

**BIG
COUNTRY
COUNTRY
CLUB**

1992



QUARTER CENTENARY
ISSUE 25

Hi,

Having returned from an extended holiday in Texas (we paid the extra to stay a further week as we were having such a wonderful time), I've been run off my feet trying to catch up - it's not an easy battle so, I apologise for the fact that hols interfered with the schedule of the magazine.

Members who booked or, should I say, tried to book for the Convention, which was planned for 29th August at Leeds University, will be only too aware that we had no alternative other than to cancel. Although the Band and everyone was enthusiastic to hold another Convention, there was great doubt back in July, with recording due to begin on 12th August, that the Band would be out of the studio and able to make it. They were, indeed, still in the studio on 29th August and have just recently finished. By all accounts, the new material is fantastic.

A decision as to which will be the first single has not yet been reached but we are hopeful for a release on 4th January 1993 but, it may even be as early as 28th December 1992.

Recording of the album is now finished and I can't wait to hear it - mixing is due to begin very soon with the release expected early to mid February 1993.

TOUR PLANS??? It's far too early to give firm dates or venues but the band will be on the road for most of 1993. All I can give you at the moment are the very bare bones of the tour schedule:

In early March, you can expect ten to twelve dates in the UK

followed by gigs in twelve major cities across EUROPE

then, off to AMERICA

next, JAPAN and AUSTRALIA

and then back for the EUROPEAN FESTIVALS.

It is, then, likely that the band will round off the tour by returning to the territories where the album continues to sell well for more dates. (A very busy year ahead!)

I did mention in the last issue (and, indeed, in Hot News sheets) that the Band had re-recorded "Kansas", "Ships" and "Rockin' In A Free World" with possible plans to release as a single this year BUT this is 'on hold' at present and a final decision will be made once the album has been finalised.

Patricia Thezan (Membership No 000454) has written to me pointing out that a T.V. commercial for the Peugeot 405, being shown on French T.V., has "Save Me" playing in the background!

Jan

P.S. Just a bit of waffle, really, but I do get quite a lot of letters from members asking for a new membership card for one reason or another and then, once they have received their new card, they write and complain that they have got a new membership number! Well, the thing is that all membership cards are pre-numbered and therefore only **ONE CARD PER NUMBER IS PREPARED**. So, a new card means a new number.

TALENT CORNER

Scott Dickson (Membership No 003375) sent me these cartoon drawings.

His idea, before the Convention had to be postponed, was to have these drawings printed onto T/shirts and, who knows, we may yet. Anyway, Scott certainly has an artistic bent so I thought it would be a good idea to print them in this issue of the mag.

Would other members like to see these drawings on T/shirts in the future?

I will get the originals back to your shortly, Scott.



STU



BRUCE



TONE

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- Q** Have the band seriously considered releasing a live album? From Riku Metelinen (Membership No 001905).

Tony: *The question of live albums always crops up but we have mostly utilised live recordings for the vast array of formats that is required by the record company these days. I, personally, feel that the record buyer is more likely to get value for money this way than the band putting substandard material on "B" sides etc. I also do not think that a live album ever encapsulates the atmosphere of gigs. Even videos fall short of the mark.*

- Q** Have the band ever considered recording cover versions of David Bowie's "Rebel Rebel" or the stones "Brown Sugar", as I really think they would do these songs justice? From Riku Metelinen (Membership No 001905)

Tony: *Covering songs is something we do when the mood takes us, usually when we are thinking about "B" sides, or jamming during soundchecks. It's a fun thing. But to say we should do certain songs because we would do them justice is not quite the way to go. There are some ideas going around at the moment, but let's wait and see.*

- Q** One from the archives. Could you, please, let us have the lyrics for the Skids "Into The Valley"?! From Kevin Jones (Membership No 000223)

Answer: *So, we delved and hey, presto:*

INTO THE VALLEY

*Into the valley
Betrothe and divine
Realisations no virtue
But who can define
Why soldiers go marching
Those masses aline
This disease is catching
From victory to stone*

*Ahoy! ahoy! land, sea and sky
Ahoy! ahoy! boy, man and soldier
Ahoy! ahoy! deceived and then
punctured
Ahoy! ahoy! long may they die*

*Out of concealment
Blank and stark eyed*

*Why so uncertain
This culture deceives
Prophesised, brainwashed
Tomorrow's demise
All systems failing
The placards unrole*

*Ahoy! ahoy! land, sea and sky
Ahoy! ahoy! boy, man and soldier
Ahoy! ahoy! deceived and then
punctured
Ahoy! ahoy! long may they die*

*Time for the audit
The gathering trial
A collectors dilemma
Repositioned and filed*

- Q** Stan Lenkiewicz, (Membership No 000414) like other American fans, is interested to hear how the Band feel about the difficulties encountered on their other side of the Atlantic Ocean when attempting to get hold of your albums? Especially, obviously, "Greatest Hits" and "No Place Like Home".

Tony: *I think it's a real shame that our American fans experience difficulties getting hold of the more recent albums, but I'm afraid that typifies the lack of record company interest in the band during this time. Our American company, Warner Bros, was not interested in releasing the "Hits" album and we were promptly dropped before "No Place" but "looking back in anger" is not my thing. Hopefully, the new album will be available in the US and its success will no doubt prompt interest in all the albums since "The Crossing". It is also our intention to embark on a massive American tour next year so, Stan, tell your friends.*

- Q** From Stan Lenkiewicz (Membership No 000414). Have you had any more thoughts about a "B" side album?

Tony: *I haven't thought about it because I'd hoped we'd never do it. As a commercial venture, I think it sucks. I'm very proud of our recorded history and there are ways (especially through the fan club) to pick up 7" and 12" etc. that some may have missed. But we're into something new now which is more important to us at this moment in time.*

- Q** From Stan Lenkiewicz (Membership No 000414) Stan has been busy thinking up questions for the Band and would, further, like to hear what causes stress?

Tony: *I'm a relatively stress-free zone at the moment. I try to take things in my stride but the only thing that I will own up to is the events which culminated in the parting of the ways with our former record company and then the prospects of being in a no contract wilderness. Enter Chris Briggs - stress over!*

- Q I would appreciate it if you could clear up a little discrepancy for me. On "The Sea" album, "Sailor" is said to be written by Adamson/Brzezicki and "I Walk The Hill" is said to be written by Adamson/Butler/Brzezicki. BUT the CD/tape/book of lyrics state that the songs were written by Adamson. Which credit is correct? From Stan Lenkiewicz (Membership No 000414)

Answer: Oops! The album credit is correct.

- Q From Stan Lenkiewicz (Membership NO 000414). Is Colin Berwick a permanent member of the Band? Does he appear on the new album? Will he tour with you next time?

Tony: Yeah!! The wild man of Frenchie has put some Hammond on a couple of tracks and somebody has to play the piano part on "Ships" so I expect he will make an appearance on tour. I'm not too sure about his haircut, though!

- Q From Leigh Dalgleish (Membership No 003397). Why, during the last tour, was "The Hostage Speaks" dropped from the Irvine concert?

Tony: When we rehearse for a tour, we consider all the songs (old and new) that will have the ingredients of a great show. Also, where songs are positioned is very important. We have always tended to introduce new songs in chunks of three or four-ish, purely because some people may not be as familiar with them as others are, also we have to accommodate those who are just into the old ones. But I seem to remember songs like "Hostage" and "Leap Of Faith" not working live in the way we had envisaged. So, maybe on certain nights, we would, or wouldn't, play them. It was a "feel" thing.

- Q What about a track listing for the new album?

Tony: Sorry, not yet!

- Q Is Simon Phillips going to tour with you?

Tony: At the moment of writing, Simon's further involvement is up in the air because of his numerous commitments elsewhere.

- Q Is "Ships" still going to be released as a single?

Tony: I would like to think that it will be, the new recorded version is great.

- Q What is your opinion on the introduction of the new formats i.e. the DCC and minidisc? Do you think artists should be contributing to its introduction as per the recent media coverage and, in your opinion, do you think the formats will be successful?

Tony: To be honest, I do not know much about these new concepts but, I do think to confuse the public just when CD is becoming the norm is whacko. Obviously, if the quality was noticeably better to the average listener and the equipment was reasonably priced, then yeah! I'd support it but now is certainly not the right time to change formats.

P.S. If the record companies need to rip off their artists even more in order to implement these ill-timed innovations, then what's the point?

- Q Have the band considered going back to Russia? What changes do you think you would find since being there in 1988?

Tony: You can tell by watching the news programmes that Russia (CIS) has not physically changed yet because "these things take time". So, if we did go back there, I'm sure things wouldn't have changed that much. At the moment, there are no plans to go there but, who knows? There are so many other countries (Australia, Brazil etc.) that we have not visited that I hope will be considered if the new album is a success.

We will be mixing the new album very soon so I will jot down some observations and answer more questions during that time so, for now, it's just a sound thing.

Yo
Tony

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BRUCE WATSON

At last, the day has come for us to start recording our new album at RAK Studios (home of the hits!). RAK hasn't changed a bit since we recorded "The Crossing" back in 1983. The mixing desk still hasn't been converted from steam to gas and, every time a module goes down on the board, Hugh, the Irish house engineer's reply is always the same, "*Bejeczus, it's the dillithium crystals.*"

RAK Studios are owned by seventies pop entrepreneur, Mickie Most. A frail man of no fixed sultan, with an uncanny knack of being in the right suit at the right time. Mickie turns up to work every day in a different car; one day the Porsche, next day the Caddy, etc. "*Morning, Mr Most, and how are we today?*" "*Rich*", came the reply. Aitch, our glamorous receptionist, is busy behind her desk. "*Shit, I just can't get the hang of this Nintendo*" she cursed. Aitch is a joy to the eye - a six foot two inch scouse vamp, with purple hair, tie-dye leggings, her father's sailor tunic and eight hole Dr. Martens. "*You should have seen me with blonde hair, Bruce. I looked really weird.*" "*Weird, I'll show you weird!*" I thought.

The familiar sound of Robert Plant's golden larynx came screaming through the reception area, as the door to Studio One swung open. "*Mickie, how are you?*" he shouted. "*Richer*", Mickie replied. After some backslapping, the two old soldiers retired to the rec room.

"*What's that fucking smell?*" Chris Sheldon's nose screwed up. "*How the hell do you expect me to get a decent drum balance when you keep coming in here*

and dropping your lunch every five minutes!" "Sorry" Stuart said, "*next time it happens, I'll light a match.*"

Simon Phillips was in the living room, tuning his drums and swapping Who stories with Tony. Fluff, our roadie, was restringing the guitars and carrying off the illusion that he really knew what he was doing. "*Soldering is a bit like welding, only without the goggles*" he said, as he wrenched the neck of Tony's Precision. "*I'll fix that after Neighbours*", and off he went.

The first five days were spent getting the drum tracks down as Simon was flying off to the States to go on tour with Toto (the rock group, not the small dog). "*He's a bit better than Pat Ahern*" Chris quipped sarcastically. "*Nice guy too*" said Mickie as he caught Simon's eye through the control room glass. "*Simon, how are you?*" "*Not as rich as you, Mickie*" came the reply. Simon was right - he only had one Porsche and Mickie had four.

New Order are working in Studio Three at the moment and a young band called Blurr have been in and out over the past few days. Blurr's guitarist tells me he had a sticker of me on his guitar when he was about fourteen. Naturally I was flattered but scolded him severely as the reaction between the adhesive on the cellulose paint would leave a rather ugly stain on his guitar for the rest of its working life. He thanked me and opened another bottle of Becks. Blurr have been working with Andy Partridge, from XTC, producing. Andy is one of the nice guys in rock 'n' roll and I was pretty surprised to find him outside the studio banging his head against an old Lyrec tape deck. "*What's up, Andy?*" I said. "*Bastards are shit!*" he replied. "*Ah, the youth of today*" I mused and slipped past him with that knowing look. "*Dinner's out*", Cindy, the chef, rasped in her thick Irish brogue. "*I wish you'd use the phone like everyone else!*" shouted Stuart. And with that we were out to lunch again.... ta ta for now.





Forget Pepsi - Chris Sheldon obviously reckons the sun (Sol) shines out eyes?

POSERS FOR FUN (from the last issue)

Just in case there are few of you scratching your heads over one or two here are the answers.

From Scott Dickson (Membership No 003375)

- 1 What B.C. song was featured on the soundtrack "Against All Odds"? - **BALCONY**
- 2 Name three bands who supported B.C. at the Glasgow Hogmanay gig at Barrowlands. - **RUNRIG, SECOND THOUGHTS and PASSIONATE FRIENDS.**
- 3 "The Crossing" LP was released in four colours, name them. - **BLUE, GREEN, WHITE, RED.**
- 4 While Big Country were co-head lining with Bryan Adams in East Berlin in 1986, who was playing on the other side of the wall to a smaller audience? - **MICHAEL JACKSON.**
- 5 Who supported B.C. on all their Scottish dates in 1984 except the Playhouse gig in Edinburgh? - **ZERRA L.**
- 6 Who did Richard Jobson (with Armoury Show) support at the Barrowlands in January 1985? - **SIMPLE MINDS.**
- 7 Simple Minds supported Skids in 1981. True or false? - **TRUE.**
- 8 Richard Jobson released an album of spoken verse and poetry. What was it called and on what record label? - **"AN AFTERNOON IN COMPANY" ON LES DISQUES DUE CREPUSCULE.**
- 9 What was Richard Jobson's other solo album called? - **BADMAN.**
- 10 Stuart played guitar on the last Skids album "Joy".
 - a) What track did he play on? - **IONA**
 - b) What two other famous Scottish musicians played on the album and what band are they in? - **BILLY MCKENZIE and ALLAN RAMKIN OF THE "ASSOCIATES".**
 - c) Who produced the album? - **RUSSEL WEBB.**

From Graham Barnes (Membership No 003426)

- 1 In which country were the videos filmed for "Peace In Our Time"? - **AUSTRALIA.**
- 2 On the "River Of Hope" video, what does Mark call his drum kit? - **HIS HOUSE.**
- 3 Which album are these tracks from:- "All Fall Together", "Heart And Soul" and "The Crossing"? - **"WONDERLAND".**
- 4 What year did the band do their gig at Barrowlands, Glasgow New Year's Eve? - **1983/84.**
- 5 "The Seer" tour video was filmed where in New York? - **THE NEW YORK PIER.**
- 6 What does Stuart always tell the fans at the end of a gig? - **STAY ALIVE.**
- 7 What broke upon us with fury and flame? - **THE STORM.**
- 8 What football team does Stuart support? - **DUMFERMLINE.**
- 9 When was "Just A Shadow" released? - **JANUARY 1987.**

From Ian Forster (Membership No 001547)

- 1 What was Big Country's biggest hit single? - **"LOOK AWAY".**
- 2 What number did it reach? - **Seven.**
- 3 Who is Big Country's manager? - **IAN GRANT.**
- 4 Who is Mark Erzeckicki playing drums for now? (September 1991 - as I have had these questions on file for a while now.) - **MIDGE URE.**
- 5 Who opened for Big Country on the Under Wraps Tour 1987? - **THE WONDER STUFF.**
- 6 What song opened "The Crossing" Tour? - **"1,000 STARS".**
- 7 What song opened the "Through A Big Country" Tour? - **"RESTLESS NATIVES".**
- 8 Give the first (character) names of the "clown" and the "wolf man" in the film "Restless Natives" - **KONNIE and WILL.**
- 9 What is the song "1,000 Yard Stare" about? - **VIETNAM.**
- 10 Who else played Knebworth 1986 besides Big Country? - **QUEEN, STATUS QUO and BELOUISE SOME.**

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!!

The staff at RAK Studio, sorry to see Big Country leave, organised a surprise, farewell party for them on their last night there. The cake was baked the balloons were inflated and the kissogram booked. Fluff, the roadie, being 'quiet and easily embarrassed' was the lucky recipient of the kissogram.

And, to quote the staff and owners of RAK

'BIG COUNTRY ARE THE BEST BAND EVER TO HAVE WORKED HERE!'

Bruce at RAK



Fluff with his kissogram !!



Nigel (RAK Engineer), Stuart, RAK chef, Chris Briggs, Trish (RAK)



MORE RECORD COLLECTING

PROMOTIONAL ISSUES

by Dominic Williams
(Membership No 000325)

Probably a better name for this piece would be **"Non Standard Issues"** as there is often great confusion about the various types of issue. Promotional records, as the name suggests, are released in order to promote the sales of a record. There are DJ promos that are supplied to get the record played on the radio and in clubs. Advanced promos are often supplied to shops to persuade the shop to play the record and, more importantly, stock it. In reality, a shop is often offered several promo copies that they may keep or sell at 100% profit in exchange for stocking the record. For example, last year I was able to purchase a 12" promo of 'Republican Party Reptile' for £2.99 a week before the record was released! There are also other types of inducement such as 'The Crossing' playing cards, or a press pack with glossy photos, or a promo-only T-shirt. I won't be mentioning acetates which, although collectors' items, aren't promos at all but studio test pressings. I have acetates for 'Rose' and 'Teacher'.

As far as Big Country are concerned, there are many interesting promotional items. I am listing the ones that either I have or have seen. There may be more - please let me know the details. The best one, by far, which has, unfortunately, eluded me is the Big Country box set which was released around the time of 'The Crossing'. It contained various copies of 'The Crossing' in the different colours, all the 12" singles from the LP, a poster and a display plinth. This item is very rare and would be very expensive.

There are copies of 'The Crossing' released with blank, white labels. Such records are often called test pressings but may well just be treated like another promo. I have a test pressing of 'Steeltown' which is pressed on one side only. I also have a radio sample 12" from Canada which contains 'Steeltown' and 'Just A Shadow' on each side (DJV 146). There are some copies of 'The Seer', probably American, and some English copies of 'The Crossing' that have a gold embossed promo stamp on the sleeve. As far as I am aware, there have been no record promos of 'Peace', 'Through A Big Country' or 'NPLH' in the UK. An interesting CD promo for 'Peace',

which is fairly easy to get hold of is a five track promo sampler featuring 'King Of Emotion', 'Broken Heart', 'Thousand Yard Stare', 'From Here To Eternity' and 'Peace In Our Time'. The CD (catalogue number BCCDS1) has a mainly white sleeve with the famous bird on the front. In Canada, a nine track promo was released on record for the 'Peace' LP and the Canadian release of 'Broken Heart' (BIGLP1). It contained the same tracks as the UK promo CD on side one and side two contained the four tracks from the Canadian 12"/CD/Cassette of 'Broken Heart'. There are also two American one track CD promos of 'King Of Emotion' (PR-CD-3238) and 'Peace In Our Time' (PRO-CD-3338), with interesting inlay designs. The copy of the 'KOE' CD that I bought came as part of a press pack with a glossy photo of Stuart and several pages of information.

As far as 12" singles go, there are at least two promos of 'Chance'. There is one coupled with 'Inwards' and another more common one with 'The Crossing' - neither feature 'Tracks Of My Tears'. There is a promo of 'Harvest Home' with just a large '1' and '2' to denote the sides, the track listing being the same as the normal single. There are US 12" promo copies of 'Fields' (pro 239-1), 'Chance' and 'In A Big Country' (pro 221-1) with two versions of the same song on each. They come in a plain white sleeve with a sticker listing the tracks with a crossing emblem. 'Wonderland' is a white label release in the UK. There are UK and US 12" promos of 'East Of Eden'. The UK issue is of similar type to the 'Harvest' promo, the US one having two versions of the song. There are also US promos of 'Shadow' (pro 333-1) and 'Rose'. The 'Rose' promo claims to have a special AOR mix, but is not any different to the UK version. There are several promo 12" from 'The Seer' singles. There are two promos of 'Look Away', one being a DJ promo (BIGCXDJ1) of the normal 12", and a 1/2 type version of the Outlaw mix (which is infinitely easier to find than the actual single). There is a US promo 12" of 'Look Away' (pro 414-1) with the single version of the song on both sides. A 12" of the Outlaw mix also exists in the US. Similarly, there are the Boston mix and Big Baad Country mixes of 'One Great Thing' on separate singles, the former being available both as a 1/2 type and an advanced DJ promo (BIGCX3DJ), and the latter being an advanced DJ copy. There is a US promo of 'One Great Thing' with the single version on both sides (pro 442-1). As far as I am aware, there are no promos for either 'Teacher' or 'Hold The Heart'. There is an advance DJ copy of 'King Of Emotion' (BIGCDJ512) with a white label and black writing. The other singles were not released in promo form in 12". 'Save Me' was released as a white label promo with just A/B labels, but had a small sticker on the sleeve with DJ promo type number (BIGCDJ812). As well as the 'Republican' 12" promo, there was also a 12" released in this country to promote 'Beautiful People' as a DJ promo.

As far as 7"s go, there are only a few interesting items. There is a UK promo of 'Chance' (COUDJ4) with a shorter version of the song. There is also, more interestingly, an Argentinian promo of 'Chance' (Reisco) coupled with 'In A Big Country' (En Un Gran Pais) (0000017). In the US, a DJ promo of 'Look Away' (884645-7) was released with the same version on both sides. There also exists French and US (811450-7) promos of 'Fields'. There is an Italian promo of 'King Of Emotion' (A55000789) with a track by Black called 'The Big One' on the other side. The US promo of 'XOE' (7-27737) has the LP version on both sides. There is a UK promo of 'Peace' with a radio edit on one side and the single version on the other. This record has different serial numbers for each side (BIGD7 and BIGCDJ8), with two versions of the song on it. I recently purchased a DJ promo of 'Beautiful People' (BIGDJ2).

Lastly, a word of warning! Some dealers advertise records as promos which turn out to be identical to the standard release, simply with a white sticker (probably bought by the hundred) on the sleeve. Also, some promo tapes advertised are simply ordinary cassettes (I have two, one with just 'King Of Emotion' on, and the other five tracks from 'Through A Big Country' with the band's name on a typed sticker. Whilst record companies do issue both records with white promo stickers on and cassettes of this type, you should be aware that this is open to people trying to con you into paying for something that isn't that unusual and may not be genuine.

Any further info on promos, enquires about records etc. please write with a stamped, addressed envelope to **Dominic Williams, 10 Harper Grove, Sutton-In-Carven, North Yorks, BD20 7JN, UK.**

A TRAVELLER'S TALE

by **Edward Rush**
(Membership No 001654)

Edward wrote to me a while ago:-

"...I have enclosed a little story which I recently wrote. I was stuck in a plane at Inverness Airport for two hours because of fog and so the time was spent writing the enclosed piece - the things you do when you're bored! This, of course, is the tidy version - the original was scribbled on bits of newspaper and, dare I say it, sick bags. I tried to put in as many B.C. song titles as I could but somehow, no matter how hard I tried, songs like 'The Soapy Sutor Strikes

Back just wouldn't fit.**

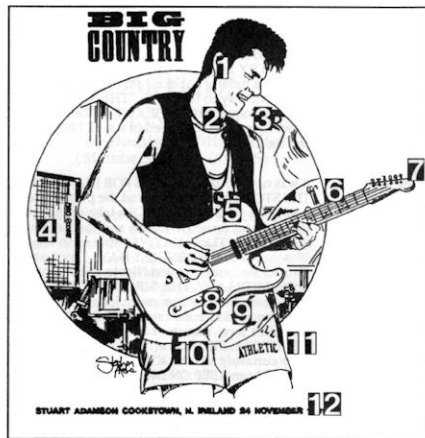
It was 5am, outside was black, all I could see in the WINTER SKY was a 1,000 STARS but today was the start of my hols and I was to join the TRAVELLERS at Inverness Airport, all of whom were to make THE CROSSING to Heathrow. By 6am, the HIGHLAND SCENERY was showing itself and I was sure of a good view of the BIG COUNTRY as I flew south. Arriving at the airport, I hastily checked in, then ALL OF US made our way to the plane. THE TEACHER at school always told me THE ONE GREAT THING about flying was the speed of travel, I hoped he was right.

It was now 6.50am and TIME FOR LEAVING but THE STORM had closed in and the pilot politely told us he wouldn't CHANCE a take off just yet. Five minutes turned to fifteen and soon a few of the local RESTLESS NATIVES started to moan. Was this to be the LONGEST DAY? I spoke to a Dan Air stewardess called Nicole; she was a real DYNAMITE LADY, THE GIRL WITH THE GREY EYES and asked her how much longer we would be. She said she was not THE SEER and so couldn't say. Those stewardesses are all BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, all MADE IN HEAVEN, they certainly stir the KING OF EMOTION in me, still I can KEEP ON DREAMING.

The pilot fed us a RIVER OF HOPE by saying I'M ONLY WAITING for the fog to clear, but I could tell by his voice that he was a TROUBLED MAN. Finally, after a two hour delay, we took off. Some say Scotland is the PROMISED LAND and certainly I COULD BE HAPPY HERE but, when the plane flies OVER THE BORDER, you reach THE HEART OF THE WORLD for me. The flight takes one and a half hours, over 400 MILES and there's lots to see. As we FLY LIKE AN EAGLE over the sea, I could see THE SAILOR, ON THE SHORE besides his SHIPS, we crossed the mountains, the home of the RED FOX then, in contrast, the STEELTOWNS of the Midlands. Soon the GREAT DIVIDE had been crossed and we were over London. Below I could see THE FLAG OF NATIONS fluttering in the wind at the Cenotaph, soon it would be REMEMBRANCE DAY, then we flew over the Houses of Parliament and I thought of all the REPUBLICAN PARTY REPTILES inside.

Soon it was over, touchdown, thank God I wasn't DEAD ON ARRIVAL. London is a far cry from the Highlands, old people JUST A SHADOW of their former selves trying to keep up with young men in Armani suits. I had to LOOK AWAY from half the things I saw as I made my way to Terminal 1. From the BALCONY, I looked for the person who was going to SAVE ME from all of this mayhem then I saw her and greeted her with all my HEART AND SOUL and thought there's NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

LAST ISSUE'S COMPETITION ANSWERS

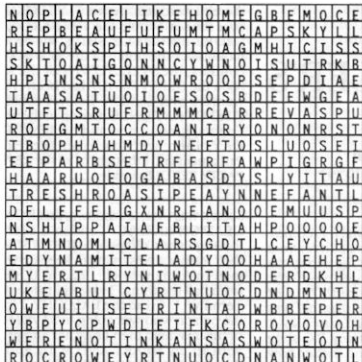


SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The first correct entry out of the sack was from Patricia Thezan (Membership No 000454) from France, and I will getting a prize off to you very shortly, Patricia.

WORD SEARCH

SENT IN BY NEIL RUTHERFORD (MEMBERSHIP NO 001570)



THE FOLLOWING CAN ALL BE FOUND WITHIN THE GRID - BACKWARDS, FORWARDS, UPWARDS, DOWNWARDS OR DIAGONALLY.

ENTRIES IN NO LATER THAN 14TH DECEMBER - NEXT MAG DUE IN JANUARY (CHRISTMAS PERMITTING).

BEAT THE DEVIL
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE
COMES A TIME
COUNTRY CLUB
DYNAMITE LADY
FREEDOM SONG
INTO THE FIRE
KEEP ON DREAMING
KISS THE GIBL GOODBYE
LEAP OF FAITH
MONMOUTH
NO PLACE LIKE HOME
PAT MORAN
REPUBLICAN PARTY REPTILE
ROCKFIELD
SHIPS
THE HOSTAGE SPEAKS
TOWN AND COUNTRY
WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS
YOU ME AND THE TRUTH

PEN PALS

Rich Jameson (Membership No 003589)
UK

Year of birth 1970

Rick would like to make contact with other B.C. fanatics from the Hull area so that he can team up with you for gigs and general piss-ups etc. Musically he also likes Skids, The Alarm, U2 and Simple Minds.

Satu Holmberg (Membership No 003608)
Finland.

Year of birth 1970

Satu would like to write to B.C. fans from all over the globe and would also love to hear from other Finnish fans.

Tim Frommer (Membership No 003373)
U.S.A.

Year of birth 1969

Tim's other musical interests include New Model Army, The House Of Love and The Mission and would love to hear from B.C. fans from anywhere.

Robert Barker (Membership No 001748)
UK

Year of birth 1960

Robert says, "... although I'm older than many club members, I've been into B.C. and celtic folk/rock music for years and there aren't too many places where B.C.'s etc. music is played down here (something I'm trying to put right!)

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.

If any one wishes me to re-print their name on the pen-pal list you have only to ask.

I've also got virtually every B.C. single (in every format) and some doubles. Other groups/artists I'm into are Runrig, Alarm, Simple Minds and Marillion. Other interests include discovering other B.C. fans (female preferably), going to gigs, country walks, character pubs, motorbikes and football.

Claus Tappert (Membership No 003593)
Germany.

Year of birth 1967

Main interests are: travelling, playing the guitar and football. Musical tastes include: Heroes Del Silencio, All About Eve. (He did give a few more names but unfortunately, I could not make them out - German bands I expect and I have to admit to not recognising the names).

Oliver Schlegel (Membership No 003386)
Germany.

Year of birth 1970

Oliver would like to have contact with Scottish B.C. fans



One of our rubber stamps.
£2.90. Send S.A.E. for
PLONKERS catalogue:

Plonkers, P O Box 59, Ashwell, Herts, SG7 5NT

So many of you have recently asked for an up-dated merchandise list that printing it in the mag seemed the most sensible thing to do. Several items have been REDUCED FOR CLEARANCE.

MERCHANDISE

- Black T/SHIRT** - full colour picture of the Band (including Mark) on the front M / XL £ 7.50 plus P & P
White short sleeve **hooded T/SHIRT**, various logos (1990) M £ 9.00 plus P & P
DUNFERMLINE CONVENTION T/SHIRT L / XL £ 4.00 plus P & P
DUNFERMLINE CONVENTION BASEBALL CAP £ 1.50 plus P & P
EMBROIDERED SWEAT SHIRT. Now only available in White / Burgundy. Embroidered across the front "Big Country" over the Peace In Our Time bird. Please state 1st and 2nd choice of colour. M / XL £19.50 plus P & P
- "Peace In Our Time" **BUTTON BADGE** £ 0.50 plus P & P
1991 **BUTTON BADGE** £ 1.00 plus P & P
NPLH SEW-ON PATCH £ 2.50 plus P & P
- CHINA MUG** - BIG COUNTRY logo in BLUE PRINT and on the other side COUNTRY CLUB and the BIRD as per letter heading £ 3.00 plus P & P
CONVENTION MUGS. White mug printed in green - Reptile Dunfermline 31st August £ 2.00 plus P & P
CONVENTION MUGS. White mug printed in blue - "No Place Like Home" (as per the album cover) Dunfermline 31st August £ 2.00 plus P & P
- Jumbo "Country Club" **PEN** £ 1.00 plus P & P
Convention **LEATHER THONGED NECK-PEN**. Printed in red "Big Country" and "No Place Like Home" £ 1.00 plus P & P
- FANZINE - BACK ISSUES** (please note that prices shown are EACH issue. Thank you)
ISSUE 4 / ISSUE 8/9 / ISSUE 11 / ISSUE 15 / ISSUE 17 / ISSUE 18 (blue cover) / **ISSUE 18A** (red cover) slightly up-dated version of Issue 18. 19 / 20 / 21 / 22 / 23 / 24 £ 1.00 plus P & P
PHOTO COPIES of the following **BACK ISSUES** available:
ISSUE 1 / ISSUE 13 £ 2.00 plus P & P
ISSUE 2 / ISSUE 3 £ 2.40 plus P & P
ISSUE 5 / ISSUE 10 / ISSUE 7 £ 2.90 plus P & P
ISSUE 12 £ 1.20 plus P & P
ISSUE 14 / ISSUE 16 £ 1.80 plus P & P
- VIDEOS** (European systems only: PAL 625 VHS)
"Big Country Live" **Barrowlands Glasgow** (CFV 00232) £ 9.99 plus P & P
"Through A Big Country Greatest Hits" (0835483) (Reissued at budget price - new package) £ 5.99 plus P & P
FAN CLUB EXCLUSIVE LIMITED EDITION "RIVER OF HOPE" (a documentary of the band's visit to Moscow). Please note that this is only available through the Fan Club, on VHS PAL system only £10.00 plus P & P
- POSTERS**
"Heart Of The World" as included in the Limited Edition p/p 69cms x 69cms £0.50 plus P & P

PRINTED MATTER:

Sheet music - "Look Away"	£ 2.25 plus P & P
Sheet music - "King Of Emotion"	£ 2.25 plus P & P
BOOK OF LYRICS as advertised on N.P.L.H.	£ 7.00 plus P & P
1991 TOUR PROGRAMME	£ 6.00 plus P & P

PERSONALISED B.C. NOTEPAPER. Your name and address printed top centre with the "bird" as a "back-drop" over the sheet. 25 sheets of A4 paper plus 25 envelopes. Please check that I have your address correct and supply your telephone number to appear on the paper.....

£5.00 plus P & P

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Pack consisting of:
Two stickers and four old photographs in a Big Country folder

£ 2.00 plus P & P

EMBROIDERED SATIN JACKET. Blue jacket embroidered on the back "BIG COUNTRY" across the bird. The breast "COUNTRY CLUB" with the bird. M / XL

£59.50 plus P & P

EMBROIDERED RUGBY SHIRTS. Now available only in Green and Black. Embroidered on the front breast only, as per the satin jacket front 42/44"

£19.50 plus P & P

EMBROIDERED POLO SHIRTS. Embroidered as per the rugby shirts

BLACK Medium / Large	£16.50 plus P & P
RED Medium / Large	£16.50 plus P & P
WHITE Large only	£16.50 plus P & P

SPECIAL CONVENTION PACK which includes one T/Shirt, Leather thonged pen and Convention baseball cap

£ 6.00 plus P & P

1991 TOUR T/SHIRTS AND SW/SHIRTS

White T/SHIRT NPLH album L / M / XL

£10.00 plus P & P

Black Beautiful People T/SHIRT L / M

£10.00 plus P & P

White SW/SHIRT XL / L

£20.00 plus P & P

POST AND PACKING

	UK	Europe	Elsewhere In The World
T/Shirt / Polo Shirt	£0.75	£1.50	£2.50 air
Badge / Sew-on Patch	£0.30	£0.50	£1.00 air
Mug / Song Book	£0.90	£2.00	£3.50 air
Pen / sheet music	£0.30	£0.75	£1.75 air
Back Issue Fanzines / "Archive set"	£0.50	£1.00	£2.00 air
Heart Of The World Poster	£1.75	£2.50	£4.50 air
Convention Pack	£0.90	£2.00	£4.00 air
Video	£1.00	£2.20	£3.50 air
Personalised notepaper and envs.	£0.75	£1.50	£3.00 air
Jacket	£2.75	£5.00	£5.50 surf £9.50 air
	BUT AUSTRALIA		£21.00 air
Sweat Shirt / Rugby Shirt	£1.50	£2.20	£4.20 air
Baseball Caps	£0.50	£0.75	£2.00 air
Book of lyrics / Tour Programme	£0.75	£1.30	£3.00 air

NOTICE BOARD

Oliver Schlegel (Membership No 003386)

Germany

Oliver has nearly all B.C.'s records BUT is missing--
"Harvest Home" 7". He is willing to pay good money for a good condition copy.
"Beautiful People" 12" - he only has the postcard!
"Heart Of The World" CD single
"Restless Natives"

Tim Jones

Wales.

Although Tim is not a member of Country Club, I did print an ad from him. In the last issue and he has written in again with a few additions to his list of B.C. records FOR SALE--

"Wonderland" mini LP Canadian six-track MINT/MINT condition - £11.00
"Fete Touchend Empty Glass" LP mint condition featuring Mark and Tony (1980) £6.00
P.S. The above prices include post and packing within the UK.

Please make cheques payable to Tim Jones.

Caron Hardon (Membership No 003513)

WANTED:- A Copy of "A Certain Chemistry".

David McClure (Membership No 003620)

Scotland.

WANTED:- 7" "Wonderland" and 12" "Beautiful People".
FOR SWAP:- 7" "Heart Of The World", "Save Me", "One Great Thing" and "Fields Of Fire".

Peter Kay (Membership No 003429)

Scotland.

WANTED:- A good copy of the Dingwall Legend gig either 10th or 11th October 1991. He is willing to pay a good price. Also he would be interested in any bootlegs from any tour.

ON OFFER:- 7" "Just A Shadow" (BC08) - £2.50
"Peace In Our Tense" (BIGC7) - £1.75
"Heart Of The World" (BIGC9) - £1.50
"Beautiful People" (BIC2) - £1.50

12" "Where The Rose Is Sown" (MERX 185) - £3.00
"Look Away" / "Restless Natives" soundtrack (BIGCS1) - £3.00.

Ian Forster (Membership No 001547)

UK

WANTED:- Copies, any format, of "Made In Heaven" and "Troubled Man"

Andrew, my husband, never ceases to amaze me. He just seems to end up finding the most amazing books! He recently acquired a German 540 page paper-back listing of the world's bootlegs!

So, what does it list for Big Country?

Homeland (Wind Rec. MB 5331)

Wind Records.

Italy - ca 1979-1982

Now very rare Italian bootlegs, all with deluxe cover, partly strictly limited and mostly rather expensive.

Wonderland (ETS 2549/2550)

ETS.

Japan - ca 1982-1988

The biggest Japanese bootleg company of the 1980's. 90% of the records are multiple sets. All records have deluxe covers. Mainly hard/heavy artists where bootlegged. All records are (naturally) very expensive.