

We'll make a racquet at our gigs

DON BROCO frontman Rob Damiani reveals the band will be getting their shuttlecocks out once again for their next Scots gig.

The rockers have a bizarre tradition of taking a badminton set on the road with them whenever they play north of the border.

And the racquets will be out in force when they roll up at the Barrowlands in Glasgow next month.

Rob says: "One thing that seems to have really taken hold in Glasgow is that every time we play, someone brings along a badminton set for some reason."

"I don't know how it started. There's always someone that has a racquet and some shuttlecocks."

"It's the only place in the entire world that we would ever do this."

Singer Rob, from Bedford, is also hoping to enjoy some Scots cuisine – but might avoid a pizza crunch.

He adds: "The last time we had a pizza crunch half-an-hour before we went to play. We got through the gig but never again."



by **LISA BOYLE**

Every time we get a little bit p***ed we go for a pizza crunch and we always regret it immediately."

Don Broco are hitting Glasgow as their UK tour to promote their latest album *Technology* comes to an end.

And the group – who have supported Bring Me The Horizon and You Me At Six in the past – reckon there is no better place to end a run of shows.

Rob says: "Every time we've been to Scotland, right from when we first started playing, we just know the energy is going to be amazing."

"People are always up for a laugh. The way it's worked out is we always end up finishing the

tour in Glasgow. The last show is always a big blowout and we have a night out in Glasgow, which is always the best night out as well.

"The last time we hit a few bars. The Cathouse is a big favourite, so we'll see where the night takes us."

On tracks from *Technology*, Rob sings about his hatred for social media – despite meeting his girlfriend on a dating app.

The 30-year-old rocker – who once dated presenter and singer Kelly Osbourne – says: "Technology is about a casual swipe through Instagram that ended up in me following a load of mates."

"It talks about how it

changed my perception with a lot of my friends – the characters they seem to push out on social media I just really didn't like.

"It brings out a side to people where they like to show off or are constantly rubbing their relationship in your face."

When asked if he had the choice to erase social media forever, Rob says: "I'd love that."

"Imagine finishing at 5pm and no one can contact you or annoy you with an email."

"I wish we could go back to that – modern-day life would be a lot more chill and I think everyone would be a lot happier."

"I actually met my girlfriend on Tinder though. I think I got very lucky because I lit-

erally had just got it and it was the first time I tried my hand at the social media dating world."

As well as covering topics as wide-ranging as Brexit and mobile phones on the new album, one track *T-shirt Song* also reveals a dark period of mental turmoil for Rob.

'Baywatch theme tune made me feel better'

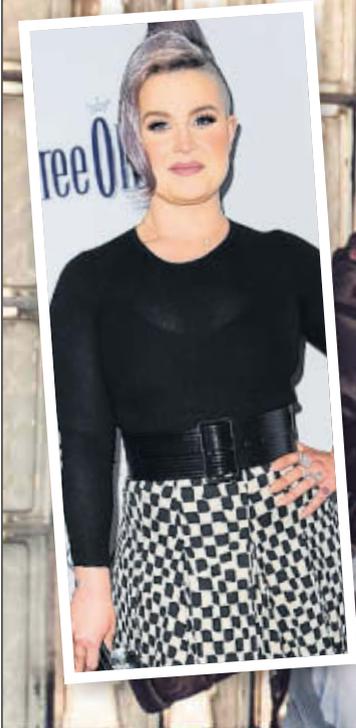
The singer says: "It's one of the most emotional songs on the record, inspired by a close friend who had just been through a dark break-up."

"I was also going through a similarly dark time and one night I found myself in a club where the DJ was playing the Baywatch theme tune."

"Anyone who's been to a cheesy club night will know this is the moment everyone takes off their T-shirt and swings it round their head."

I didn't really feel like it but I joined in and, as stupid as it sounds, it really made me feel better."

● **DON BROCO** play the Barrowlands in Glasgow on February 21 at 7pm. Visit ticketmaster.co.uk for tickets.



ON TOUR...
Rob, right, and bandmates.
Left, Rob's ex Kelly Osbourne



ALEX MAXWELL

WHERE: Dumfries

FOR FANS OF: Frightened Rabbit, Frank Turner, Fatherson

JIM SAYS: I caught Alex Maxwell last year playing a home town gig I was hosting at The Stove as part of DMC (Dumfries Music Conference).

I had to stand on my tiptoes to reach the microphone when introducing him. He's 6ft 4½in and jokes that he might be the tallest singer-songwriter in Scotland.

Though now based in Glasgow, he's enthusiastic about the music scene in Dumfries. He said: "Dumfries has got a lot better over the past year. There is good talent there which needs nurtured and given a platform."

"The Stove has really filled a gap both with their monthly Brave New Words event and through the great work by the guys at DMC."

"We've also got The Venue where I'm putting on my local EP launch on February 9. It's a great set-up but pretty big for new artists to fill. Sadly, there aren't really any good mid-range venues for live performance."

The 29-year-old only started playing live three years ago. He got an early break in 2016 showcasing as a CalMac Culture finalist at King Tut's in



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

Glasgow. Along with BBC radio play he clocked up his first festival appearances last year at Electric Fields, Eden, Kelburn Garden Party, Mugstock and the Moniaive Folk Festival.

The five-track *The Want Comes In Waves* EP was recorded with producer Mark Morrow in Edinburgh and Washington Irving's Joe Black in Dalmally near Oban. It was officially launched last month with a gig at the Voodoo Rooms in Edinburgh, his first with his band.

The title track, and debut single, sets things up nicely for the rest of the EP with some beautiful harmonies courtesy of Lissa Robertson. The collection of songs explores a few musical territories.

Alex said: "I wanted to demonstrate the range of my inspirations. It blends indie, folk, rock, pop and Americana. I started off and remain a singer-songwriter, but I want to play with a band more often."

"There's the simple acoustic song *Soul Divine*, the sparse instrumentation of *The Want Comes In Waves*, plus a couple of bigger tracks in *Symmetry* and *Inaction*. The band can really rock out live to these two! Rather than sticking to a specific sound, this first offering basically shows the different styles, sounds and interests. The future could go in a number of different directions."

Alex is fairly flexible when it comes to live shows. He does solo gigs or as a duo with Lissa on violin and vocals. He'll have the full five-piece band at the Dumfries gig next month. Alex and Lissa will be joined by guitarist Robbie Huxtable, Liam Russell on bass and drummer Morgan McConnell.

He hopes to rework and release a couple more tracks from the EP, along with videos. He's working towards a second EP to release in the summer as well as UK and European tour dates.

MORE: alex-maxwell.com
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk

