

COUNTRY CLUB

1991



issue 20

*Hello
everyone,*

Stuart, Tony and Bruce write to their fans:-

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year. Also, many thanks for all the Christmas cards.

Since the last issue of COUNTRY CLUB, we have been writing further songs and demoin. We met with various producers just prior to Christmas and we are glad to be able to tell you we have just started recording our fifth studio album (18th February 1991) with Pat Moran. Pat has worked with many artists in the past such as Iggy Pop, Lou Gramm and Edie Brickell. There can be no promises as to when it will be released, suffice to say when it is finished to our satisfaction it will be delivered to Phonogram and they and our management will decide on a schedule. What can you expect? GUITAR and more GUITAR. This time we will be going for a more "live" sound. You'll just have to wait and see.

Thanks to all those letter writers out there. Afraid we haven't gotten to answer them all so here's a couple of replies to some of the questions we've been asked that may interest others.

Phil Read (Membership No. 000100) - We'd be only too happy for a "Country Club Convention". What are your thoughts? We've taken this idea up with Jan but would like to hear from you as well.

Some of you have asked about facilities at concerts for those people in wheelchairs. At some venues, the facilities aren't very good but we will always do our best to accommodate so let us know if you have had any problems at our concerts.

We've had several letters from the Gulf in the last month or so. A special mention to Andrew Hudson and Pete Beck. Hope you're home as soon as possible.

Finally, welcome to all you new subscribers to COUNTRY CLUB. We hope to see all of you very soon.

STAY ALIVE, Stuart, Tony and Bruce.



Hi,

I realise that I have previously told you that Chris Kimsey was to produce the new album but he was busy working on another project. As I have said before, things alter so frequently that it does prove very difficult to keep you all absolutely up-to-date. But now you have heard it direct from the Band.

As some of you will have read in my newsheets sent out in the Hot News envelopes, or with merchandise etc., we are hoping to be able to release "RIVER OF HOPE" on video available PURELY THROUGH THE FAN CLUB. Many of you have shown interest in buying a copy should this prove feasible so, anyone else who would be interested in buying a copy of this (previously released on Compact Disc Video only), please drop me a line so I can gauge how many copies we should order. Until such time as we have a better idea of how many copies, I'm afraid I can't tell you the price but it shouldn't prove too expensive.

"RESTLESS NATIVES" - there is a good chance that this could be released on a mid-priced CD in the near future but still no dates, sorry.

The Town And Country gig which was televised by BSB a few months ago is likely to be networked by Central T.V. but still no definite idea when.

May I take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all of the Christmas cards you so kindly sent - I had to buy a load more drawing pins etc. so that I could pin them all up on the wall which really made the office look very, very festive. Thank you.

Since the last fanzine, I have received and dealt with all of the old back-log of mail from Paulette (for new members, Paulette was my predecessor) and I would like to say how sorry I was to read some of those letters and to thank those of you who have stuck with the Club regardless of its "resting period".

Kirsty Grant is feeling a whole lot better and she has asked me to send her thanks for all of your good wishes.

Recently released was a video of Jerry Lee Lewis's concert at the Hammersmith Odeon in November 1989. As some of you will know, Stuart made a guest appearance. This really is an excellent music video. The KILLER still has his old magic and truly is one of the all time pioneers of Rock 'n' Roll. There are fifteen songs including "Great Balls Of Fire", "Johnny B. Goode", "Chantilly Lace", "Good Golly Miss Molly" and Lewis's own "High School Confidential". Stuart had a great time as you can see and was particularly thrilled to be playing with James Burton who was Elvis Presley's guitarist. The full line-up of guests were: Stuart, Van Morrison, Brian May, Dave Edmunds, Dave Davies, John Lodge, James Burton, Phil Chen, Jim Isbell and Ken Lovelace. The video is released on Telstar Video Entertainment (catalogue number TVE 1031) and retails at the usual £9.99.

Nippon Phonogram in Japan are shortly to be releasing a special pack of four C.Ds. This will contain all the band's albums plus a number of 12 s. Just about all the major acts on Phonogram are doing the same. It is being done to celebrate Nippon Phonogram's 25th Anniversary. Hopefully we will be able to acquire a few for future competitions.

Some of you will have noticed the Radio 1 ban on certain songs during the Gulf crisis, "Fields of Fire" being one of them. A ban is silly enough in itself but more stupid is to include this song. The song has no war connotation whatsoever. Trust Radio 1 to get its perspectives wrong.

"PEACE IN OUR TIME"?

It seemed that the events that unfolded in Russia and Eastern Europe since its release in 1988 were endorsing the title of the last album and, in particular, the cover. Is it prophetic or just uncanny coincidence that a U.S. fighter plane hovered above the terrain depicted on the sleeve, considering what's happening today?

Yes, Pat has left the Band but whether Mark is rejoining is still open for discussion. Make sure I have a "Hot News envelope" from you so that, as soon as anything is confirmed, I can let you know.

Before I sign off, many of you have written saying that you would like to see gig reviews in future magazines. I agree that this would be a great idea so, as and when the tour begins, we would love to print reviews from different venues so write to me with your thoughts on any concert you see.

Lotzaluv,

Jan

"We Save No Souls" fanzine.

Country Club and the group have no problem with the publication of this unofficial magazine. But do they have to continuously slag off the band and management? The point was taken a long time ago with regard to the mess Country Club found itself in. Stop bleating, please.

Centrespread photo (by Ian Dickson) - Stuart and Dave Davies at the Jerry Lee Lewis gig at the Odeon, Hammersmith.

Here are the answers to:-

A FEW POSERS

(compiled by D. Chinery Membership No 000369)

- Q On which Prime Mover's track did Stuart play?
A "Dark Western Night".
- Q Who supported the Band on the "Under Wraps" Tour?
A The Wonderstuff.
- Q With which Band did Pat tour extensively in 1986/87?
A Ultravox.
- Q Which Big Country video was filmed in Swanage, Dorset?
A "In A Big Country".
- Q At which venue was the "Whistle Test Special" filmed in April 1986?
A Reading Hexagon.
- Q What was the Official Big Country book called?
A "A Certain Chemistry".

A FEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST ISSUE

- Q
BRUCE
STUART
TONY
PAT
- What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
Sincerity.
All virtues are underrated.
Sincerity.
Honesty.
- Q
BRUCE
STUART
TONY
PAT
- With which historical figure do you most identify?
Vlad The Impaler, Dustin The Unicyclist.
Robert The Bruce.
Harry Flashman.
Bruce's Spider.
- Q
BRUCE
STUART
TONY
PAT
- When and where were you happiest?
When I was fifteen and had just left school.
Here and now.
Maternity Ward, August 29th 1983.
When behind the drums.
- Q
BRUCE
STUART
TONY
PAT
- How would you like to die?
Quickly.
Understanding what was happening.
With no prior knowledge and no consequential pain.
Live on T.V.

EMBROIDERED BASEBALL JACKETS

We have organised our own embroidered **BIG COUNTRY JACKETS** with tens of thousands of multi-coloured stitches on a breast logo and all across the back. This jacket is a college-style baseball jacket with burgundy body and grey sleeves in melton cloth with knitted cuffs, waistband and collar and with a stud fastening front. The back will have the "BIG COUNTRY" logo and the breast will have "COUNTRY CLUB". Altogether great jackets, and excellent value.

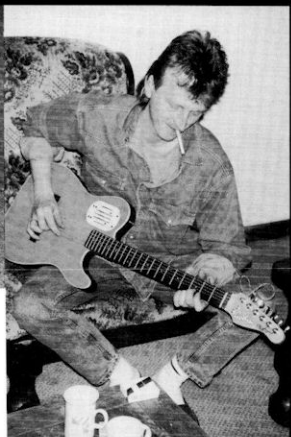
PRICE £59.50 PLUS Post and Packing

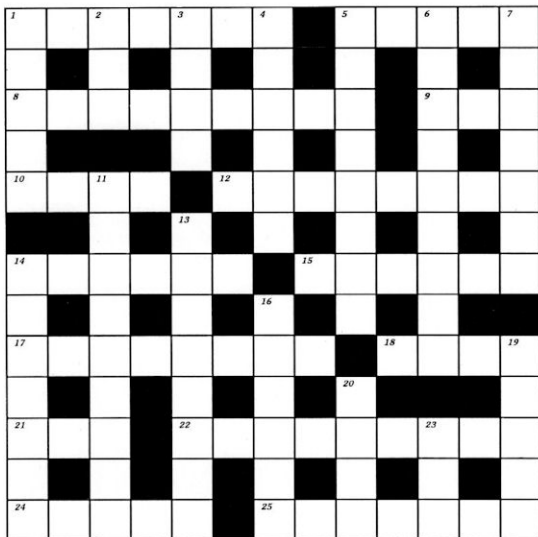
£ 2.75 U.K.

£ 5.00 Europe

£ 3.00 Elsewhere (surface)

£10.00 Elsewhere (air)





ACROSS

1. King Of
5. Bank Robbers Or Police and Thieves
8. Crossing classic.
9. Mongrel.
10. A Thousand Stare
12. Clinging Substance
14. Receive Willing
15. William Adamson?
17. Football official
18. Officers untidy area?
21. One above one
22. Ethiopian Princess or constellation
24. To waste time
25. born boogie

DOWN

1.glass (Tony played on this)
2. Wooden tool for boatman
3. & 16. Heavy metal girl
4. Wanderers
5. Musical programme
6. Accustom to an environment
7. Gather the crop
11. Fifties popular music
13. An abandoning of faith
14. Worn away by water for example
16. See 3 down.
19. French gastropod?
20. Where's the patrol?
23. To be wrong.

WINNERS TO COMPETITION IN ISSUE 19

FIRST PRIZE goes to *John McKinstry* (Membership No 003008).
Well done, John! You will be receiving two tickets for the U.K. show of your choice for the next tour. You will meet the Band after the gig and generally receive lots of goodies. Have a great time. When tour dates/venues are known, things will be organised.

SECOND PRIZE:- *Andy Maule* (Membership No 000108). Let me know in which format you would like your copy of the new album and, as soon as this is available, it will be winging its way to you. Very well done.

RUNNERS UP:- *Jason Allen* (Membership No 000364)
Steve Burt (Membership No 003188)
Scott Armstrong (Membership No 003269)
Douglas Johnson (Membership No 001705)
Cameron Hogg (Membership No 000421)

Well done to you all - prizes will be on their way shortly.

NEXT COMPETITION

Solve the crossword opposite (not entirely B.C. orientated) and the first correct entry will win the Russian video "River Of Hope". Entries to be in by 30th April 1991 (bearing in mind that this fanzine is late, we still have every intention of getting the next issue out on time - due out in May/June).

FUTURE COMPETITIONS

To save our and Ian Grant's grey matter, I am asking you for crosswords, word searches etc. to help make the next fanzine more interesting and then, of course, whoever compiles the competition printed in the next fanzine will receive a prize, as will the lucky winner of whatever it is, if you see what I mean!







TONY'S PHOTOS

L) Here are my three kids: From the right - Joella, Jake and Alex.

R) This was my first hole in one! Or, at least, when it disappeared into the fog, it was obviously destined for the hole and as I couldn't even find the green to check it, I went straight back to the (Country) Club House!!



"OLD PHOTOS" ON TAP!

Into the first one hundred "C.C. Hot News" envelopes received (provided they are C4 size), we will enclose one of these 10" x 8" photos from our archives.



From Tony Butler

Hi,

I thought it was about time I wrote a few lines for the magazine as now I have been released from my domestic duties in order to start making another BIG COUNTRY album.

Once again, it seems an awfully long time between studio albums but in order to make sure what goes on the record will, in our minds, stand the test of time and retain our integrity and your respect. The wait will be worth it.

Earlier this year, most of the time was spent in Scotland. I always enjoy working on new material in Scotland. I've grown very fond of the country over the years (not to mention golf courses) namely Audiocraft, Park Lane and Caua Studios. More recently, we've been working down South. Firstly at the House In The Woods Studio near Caterham and then at Chapel Studios in Lincolnshire. If anything, the new album will be well travelled.

So, in between sessions, it's a case of getting ideas on to tape at home. There is also family life to consider.

How it's all going to turn out, I don't know yet, but we're trying hard to make it brill.

At this point, I would like to express a few words of thanks to Pat Ahern. Pat, being an old friend of mine (back in the "Seventies", man), came into the band to help us through what was obviously a sticky period.

Pat's enthusiasm for the band, and the new material, rekindled the BIG COUNTRY flame and carried us through the "Greatest Hits" period with a great deal of happiness and good feeling. Sadly, he is no longer with us but his contribution should not be forgotten. On behalf of Bruce, Stuart and myself, thanks.

Meanwhile, torn away from the motherlode in Cornwall, I find myself in the quiet Welsh countryside, where we are about to commence recording.

"WHO IS DRUMMING?????????" I can hear some of you scream. Well, there's someone coming up the drive right now..... I think it's, no, maybe not..... but, uh, could it be, maybe it is no, well, that would be telling.

WHY DREADLOCKS?

About four years ago, I was sitting in a hotel room somewhere in Germany. We were in a T.V. promotion and tour situation. That evening, quite frankly, I was bored (it was a day off) and, as I sat gazing at a T.V. programme I could not understand, I noticed my reflection on the screen and I noticed that I was twisting and tugging at my hair.

Inspired by this nervous disposition, I continued to pursue this concept.

The next day, we had a photo session for a German magazine and, much to the hilarity of my comrades, the new barnet was debuted.

In conclusion, I'm not a Rastafarian, I just could not be bothered cutting it again.

Thanks for your support.

Check you later.

Tony

PEN PALS

Just write in to me (with a stamped addressed envelope, as always, please) giving your membership number and brief details of yourself and your hobbies and we will compile and circulate a list to all of you who are interested.

Meanwhile, here are a few in addition to those printed in Issue 19.

Sean McBride (Membership No 003143)

U.S.A.
Date of birth 1969
Sean's interests include playing guitar, guitar equipment, some politics and history, U.S. College football. He would like to write to a female pen-pal living in the U.K.. Favourite groups besides "the best in the world": Simple Minds, U2 and The Alarm.

Charon Nolan (Membership No 001900)

London N3 1TH
Charon is self-employed and goes to loads of gigs. Apart from B.C. she likes The Alarm, The Mission, Marillion and lots of smaller bands. She would like to hear from other fans with similar interests.. preferably living in the London area.

Brian Hickson (Membership No 003182)

U.S.A.
Date of birth 1974
Brian's interests include:- soccer, science fiction and Celtic mythology.
Musical preferences: B.C., The Alarm, The Railway Children and U2.

Robyn Sawley (Membership No 003246)

Australia.
Date of Birth 1967
Wants to write to anyone who shares his interests in music, especially Big Country

Tina Clarke (Membership No 003015)

Date of birth ???

Would like to get in touch with B.C. fans so that she can get together with others to travel to gigs etc.

Gwenda Ann Matthews (Membership No 003009)

Gwenda is 21 years old and hobbies include reading, listening to music from B.C., U2 or Laud (a new group from Manchester). She is doing a lot of research at the moment to enable her to complete her book on Stuart's life.

Christopher Parker (Membership No 003120)

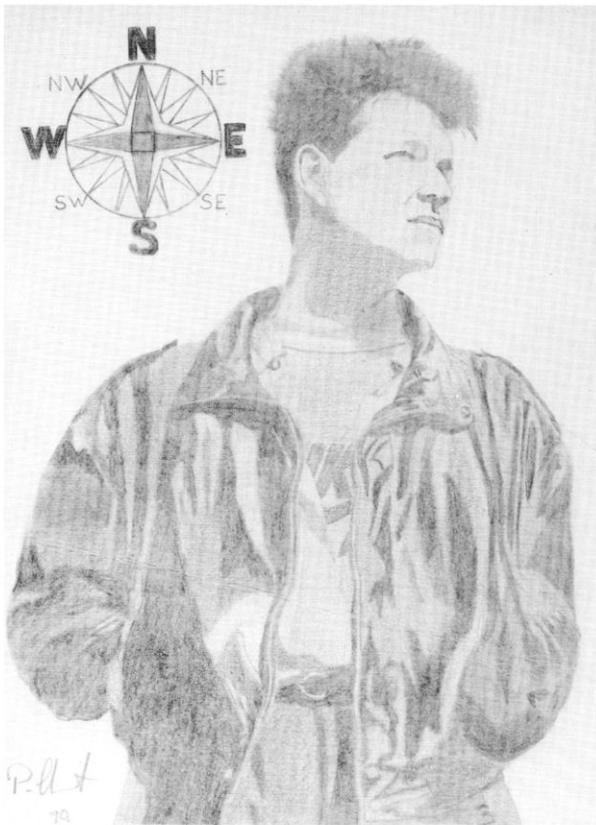
Born in 1971, Christopher loves B.C., U2, Simple Minds, Transvision Vamp. Likes most sports and enjoys concerts. He would like to hear from a female B.C. fan aged between 19 and 21 years old.

Peter Ruescher (Membership No 003154)

Germany

Peter would like to write to a German guy aged about 23 years old and would like to exchange photos, tapes, videos etc.

**P Hewitt (Membership No 003051)
has sent in a rather good drawing**



We want to reproduce more of your own photos, drawings, cartoons etc. so
keep them coming.

ANSWERS TO ISSUE 19 COMPETITION

- Q Name the editor of Issue 1 of the magazine, called the "Harvest Festival Issue"
A Jackie Whitburn (now Jackie Butler)
- Q Where was Tony Butler born?
A Shepherds Bush, London.
- Q What was the name of the Band that Tony and Mark Brzezicki were in that supported the Skids?
A On The Air
- Q Name the Skids line-up on the "Absolute Game" album.
A Stuart Adamson, Richard Jobson, Russell Webb and Mike Baillie.
- Q Which Top Ten Hit was not released on a U.K. album?
A "Wonderland".
- Q Where did Big Country take a party of journalists and record company executives?
A Moscow.
- Q What was the B-side of the "Peace In Our Time" single?
A "Promised Land".
- Q Which single by the Pretenders did Tony Butler play bass on?
A "Back On The Chain Gang".
- Q Who was Big Country's first producer?
A Chris Thomas.
- Q For whom did Big Country open at Wembley Arena in 1982 for six nights?
A The Jam.
- Q Pete Wishart was in the original Big Country line-up. What group is he in now?
A Runrig
- Q Which is Big Country's biggest selling Album?
A "The Crossing".
- Q Where was "Steeltown" recorded?
A Polar Studios, Stockholm.
- Q What was the title of Big Country's college and club tour of 1987?
A Underwraps.
- Q Name the guest singer on "The Seer" title track.
A Kate Bush.
- Q Bruce performed with Fish & Guests at a Charity Show in March 1989. What was the charity?
A The Lockerbie Disaster Fund.
- Q With whom did Stuart guest with at The Hammersmith Odeon in November 1989?
A Jerry Lee Lewis.
- Q Which record company have Big Country moved from and to in the U.S.A.?
A From Polygram to Warner Brothers (Reprise).
- Q Name (two of) Stuart's favourite sports.
A Football, fishing and Motor Cycling.

- Q What is the name of Big Country's U.K. Tour Promoter?
A Solo.
- Q Which member of Big Country often keeps a diary of events?
A Bruce Watson.
- Q Name Stuart's birth sign.
A Aries.
- Q Where did Big Country perform for Channel 4's "Rock Steady"?
A Dunfermline.
- Q Who directed the video for "Wonderland"?
A Clive Richardson.
- Q Whom did Big Country support in their original incarnation in 1982?
A Alice Cooper.
- Q Where were the videos for "King Of Emotion" and "Broken Heart" filmed?
A Australia.
- Q The Band played at a Peace Festival in 1988. Where was this?
A East Berlin.
- Q What was Stuart's first group called?
A Tattoo.
- Q "In A Big Country" was nearly called something else. What might it have been?
A "Stay Alive".
- Q Where were the live tracks featured on a flexi disc, given away with Country Club magazine, performed?
A Austin, Texas.
- Q What were the masks worn by the two heroes in "Restless Natives"?
A A clown and a wolfman.
- Q Stuart wrote a song for her solo album. Who is she?
A Frieda from ABBA.
- Q The producer of Big Country's first two albums married a well known singer. Who is she?
A Kirsty Maccoll.
- Q Name (five of) the songs Big Country have covered, either on record or live, and the original artists.
A "Tracks Of My Tears" Smokey Robinson.
"Honky Tonk Woman" Rolling Stones.
"Prairie Rose" Roxy Music.
"Black Skinned Blue Eyed Boys" The Equals.
"Rockin The Free World" Neil Young.
Medley Fields of Fire (scratch version)
"Rebel Rebel" David Bowie.
"Walk This Way" Aerosmith.
"Brown Sugar" Rolling Stones.
- Q What is Stuart's real first name?
A William.
- Q When did Big Country perform at Live Aid?
A The encore.
- Q Robin Millar produced "The Seer" album. Who was he famous for producing prior to this?
A Sade.
- Q Stuart supports which Scottish soccer team, and what is their nickname?
A Dunfermline Athletic a.k.a The Pars.
- Q What make of drum does drummer Pat Ahern use?
A Tama.

NOTICE BOARD

Ian Harbage (Membership No 003028)

Ian needs help in obtaining copies of the "Just A Shadow" and "Harvest Home" 12" to complete his collection. If anyone has copies they would be willing to sell then, please, contact Ian.

Gwenda Matthews (Membership No 003009)

Gwenda is after as much information as is possible about Stuart from when he formed the group "Tattoo" up until the "The Skids". She is writing a book on Stuart from a fan's point of view. So, any fans out there who would be able to give any information to help complete this book, please drop Gwenda a line.

Joakim Nilsson (Membership No 000330)

*Sweden
Joakim, amongst a lot of other fans, was unable to see the televised gig from the Town & Country. Can anyone help with a copy of this or, indeed, any other videos of B.C. concerts?*

Peter Ruescher (Membership No 003154)

*Germany
Peter is searching for several records to add to his collection including Skids. If you may be likely to be of help, please drop Peter a line. He*

would also like a copy of the televised Town & Country gig and is also interested in swapping photos with other fans.

Julie Stanforh (Membership No 003118)

Julie is also anxious for a copy of televised Town and Country gig.

Brian Hickson (Membership No 003182)

*U.S.A.
Brian is having difficulty in purchasing some of the less popular B.C. singles in California and is therefore asking for some help in getting his hands on "Belief In the Small Man", "Promised Land", amongst others.*

Graham Goodall (Membership No 001511)

Graham is distraught! He managed to get the televised BSB Town & Country gig recorded only to find the recording is completely distorted!! Can anyone help Graham?

Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299)

Kevin has sent details of mail order for B.C. records so, why not drop a line to: