



This is now: Horslips, from left, Lockhart, Devlin, Fean, O'Connor and Carr

Reuniting for a Celtic rock reel or two, it's the Horslips

By Yvonne Tarleton

THEY burst onto the 1970s pop scene like a cross between T.Rex and the Tulla Céili Band - but after conquering the UK and the U.S. with their Celtic rock jigs and reels, they self-destructed in a welter of trouble with a capital T.

But yesterday the unthinkable happened when the legendary Horslips announced a series of reunion gigs.

All five original members of the Dearg Doom hitmakers will play the Belfast Odyssey on December 2 before a triumphant homecoming in Dublin's O2 three days later - 25

years after the fivesome swore that they would never play together again.

When band members began to make names for themselves in other spheres, hopes of a reunion receded faster than their hairlines. Bassist Barry Devlin became a movie maker, keyboard player Jim Lockhart a radio producer and drummer Éamon Carr a journalist - though fiddler Charles O'Connor and guitarist Johnny Fean continued as professional musicians.

It was a Belfast gathering that

brought them together again - this time in a courtroom.

The band members began legal proceedings against ex-manager Jim Siye in 1987. He had sold all their old hits to Belfast-based Outlet Records for the paltry sum of stg£4,250.

It took until 2005 to sort out the legal mess and the five finally reconvened four years ago in Grouse Lodge studios, near Mullingar, to record together for the first time in a quarter of a century.

Details of ticket sales for their forthcoming performances will be announced in coming days.

+