

JEBO – ‘Settle Up or Settle Down’

CD Review by Kevin from Bristol Rocks

In my opinion, the best CD that I have reviewed for Bristol Rocks up until now was JEBO's first release 'Sinking Without You'. The problem with this is that the second release 'Settle Up or Settle Down' will need to be at least as good to make the grade. I was told that the new album is more contemporary and for a die-hard Planet Rock listener, contemporary is not good. The band have made some major changes between albums, the most critical being a new vocalist. Both the first album and the new album have been produced by John Burns.

Upon first listening the 'contemporary' was quite obvious and superficially the new JEBO sound very different from their last incarnation. I was almost put off of this album on first listening but I gave it a chance and threw it into the car player. I have been playing the album now for a couple of weeks and my opinion of it has changed completely. JEBO have not changed quite so much as I had thought. The underlying sound is as complex and satisfying as it was before, the band is driven by songwriter Rob Allen and his brilliant guitar riffs are a main feature throughout the album. The songs are indeed more contemporary and although it took me a while to get used to this, they are also VERY good. The production is as faultless as I would expect it to be with one of the UK's best on the job.

So is 'Settle Up or Settle Down' as good as 'Sinking Without You'? I think it is, but having said that, the albums have a very different feel. Although it took a while to get used to the change I feel that both albums have achieved a similar status and that is songwriting, musicianship and production of the very highest quality that stands head & shoulders above the rest. JEBO remain a world class band that should be filling stadiums, hopefully their time will come soon.