

COUNTRY CLUB



CREW DAY TRIP TO PARIS

ISSUE 13



Photo credits: Bruce Watson/Andy Marlow/Stuart Adamson/Babs How/Grant-Edwards.

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of Country Club, the second in the new format. Everybody agreed the new style mag is a big improvement, we're glad you liked it.

I hope all club members received their free flexi, in good nick, and not in the form of a 3" double pack. Keep it in mint condition, only 1500 copies were pressed; it will be difficult and expensive to replace. 'One Great Thing' could have the distinction of having it's very own discography. It was finally issued in 7 variations. Chartwise, in spite of a lack of personal appearances (due to a European tour) the record reached #19. Big Country's 10th consecutive top 30 hit.

This issue of the mag. includes an article on collecting all Big Country's UK releases, with a full discography. Also reports on gigs in Brussels, the Limehouse, US satellite performance, broadcast live to the States.

I'm sure you'll agree, '86 has been a great year for Big Country fans. Especially with the Seer album and seeing our heroes back on the road. I hope everyone got to see them in action on their '86 dates.

Have a very happy, and peaceful Christmas and Good Luck in '87.

Until next time
STAY ALIVE
MIKE BARTRAM

Band is back in a big way

ONE attribute that is never missing from a Big Country concert is fervour — and there was plenty of that last night.

Another is value for money, two hours worth to be precise, and a factor that tends to go astray in other reputable bands.

The third is audience participation because Big Country are primarily a group for the people. And how they showed that at a sweltering Portsmouth Guildhall.

Driven by drums and the full force of three guitars, Stuart Adams resembled a plundering raider from the Highlands of Scotland — claiming his booty and returning for more.

This was the return of Big Country, richer, more fulsome, and seemingly enjoying life more than ever after 18 months away from the hothouse of stage work.

This was a Big Country who

scoffed at doubters for suggesting that they could not sustain the energy, imagination and sheer force of their early days. If anything they were more vibrant.

Set against a backdrop of mountains, lake, and ruins, you could imagine being desolate and alone on a windswept Scottish outcrop as the band conjured up "The Storm."

You can also sway to the rhythms of the evocative "Chance". But Big Country never let you dwell on your feelings for long.

Within moments you are harshly brought to your senses by the power of the likes of "Harvest Home", their best song of the night, or "Fields of Fire", their closing encore.

And if you didn't think they had the ability to make "Honky Tonk Women" or "Tracks Of My Tears" sound truly credible, all I can say is you should have been there.

Phil Tusler

DON'T FORGET! FOR ALL THOSE RECORDS THAT HAVE ESCAPED YOUR GRIP. SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:

Adrian's Records
36 High Street
Wickford
Essex

They have a catalogue stuffed full of records old and new even some that you haven't been able to find elsewhere. They have a Worldwide mail order service. Overseas members please remember to send 2 IRC instead of stamps. They also sell videos. The catalogue is £1.00.

COMPETITION RESULTS

One of the major talking points from issue 12 was the difficulty of twenty question quiz. The band even had trouble with some of the questions, the winner was Barry Gray, with 19 correct answers.

The answers are listed below, so you can see where you went wrong.

- | |
|------------------------|
| 1) Diceman |
| 2) Clear Peace |
| 3) Nightmoves |
| 4) 11.6.84 |
| 5) 'Eric the Bow' |
| 6) Sanctuary |
| 7) 36 |
| 8) All Fall Together |
| 9) Fields of Fire |
| 10) Lost Patrol |
| 11) Beath High |
| 12) 101 Club (Clapham) |
| 13) Run Rig |
| 14) 16 |
| 15) False |
| 16) Silver Stream |
| 17) Chance/Wonderland |
| 18) Peter Wisehart |
| 19) Another Planet |
| 20) Pete Townshend |

NEW COMPETITION

WHICH EUROPEAN COUNTRY ISSUED THE CROSSING WITH THE WORDS:

'No 1 In Britain'

ON THE FRONT COVER???

Answers on a postcard or on the back of a stuck down envelope to:

P O BOX 189
NORTHAMPTON
NN1 2HB

Closing Date: 1st March 1987

DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON YOUR ENTRY !

In the September issue of 'Record Collector' a disc titled 'DRY COUNTRY' by Big Country was for sale for £1.50. This record is **not** a mega rarity going cheap, it's a mistake by the dealer. The 45 in question is actually by BLACK SABBATH (Wow, H E A V Y!)

Smash Hits had a little snippet about Stuart publishing a book of photos 's'not true, in Stuart's own words..."It's the biggest load of pish I ever heard".

Aiming in the same direction...Mark's name is very pronouncable, Smash Hits just can't spell it, (neither can I without looking) it is pronounced...

Brezicky

so if you can't spell it either write it how it sounds and we'll know who you mean folks!!

It has been drawn to my attention that there are some very disappointed young ladies around. They are madly in love with Mark and never get to see much of him because he hides behind his drum kit most of the time. Well...Mark doesn't believe me ladies, so... send in a photo and a letter for Markie baby and we'll prove it to him. Mark would you wave a bit longer at the end of a set so these poor darlings can swoon a bit longer!!? I hasten to add that this is not a computer dating agency, just a fan clubette. okay?

Has everyone out there recieved a flexi disc?? If not please let me know an I will get you kitted out with one.

Has the club improved? Is there still room for improvement? Let us know what you you would like to happen. Requests for my resignation will be ignored (I hope!)

Back Issues of the following copies are still available from Acme for 50p.

#4 #7 #8&9 #11

#12 is £1.00. It is also exclusive to club members now.

We still have some pens (1.50) keyrings (1.25) and Club Shirts (4.00) if you'e interested...

Good evening and welcome to the most overdue piece of nonsense in history.

I've been promising to write this in answer to a lot of letters and queries about the group for far too long and really no excuses are going to be very convincing, although it has been an exceedingly busy year. I mainly want to try and explain how we in the group feel about some stuff that's been talked about in the magazine.

I think for a group like ourselves, who do realise that people interested in us are not, as most bands seem to think, a vast market place in which to ply our wares. We must always be as open as we can about how the group functions.

The first thing to talk about should be the live show. We are a group who try and connect the ideas in our songs as directly and explicitly as possible when on stage. I feel that doing this brings about a close bond of friendship between group and audience so the two are not separate entities performing for the gratification of the other but touching the sheer emotional release that music is capable of. It means that every single gig we do is unique in atmosphere and event. Such a high goal is not always easily attained, we are not fallible, but this year we have only had one show we were displeased with (a festival in Holland) and we have played in 14 or more countries this year. I can assure you it is just as frustrating for us in the band and crew as for anyone else.

Requests for songs is another difficult one to cover, although we would dearly love to play our entire recorded works every evening it would be a physical impossibility to do this and do more than two gigs in a week. What we have done this year is extend our live set substantially, which can be a bit unfair on support acts, to the extent that on our next tour we will be playing 23 songs over about 2½ hours.

When it comes to the question of people singing along during songs, I find rather than detracting from the songs they attain their full potential. Music can be a very powerful communicative force and if people can identify with our songs and take them into their lives so much so that they would be happy to sing them themselves, I will actively encourage them, for there can be no stronger confirmation of our work. I don't write songs to keep them to myself and we won't play live shows to prove how untouchable we are. The sharing of songs is a touching and soulful act, no-one should be cynical about such simple, natural beauty.

I know there have been times when people have been disappointed by the group leaving gigs early or late or in a hurry, these have been rare occasions but unavoidable ones. As the group grows demands on our time for interviews, business (heave) meetings, overnight travel grow with us.

There have been occasions when we have actually spent longer signing autographs after the gig than we have done on stage. We can never be available for everyone all of the time but we try to do so whenever possible. I myself have been guilty of leaving very quickly when playing in Scotland so I can drive home for a long awaited night in my own bed, not a chance to turn down lightly.

As you can see, the group are forever in a multiple of situations, ones which we can only trust to our own judgement, our own consciences and our own inspirations, as we did when we began the group. We are

only human and for us to satisfy everyone is unrealistic, but we try damned hard to do so, don't judge us too harshly.

It is a marvellous experience for me, playing in this band and we would all like to say thanks for your enduring support and friendship, it is moving.

Cheers Stuart

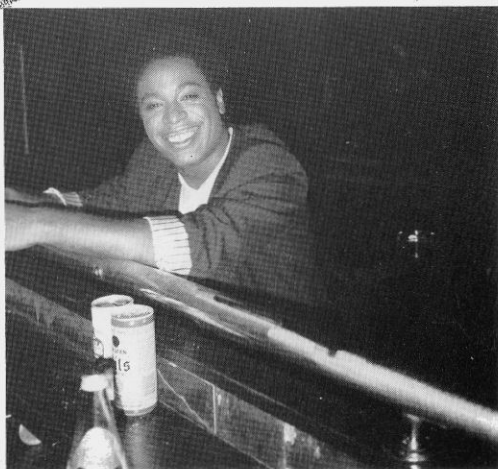
- Height: 5ft 11ins
- Eyes: Blue
- Town of Origin: Timmins, Ontario
- Educated: St Leonards Primary, Dunfermline High
- Qualifications: O level Woodwork. CSE Plasticene
- Marital Status: Single
- Children: one boy, Bruce
- Pets: Tropical Fish
- Hobbies: Super 8 editing
- Likes: Having Fun
- Dislikes: Not having fun.
- Favourite Colour: Strange Magenta
- Prominent name in record collection: Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band
- Favourite Band: All time: Wire
- Lately: B.A.D.
- Most recent record bought: Old Roxy & Bowie compact discs
- Favourite Film: The Right Stuff
- Most recent film seen: Sweet Little Sixteen
- Favourite Actor: Robert Deniro/Bob Hoskins
- Favourite Actress: Divine
- Favourite TV show: Fawltly Towers
- Favourite Books: Diceman/ Hammer of the Gods
- Favourite Author: Luke Rhinehart/Led Zeppelin
- Most recent Book read: Playhorse
- Footballer most admired: Georgie Best
- Any other Sport enjoyed: Dwarf throwing
- Hero & Why: Me, why not
- Heroine & why: Me in drag, why not
- Best Live Show seen: Billy Smarts Circus
- Most recent live show seen: Can't remember, too busy playing.
- Favourite Venue to play: The bigger the better
- Favourite BC track: Winter Sky
- What toothpaste do you use: Colgate



| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ★ Height: | 6ft 4ins |
| ★ Eyes: | sort of washed out Blue |
| Town of Origin: | Slough (Langley, Berks) |
| ★ Educated: | St Josephs RC Sec, Slough |
| ★ Qualifications: | Many |
| Marital Status: | Single |
| ★ Children: | No Idea! |
| ★ Hobbies: | Drums |
| Likes: | Drums |
| Dislikes: | Drum Machines |
| Favourite colour: | Blue |
| Prominent Name in record collection: | Mark Brzezi cki |
| Favourite Band: All time: | Police |
| Lately: | Nik Kershaw |
| Most recent record bought: | Police |
| Most admired musician: | Phil Collins |
| Favourite Film: | Straw Dogs |
| Most recent film seen: | Porridge |
| Favourite Actor: | Ronnie Barker |
| Favourite Actress: | Susan George |
| Favourite TV: | Trinitron |
| Favourite Books: | 1984 |
| Favourite Author: | Stephen King |
| Football Team: | West Brom |
| Hero and why: | The Wright Bros. they were right |
| Heroine & why: | Just say NO! |
| Best Live Show seen: | Brand X |
| Most Recent live show seen: | Bon Jovi |
| Favourite Venue: | NEC it's big |
| Best Experience: | first TOTP |
| Favourite BC track: | Rain Dance |
| What toothpaste do you use: | SR |
| What shampoo do you use: | VO5 Normal |



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ● Height: | 5ft 7ins |
| ● Eyes: | Brown |
| ● Town of Origin: | Shepherds Bush, London |
| ● Educated: | Just About. Ealing Mead Sec Modern |
| ● Qualifications: | a few |
| ● Marital Status: | Married to Jackie |
| ● Any Children: | Alexander (3 yrs) Joella (18mths) |
| ● Pets: | Dog, 2 cats, 1 guinea pig, 1 rabbit, 25 tropical fish. |
| ● Hobbies: | Anything that takes my fancy |
| ● Likes: | I try to like everything. |
| ● Favourite Band: All Time: | Jimi Hendrix Experience |
| ● Lately: | Big Audio Dynamite |
| ● Most recent record bought: | It Bites |
| ● Most admired musician: | Mark King |
| ● Favourite Film: | Where Eagles Dare |
| ● Favourite Actor: | Jack Nicholson |
| ● Favourite Actress: | Charlotte Rampling |
| ● Favourite TV show: | Eastenders |
| ● Favourite books: | All Tom Sharpe |
| ● Favourite Author: | Tom Sharpe |
| ● Most recent book read: | The Hunt for Red October |
| ● Football Team: | Spurs |
| ● Most admired footballer: | Glen Hoddle |
| ● Any other sport: | Cricket, Snooker, anything but horseriding |
| ● Most admired sportsman: | Daley Thompson |
| ● Most recent live show seen: | ZZ Top, it was crap |
| ● Favourite Venue: | NEC Birmingham |
| ● Most embarrassing moment: | Falling through the stage in Dundee many years ago. |
| ● Best experience: | Life |
| ● Worst Experience: | Life |
| ● Favourite BC track: | They are all brilliant |
| ● What toothpaste do you use: | Crest |



- Height: 6ft
- Eyes: Grey/Blue
- Town of Origin: Dunfermline
- Educated: Beath High
- Qualifications: 8 O Levels, 4 Highers
- Marital Status: Married to Sandra
- Children: Callum (4½) Kirsten (18 mths)
- Pets: 2 Dogs
- Hobbies: Motorcycling, Fishing
- Likes: Sunny Winter Mornings
- Dislikes: Intolerance
- Favourite Colour: Red
- Favourite Music: Believable
- Prominent name in recor collection: Leonard Cohen, Bill Nelson
- Favourite Band: All Time: Be Bop Deluxe
Lately: Smiths
- Most recent record bought: Smiths/Queen is Dead
- Most admired musician: Bill Nelson
- Favourite film: Badlands
- Most recent film seen: Poltergeist II (not great)
- Favourite Actor: Stan Laurel
- Favourite Actress: Jessica Lange
- Favourite TV: Sports & Movies
- Favourite Books: Not enough space
- Favourite Author: George Orwell, Albert Camus,
D H Lawrence, Ian McEwan
- Football Team: Dunfermline Athletic
- Most admired Footballer: Norrie McAthie, Ian McCall
- Any other sport: Fishing
- Most admired sportsman: Daley Thompson, Alan Wells
- Hero & Why: Groucho Marx, Why not
- Heroine & why: Sandra
- Best Live show seen: White Riot Tour, U2, Be Bop Deluxe
- Most recent live show seen: Ramones
- Favourite Venue: Anywhere, anytime.
- Most embarrassing moment: 1st TOTP
- Best Experience: Being Alive
- Worst Experience: Motorcycle crash
- Favourite BC track: Eiledon
- What toothpaste do you use: Colgate
- What shampoo do you use: Vosene

I NEVER HAD A HOFNER VERITHIN!

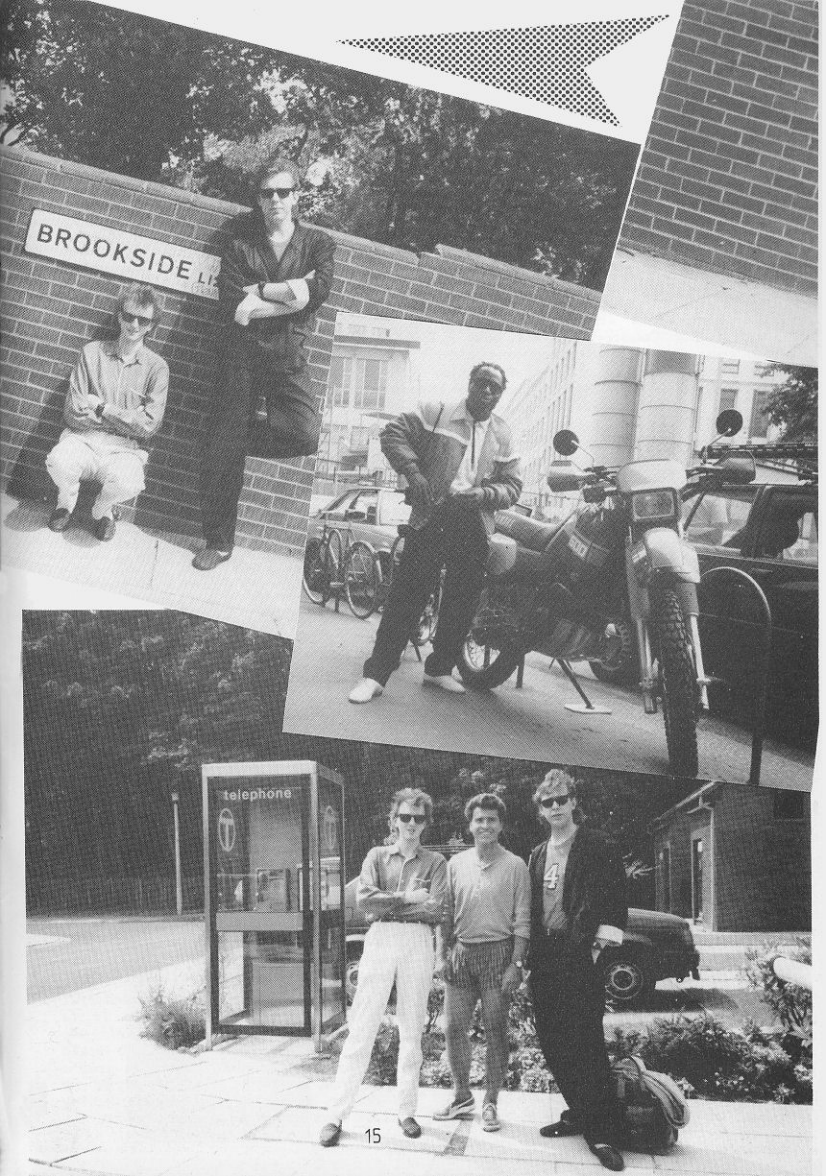












BROOKSIDE LI

telephone

★ ★ ★ THE SEER ★ ★ ★
Track by Track ★ ★ ★

Well they certainly made us wait for this album!, but it was worth it, as I think this is the best offering the band have given us to date. As a friend of mine commented; "It's just that bit different". I decided not to write this article immediately after it's release because I find it more useful to give yourself time to get to know the songs better, and subsequently a fuller review can be given.

Side one opens with the now legendary LOOK AWAY, although (in my opinion) not the best on the album, the unique yet simple guitar work on the verses gives the song an edge over it's contemporaries. The song also contains some of Adamson's best vocals, as he seems to be stretching himself more than ever. It is the freshness and originality that make the song such a worthy single.

Next up is THE SEER which in my opinion is totally mind-blowing. This is Big Country at their best - their very best!! The lyrics convey the message of the song most clearly and again Adamson has stretched his vocal range even further. Also Kate Bush's harmonious contribution fits in well with the folkiness and atmosphere of the song. This song seems to be completed and fuller version of ALL FALL TOGETHER and WINTER SKY. This seems to be exactly what Big Country have been searching for through the aforementioned tracks.

THE TEACHER. What can I say about one of my favourite tracks. The guitar work and melodic use of feedback (!) make this song truly dynamic. My only criticism is the tame chorus. I feel that such a powerful song could have had a more powerful chorus. This would have nicely put an edge/sharpness on the song. However, apart from this the song is 'that bit different' and deserved more success in the charts.

I WALK THE HILL follows, this song is back to the usual Big Country sound. The 'bagpipe' effect is once again present, but of course it is used just as well as before. This track, live, is truly blistering, but on record lacks the energy and power the song deserves.

Next we have EILEDON. This song happens to be my favourite track on the album. The introduction to this song in particular makes this track outstanding. The theme of the song is also conveyed very well, and I feel that Stuart is trying to include a 'wee' bit of social comment. It's the dynamic and forceful use of guitars that make this my favourite track.

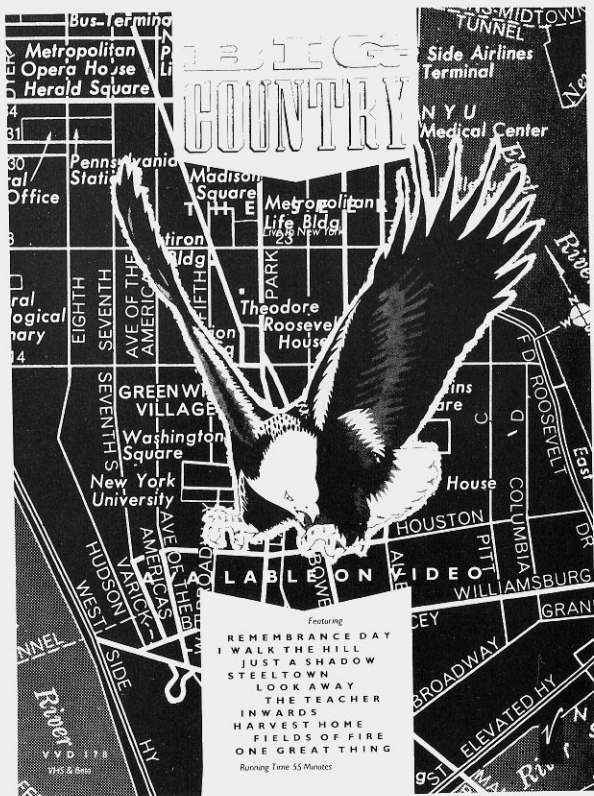
Side two opens with ONE GREAT THING which is one of the most powerful songs I've ever heard about the subject, peace. Again a more traditional Big Country flavour to it, but the songs power and forcefulness certainly convey Stuart's (and Tony's) thoughts. It is also refreshing to hear the rest of the lads have a stab at the vocals on the choruses.

Following this is a slow number HOLD THE HEART. Somehow I feel that Big Country feel uneasy when it comes to slow numbers, and subsequently this uneasiness makes the song a bit cumbersome. On the positive side, the song does give us a breather from the powerful, rocking tunes which precede and follow it. One could almost say, it provides a bit of light relief. *(scuse me for chipping in here, but... I think this is a wonderful track, I think Stuart's romantic side is brilliantly portrayed. It is far from uneasy and cumbersome. I speak on behalf of all the girls who wrote in as well as myself. My only criticism is that I feel it would have been better as a last track or followed by EILEDON. Just as your're floating off on a cloud of bliss you thud down to earth shattered by Remembrance Day. Not pleasant. I'd rather retire on that cloud, having already rocked myself silly to R D, (I love that too, by the way) Andy)*

Next up is REMEMBRANCE DAY which is truly captivating. Marks drumming must get a mention here - although he should be praised for contribution throughout the album. On this track in particular, Mark's drumming aids, considerably, the powerful lyrics and guitar work. The song also contains a lot of energy and passion, this is reflected equally well on vinyl, as it is live. And this is no easy task!

THE RED FOX is the 'Porrohman' of the album because of the total change in tempo and direction in the middle of the song. Apart from this the song is another gem because, again, 'it's that bit different'; the power and passion that we have come to expect from Big Country, is ever present.

To close the album we have THE SAILOR. We see yet another change in tempo put to clever use; one minute we are sitting peacefully listening to a pleasant swaying tune, next we are treated to a fast, stormy, powerful tunewhich beautifully finishes and rounds off the album.



This is going to be news to a lot of you and boy am I going to suffer... The Club was allotted 150 tickets to watch Big Country play at the Limehouse studio for an American TV programme on the 15th October. As I said there were only 150 tickets and only a few days in which to give them out (they were free) so I had to stick to the South of England and a little way up the M1. Perhaps there will be a similar thing up North in the future when the Southern Jessies dip out, so don't get huffy with me I can't please all the people all the time, I try my damndest though honest I do.

Anyway just to make you really sick I'll tell you about it... I had to meet the lucky ones at Kings Cross Station at 6.15, I was late, I could not get a cab for love or money, I waited 45 minutes before one took pity on me, I was panicking. When I did get there it looked like the World and his brother had turned up and poor little me had to face this crowd all on me todd! I beamed in on Trusty Justy (Justin of Reading Riot Squad fame) he being tall and on the highest point of the path was able to hold up my BC placard, funny it didn't seem necessary, people seemed to know it was me, and after all these years of being told I was a bloke as well! Still the tickets were handed out so swiftly I hardly noticed how much I was shaking, and my loud whisper soon became a real good shout when calling out the names. On to the bus we got and away we went. We waited for the late ones as long as we dare, but sorry we couldn't wait any longer otherwise we would have missed the show, with the chance of not being allowed in. Well the poor buggars had to Q, but creepy me was able to get on the boat containing heat and a bar! YEH!

Our ever dependable Mr. Bartram will fill you in with the details of the show, NO I didn't remain in the bar for the rest of the night, I SWEAR!

When the cameras had finished mangling people, everybody was ushered 'into the night and nearly everybody got on the waiting coaches, all but 16 that turned into 19 and completely confused me. Well you naughty liggers you'll learn next time. Les came to the rescue and ordered 4 taxis which arrived a year later, and our famous 16/19 were whisked off into the horizon, 'cept the Reading Clots, they very gentlemanly gave up their cab to the 'extras' (Paula Finn and friends) and they went off in the back of a Police wagon (arrested for wantonly ligging after coach hours). Sorry Paula if I set a mild panic in your mind, but I had to let the people who were meeting trains go first, as it happens some of them spent the night in Kings Cross!! What became of the Reading Clots that's what I want to know??? Keith will you be letting me know? Please?? I think everyone who survived the cameras enjoyed themselves, it was a good jig. My evening ended wonderfully, my car broke down in the middle of London. Luckily I had some friends in a spare car available so I got home at 4.30 am. which is better than never I guess.

A BIG THANK YOU TO LES KING FOR ARRANGING COACHES AND CABS! AND BIG COUNTRY FOR PLAYING - IT WAS GREAT

"JUST A NORMAL THURSDAY EVENING"

AIM: To see Big Country at Rock City
MIKE: Hi Dawny
DAWN: Hello Mike, come in
MIKE: (reading Sounds) Wheres your sense of adventure
DAWN: Why where did you want to go?
MIKE: We can still make it to Rock City, the Boys are in Nottingham tonight.
DAWN: It's 7.30, I've got no money, work in the morning, the car might not make it, we'll miss most of the gig... OK lets go!

APPARATUS:

TSB Speedbank card, British Atlas, car, gas, one Seer cassette, sweets, lucozade, emergency fan belt, and we're away RRAazz...! down the motorway.

METHOD: As fast as possible.

RESULT

MIKE: We've blown it, the red ignition light is on, the headlights have gone - look how dark it is - the cassette must be draining the battery.
DAWN: (thinks) Quite possible when playing 'One Great Thing'.
MIKE* But we can't stop now, we're almost in Derby!
DAWN: We'll never get there now, take the next turn off the motorway and get to a garage...quick!
MIKE: I'll get out and have a look at the lights.
CAR: Cough, cough, splutter, groan...DEAD.

Stuck in the middle of nowhere, Spondon, Derby, as known to some. Our little car was parked in the middle of a posh Brookside Close. Curtains moved, living room lights went on, they were looking down on 'Flintstone's deluxe special mini'. We stayed put, the whole night.

CONCLUSION

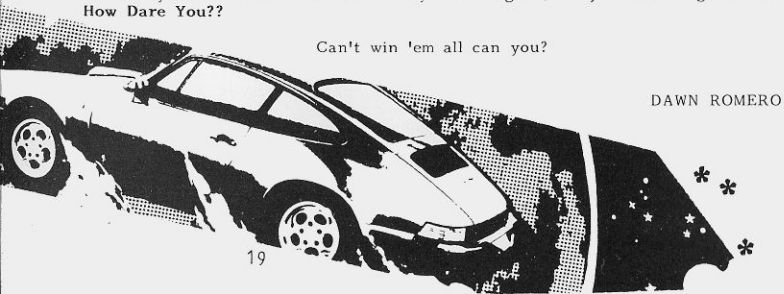
Mini was attacked by vicious mechanics ripping her guts out and giving her a dynamo transplant. To pay for her 'minor' operation we took a bus into Derby City centre and sold the car radio/cassette, and that still wasn't enough. I used my Speedbank card again.

People at work were NOT amused that afternoon. Honestly weren't these people ever young??

To everyone who went to Rock City 7th August, if you had a good time **How Dare You??**

Can't win 'em all can you?

DAWN ROMERO









7"

| | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| COUNT 1 | Harvest Home / Balcony | Sept 82 |
| COUNT 2 | Fields of Fire / Angle Park | Feb 83 |
| COUNT 3 | In a Big Country / All of Us | May 83 |
| COUNT 4 | Chance / Track of My Tears | Aug 83 |
| COUNT 5 | Wonderland / Giant | Jan 84 |
| MER 175 | East of Eden / Prairie Rose | Sept 84 |
| MER 185 | Where the Rose is Sown / Belief in the Small Man | Nov 84 |
| BC 08 | Just a Shadow / Winter Sky | Jan 85 |
| BIG C 1 | Look Away / Restless Natives | April 86 |
| BIG C 2 | The Teacher / Home Come the Angels | June 86 |
| BIG C 3 | One Great Thing / Song of the South | Sept 86 |
| FLEXI | Angle Park / Close Action (Texas 'live') available to club members only | Oct.86 |
| BIG C 4 | Hold the Heart / Honky Tonk Woman | Nov 86 |

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7" special editions

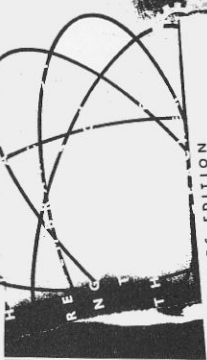
| | |
|----------|--|
| COUNT 55 | 2 X 7" Wonderland / Giant Lost Patrol / Lost Patrol (live) |
| MER 175p | Poster Sleeve. East of Eden / Prairie Rose |
| MERD 185 | 2 X 7". Where the Rose is Sown / Belief in the Small Man / Wonderland / Auld Lang Syne (live) In a Big Country |
| BIG C D1 | 2 X 7" Look Away / Restless Natives / Margos Theme / Highland Scenery |
| BIG C G3 | inc. Live photos in Gatefold SLeeve. One Great Thing / Song of the South |
| BIG C D3 | 2 X 7" One Great Thing / Song of the South Porrohman / Chance (live Texas) |
| BIG C E3 | 2 X 7" One Great Thing / Song of the South Wonderland / Inwards (live Texas) |

oOo

12" releases

| | |
|-----------|---|
| COUNT 12 | Harvest Home/Balcony/FLag of Nations (Swimming) |
| COUNT 212 | Fields of Fire (alt. mix)/Fields of Fire/Angle Park |
| COUNT 312 | In a Big Country (pure mix)/In a Big Country All of Us |
| COUNT 312 | In a Big Country/Heart and Soul/In a Big Country All of Us |
| COUNT 412 | Chance/ Tracks of my Tears/The Crossing |
| COUNT 512 | Wonderland/Wonderland/Giant |

- COUNT 5 (clear vinyl) Wonderland/Giant/Lost Patrol (live)
- MERX 175 East of Eden/East of Eden/Prairie Rose
- MERX 185 Where the Rose is Sown/Bass Dance/Belief in the Small Man
- BCO 812 Just a Shadow/Just a Shadow/Winter Sky
- BIG CX1 Look Away/Restless Natives (soundtrack part 1)
- BIG CX11 Look Away (outlaw mix)/Look Away 12" Restless Natives (soundtrack part 2)



And find them...
 Hold the heart of some
 I'll take a chance on time
 Hold out here for some
 Standing out of...

COLLECTORS EDITION

WONDERLAND
 BIG COUNTRY



H O L D H E A R

HONKY TONK
 THE ORIGINAL - PROFESSIONAL
 FAMILY EDITION, 12" DOG
 INCLUDES THE BIG COUNTRY



The New York City Edition
 includes a CD-ROM with
 the city map and
 the lyrics to the songs.



STEEL TOWN

Barry Gray was our winner. He correctly answered 19/20 of the questions which was better than Big Country, Stuart being the highest scorer with 'about' 16 (shame!).

The prize was a trip to Brussels to see Big Country play the last gig of their European tour, all expenses paid.

The sur-prize was, Barry and his friend Simon missed the plane!! Consequently I was seen to be accosting young males hanging around in couples at Gatwick Airport, and hanging around Maastricht airport waiting for no-one for no reason, with a face-full of disbelief. Barry and Simon had decided not to use the BR tickets they had been sent, so they got stuck in a traffic jam instead. Still it made a good conversation opener if nothing else. They suffered when they did arrive though, everybody but everybody took one out of them. HA HA HA. As it happens they didn't miss much and they arrived during the soundcheck. After a long chat with Stuart and a couple of photos we went for our 'crew meal' which was the hottest, hugest, this will sort the men out from the girlies curry I have ever eaten in my life, in fact there was a moment of doubt about who/what was going to eat who/what!!! Still that battle over it was time for the jig. Mike and Barry will tell you all about that. There was a bus load of Brits arranged by MGP, and most of them seemed to be the Reading Riot Squad. They got the place going as always and the band had a wow of a time at a gig they weren't particularly looking forward to for some reason peculiar to Belgium.

We travelled in the band bus back to our tres posh hotel accompanied by one Graham Iley, who had been on the whole of the tour. He is moving to the Bahamas soon, so had to make up for what he might miss while he's out there. If living in paradise isn't enough he ended up having Stuart's room for the night as Stuart was leaving that night. The rest of the band were flying the next day. We ended up in the bar for what seemed like the rest of the trip! the evening was ended with a bottle of champagne, is there any other way to end a perfect evening??

After about one z, we waved goodbye to the remaining bits of Big Country and then waited for our chaffer(?) to take us to our airplane. She should definately not take this up professionally. She was 45 minutes late, and then decided to read the map rather than look at the road ahead, and she was going fast by the way because we were late...S-C-A-R-Y. Then she thought it better to watch the road and read the signs, they must have been the wrong colour or something because she ignored them all and made her own way up, we got lost..... we got to the airport with 10 minutes to spare, but the flight was delayed for 1/2 hour so nobody noticed.

It was great and as Stuart said "We should do this more often".

- Explosives, munitions, fireworks and flares
- Handguns
- Ammunition including blank cartridges
- Fireworks
- Paint cans
- Flammable liquids and solids such as lighter fuel, matches, paints, thinners, fire-lighters
- Lighters that need recharging before ignition
- Lighter fuel
- Lighter refills
- Matches may be carried on the person
- Radioactive materials
- Brief-cases and attache cases with installed alarm devices

Boarding Pass

GHT No. VS 201
E
SMOKING SEAT No.

S
Boarding Pass

'HT No. VS 201

SMOKING SEAT No.
S
SMOKING
S

SEE BELOW FOR AIR FORM SERIAL NO. ABTRAN TR HAYCS UK. 91-2 05

DATE OF ISSUE: 24 SEP 86

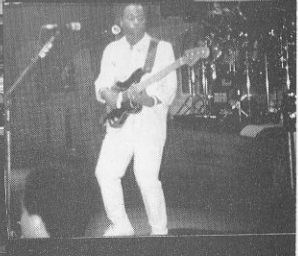
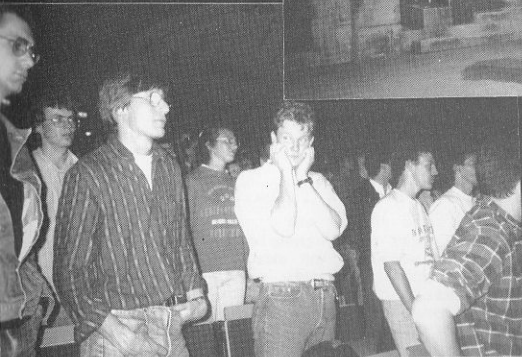
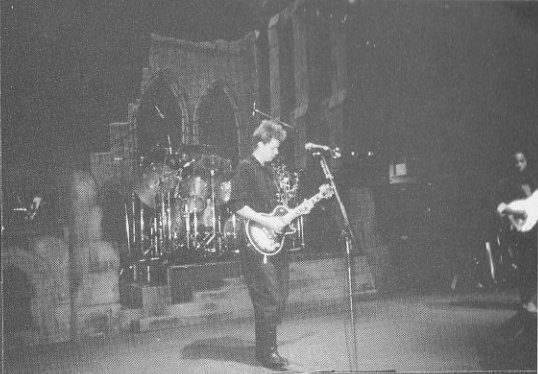
NAME: Mr. A. Marshall

FLIGHT: Gatwick - Maastricht - Gatwick

| CLASS | FARE BASIS | CARRIER | FLIGHT/CLASS | DATE | TIME | STATUS |
|-------|------------|---------|--------------|-------|------|--------|
| Y | VS | 238 | 01 | 13-45 | OK | |
| Y | VS | 201 | 01 | 13-45 | OK | |
| Y | VS | 201 | 02 | | | |

Virgin Atlantic

320745731



Having been a big fan of Big Country since the days of Harvest Home, I'd managed to come up with answers to all the questions without too much trouble, so I entered into the spirit of things and sent off my entry. I was very surprised to get a phone call from Andy a week or so later, saying I'd won and that the prize was to see Big Country play in Brussels. A quick check with my mate Simon, who comes along to all the gigs with me, and a few minor snags out of the way, like not being able to turn up on the first day of my new job, and we're ready to go. What a great way to chalk up my 25th Big Country gig!

We set off for the midday flight from Gatwick with plenty of time to spare, and everything seemed to be going smoothly until we hit a traffic jam, which we soon discovered to be 20 miles long on the M25. The minutes (and hours) ticked by as we crawled along bumper to bumper, "We are not going to make it". We were getting desperate so agreeing to split the fine if we were stopped by the filth, we drove the last stretch to the turn-off on the hard shoulder. It was all in vain, when we arrived at 12.05 we were told that our flight had gone. OH SHIT!

After frantic phone calls we were back in business, another flight was arranged for four hours later.

We were met at Brussels airport by a couple of guys from the record company, and they whisked us away to the nearby venue, where we finally met up with Andy, and put up with a barrage of stick for being late. *(not just from me you understand but from everyone in Brussels!!)*.

The gig was at the university but it was a bit different from the University Halls at home as it was a Lecture Hall and didn't look as though it would hold much over 1,000 people. The band were doing the soundcheck when we arrived -so this is when they play the B-sides: Winter Sky, Restless Natives, All of Us, etc.

Afterwards we chatted with Stuart, who seemed pleased to see us all. *(amazed would be more appropriate - hint at kind of stick given at the time!)* The rest of the European Tour had gone really well and tonight was the last gig. Stuart assured us that even though they'd been very active during 1986, **Big Country will not be taking next year off!**

There was a short wait until the gig kicked off, as there was no support band. There were a few empty seats at the back of the hall when the band came on, but the front rows were occupied by some very enthusiastic Brits, who more than made up for the lack of local support.

Tonight's set was the same as that on the last British Tour starting off with the dynamic Wonderland, Fields of Fire and Where the Rose is Sown. Then a couple of the best songs from The Seer: Remembrance Day and my current favourite I Walk On The Hill, Just A Shadow and Steeltown were followed by Look Away, which got most of the locals going. They also managed to sing along to Chance pretty well, before the evergreen Porrohman and mysterious The Teacher. In a Big Country, Inwards and Harvest Home bringing the set to a rousing finish. The encores were the highlight for

me, starting with my first chance to hear the (then) current single One Great Thing, which just about summed up our day. The Storm was followed by a real treat, the first time they have ever played Restless Natives live. It sounded ace to me, and I hope to hear it a few more times in the future. The audience did quite well keeping up Lost Patrol, before the band returned for the last time to play Tracks of my Tears, Honky Tonk Woman and the amazing scratch version of Fields of Fire, which now even includes the riff from Run DMC's, Walk This Way!

Afterwards, we met the lads backstage and travelled with them on the tour bus to the hotel, which was a real five star job. Stuart left to catch a ferry back to England, but the others weren't returning until the next day so we met up with them in the hotel bar, where we stayed until the small hours. Here we were entertained by a wailing Belgie at a piano, who became increasingly irritating as the evening progressed, he didn't even do requests (well not ours anyway!) Another character we came accross insisted on extolling the virtues of French cigaretttes as opposed to the Belgian variety, and also recommended the Trappist Monk's beer, they didn't have any behind the bar which was handy!

In spite of not getting much sleep, we decided to get up early(ish), so that we could have a look around Brussels before going home. The flight back was from Maastricht (*It was in as well, if you caught the right plane!!*) in Holland, and although there were no traffic jams on the road this time, we only just made it. Our driver who seemed to be trying to break the land speed record in a Citroen, had a bit of trouble finding the airport, and at one stage we nearly ended up in the back of lorry. We were all feeling pretty tired by now and were soon on our way back to England, reality and another tailback on the M25.

I'd like to say thank you to Big Country and everyone else involved in organising the trip. We had a really great time. THANK YOU.

BARRY GRAY



VUB REPORT

M.G.P. were fully booked and Concert Promotions had cancelled their trip, the only way to see Big Country in Brussels was to make our own way. The search for the V.U.B. (which was the only information we had) started with a Liverpool to Dover coach on Monday afternoon. We changed at London and arrived in Dover at 8.00pm.

With our Euro-Rovers we boarded the Ostend Ferry for the 10pm sailing, which was a four hour trip. Weighed down with millions of Belgian francs we got into Ostend at shortly after 2am. It was good to see that the first train into Brussels was as early as 4am so a two hour wait wasn't too bad. What wasn't so good was that half my money had gone on the fare. The train journey took a couple of hours. Trying to get some sleep was impossible as the train became full of wide awake, alert commuters. Their sprightly, happy nature for such an early hour was disturbing.

The large train station in Brussels was cold and deserted so we made our way out to find a nearby cafe. A friendly waitress gave us written details on a beer mat on how to find the V.U.B. The first thing to do was to find the right tram. A #90 was required and on the tram a co-passenger after reading the beer mat, told us where to get off (??). At last at about 8.30am we found the VUB (Vilrije University Buildings, YIPPEE!, a University gig with lots of students.

With about 12 hours to wait for the concert, we constantly toured the University complex trying to keep warm and stay awake. After many visits to the cafe, we eventually fell asleep on some concrete benches near to the Trans-Am trucks.

During our rest the weather really changed, we awoke with 'bronzies' and the sun was beating down. We spoke to Les King, he told us the band would be arriving at about 5.30pm, which they did. The soundcheck followed about half an hour later, so we followed on in to watch. The venue was very small and an all seater. Each seat had a pull down table, this was probably so the students could lean on something for a decent kip during lectures. Big Country were really relaxed during the soundcheck, this was the last date of a three week European tour, so maybe that had something to do with this fun-filled soundcheck. The band took everyone by surprise by breaking into a totally unheard version of 'Winter Sky'. There was slight setback when Stuart (or anyone else) couldn't remember the lyrics, despite this they ran through the song a few times and it sounded superb.

As the soundcheck came to an end, the competition winner, Barry Gray and his friend Simon Ashdown were introduced to Stuart. The atmosphere was distinctly British, especially as about a dozen fans with M.G.P. had bunked in. Shortly after Big Country left the stage, the rest of the crowd started to come in. There was no support act so there wasn't too long to wait before BC were on. The rest of the travelling fans from Britain took over the front couple of rows, so we all had a great view at the foot of the stage. At 8.15 BC came on to a rousing reception and went immediately into 'Wonderland'. Big Country were playing the usual 'Seer Tour' set and were in top form. They even included a couple of extra tracks. The first was a knock out version of 'Restless Natives' which sounded even better live than the vinyl product. What a future single it would make.

The second newie was 'One Great Thing' and before BC played it, Stuart dedicated it to the fans who were a long way from home, a great gesture and one accepted with massive appreciation from the followers it was meant for.

Big Country gave everything they had on stage, to think it had been a year of constant touring, it's incredible to think they can still put so much into their performance. The gig ended with 'Fields of Fire' (scratch mix) and Big Country left to a great send off.

It was now time to rush out and try and make the last train to Brussels. Our tram, however, was not in time to catch the 11.30 service, that meant we had missed the overnight ferries. The next train into Ostend was at 5.30am, the only form of shelter was the customary freezingcold waiting room, sleeping bags for Christmas please Santa.

We eventually got into Ostend early Wednesday morning and got the 10pm ferry back to Dover. After two coaches we finally got back to Liverpool at about midnight. Our three day trek had come to an end, we enjoyed every minute of it.



ONE GREAT THING

THE VIDEO



Friday, 8th August 1986

Nottingham

The first scene to be filmed was the 'live performance'. Stuart, Bruce and Tony listened to the directors ideas, promptly dismissed them, took their positions and did their own thing. It's going to be one of those days...

The track had to be run through a couple of times to begin with so that the camera and lights could get 'in tune', but this was only one of many hold ups; demands for more dry ice, the make up lady running amock swabbing brows like a manic surgeons assistant, Big Country being involved. Little things like that made this scene the longest to shoot.

The guitar solo was lengthened by Stuart and Bruce getting over enthusiastic with their now familiar back-to-back routine and ended up, more than once flat on their backs. Mark was being filmed for his individual bits aided by Stuart and Bruce standing out of shot putting him off - Mark won through in the end.

Big Country were without doubt in high spirits. Between takes there was plenty of entertainment. Bruce decided to do some 'filming' of his own, with his assistant Mark pushing him around full speed on an equipment case, they collided with some other cases and as always it ended in tears... Stuart produced a pair of holographic glasses, turned up the brim of his hat and gave a very convincing performance of a dirty old man. Then came his farmyard impressions: "Get off that ***** tractor!"



"THE FOUR TOPS DANCE, NOW ITS BRUCES TURN TO get it WRONG"



WARMING UP FOR THE PRESSING ROOM SCENE MARK HAS GONE TO LOOK FOR SOME DRUMSTICKS

Time to for a wardrobe change for Tony's 'Four Tops' dance routine. A lot of other ideas were considered: A Bucks Fizz, with Stuart and Tony ripping skirts off of Mark and Bruce, and a Dr and the Medics, the Ladder dance. Of course even with a firm decision made it didn't stop Stuart burstin into 'Fame', leaving one member of the crew dazed and confused muttering things like, I'm gonna work for a serious band like New Model Army. They got there in the end and it was time for the 'Studio' scene.

A Mock studio was made out of some screens and a microphone. The band suitably attired in 'street-cred' outfits sang in true Band-Aid style, which Stuart demonstrated with a rendition of 'Feed the World'. On to the dressing room scene for an 'impromptu' jamming session. It was so 'impromptu' that Mark had to go back to the hotel to get some drumsticks and change his T-shirt as it was too bright for the cameras. Tony played guitar and Mark played coke cans and anything else available.



THE MOCK STUDIO SCENE

THE BLOKE HERE IS
STORMS' THE

DIRECTOR



THE BAND
IN BETWEEN GROUP →
SHOTS

- FAR LEFT: LISA THE MAKEUP GIRL
WHO WAS ALWAYS RUNNING
AFTER BRUCE!

NEXT - THE BLOKE WITH THE HAT:
SOME PUNCE BLOKE CO-DIRECTING
OR SOMETHING (I THINK?)

FAR RIGHT - A DRY-ICE 'WAFER'!



Finally it was 'location' filming, with some 'Summer Holiday' shots on the bus, Bruce doing a send up of a Robert Palmer video with a middle aged woman playing guitar behind him in a Community Centre 'somewhere'. On to a park, the director decided the deer should be included and Bruce was given the instruction to herd them in the right direction, some people never learn...

Incredibly, the approximately four minutes of finished 'product' we eventually get to see, took 10 hours to film.

It was a memorable day, one we shan't forget in a hurry.

Paula Finn

Karen O'Connor

Babs How



L · E · T · T · E · R · S



Shame the kids from the colleges weren't there, they don't know what they missed. When BC did come on stage, Bruce strolled on looking like something out of an old John Wayne movie complete with ten-gallon hat and steele toed boots, he removed his hat later to reveal his stunning new hairstyle... lovely!. There was Stuart looking like something out of the gestapo with his high boots and hat...

I'm sure everyone will agree with me that, for such a short playing time BC packed a lot in. My mate enjoyed it so much that she has decided to join the Country Club.

Apart from the flying cameramen, a few bruises and being to short to touch Stuart's hand I really enjoyed myself.

Oh! while I'm here Hi and thanks to Gary who gave me his place at the front.

Thank you Big Country and Country Club for a great free gig, how about a few more? Nice meeting you Andy.

Emma Jane Doherty

-oOo-

Dear Andy

Many thanks for #12, I thought Bruce's diary was great as usual, and the other news and reviews also made good reading. I've just one complaint, the letters page, I could hardly read some of them. I'll excuse the slight error about the new songs at the Reading gig, as you did such a good job with the tickets. Keep up the good work and roll on #13.

Barry Gray

-oCo-

Dear Andy

I would like to know other people's names and addresses from Australia that are in the Country Club. Male or female 18+, from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Fe Skoufa
4 Fernshaw St
Macgregor
Brisbane 4109
Queensland
Australia

Hi Mike

Well, you wanna know what I think of '86? I'm gonna tell you, whether you do or not... It's the year BC made the come back the cynics said would never happen, also the fans proved their worth by the support they gave the band.

I finally got front row tickets for a gig in Edinburgh Playhouse 23rd March, thanks to the fan club, and I actually managed to shake hands with Stuart. The Barrowlands gig and the long awaited third album, which was well worth the wait. Plus three excellent singles. Last but not least, issue 12 of the mag, which, by the way is a masterpiece. The onloy slight mishap was the wild goose chase after the B/lands tickets. All the way to Glasgow XXX miles to find no tickets available. A very rude guy from Regular Music said, "In his opinion it was up to him when the tickets went on sale and the fan club had no right saying when they'd be out". Needless to say, I told him what I thought of his opinion and where he could stuff it, very politely of course. All was forgiven when I eventually got my mits on the tickets.

Well, on the whole '86 has been an absolutely fab year so far and I'm sure it's gonna end on a high with the December gigs.

Thanks Big Country for making '86 a year to remember, I hope '87 will be as good.

Lorraine Dickson

-oOo-

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin and Julie Brown on the birth of their son 'Callum', named after the son of a certain member of the group.

Justine Austin

-oOo-

Dear Andy

Thank you and everyone else involved in the Limehouse event. Lets hope we showed the Yanks how to enjoy Big Country.

Does anyone know of an older BC gig goer than my friend George he's 72.!!

Steve Boyd

Dear Andy

I have just received issue 12 of the mag. It's superb! Smaller, but much better quality, the contents as well as the glossy appearance. It was along time coming but it was well worth the wait. The articles made very good reading, very informative as well as a great laugh, Bruce's diary was really funny. Within seconds of opening the envelope I had forgiven you, you made my day. I have one complaint, that is the letter page, it was a bit of a strain on the eyes. Most of the letters were about Don Mitchell's comments I bet you received many more, most of them unsuitable for printing! It's good to have a bit of criticism but all he did was slag BC, not a good word, there must be something wrong with him.

I have only praise for BC, they outshine all other groups in my opinion and they continually produce magnificent quality material which raises the spirits, especially mine. Even my mum whistles the tunes, particularly, 'In a Big Country' and she doesn't usually like 'pop' music. I like 'The Seer' more than 'Steeltown' which I considered to be rather raw sounding 'Seer' is more like 'The Crossing' in overall sound.

Some people say all the songs sound the same, but you only have to listen carefully and it becomes obvious that no two songs are alike. Certain songs may be out of the same mould, the superb new single 'One Great Thing' and 'Walk the Hill' are, to me similar in style as 'Harvest Home' but compare the singles: 'East of Eden' to 'In a Big Country', 'Wonderland' to 'Just a Shadow', 'Look Away' to 'Fields of Fire'. It's distinctly BC but no two songs are the same. Some critics just have a go at BC, they do not appreciate how good they are, they are a league above anyone else, particularly the 'Disco Drivel'. I like something with a bit of action and BC always deliver the goods.

I was lucky enough to attend two BC gigs this year. These being, Guildford Civic Hall, and Portsmouth Guildhall. The latter being the best day in my life (so far). The only criticism I have being that the tour programme was the same on both tours, including the advert for 'Look Away' when the 'Teacher' was about to be released. The only difference was the four new pages in the centre.

It's the third time I've seen BC in Concert, the first being in December 1984 at Brighton, they seem to get better and better and always give excellent value for money.

The Pompey gig, my home territory, was such an experience, it was overwhelming. I was proud to witness and be part of the concert, you feel like part of the band when you are singing along. The whole event was just a magnificent party, I'm sure the band did not want to leave.

The security were a bit of a pain at both the gigs in '86, they continually moved amongst the crowd even looking out from the stage at people with no intention of doing any harm. There was a terrible shock halfway through 'Harvest Home', as the band were weaving around each other Stuart was caught accidentally by Tony's bass, Stuart collapsed but recovered to finish the song, then the band went off, they returned after a while to a great cheer Stuart said "Ouch" and the cheer rose higher. BC started up again and finished the show.

The local paper said the next day 'You had to be there' which I think says it all for those who were. It was terrific. Thank you very much Big Country.

Chris Bryan

-oOo-

Dear Andy

I am just writing to say how much I enjoyed the concert at the Limehouse, even if I didn't get home until 3 am Thursday morning. It was good to see new tracks in the set, especially 'Restless Natives', about time a B-side got better coverage. Hopefully more 'one off' concerts can be arranged for members.

Mark Danter

-oOo-

Dear Andy

I'm just writing to say thanks for a great gig by Big Country. I'm talking of course, about the Limehouse gig films for the U.S. Colleges (15th Oct.). I really had a great evening and a memorable one too.

As always for a BC gig, the atmosphere was 100% full swing. For such a small crowd BC really made a meal of their playing time.

Dear Andy

Last night we went to see BC at the RDS Dublin. We had been looking forward to this concert since BC were last in Ireland (December '84) almost two years ago! We want BC to know that they made last night very special for us. Not only did they play a spectacular concert, but after 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ years we finally got to meet them. When the concert was over we waited outside to see if we could meet the group. After about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour we met Alan Edwards and Ian Grant, we have to say that these are two of the nicest people we have met. They were extremely kind to us and helpful, telling us that maybe if we went around the back we would meet the group and if so they would certainly sign some things for us. Right enough Stuart and Tony stopped their car for the few of us there and they signed our programmes and were very friendly to us. We hope to meet Bruce and Mark next time.

although we thanked Stuart and Tony there and then for the wonderful night there is still so much more we would like to say to them. To us, Big Country mean much more than just a sound and we are very grateful to them for the joy they have given us and the sincerity they have shown us. Big Country are loved over here, PLEASE come back soon.

Carmel Little & Ashlie Hill

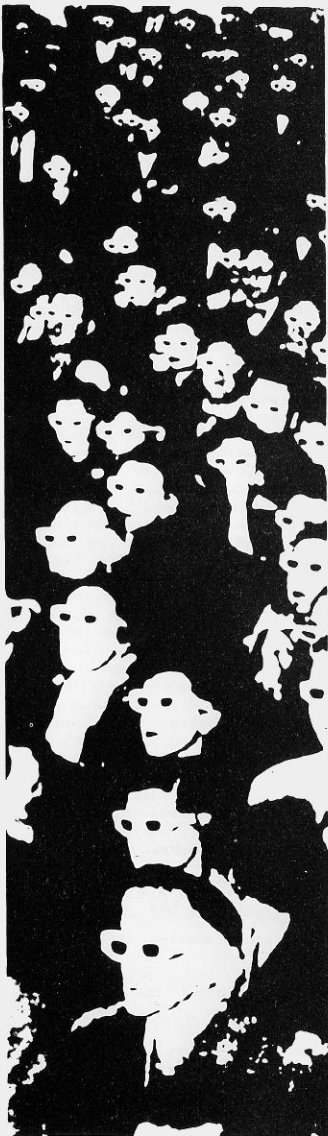
We too felt there was still room for improvement on the mag. Hopefully you have been able to read the letters this time. 1986 has been a good year hasn't it, and Big Country definately made up for 1985. Keep your letters coming in we really do listen to what you have to say.

STUART, BRUCE, TONY and MARK would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and wish you all the best of luck for the New Year.

Thank you for your wonderful support and friendship.

XXXXX

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P E N P A L S W A N T E D

NEIL DODD

AGE 19

Likes: U2, OMD, Sport, and travelling.

Dislikes: Anyone who doesn't like Big Country

MAUREEN CANNON

AGE 18

Likes: Hipsway, Communards, Smiths.

Dislikes: same as Neil (funny that!)

IAN HOPKINS

AGE 18

Likes: Simple Minds, U2, Alarm, Mr Mister, Outfield.

Dislikes: Madonna, Duran Duran, George Michael

GLYN BARLOW

Likes: U2, Cult, Bauhaus, Young Ones, record collecting and most new wave music

Dislikes: DD, CC, Spandau Ballet, Prince, Madonna, Squares, Nerds and Thatcher.

ANGELA SLINGER

AGE 19

DEBBIE LAMB

AGE 18

SONJAR L. HARVEY

AGE 25

Likes: Reading, music, Dancing, Joan Armatrading, Being near water.

Dislikes: Crap music, taking pictures
Studying, headaches, Looking
at raw liver.

U.S.A.

it is understood that these people all like Big Country isn't it??
after all this is the Country Club magazine and all above are members

RIGHT?/RIGHT!

On Wednesday, October 15th, Big Country played to an audience of 200 at the Limehouse Studios in London's West India Docks. The event was broadcast live via satellite by CSN (College Satellite Network) and was sponsored by Pepsi Cola. Also on the programme were Buddy Curtess and the Grasshoppers (who replaced Spandau Ballet) and videos of Simple Minds and Simply Red.

WEST INDIA

NEW BILLINGSGATE FISH MARKET

Top of the bill of course were Big Country, which is why the Fan Club was issued with the majority of the tickets. These tickets were limited to 150 and were given free to club members on a first ring first served basis.

These tickets were limited on a first ring first served basis.

SECTION DOCKS

The Limehouse Studio was very upmarket and in the reception there were lots of photos taken from famous programmes filmed on the premises. There were also crates and crates of free Pepsi everywhere. Before the cameras started to roll the crowd were asked to do several loud cheers in order to check the sound levels. The real cheers came at 9.45 when Big Country came on.

Big Country's playing time was scheduled for an hour so several of the numbers were left out. As expected, the omitted songs were the longer tracks, i.e. Porrohman, The Storm, The Teacher, F.O.F. (scratch), plus the groups cover versions of Tracks of My Tears and Honky Tonk Woman (Sob!). It was great though to see Restless Natives still included in the material that was performed.

The small crowd lucky to be present joined BC in singing Auld Lang Syne before the satellite link finished. The Club members that attended the Limehouse were treated to a great evening, not only did they see Big Country in action, but the pure nature of the concert made it a privilege to be there.



At the time of writing (Mid. Oct.) the Big Country U.K. Discography stands at 11 singles and 3 Albums. These records officially appear in 43 variations. Those fans and collectors who bought the 12" Almanac copy of 'One Great Thing' can put the valium away, the discography include in the sleeve is incorrect. Rest assured 'Harvest Home' and 'Fields of Fire' were not issued in clear vinyl. This issue of Country Club includes a full and precise UK listing of all Big Country's releases. I've put the records in an order that will be easy to follow, you will be able to see at a glance what is needed to complete your collection. Issue 14 of the mag will feature an article on Imports.

All UK 7" singles are fairly easy to obtain in mint condition from specialist 'oldies' dealers, there are however, some label variations on a couple of the later singles. Although some people won't find this important, to certain collectors it could well be crucial. Early copies of 'Look Away' came with hand orange global design, whereas later copies had a plain silver label. 'The Teacher' followed a similar pattern, early copies had a blue global design, and later issues had a plain label.

Big Country to date have released five 7" double packs and two further records with special sleeves. 'The Rose' double pack in the yellow sleeve is the hardest to find and sells for around £5. 'East of Eden' in the poster sleeve is another record not easy to obtain, the other five 7" special editions shouldn't prove difficult to get hold of.

The 12" releases total 16, up to and including three formats of 'One Great Thing'. Without question the outstanding rarity in this section is the 12" 'In A Big Country' (4 track edition). This record in a plain red cover is the only vinyl release in the UK to include 'Heart and Soul'. If you are looking for this particular record in mint condition, the asking price will be between £8-15. As usual, shop around the secondhand stalls and record fayres, you may get lucky and find it for a lot less.

In the shaped or picture disc category, Big Country have just three items. 'Look Away' described as a 7" cut out disc is easy to find. The Scotland shape picture disc of 'Fields of Fire' and the 12" picture disc of 'Chance' are not too difficult to find but are quite expensive. Don't pay over the true value for these records. I've seen early picture discs sell at record fayres for £5-8. In the October edition of 'Record Collector' one dealer was selling 'Chance' (PD) for £15, which is way over the odds. The same dealer want £12.50 for the 'Rose' double pack, which again is much too expensive.

On the album front, Big Country'S 3 albums are available in six different ways. The only album which is 'collectable' and therefore hard to obtain is 'The Crossing' in the red sleeve.

All of Big Country's singles and albums are issued in several forms other than the copy available in the shops. These are **very** collectable and can be quite expensive. The easiest of these to obtain are the 12" white labels, which normally sell for £5 or £6. These 'promo's' are always widely available at Record Fayres. More expensive and harder to find are one side album promo's or 'test pressings' which sell for around £10-15. Acetates with official studio labels (containing hand written credits) are very rare, they sell for between £15-30.



Even more rare than acetates, because of the limited pressings, are, special preview discs. Prior to the release of 'The Crossing' a 12" White label, numbered sides 1 and 2 like a standard promo, featured 'Chance/Inwards'. These discs are issued as a 'sampler' from a forthcoming L.P. and will fetch a very high asking price. The 'Chance/Inwards' record is the only one I know of, in preview form. If anyone knows of any other rare back to back tracks, drop me a line. I'm sure BC collectors would be eager to know about it.

That's all on the UK scene. If you have any BC rarities from this country please let me know and I'll include the details in the next issue of Country Club. To make the Import article more interesting, I'd also like you to send in your import lists. The article on foreign goodies will be full of surprises. Did you know, fo instance, that in Canada 'Fields of Fire' 7" was backed with... 'Close Action'. More about that in #14.

HAPPY HUNTING



I thought I'd go on the back page for a change... Instead of saying hello I'll start with...

Goodbye

This is me 'ere, is that you there?

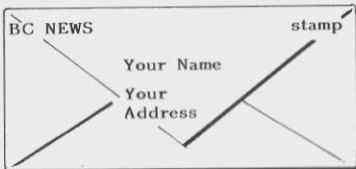
Thank you for all your Christmas cards. Hope you've had a wow of a Christmas and that 1987 will be your best year yet. I'm being a bit sneaky here because I know that this won't be getting to you until after the seasonal celebrations.

Did you enjoy the December tour? Of course you did what a silly question. I went to Birmingham, brilliant, the audience was great and Big Country were great, what more can you ask? Tony and Mark were really exhausted they enjoyed it too. Bruce went to bed almost before he got off stage and Stuart, well I think he too was tired but he's always exuberant after a show so you can't tell. I've never seen them so fagged out (no sniggers from our American readers please, it means worn out/exhausted over here, OK? OK!). They are really having a good time on this tour, thanks to you wonderful lot out there. The new set is brilliant isn't it?

I asked if there were any future plans, but no-one knows yet, rest assured you will be told as soon as something concrete comes up. Which brings me neatly to the next bit...

You have all been asked to send in an S.A.E. for information, some of you did and some of you didn't. Well, to those that did - they've now been used and we need another for future use. To those that didn't - don't write to me and complain when you don't hear the latest snippet of news, send one in now.

This is what you do:



If you live in **Eire** send in 1 IRC instead of a stamp.

Europe send 2 IRC's

Rest of World send 3 IRC's

If you write in and need a reply PLEASE enclose an SAE. I mean it this time NO SAE - NO REPLY. Moan over.

STAY ALIVE

or

Don't go to Heaven in '87

lots of love

Andy XX
MOTHER





COUNTRY
CLUB

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