKY, MICK and TICH 982
- 5 DUSTY SPRINGFIELD 897
- 6 KEN DODD 891
- 7 WALKER BROTHERS 869
- 8 CRISPIAN ST. PETERS 845
- 9 GENE PITNEY 792
- 10 HOLLIES 775
- 11 BEATLES 773
- 12 SPENCER DAVIS GROUP 748
- 13 MAMAS and PAPAS 747
- 14 SMALL FACES 739
- 15 ROLLING STONES 718
- 16 HERB ALPERT 686
- 17 CLIFF RICHARD/NANCY SINATRA 674
- 19 BOB DYLAN 663
- 20 TROGGS 652
- 21 HERMAN'S HERMITS 649
- 22 ELVIS PRESLEY 642
- 23 MINDBENDERS 636
- 24 YARDBIRDS 612
- 25 PET CLARK 609

AMERICAN CHART

- 1 BEATLES 1357
- 2 ROLLING STONES 1304
- 3 MAMAS and PAPAS 1121
- 4 SIMON and GARFUNKEL 1032
- 5 LOVIN' SPOONFUL 1016
- 6 HERMAN'S HERMITS 834
- 7 GARY LEWIS 774
- 8 RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS 753
- 9 BEACH BOYS 743
- 10 HERB ALPERT 711
- 11 PAUL REVERE 701
- 12 BARRY SADLER 688
- 13 DAVE CLARK FIVE 687
- 14 PETULA CLARK 655
- 15 STEVIE WONDER 641
- 16 LOU CHRISTIE 605
- 17 SUPREMES 602
- 18 NANCY SINATRA 580
- 19 FOUR SEASONS 567
- 20 RAY CHARLES 564
- 21 YOUNG RASCALS 550
- 22 FRANK SINATRA 536
- 23 VOGUES 493
- 24 JOHNNY RIVERS 478
- 25 B. J. THOMAS 475

THE KINKS have made a giant leap this year and with only four months to go before the final points table, they are in the lead. At the end of 1965 they were ninth.

The BEACH BOYS are disputing the Kinks' lead, though, and should overtake them within a few weeks, due to the current success of "God Only Knows".

Close behind those two groups, come CILLA BLACK and DAVE DEE, DOZY, BEAKY, MICK and TICH. Cilla has made a wonderful recovery after disappearing from the survey last year, and with only three records this year, Dave Dee etc. have grabbed fourth place.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD and KEN DODD are having a battle for fifth place and the WALKER BROTHERS have reached No. 7 and are bound to do a lot more before the final points survey at the end of the year.

Another newcomer to the list is CRISPIAN ST. PETERS who has quite a good lead over GENE PITNEY immediately behind him. Crispian's new record should add to his position. The HOLLIES are just two points ahead of the BEATLES who finished fifth last year and SPENCER DAVIS is easily placed to gain many more points with his new release.

The ROLLING STONES are currently eleven places down on last year's position and CLIFF has to make up 15 places to retain his former No. 2 spot. BOB DYLAN has slipped, too, along with HERMAN'S HERMITS, and ELVIS PRESLEY.

Last year's toppers, the SEEKERS, are not yet in sight and SANDIE SHAW shares that unhappy position. PETER and GORDON, the BYRDS, the ANIMALS, SONNY and CHER, MARIANNE FAITHFULL, TOM JONES, P. J. PROBY, JIM REEVES and the YARDBIRDS will need to gain quite a few more points to finish as high as they did last year.

The BEATLES topped the American points survey list last year and are still in the lead this far into 1966. Their nearest challengers are the Rolling Stones, 53 points behind and five places up on 1965 to date.

Three new groups have crept into third, fourth and fifth positions — the MAMAS and the PAPAS, SIMON and GARFUNKEL and the LOVIN' SPOONFUL respectively.

HERMAN'S HERMITS have slipped to No. 6 from second and GARY LEWIS is down one. The RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS, last year's No. 11, are now up three places, ten points ahead of the BEACH BOYS who are up three.

HERB ALPERT has crashed in for the first time at No. 10 and a resurgence in interest in PAUL REVERE and the RAIDERS puts that group a close eleventh. The DAVE CLARK FIVE are not yet as high as they were last time, but BARRY SADLER has done very well for himself with his two army songs.

PETULA CLARK is at No. 14 — the same position she occupied at the end of last year — but the SUPREMES have slipped fourteen positions. The FOUR TOPS and ELVIS PRESLEY, both very high last year, seem to be having a lean time of it, while NANCY SINATRA and STEVIE WONDER have done very well.

SONNY and CHER will need to do a lot to get back into the final charts, but SAM the SHAM'S current hit could put him back there. The SEARCHERS and PETER and GORDON are two British acts not to figure yet this year and the KINKS haven't shown either.

But there are still four months to go and with new singles expected from all the top artists both in Britain and America, the competition is going to become very keen.

In America, the BEATLES and the ROLLING STONES are almost certain to grab the two top spots with a lot of competition from the MAMAS and the PAPAS. At home, the KINKS and the BEACH BOYS could well be the final leaders, but CILLA BLACK and DAVE DEE and co. are in with a chance.

RICHARD GREEN

YOU LUCKY PEOPLE!

Here are the results of our Sonny and Cher competition . . .

SONNY held the microphone of my tape recorder next to his friend's ear and pronounced: "Umm, you have a bad infection there. Open your mouth wide, say 'aah'. You just spat on my microphone, what do you think this is, a stethoscope?"

From an armchair, Cher yelled: "A stethoscope? What do you mean? Ha, a stethoscope."

That was the general reaction to my handing Sonny a tape recorder and asking him to call the five Record Mirror readers who had given the best reasons for wanting to speak to him and Cher.

The pair of them wandered in, dressed in lime green outfits, followed closely by Cher's little sister. Sonny played me "Little Man" which he hoped will be their next single.

It's very gypsy-sounding and a complete change from anything they've had out for ages. He finished making it in London and decided to bring the voices out more, then it would be perfect.

After three plays of the record, a discussion on the Small Faces' progress since Sonny and Cher's last visit and a general swapping of views on the current pop scene, we got down to the real business in hand.

First off, we called Ian Henry of Halifax. When he got on the line, Cher spoke to him first and he couldn't really believe his luck. He finally settled himself and apologised for not being at their concert and explained that he had to save his money to go to college.

When he mentioned that he was training to be a baker and hoped to go to America in two years' time. Sonny grabbed the 'phone and told 17 year-old Ian he'd be able to get some work out there with that sort of qualification. He ended by hoping they'd finally meet when Ian went to the States.

Sonny's next call disturbed Mrs. Jean Wheal in the middle of feeding her baby at home in Harrow. The baby is only three weeks old and Jean said it was to be christened that following Sunday and named after Sonny.

"I'm very flattered, that's terrific," Sonny beamed. "We'll send him something, do we have your address here? We do? Good, okay we'll get him something."

Jean (17) wanted to know if Sonny was his real name.

"My real one's Salvatore," he replied. "My mother gave me that one — Sonny. I thought Salvatore was horrible and so did she."

Jean told Sonny that the baby was being christened on their first wedding anniversary, then she had a chat with Cher about marriage dates and said: "If we'd have had a girl we were going to call it Cher. I had the baby the day after my birthday."

Eighteen year-old Lynne Macbeth of Leeds was next on the list. She told Sonny she'd be watching "Ready Steady Go" and "Top Of The Pops" as she couldn't make it to London for the show.

"It was a lot of fun doing the film. It's a cute movie and it's a nice movie," Sonny said. "I hope you like it."

Lynne said she'd like to make films and Sonny told her: "You really ought to go try that, you could become a big movie star."

Next, Sonny phoned a Euston number and asked to speak to Miss T. C. Hunt from Middlesex, but she was at lunch. So Sonny and Cher decided to send her a specially-autographed photograph as a consolation.

Only one more call to go, so I retrieved Sonny and Cher from their dangling position half in and half out of the window. The last lucky winner was twenty year-old Ruth Pearson of West Wimbledon.

She told Sonny that she was a dancer in a group called Tomorrow's People, and he replied: "Oh, well that's a fine thing to do. You know we have lots of girls dancing on our TV shows in the States. Maybe you'll become one of them one day."

"Is that all?" Cher asked when Sonny replaced the receiver. "That was nice."

ENTHUSIASTIC

Sonny singing to Cher and Cher singing to Sonny kept an enthusiastic audience happy for over half an hour at Finsbury Park Astoria on Friday. Those two really do use their romance to maximum effect.

Cher wore a yellow sleeveless trouser suit with bell bottoms and masses of sequins, and Sonny chose a tight-fitting red, white and grey striped suit with a black polo neck sweater.

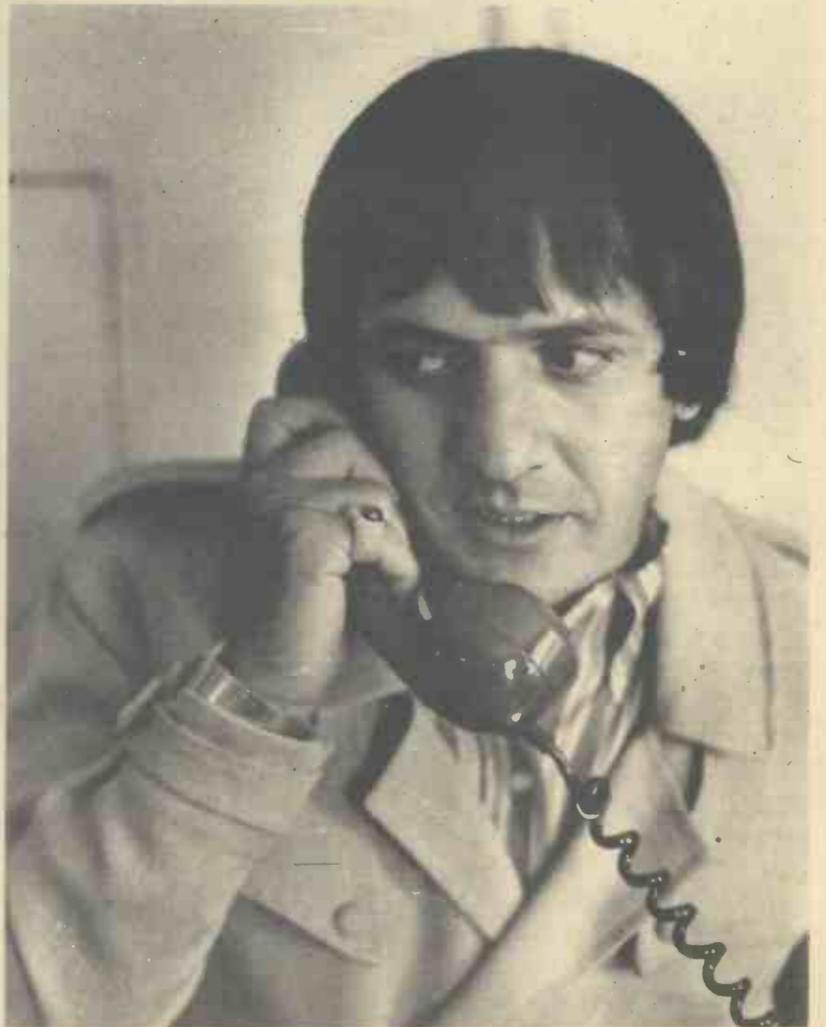
Right from the off with "Walkin' The Dog", they wandered round the stage using hand mikes, bending, swaying and often standing staring straight into one another's eyes. The eight-piece band included two drummers.

There was a light-hearted exchange of wits with plenty of "sweetheart's" and "darling's" before an unusual version of "Something's Got A Hold On Me". "Baby Please Don't Go" came next, then Cher played tambourine while Sonny solo'd on "Laugh At Me" to lengthy applause. They swapped roles for Cher's "Where Do You Go", then united for the fantastic "What Now My Love".

Cher received bags of encouragement from the audience on "Bang Bang" which followed "Just You". But the fans saved the mighty enthusiasm for the final number—"I Got You Babe". Yells, screams, whistles, stamps and claps greeted the number and went on long after Sonny and Cher had left the stage. Nobody could have followed them. Nobody.

Jimmy James and the Vagabonds gave a polished performance which included "You Don't Know Like I Know", "My Girl", "Sock It To 'Em JB" and the soulful "Amen" which had the kids raving for more. No doubt about their popularity.

RICHARD GREEN



SONNY (above) busy phoning one of our lucky winners while below, CHER waits for her turn at the telephone (R.M. Pix by Feri Lukas).

