

Band's party date for top DJ

MUSIC

BY JANE CANDLISH

A part-time Inverness funk band have rubbed shoulders with celebrities after being selected to perform at the 50th birthday party of a renowned techno DJ.

The Leonard Jones Potential travelled to Brighton for the private gig to celebrate Carl Cox's half century.

They supported main act the Brand New Heavies during the night's festivities at Briar House Barns and partied with big names from the world of dance music, including Fatboy Slim, into the small hours.

But one member of the band, known as The LJP, had to miss the big day. Singer Michelle Newell was unable to travel because she is heavily pregnant and expecting her baby in the next couple of weeks.

Instead singer Laura Vane, of Laura Vane and the Vipertones, stepped in. Now the band hope their exciting weekend could lead to a big break.

Yesterday, back at the day job at Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd, saxophonist Barry Overstreet said the

weekend had been "amazing".

Mr Overstreet, who is originally from Nashville, Tennessee, said: "It was a Who's Who of dance music and a fantastic venue.

"We played first, followed by the Brand New Heavies. Then it was Carl Cox himself, with Gilles Peterson. It was a full house.

"Some of us were there dancing until 4am."

Mr Overstreet said the invitation came after The LJP performed for a group of record producers at Coul House Hotel at Contin, Ross-shire.

Carl Cox was among the group and requested that the band play for him.

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