

In The Chuffin' Beginning – By Paula McArdle

Before Big Neet In was a thing at all, Scott did a couple of broadcasts which I'll refer to as In The Chuffin' Beginning. They provide a glimpse into what happened as the UK entered the first Covid-19 lockdown of 2020 and the Doonicans' hectic gig schedule was forced on pause.

18-03-2020: In The Chuffin' Beginning (A) – Video Title: Calling Houston (length 2.40)

Scott informs fans that The Black Tar Rivers' gig, scheduled for Saturday 21 March 2020 has had to be cancelled as Ash from The Sweetchunks Band is having to self-isolate.

Scott has issued refunds.

He is rethinking entertainment for Saturday.

He tears up while acknowledging fan support.

Scott signs out saying: "Try and enjoy your day...cuz...erm...yeah. I think the world needs it right now. Take it easy guys!"

18-03-2020: In The Chuffin' Beginning (B) – Video Title: The Plan (length 3.55)

Fans had noticed Scott was looking upset in his earlier video, so he broadcasts this one using The Devil puppet to avoid being on camera. As Scott chats from the comfort of his home music room, we can spot another familiar face, Emu, lying forlornly across the back of a distant red leather chair.

Scott goes on to share his ideas for Saturday night following the Black Tar Rivers' gig cancellation.

He has a plan. It's "nice and simple".

He describes it as "a Saturday night lock-in at Pub Doonican".

We are told the bill will include:

- Live music
- A pub quiz
- Entertainment from Scott Doonican
- Scott from Black Tar Rivers
- Shit Raffle
- Lots of other things as well!

Scott goes on to say...

"I've gotta think this through, to be honest. I've not thought it through too much, but...erm...yeah, that's gonna be part of the show as well."

Then: "It'll start at 8 o'clock on YouTube, that's the plan. I've just done a few test runs on the camera to see if it'll work."

He tells us his head's in a better place after receiving messages of support from fans.

Says: "This is a proper levelling of the land."

He goes on to invite fans to have a drink with him on Saturday and to “get some booze in,” but try to find a shop where “all the assholes haven’t been panic buying”.

Scott suggests: “If you can’t get booze, make your own.”

He’s just bought some flour to make bread.

Video ends with the following (famous last words, or what?!)

“So yeah, this is going to be the way we’re gonna get through this. And this is probably gonna be the only live stream that I’m gonna do during this time. Because, give it a week and it’ll be wall to wall live streaming from every musician you know. So, this’ll be the one chance you’d see me in this time, and then I’m gonna spend the rest of the time working out what I’m gonna do...erm...when, when all this shit’s blown over.”