



*Big Country*

# COUNTRY CLUB

issue 22

1991



"Hello  
everyone"

### *SPECIAL BUMPER ISSUE!*

To those of you who have kept me supplied with "Hot News Envelopes" some of the following may be a repeat but it's amazing how many members do NOT supply these envelopes so here goes with what they have missed since the last issue of the magazine. For those of you who do not understand the "Hot News" system, see elsewhere in the magazine: this is the ONLY way I can possibly keep you completely up-to-date because, as those who have received the news will realise, dates etc. can alter frequently and we would have to be millionaires to keep mailing everyone, however much I would like to be able to do.

Release dates have again altered due to circumstances beyond our control and have caused migraines all round. New release dates and, hopefully, absolutely, positively, definitely not to be put back again are:-

"REPUBLICAN PARTY REPTILE" EP: due for release on 19th August so, by the time you receive this magazine, your copy should have been played numerous times.

"NO PLACE LIKE HOME" (the album) 16th September in the UK with release in Europe following closely behind.  
The final track listing for the album is as follows:-

"We're Not In Kansas"	"The Hostage Speaks"	"You, Me And The Truth"
"Republican Party Reptile"	"Beat The Devil"	(cassette and CD only)
"Dynamite Lady"	"Leap Of Faith"	"Comes A Time" (cassette
"Keep On Dreaming"	"Ships"	and CD only)
"Beautiful People"	"Into The Fire"	

In case you have not bought all formats, the B sides are as follows:-

12"	"Freedom Song" / "Kiss The Girl Goodbye" / "I'm Only Waiting" (BIC 112)
10"	"Comes A Time" / "You, Me And The Truth" / "I'm Only Waiting" (numbered limited edition BICT1)
7"	"Comes A Time" / "You, Me And The Truth" (BIC 1)
CD	"Freedom Song" / "Kiss The Girl Goodbye" / "I'm Only Waiting" (BICD 1)

Yes, we have a new drummer. He is CHRIS BELL who has previously worked with Gene Loves Jezebel and Spear Of Destiny. More about Chris in the next issue.

We have a date for all those who can get to the Biskuthalle in Bonn, Germany, on Friday 16th September. "Big Country" is filming a special for WDR-TV. Entry is D.Mk 28 per person, so why not make a weekend of it?

**TOUR PLANS?** Any more news? As mentioned in the last issue, it is not planned for the band to tour the UK until January 1992 but, as expected, more dates were added to the **Town and Country** gigs although, again, these dates have altered a couple of times and the dates are now:-

**3rd/4th/5th/6th and 7th October.** Tickets purchased for September dates will be valid for the new dates (2nd September valid for 3rd October, 3rd September valid for 4th October etc.). Refunds, of course, will be available if you are unfortunate enough to be unable to make the new dates. The support on all dates will be Ian McNabb (formerly Icicle Works) and Airhead (formerly Jefferson Airhead).

**THE "RIVER OF HOPE" VIDEO IS HERE!** (At long last!) We could only get five hundred copies made and, as this is proving to be a very collectable item (ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FAN CLUB), get in your order in double quick time. For those of you who have not participated in the "Hot News" system, don't forget that there are many who do and therefore already have ordered and received their copy so we are selling them very quickly. An offer not to be missed - so don't hesitate.

**PRICE**

£15.00 plus P & P as the merchandise list.

Many apologies for the fact that a request for an audience for the video shoot did not occur. Unfortunately, due to the changes in dates etc., this happened at such short notice in the end we could not possibly get an invite out to any of you. I can only apologise but things do not always work out the way we plan.

#### TRACK LISTING FOR THE NIPPON CD BOX SET

##### THE CROSSING

In A Big Country  
Inwards  
Chance  
A Thousand Stars  
The Storm  
Harvest Home  
Lost Patrol  
Close Action  
Fields Of Fire  
Porroh Man  
In A Big Country (ext. version)  
Fields Of Fire (ext. version)  
Chance (ext. version)  
The Crossing

##### STEELTOWN

Flame Of The West  
East Of Eden  
Steeletown  
Where The Rose Is Sown  
Come Back To Me  
Tall Ships Go  
Girl With Grey Eyes  
Rain Dance  
Great Divide  
Just A Shadow  
Wonderland (ext. version)  
East Of Eden (ext. version)  
Angle Park  
All Fall Together

##### THE SEER

Look Away  
The Seer  
The Teacher  
I Walk The Hill  
Eiledon  
One Great Thing  
Hold The Heart  
Remembrance Day  
The Red Fox  
The Sailor  
Track Of My Tears (live)  
Lost Patrol (live)  
Wonderland (live)  
Thousand Yard Stare (live) (or even  
Thousand Yard STAIR in Japanese!)  
Look Away (12" mix)

##### PEACE IN OUR TIME

King Of Emotion  
Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)  
Thousand Yard Stare  
From Here To Eternity  
Everything I Need  
Peace In Our Time  
Time For Leaving  
River Of Hope  
In This Place  
I Could Be Happy Here  
The Travellers  
Starred And Crossed  
Save Me  
Black Skinned Blue  
Eyed Boys  
Prairie Rose  
Heart And Soul

Although Stuart says he does not want any new books on Big Country, we are co-operating with publishers on a new lyric book, containing every song ever recorded by the band, something like one hundred songs in all!! It will be available through Country Club and we hope the price will be less than £10.00. We will keep you posted.

If you would like to receive an up-to-date merchandise sheet, then please send a stamped addressed envelope marked accordingly and I will get one in the post to you. When placing an order, it would be very helpful if you could complete the proper merchandise form indicating clearly your choice - you will receive another list with your order. Thanks.

Lotzaluv,

*Jan* (the Republican Party Reptile's private secretary..)

# STUART ANSWERS A FEW QUESTIONS

- Q Do you have any new musical influences?**  
*No, but I still consider myself a fan of inspired music.*
- Q What is your opinion on:-**  
a) The music press *Very entertaining.*  
b) Radio (in the UK) *Not enough Big Country.*  
c) The singles charts *As above.*
- Q What do you recommend of the following? (last twelve months)**  
a) Albums *R.E.M. / E.M.F. / Electronic*  
b) Books *The Burn*  
c) Films *Dances With Liberal Gullit*
- Q Any words of advice for new bands starting out?**  
*Don't start a band - start a record company.*
- Q You have said football is a favourite pastime of yours. What were your highlights of the past season?**  
*Watching Istvan Kozma play for Dunfermline in the pouring rain at St Johnstone at the New Year.*
- Q What were the most memorable moments of the last nine years with Big Country?**  
*Audience reaction at last year's gigs.  
Playing at Knebworth.  
Working with Kate Bush.*
- Q Are there any books about Big Country besides "A Certain Chemistry"? Will there be a new one?**  
*No, I don't really want any more.*
- Q Are you ever going to tour Australia?**  
*We are desperate to tour Australia.*
- Q Which is your favourite venue in the UK and why?**  
*Any venue is OK by me.*
- Q What is your attitude to "bootlegs" and "pirate merchandise"?**  
*I think with pirate merchandise, people often get very shoddy material but bootlegs I don't mind at all.*
- Q Big Country have always covered at least one song of someone else's per tour. If you were to record an album of covers, what would you include?**  
*It's very hard to say as there are so many songs I like, but I would like to do songs from Leonard Cohen, Nils Lofgren, Neil Young, The Band, Bob Marley, Bob Dylan and Jasper Carrot.*
- Q Who was your first musical/sporting/film star, hero?**  
*First musical hero - The Kinks  
First sporting hero - Roy Barry (ex Dunfermline captain)  
First film star hero - Stan Laurel*
- Q Which sporting event would you take with you as your desert island video?**  
*Film of the 1967 Scotland v England football match at Wembley.*
- Q What is your least/most favourite meal/drink?**  
*Favourite meal - Sukiyaki  
Least favourite - any creamed pudding (rice, tapioca, semolina and the like).*
- Q Which music person of the opposite sex do you most admire?**  
*Kate Bush.*
- Q Who do you most respect as a musician?**  
*Leonard Cohen.*
- Q What moment in your career has brought you the most pleasure?**  
*Playing at the "Big Day" in Glasgow.*
- Q Which is your favourite form of music?**  
*Country - folk.*
- Q Your least favourite form of music?**  
*West End musicals.*

## STUART CONTINUES. . . . .

- Q **What is the most physically arduous task of your profession?**  
*Two hours on stage - travelling.*
- Q **What do you fear the most in your profession?**  
*Sore throats, dodgy chests, crap hotels, rancid dressing rooms, feedback, dirty underwear, damp guitar straps, endless bloody hanging around, remixes, surf nazis, customs officers, old aircraft, more bloody waiting, motorway service areas, Soviet catering, too much rain, too much sun, toothache, piles, pile treatment, a little bit of waiting, quiet monitors, credit card statements, odd socks, mad drivers and more hanging around.*
- Q **What would you least like to do in the music industry?**  
*Being a Meat Loaf groupie.*
- Q **If you could personally change or introduce one thing in the music industry, what would it be?**  
*Double my royalty rate.*
- Q **How do you regard the media?**  
*They exist therefore they are.*
- Q **Who would you pay to see?**  
*Dunfermline Athletic Football Club.*
- Q **What is your earliest musical memory?**  
*My mum playing Patsy Cline records.*
- Q **What is music perfection?**  
*When you get the shiver down your spine.*
- Q **When might you cheat?**  
*Never (what a guy, eh??)*
- Q **How much was your first pay packet for?**  
*Twelve pounds.*
- Q **What title would you choose for your autobiography?**  
*"Where There's Muck There's Brass (The Life Of The World's Richest Man)."*
- Q **What else could you have done for a living?**  
*Motorcycle racer (too slow!!)*
- Q **Your biggest professional mistake?**  
*Working with Peter Wolf (nice guy, too MOR for us)*
- Q **Who personifies the term "sportsmanlike" in your view?**  
*Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, John McEnroe.*
- Q **Are music and politics mutually exclusive?**  
*A fish.*
- Q **What moment in your career has made you laugh the most?**  
*When people get buck naked in the crowd at festivals.*
- Q **Do you have a motto?**  
*Come fly with me.*
- Q **What book are you reading?**  
*"Holidays In Hell" by P J O'Rourke.*
- Q **What has been the most unfair description of you or Big Country?**  
*Sexy.*
- Q **What is your all time favourite record?**  
*"Songs of Love & Hate" by Leonard Cohen.*
- Q **Which city/town other than where you live now would you most like to live?**  
*Amsterdam, Milan or San Francisco.*
- Q **How would you describe your profession to an alien?**  
*Telepathically.*

A few corrections to:-

## A LITTLE CHART HISTORY

Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299) wrote to me recently asking whether the SKIDS compilation CD entitled "Dunfermline" was the only SKIDS album to be released on CD. There is one other entitled "Days In Europe". And, for those who have not got a copy of "Dunfermline" and would like to add it to their collection, it is released on Virgin, catalogue No. COM CD 10.

Yes, unfortunately, there was a lay-out problem - I used one of the draft pages when pasting up the mag instead of the final print, as above! Stoopid.

Anyway, David Downing (Membership No 003371) has written to me pointing out an omission:-

Available on CD is "Scared To Dance" catalogue number Virgin CDV 2116 available on Virgin's Virgin Value series - mid-priced. In addition to the vinyl recording, the CD includes the following additional tracks:

"Sweet Suburbia"  
"Open Sound"  
"TV Stars"  
"Night And Day"

"Contusion"  
"Reasons"  
"Test Tube Babies"

Scott Dickson (Membership No 003375) has also written in to prove that I'm only human.

He points out that "Days In Europe" was not released on CD but instead "Scared To Dance", as above. Another omission was the Skids last album "Joy".

Many apologies, but none of us is perfect!!

## OUR BIG COUNTRY HOT-LINE

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we have organised an EXCLUSIVE 0898 number for you which will be up-dated regularly with news.

The actual number is:

**0898 600 031**

As I write, we are trying to get one or more of Stuart, Bruce and Tony to record something for the first message which will probably mainly be about the new single, the new album, the Country Club Convention, touring, personal appearances, prospects for Dunfermline Athletic etc. etc. You may be on the phone for hours!!!

Don't forget calls are charged at 34p per minute cheap rate and 45p per minute at all other times.

0898 services are, today, much more sophisticated and we are, therefore, exploring every possibility to develop this service.

# A few more lyrics as requested by

Justin Keancy  
Jason Tarr  
Chris Parker  
Tim Foster

(Membership No 000373)  
(Membership No 001703)  
(Membership No 003120)  
(Membership No 000339)

## THE PROMISED LAND

The happy times  
All our people are here  
All the gifts that we bring  
All the songs that we sing  
Hollow blessings will ring

The killing time  
All the bystanders hide  
Everything on the slide  
Mad and tired inside  
Still a laugh of false pride

Would it take that pretty smile away from you face?  
Would it turn that pretty laughter into tears?  
Is there still a need for sorrow  
In the promised land?  
Will it always be tomorrow in the promised land?  
For there's just too many things I'm afraid to ask

The lying time  
No more thought for a vow  
One more break of the bough  
One more voice asking how  
Who is listening now?

The money time  
One more judge takes his price  
One more room filled with ice  
And statistical vice  
One more child without choice

Stuart Adamson 1987

## WHEN A DRUM BEATS

Is this civilisation?  
This is all we're going to be  
A helpless United Nations  
A censored BBC  
War in the African nations  
Hate in the Middle East  
Just a mess of frustration  
Waiting for release

Oh no  
When they beat a drum it's too much to swallow  
Oh no  
When they beat a drum it just sounds so hollow

I'm not ready to fight  
I'm not ready to go

I saw an FI-11  
Beside a Kremlin guard  
And the Magnificent Seven  
In the printed word  
Is this a public service or a civil war  
While I sit here nervous, waiting for the call?

Let cities crumble, empires waste  
And generals find a resting place  
For leaders too will be replaced  
If fear and fate stand face to face  
Leave a red sky for night-time  
Know a mother's love  
Now and for all time  
Lose the tyrant's glove  
Give the whole of the lifeline  
On the reaching palm  
Leave us out of the deadline  
For tomorrow's man

Stuart Adamson 1987

## BALCONY

Heave lads  
An audience awaits  
Heave lads  
The final scene is set  
Heave lads  
Curtains clear the debt  
Waiting in empty halls  
Smiling between the walls  
This is my finest hour  
Now is your last encore

Sweat boys  
The lines are flowing fast  
Sweat boys  
The cue has come at last  
Sweat boys  
Tonight is just the past  
Listen the bullet calls  
Herald a great man's fall  
This is my finest hour  
Now is your last encore

Stuart Adamson - Virgin Music.

## BRUCE REPLIES TO A FEW QUESTIONS

- Q **Jameil Hill (Membership No. 003321) has written in asking for details about "Against All Odds" and a track called "Balcony".**  
*Originally, "Wonderland" was going to be used in the movie "Against All Odds" in the car chase sequence on Sunset Strip but the record company decided against it. "Balcony" was used for about twelve seconds in the club scene as background music.*
- Q **If you found a bag containing a million pounds backstage before an encore, would you return to the stage or take the money and run? (From Amanda Giddens Membership No 001583).**  
*Take the money and run.*
- Q **Who would you most like with you should you be stuck in a bomb shelter, and why? (From Amanda Giddens Membership No 001583)**  
*Jayne Mansfield (because she's dead).*
- Q **Who, in your opinion, is the most overrated/underrated artist/band of the last decade? (From Amanda Giddens Membership No 001583)**  
*David Lindlay / Smiths.*
- Q **What are the REL tapes exactly and what does REL stand for? (From Derek Linnabary Membership No 003104)**  
*REL stands for "Radio Edinburgh Ltd." It is the name of the recording studio in Scotland where we record some of our demos and "extra tracks."*
- Q **Do you play for, or support, a football team. If so, who?**  
*I enjoy the occasional game of Subuteo.*
- Q **Many members ask what advice would you give to up-and-coming-bands?**  
*Become an accountant (you can still play your guitar in the evenings).*
- Q **What are your favourite bands/music?**  
*At the moment, The Band / Buffalo Springfield / The Byrds and The Allman Brothers.*
- Q **Who has been your main musical influence?**  
*Alex Harvey.*
- Q **Who was your first musical/sporting/film star, hero?**  
*George Harrison / George Best / Sean Connery as James Bond.*
- Q **Which sporting event would you take with you as your desert island video?**  
*"Water sports" (wet fun with Diamond Lil). "Cum shower me" (The Golden Girls).*
- Q **What is your least/most favourite meal/drink?**  
*Healthfood / Madras - Horlicks and Babycham / Iron Bru.*
- Q **Which music person of the opposite sex do you most admire?**  
*Kate Bush.*
- Q **Who do you most respect as a musician?**  
*Roy Wood.*
- Q **What moment in your career has brought you the most pleasure?**  
*Playing Grammys in LA 1984.*
- Q **Which is your favourite form of music?**  
*Blues.*
- Q **Your least favourite?**  
*Polka.*
- Q **What is the most physically arduous task of your profession?**  
*Keeping my beer gut sucked in.*



## BRUCE CONTINUES . . . . .

- Q What do you fear the most in your profession?  
*Being found out.*
- Q What would you least like to do in the music industry?  
*Village People's trouser technician.*
- Q If you could personally change or introduce one thing in the music industry what would it be?  
*Should bring hanging back.*
- Q How do you regard the media?  
*Some good, some bad.*
- Q Who would you pay to see?  
*Neil Young.*
- Q What is your earliest musical memory?  
*The Beatles on the "Top Of The Pops."*
- Q What is music perfection?  
*Doesn't exist.*
- Q When might you cheat?  
*Never.*
- Q How much was your first pay packet for?  
*£18.00 from an Alpine Lemonade round.*
- Q What title would you choose for your autobiography?  
*"Honest madam, it went off in my hand!"*
- Q What else could you have done for a living?  
*Cheap pornographer.*
- Q What is your biggest professional mistake?  
*Choosing Peter Wolf to produce "Peace In Our Time".*
- Q Who personifies the term "sportsmanlike" in your view?  
*Oliver Reed.*
- Q Are music and politics mutually exclusive?  
*An individual is free to sing about whatever he/she wants.*
- Q What moment in your career has made you laugh the most?  
*The past ten years.*
- Q Do you have a motto?  
*No, I can't drive.*
- Q What book are you reading?  
*"Former Soldier Seeks Employment" by John Miller.*
- Q What has been the most unfair description of you or Big Country?  
*I was once called 'Rat Face' in a magazine, which was quite unfair as I see myself as a bit of a stud.*
- Q What is your all time favourite record?  
*White Man in Hammersmith Palais - Clash.*
- Q Which city/town other than where you live now would you most like to live?  
*Los Angeles.*
- Q How would you describe your profession to an alien?  
*With my hands.*

## STUART ADAMSON LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST

Well, I'm not sure whether the fact that I have received no entries from Lisa Wrangle (Membership No 003004) means that there are no look-alikes out there, you are all too modest or whether Lisa has still to send them to me. If I receive any after going to print on this issue, I will include the winning photo next time.

BUT, I have received a photo of our youngest member of Country Club Stephen Dominey (Membership No 000435) so I think Stephen deserves a prize for the look-a-like competition!

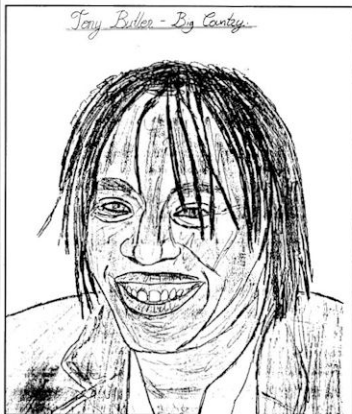
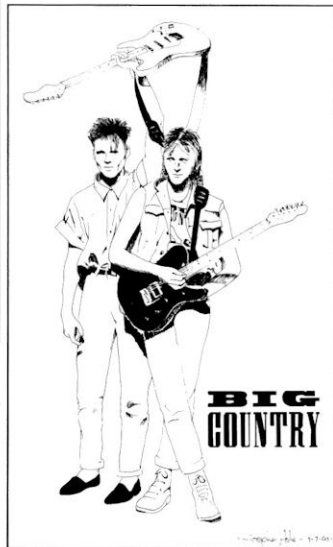
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Stephen Ashe  
(Membership No 003312)



## ARTISTS' CORNER

By Oliver Hunter  
(Membership No 000295)



## TONY ANSWERS SOME QUESTIONS FOR US

- Q Who was your first musical/sporting/film star hero?  
*Jimi Hendrix and/or Winston Churchill.*
- Q Which sporting event would you take with you as your desert island video?  
*1990 Spurs v Arsenal Cup Final.*
- Q Which music person of the opposite sex do you most admire?  
*Chrissy Hynde.*
- Q Who do you most respect as a musician?  
*Adam Clayton.*
- Q What moment in your career has brought you the most pleasure?  
*New Year's Eve at Barrowlands - 1983.*
- Q Which is your favourite form of music?  
*Loud rock guitar with well-crafted vocal melodies (i.e. not that metal rubbish).*
- Q Which is your least favourite form of music?  
*Anything that has to be remixed to sound good.*
- Q What is the most physically arduous task of your profession?  
*Travelling.*
- Q What do you fear the most in your profession?  
*Poverty, depression, frustration, insanity, piles, sincerity and flatulence.*
- Q What would you least like to do in the music industry?  
*Be a drummer.*
- Q If you could personally change or introduce one thing in the music industry, what would it be?  
*Talent.*
- Q How do you regard the media?  
*With my eyes.*
- Q Who would you pay to see?  
*My dentist.*
- Q What is your earliest musical memory?  
*The Animals and Chuck Berry at Hammersmith Odeon - 1964ish.*
- Q What is music perfection?  
*Middle C.*
- Q When might you cheat?  
*Never on a golf course, anyway. (Whoops, mentioned that word again).*
- Q How much was your first pay packet for?  
*Not much.*
- Q What title would you choose for your autobiography?  
*Tony Butler: "The Financial Crimes" or "Wasn't That Fun".*
- Q What else could you have done for a living?  
*Director General of the BBC and Spurs at the same time (one could finance the other, really).*
- Q What has been your biggest professional mistake?  
*Being surrounded by incredibly talented people (Band and Management excluded, by the way..)*
- Q Who personifies the term "sportsmanlike" in your view?  
*Big Daddy.*
- Q Are music and politics mutually exclusive?  
*What do you think?*
- Q What moment in your career has made you laugh the most?  
*I couldn't possibly tell you that'un.*
- Q Do you have a motto?  
*"Birdie time."*
- Q What book are you reading?  
*The Golfer's Companion and The Hit Men.*
- Q What has been the most unfair description of you or Big Country?  
*That we sound like "Runrig".*
- Q What is your all time favourite record?  
*Electric Lady.*
- Q Which city/town other than where you live would you most like to live in?  
*Cleethorpes.*
- Q How would you describe your profession to an alien?  
*Blur um pa goo dada urgh kplurguff, zob me old bean.*





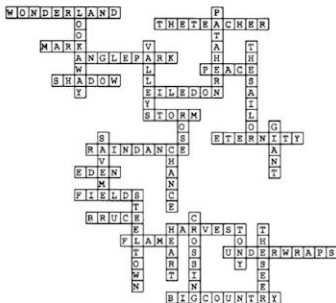


# COMPETITION WINNERS

WORD GRID WINNER FROM ISSUE 21 - ANSWERS BELOW

**Sierra Morrison (Membership No 001948).** Congratulations, Sierra, your entry was the first correct entry picked from the hat (well, it wasn't a hat really, more like a plastic bin liner!). I will be sending you a prize shortly so keep your eye on the postie.

## WORD GRID



## THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITION

sent in by **Gordon Smith** (Membership No 003097)

Gordon will be receiving his prize within a short while.

HOW MANY (LEGITIMATE) WORDS (TO BE FOUND IN THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY) CAN YOU MAKE OUT OF THE BELOW?

**THROUGH A BIG COUNTRY**

Entries in no later than 1st December (next magazine due in January)

## FUTURE COMPETITIONS

*Please keep those suggestions coming in for future issues! If your entry does not appear in the next issue, it could appear in a future one because I keep all entries for use later. OK?*

## "HOT NEWS"

Sometimes newly enrolled members have written to me asking "What are these HOT NEWS ENVELOPES you keep going on about?", then complain because they are not getting the latest news. Therefore, this slot is for those who do not understand what this is all about.

As you will appreciate, news about release dates, tours, T.V. appearances etc. etc. do not only occur when a magazine is due so, therefore, to be able to afford to keep you all up-to-date, I run a "Hot News" system. These envelopes are quite simply STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES marked in the top left hand corner "C.C. HOT NEWS" and showing the date of the last hot news sheet you received to prevent repeats being sent out. Then, as soon as I hear of any news, I stuff these envelopes with the hastily photostated news sheet and rush it to the post office. When this is received, you purely send me a replacement to wait for the next bulletin. Simple really but, unless you lodge these envelopes with me, I can't guarantee that you will be one of the first to hear.

I have received several suggestions as to how to prevent repeats being sent out but, at present, the date system, as mentioned above, appears to be working quite well so, certainly for the time being, please continue this method. I have naturally kept your suggestions in case we have a major hic-cup. Thankyou.

☆☆☆☆☆

## THE PHOTO FROM THE ARCHIVES PRINTED IN THE LAST ISSUE WAS IDENTIFIED BY SEVERAL OF YOU AS BEING:-

1983/4 Manchester United - Remi Moses, Arnold Muhren, Gordon McQueen, Brian Robson, Arthur Albiston, Mick Duxbury, Gary Bailey, Frank Stapleton. And **William Dalgliesh** (Membership No 001837) adds "When Manchester United won the F.A. Cup". I'll have to take his word for that!

## BIG COUNTRY'S TOP TEN RECORDS

Ian Forster (Membership No 001547) has compiled and sent in his findings. He had a fantastic response and would like to thank everyone who wrote to him. The top two records tied at 87 points so, therefore, to decide the Number 1 he checked all the top tens to see which of the two was voted Number 1 the most. "Just A Shadow" received five Number 1 votes and "Restless Natives" did not actually receive a Number 1 vote. Therefore, "Just A Shadow" has been voted the most popular Big Country record of all time by Country Club members.

"Just A Shadow" - 87 points  
"Restless Natives" - 87 points  
"Wonderland" - 82 points  
"Fields Of Fire" - 70 points  
"Chance" - 60 points

"Porrohman" - 58 points  
"Winter Sky" - 52 points  
"Save Me" - 51 points  
"Where The Rose Is Sown" - 42 points  
"Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" - 41 points

☆☆☆☆

## YOUR CHOICE

Gordon Smith (Membership No 003097) has a suggestion.

Gordon would like to compile a list of the five records/tracks not usually played live by Big Country that fans would most like to hear at a gig. So, if members could send him a list of their choice of five songs they would most like the band to include in a live set in the future, he will collate the most popular five requests and send them to me. Perhaps we can persuade the band to include one or more of these on their next tour. Sounds good, eh?







# ROCKFIELD STUDIOS

Kingsley Ward from Rockfield has kindly made a contribution to this issue of the Country Club magazine.

*It is interesting to see that we still have the major acts coming to us as, along with Big Country, in the last few months we have also hosted Del Amitri, Neds Atomic Dustbins, T'Pau and Energy Orchard which should all chart.*

*My only comment re the Studio business of the last few years is a sad decline in the ability of the new wave of producers and engineers in capturing the performance of groups that record live, both technically and musically. This is probably accountable to the fact that most A & R personnel have related success with dance orientated music and consequently will turn to one figure impresarios using other people's programs and samples to produce music acceptable to the ten to fifteen year olds, which appear to be the bulk of the record buying public.*

*History has proved that long term careers in the music business have always been based on people who can write songs and play musical instruments properly. A true fan will buy record after record by creative artists whether guitar or singer, but certainly not pre-programmed computers.*

*In 1966 Rockfield set the course of history by dispelling the myth that the music business had to be centralised in London. Armed with a recording production contract with EMI, the studio first took to the air, a modest start no doubt, but the recoils were eventually to be felt throughout the music business. Many country studios operate under one guise or another, but none can have seen or shared in so many other people's destinies.*

*Artists like Dave Edmunds, Ace, Queen, Simple Minds, Rush, Adam And The Ants and Robert Plant, as well as many of today's new signings, have and are sharing in this success story, with past help from producers like Gus Dudgeon, Roy Thomas Baker, Robert John Lange as well as new producers now using the studios, the future seems to be assured.*

*Today, most studios can boast equipment and acoustic designs but we feel that tomorrow's artists will expect and respect the opportunity to have privacy at work. Already Rockfield, yet again, leads the way forward and we consider ourselves with our Natural Echo Chambers and Live Rooms to be thirty years behind but ten years ahead.*

## NIPPON BOXED CD SETS

Gordon Goodill (Membership No 001511) wrote in recently with several interesting bits of news and suggestions.

One which positively leapt out at us was that our "EXCLUSIVE" offer of the box set of four CDs from Phonogram Nippon, which we sell for £36.00, is now also available from H.M.V. Imports in Bond Street in the West End of London for a mere SIXTY SEVEN POUNDS!!! Now, what was that that someone criticised our Country Club Merchandise for?? BEING TOO EXPENSIVE???????

## CONVENTION COLLAGE

We want to find a volunteer to make up a collage of members' photos taken at the Convention at the Glen Pavilion on 31st August 1991.

If anyone is interested, can you please make yourself known to one of us at the Convention and we will then print your name and address in Issue No 23 so everyone can send their photographs to you and you can spend some happy evenings making up something special either as something to print in a forthcoming issue or even as a pull-out or poster. Anyway, if you have any other suggestions, please write in to let us have them.

## PAT MORAN "TALKS"

- Q What was your background to production?**  
*I started out in a band - I was lead guitar, played keyboards and wrote the songs. Then I started engineering at Rockfield Studios in Monmouth (South Wales) where I got my first production break.*
- Q What was the first record you produced?**  
*"Air Waves" was my first album production.*
- Q How do you see your role as a producer?**  
*As a producer, I consider it my job to oversee all aspects of the making of the record - I work out arrangements with the band, advise on the choice of songs, choose additional musicians, arrange studios, equipment and budgets, rehearse with the band etc. As an engineer, I also operate the equipment in the studio and get the best possible sounds laid down to tape, mix the completed recordings and attend the mastering (the actual cutting of the record).*
- Q What attracted you about Big Country when you were initially approached?**  
*I've always been a fan of their music and I really liked their new songs and then, when I met them, I thought they'd be great to work with as we got on so well together and as we all had similar ideas about how the new album should sound.*
- Q How was it, working with Big Country?**  
*Great! This was one of the most enjoyable records I've worked on. There was a great atmosphere in the studio - I think this has come through on the record - the guys were so easy-going and professional, it was a pleasure to work with them.*
- Q What is your viewpoint on the use of current technology in music:- Sampling, the DAT tape, lip synch at live concerts etc.?**  
*I'm all for technology when it can help me get a better sound down to tape - the DAT player has been a great help - much more accurate than cassette. What I don't approve of is artists/producers who use technology to directly sample other people's work - I view this as unprofessional and very unoriginal. Lip synching at concerts is a con and should be banned.*
- Q Which new bands do you like?**  
*The LAs, Extreme, The Sundays, Black Crowes, Stone Roses.*
- Q If you weren't a producer, what would you like to do in the music business, and why?**  
*If I had been able to, I would have liked to continue as an artist and writer.*
- Q Anyone you fancy producing, if asked?**  
*Brian Wilson - or John Lennon, if he was still with us.*
- Q Who would be in your "all time supergroup"?**  
*Jimi Hendrix (guitar), Lou Gramm of Foreigner (vocals), Steve Winwood (keyboards), John Paul Jones (bass) and John Bonham (drums).*
- Q Which studios are your favourites to work in and why?**  
*Rockfield Studios in Monmouth, S. Wales, where I did the new album. The atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly and it's in a beautiful location. I've worked there for so long I know the studio inside out and I can get great sounds there. Also, Conway Studios in Los Angeles.*
- Q What have been your most / least successful records?**  
*My most successful record to date is "Shooting Rubberbands At The Stars" by Edie Brickell and The New Bohemians - three million.  
Least successful was a band called Zot for Elektra Records in L.A. The record company executive responsible for the band left the company immediately after I finished the record and it subsequently did not receive the proper promotion etc.*
- Q What other producers do you admire?**  
*Muti Lunge, Phil Spector, Brian Wilson.*
- Q Which is your favourite song on the new Big Country album and why?**  
*"Kansas". It's a great rock song - good lyrics - I think it's going to be a big single.*
- Q What specific qualities do you think Big Country possess?**  
*Stuart's a great writer and front man for the band. All the members of the band are brilliant musicians and work really well together - they're a great live band.*
- Q What do you think of the state of the U.K. music industry? If you were in a position to change and improve three things in the industry, what would they be?**  
*If I have any criticism of the industry, it would be that they don't have long term commitment to their acts, perhaps due to the financial pressures brought on by the recession. I would like to change:-  
Lower the price of CD's to help break new acts.  
More music programmes on T.V.  
More live venues and the abolition of ticket touts and booking fees on gig tickets.*
- Q What do you like doing, outside musical activities?**  
*My life is almost totally involved in music. When I'm not actually working in the studio, I'm buying and listening to new albums, looking at new equipment and studios or looking at new bands. My main interest outside the industry would be football.*

# PEACE IN OUR TIME

**Stan Lenkiewicz** (Membership No 000414) from New Jersey, U.S.A.

Following remarks about "Peace In Our Time" in the last issue, Stan has written some words on the subject:-

*"I am writing in regards to last issue's remarks made toward Big Country's 1988 album, "Peace In Our Time". Quite frankly, I was a bit surprised and taken aback by the comments. Firstly, though, I would like to state that this is only my own personal opinion which I am expressing.*

*When I first heard "Peace In Our Time", I found it to be a highly impressive collaboration of all their prior recordings. I found it to contain the traditional sound which has made Big Country so great, but it was in a way which combined their prior sound with a fresh and creative twist. I was still able to detect Big Country's early sound through songs like "King Of Emotion" and "Peace In Our Time", these two songs containing the bagpipe and e-bow treated guitar sound which has made Big Country so unique and great. The album is also full of beautiful ballads which Stuart Adamson is so kind enough to the world to write. A few examples are "Everything I Need", "Broken Heart" and "From Here To Eternity". Also throughout the album, I found great guitar work from Stuart and Bruce as well as great rhythm patterns laid down by Tony and Mark. Also, the most welcomed karate kick barks and bellows by Stuart can be heard in "King Of Emotion", which was patented in earlier work like "Raintance" and that hit "In A Big Country". Not to mention the great tunes already stated, "Peace In Our Time" is an entire album which is a pleasure to listen to both musically and lyrically. Besides the tunes already mentioned Stuart has also painted and created a colourful imagery of lyrics in the album's other stand-out tunes like "Thousand Yard Stare", "Time For Leaving", "River Of Hope", "In This Place" and "I Could Be Happy Here". I think that every cut is a stand-out on "Peace In Our Time".*

*In closing, I realise that I am no expert when it comes to the art of recording and perhaps I am a bit biased due to my being a great fan of Big Country. I found "P.I.O.T." to be a creative and impressive collaboration of the different sounds of Big Country. Once again, this is only my personal opinion and I can only be the judge for myself!"*

**Oliver Prange** (Membership No 001960) from Verden in Germany.

*"When reading through the last fan club magazines, there are always some people saying how disappointed they were of the last album "Peace In Our Time". To those people I must say, I don't really understand you. Just because Big Country did not use their "typical" bagpipe-sound and just because they preferred to play some slower tracks, it doesn't mean the songs are bad or dull or anything.*

*I'm also a Big Country fanatic (fanatic in a positive way) and I love the bagpipe-sound and raunchy guitars like on "Steelton" but, as the P.I.O.T. album arrived I was not disappointed. Not at all. I think it showed how talented the band really are and that they can do straight rock-titles and slow melodic rock songs as well as their other stuff. I love every single track on that album and I love all their other songs as well.*

*I also think it is some kind of intolerance to say that every Big Country song has to sound like "Wonderland" or "Fields Of Fire" and otherwise it's not good. That would mean taking away the band's right to develop itself. The only disappointing thing on "Peace In Our Time" was the disappointing sales compared to the other albums. But that always depends on the market at the very moment. In times where music is becoming more and more a computerised thing and artists sell their souls just to make money as quickly and easy as possible, it's getting harder for a band like Big Country to reach good chart positions.*

*But for me, success doesn't depend on sales and chart places but on how good you do your job and if you're honest to the fans or just interested in their money. And from that point of view, Big Country certainly are one of the most successful bands ever in the music business".*

Thanks to both Stan and Oliver for their thoughts. Haven't I come across Stan and Olly before somewhere?

So, there we have it, not everyone was disappointed with the album and I thought it only fair that these members should be given the space to air their views - Jan

Steve Dickson '91



# PEN PALS

Scott Dickson (Membership No 003375)  
Alison Lea

Scotland,  
Year of birth 1973

Scott has appeared on this page in a previous issue but has a new-found hobby, namely:- giving vast sums of money to female pen-pals. Scott is waiting to hear from you all.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Gordon Smith (Membership No 003097)

Scotland,  
Year of birth 1965

Gordon says "I've been a Big Country fan since the beginning and eagerly await 26th August". (Please remember this date has changed so now he eagerly awaits 16th September). "I would enjoy exchanging tapes, photos etc. I also like music by many other groups including U2, Simple Minds, Marillion and Runrig although B.C. are the only group whose records I buy everything of."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Just write in to me giving your name, address, membership number and brief details of yourself and your hobbies and I will add your details to the list in the next issue.

Liam Bowler (Membership No 003190)

Ireland  
Year of birth 1973

Apart from B.C. musical tastes include likes Stiff Little Fingers, U2. Hobbies:- motor sports and soccer and also Liam plays in a band but which instrument is not stated in his letter. The hunt is on for a pen-pal in the British Isles.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Martin Stephenson (Membership No 003324)

Year of Birth 1971

Interests:- football and he supports Newcastle United, cricket, horse racing and reading Dick Francis novels. His other musical tastes include Simple Minds, INXS and U2.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ NOTICE BOARD

### OVERFLOW

Kevin Jones (Membership No 000223)

Kevin would like to purchase a good copy of the Town And Country gig televised by BSB and also any Big Country sheet music.

John McKinstry (Membership No 003008)

Scotland,  
John has a huge collection of B.C. audio and video cassettes which he is only too happy to tape for other Country Club members.

Liam Davey (Membership No 001593)

Liam is willing to pay a good price for a video of the Big Country documentary broadcast on Channel 4 for one hour entitled "Play At Home" from 1984, and a copy of the full gig at Reading Hexagon Whistle Test from 1986.

William Dalgliesh (Membership No 001837)

Can any one help William get hold of any guitar tablature of any B.C. music as he learning to play these on his guitar?

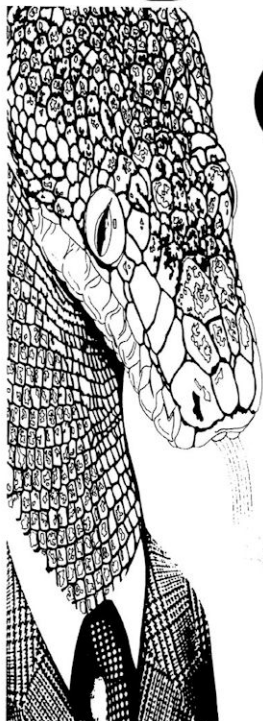
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OR AT THE DOOR IF STILL AVAILABLE.

# NOTICE BOARD

Gary Dempster (Membership No 001706)  
Gary has an enormous list of records, some of which he is willing to part with or he will tape "B" sides of those records not up for grabs. He also has videos, posters galore. Drop him a line to get a full list of what is available.

**Gerard Kerin** (Membership No 001857)

Ireland

Gerard would like a copy of "Restless Natives".

**Dominic Williams** (Membership No 000325)

Dominic tells me that he has multiple copies of many of B.C.'s records etc. and, if you send him a stamped self-addressed envelope, he'll see if he can help in your search.

**Michael Schutt** (Membership No 000463)

Germany

Michael is looking for a copy of "The Teacher" mystery mix and "Harvest Home" maxi.

**Olaf Warwel** (Membership No 003296)

Germany

Olaf is looking for several records:-  
"Harvest Home" 12" COUNX1  
"Fields Of Fire" 12" COUNX2  
"In A Big Country" 12" COUNX3  
"East Of Eden" 12" MERX175P  
"Look Away" 12" BIGCX11  
"One Great Thing" 7" (green gatefold sleeve)

**Oliver Hunter** (Membership No 000295)

If Patricia Thezan sends a cassette to Oliver he will gladly send copies of all the B.C. "B" sides. He has every release in almost every format. Likewise, if Sandy Urban sends a cassette, Oliver will send copies of the Skids albums "Dunfermline" and "Scared To Dance" or any of the singles that he has.

**Cathy "Kitt" Curry** (Membership No 000412)

Ireland

Kitt is looking for a 12" copy of "Just A Shadow" plus any photos of the Band from the Slane Castle gig in Ireland 1987 or from any other IRISH gigs.

**Dirk Lohmann** (Membership No 000187)

Germany

Dirk would like absolutely anything on vinyl, CD, Cassette or video including any memorabilia of Skids and B.C.

**Iain MacCorquodale** (Membership No 003384)

Iain has asked me to print a big THANK YOU for the amazing response to his request for records in the last issue. He has managed to secure a copy of all that he was looking for plus extra ones and is over the moon at how friendly and helpful everyone has been. He says "The best band in the world also have the best fans".

**Peter Reuscher** (Membership No 003154)

Germany

Peter would like a copy of "Just A Shadow", "Fields Of Fire", "Chance" (pic) 12", "Where The Rose Is Sown", and "One Great Thing" (green) 7".

**Richard Fitzgerald** (Membership No 001879)

Richard is looking for Tour Programmes from The Crossing, Steeltown, The Scer and also a 7" of "Harvest Home". He CAN SUPPLY video copies of Live At The T & C Club, The Prince's Trust 1990, Edinburgh Playhouse 1984 - seven songs and Brixton Ace 1982 - three songs.