


RUM DO . . .

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NEARLY TWO years after its closure, Birmingham's Rum Runner club is to be bulldozed to make way for a hotel and casino.

The club, one of a series of fondly-remembered but now departed city night spots, was home to Duran Duran, their minions and a host of trendies who sealed the Henna powder boom.

The Broad Street venue is to be replaced by a 350-room Hyatt International Hotel incorporating a casino – another city centre development built on the bubble of Birmingham's bid for the 1992 Olympic Games.

This week Durannies in the city were still seething about the demolition of their favourite haunt. Graffiti outside read: "So you bastards are gonna knock down Broad Street. Well you can't!"

The Rum Runner closed in early 1984 after a police raid when it was found non-members were being illegally admitted – or so the story goes.

Perhaps, on the other hand, Duran Duran were right: "*If the fire burns out, there's only fire to blame*" ('Hold Back The rain'). But who gives a toss about them, eh?

Neil Jeffries