

Ray Davies "When Big Bill Speaks / The Man Who Knew A Man (Dialogue)"

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I used to go down The Marquee Club where all these R
& B bands were
playing. It was like hearing Big Bill Broonzy with drums,
but they were
British bands. Alexis Korner had his Blues Band. Cyril
Davies &
His All Stars backed Sonny Boy Williamson.

But before doing any more gigs we wouldn't make the
same mistake as
we'd made before, for this time we'd get a drummer.
We took an advert out in The Melody Maker, which is a
hugh music paper
in England. "A very important new beat group require
the services of an
extraordinary drummer. Auditions next thursday". The
following thursday
one person turned up. You see, we'd forgotten to put
the address of the
audition down. This was fate, this was destiny, because
the young man
standing before us was no other than Michael Charles
Avory.
We liked Mick. He was a really down to earth, ordinary
guy. He was a
boy scout! Very commendable. But why, why did he
wear the boy scouts
outfit to the audition? He must have thought we were
really weird,
because we were all dressed in those Carnaby Street
clothes, you know.
Dave...Dave and Pete especially. In Mick's eyes we must
have looked
very very effeminate. To say the least. And Mick
dressed in his boy scouts
outfit, so you can understand there's a big difference,
a big gulf.
But Mick looked at us and he said "I like the group a lot,
yeah I like the
group. I like the music you play, yeah, R & B, that's the
coming thing,

ain't it? But if I join the group, I want to make one thing clear. I've got a girlfriend and if you haven't noticed: I'm straight". "We can soon change that, darling". Poor old Mick. I suppose we did look effeminate to him. We just explained that we wanted to create an image for ourselves and, you know, be outrageously dressed. But we said "Exactly, Mick. We need a masculine looking person in the group, and you've got those features, man, you're the guy! Particularly the drummer has got to look hard". And so the band was formed. Let's hear it for the band.

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