



BIG COUNTRY



1995

34

Hi everyone,

So, I'm slowly getting back to normal after the chaotic 2/3 weeks prior to the Convention at the De Montfort University in Leicester and then the actual day on 21st May. Busy, busy. To anyone who was there, yeah, I did get just a little pissed - I put it down to nervous energy, stress, strain, relief that everything had gone off without too many hitches, not eating anything and then, I guess, most of all drinking too many pints of lager too bloody quickly! Anyway, even though I may be a little biased, I think a bloody good day was had by all there and thank you all for being there and making it successful. Of course, a big thank you to the Band for making it all possible and to Jeremy and Duncan Yarnall, Phil Reed and Christian Wilson for "supporting" Big Country - from the applause, I guess you all thought they certainly did more than OK. As mentioned above, the day went off without too many hitches - a short panic ensued when it was discovered that, thanks to a "dodgy roadie", Stuart, Bruce and Tony had NO GUITAR STRINGS! But even that little problem was gotten over! Apart from that, I'm sorry for the owner of the Fiat Punto who had his car broken into - I hope there wasn't too much damage to the car or very much nicked. Apologies to Drew Dudgeon and others who wanted to play for us but, as explained, it was always time permitting and, it didn't! I hope you weren't too disappointed. Next time? As for the people who have phoned me SINCE the Convention asking for tickets, well, what can I say?

For anyone who was unable to make the Convention - you missed a good day but, unfortunately, unlike the Dunfermline Convention, we did not have the time to organise equipment/film crew or the necessary permissions to video it this time - you'll have to make do with what fans have to say and any photos we can reproduce in future Newsletters.

So, what's occurring? Release of the single, "I'm Not Ashamed" has been and gone - largely unnoticed by our National Radio, again, but I believe that the Regional stations have been giving it the air time it deserves. Release of the album, "Why The Long Face", is days away as I type this and will have passed by the time you get this in your sweaty mits but I hope that that achieves better success in the charts. The single had several release dates scheduled - first of all there was a problem with production, then the biker crashed and ruined the tape, then the record company had stock-taking so, eventually 30th May saw the single, officially, in the shops. Yeah, in reply to the letters and phone calls I received - someone at BMG cocked up and didn't realise the release date had altered and therefore some copies got out early! This, obviously, did not help the sales in the first week following the official release (probably losing 15 to 20 chart places) and lead to both CDs being available on 30th May instead of

CD2 being released a week later. The single peaked at number 69 in the charts.

Release in America and the rest of the world? "You Dreamer" or "Sail Into Nothing" will probably go to American radio at the beginning of August (final decision yet to be made) and the album is expected to be released in the States at the end of August on Pure Records and distributed by Alliance Records. As for the rest of the world - watch this space.

I know there are some disappointed fans out there who bought tickets for the Cardiff Music Festival which was due to take place on 6th May. Apparently the promoter, Marcel Mace, cancelled the whole show and disappeared. Red Dragon Radio, the Co-promoters, were puzzled as they estimated a 4,000 plus turnout for the event for which there was 5,000 capacity.

I made mention of a RAFFLE in Issue 33. Well, for those who missed out, this raffle was held at the Convention. Stuart gave us a treasured shirt, Tony an expensive jacket, Mark a pair of signed drumsticks and Bruce some guitar strings so, together with records, posters, photos and lots of knick-knacks etc. etc. the raffle has happened - the band pulled the tickets from a bag and then Bruce took to throwing some of the remaining prizes into the audience - oh well, it was all good fun and, to the guy who bid for the Russian poster in the auction, where's your dosh? Only joking but

A little bit of trivia which I'm sure you're interested in but, Stuart plans to move back to the UK during this summer although, really, I think he's spent more time here and in Europe than in Florida.

I have received several letters and phone calls from you regarding difficulties in getting a copy of "I'm Not Ashamed" - most of you were disappointed by "Our Price". As a general rule, they did not carry it but HMV should not have caused you any problems!! As mentioned the 1,000 copies that got out early did badly affect the initial week's sales which obviously reflected in the disappointing chart position and, because of that and due to the lack of radio playlists at Radio 1 and Virgin a decision was taken that the single be deleted, which it was, on Monday 12th June. Therefore, if you haven't got your copy by now, your chances are poor.

So, what are the feelings at Castle? They admit they cocked up a couple of things but, unlike Chrysalis they maintain that this doesn't deter them or diminish their enthusiasm - *the rest of the year is ahead of us*. The next single will probably be "You Dreamer" scheduled for an August release.

Apparently this was originally the first choice but Chris Whatmough (Breakfast Show producer at Radio 1) persuaded the plugger who, in turn, persuaded Dougie Dudgeon (Castle), Ian and the band to go with "Ashamed" because "Dreamer" was 'too Big Country', whatever that means.

The thing is that so many aspects are totally out of our control - there's nothing we can do to make a record store carry the record or to get certain radio stations to give a release air-time. It's catch 22 - the radio stations don't play it, therefore the record shops don't carry it, so only the fans know of its existence and round we go again. To quote Ian, *"The trouble is that Big Country are seen by the 'cool' and self-assumed 'super-cool' as being unfashionable and they deem it inappropriate that Big Country should grace their playlists or magazines (Q, Vox, Mojo etc.) and in some cases this attitude reaches right into the record store. Woolworth with 25% of the market share, Our Price with 15% and Smiths and Menzies with 10% did not stock the record unless they were actually given one free of charge. If they only have one in stock, when this has been purchased the record would then be impossible to buy unless a said town had an HMV, Tower or independent store"*. We would still be interested to hear from fans who have or do experience difficulty getting their copy of the album or future singles, especially if that difficulty was in HMV or Tower - some independents will also carry it but remember we need you to buy the records to help break this infuriating loop - buy the records, achieve chart success, get it played and then, hopefully, more record stores will carry it and hopefully we we can get back on a winning streak.

Oh yeah, one more thing. I received a couple of phone calls and a few letters asking about the news on Teletext of Mark having left the band, again! FALSE, FALSE and FALSE again. As you can imagine it is very difficult to find the source of these rumours but Ian is trying. This news was, apparently, only on Teletext for about half-an-hour and they say that they heard it from WENN - a Radio Syndication Organisation but where did they hear it from? Don't know.

HOT NEWS:- Do you want to hear news as it breaks, even when this happens between the regular Newsletters/magazines?

All you need do is lodge a stamped, self-addressed envelope here, clearly marked **Hot News**. This envelope should show your **membership number** and the **date of the last Hot News received**. I will then keep such envelope safely filed away waiting until there is news to tell you of release dates/tours or what-have-you. If you don't participate then, (I have to say that funds do not stretch to general mailings on each occasion as this could be a couple of times a week during the band's

will not be made aware of news and could miss out on what is occurring. Overseas members should send International Reply Coupons - foreign stamps are useless to me so, don't waste your money. By the way, I've been meaning to say this for ages - **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SEND IN SELF-SEAL ENVELOPES** - have you ever sat and licked and stuck a couple of hundred envelopes at a sitting? I've done just that several times recently and my mouth ends up tasting like the bottom of a bird cage so, ta muchly for the self-seals, it really helps!

Cheers.

May 1995

WHAT THE BAND SAY:

Here are a few thoughts from Stuart and Bruce on a couple of the new tracks:-

'One In A Million' -

Stuart *"This is about liking people for characteristics they might not recognise in themselves; it's about being drawn to people for the less obvious reasons."*

Bruce *"We wrote this one last summer while we were demoing at The House In The Woods - a studio with beautiful gardens in Surrey."*

'You Dreamer' -

Stuart *"This one's inspired by those people who always make plans but whose plans just never seem to work out - the ones who never get a break. You could say it's about always being in the shadowed area of the garden instead of the sunny bit in the middle."*

'Send You' -

Stuart *"I wanted to write something that had a sort of 70's sounding, straightforward structure to it."*

Bruce *"This one's our Mick Ronson tribute."*

'God's Great Mistake' -

Stuart *"I wrote this one while I was living in America; it's about the natural tendency for the human race to self destruct. We seem much better at all the bad stuff - it seems to come more easily to us than doing good things."*

Bruce *"We wrote this one last summer while we were demoing t the House In The Woods - a studio with beautiful gardens in Surrey."*

Depending on when this actually gets in the
post - a few past, present and future
dates:

Ian and the band would like to extend a big thank you to John Giddings for everything.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 14th June | HMV, 5/6 Commercial Road, Bournemouth (acoustic) 12.30pm |
| 14th June | HMV, 56/58 Above Bar Street, Southampton (acoustic) 4.30pm |
| 15th June | Virgin, Units 7/9 Capitol Arcade, The Capitol, Queens St, Cardiff (acoustic) 1.00pm |
| 15th June | Virgin, The Galleries, Union Gallery, Broadmead, Bristol (acoustic) 5.30pm |
| 17th June | 4th Harley Davidson National Owners Festival, Shepton Mallet, Royal Bath and West Showground |
| 19th June | HMV, Leeds personal appearance (acoustic) |
| 20th June | HMV, 38 High Street, Birmingham (acoustic) 12.30pm |
| 20th June | HV, 2 Albion Street, Derby (acoustic) 4.30pm |
| 21st June | Ainleys, 10/12 Haymarket, Leicester (acoustic) 12.30pm |
| 21st June | Virgin, 6/8 Wheelergate, Nottingham (acoustic) 4.30pm |
| 22nd June | HMV, 90/100 Market Street, Manchester (electric) 5.30pm |
| 23rd June | Tower Records, 217/221 Argyle Street, Glasgow (electric) 5.30pm |
| 26th June | Germany - TV/Radio/Press |
| 27th June | Germany - TV/Radio/Press |
| 28th June | Germany - TV/Radio/Press |
| 30th June | Sjoslagef Festival, Sweden |
| 19th July | Dublin - The Point (special guest of Plant/Page) |
| 20th July | Dublin - The Point (special guest of Plant/Page) |
| 22nd July | Karlsruhe Festival, Germany |
| 28th July | Langeland Festival, Denmark |
| 6th August | Heineken Big Top Music Festival, Swansea |
| 12th August | Schutterof, Germany (Rolling Stones) |
| 13th August | Leuven Festival, Belgium |
| 14th August | Leipzig Festwiese (Rolling Stones) |
| 17th August | Berlin Olympic Stadium (Rolling Stones) |
| 19th August | Hockenheim, The Ring (Rolling Stones) |
| 22nd August | Mannheim, Maimarkt (Rolling Stones) |
| 25th August | Wolfsburg, (venue to be confirmed) (Rolling Stones) |
| 29th August | Athens, (venue to be confirmed) (Rolling Stones) |

- 5th October Motherwell - Civic Theatre (Tickets £9.00 - 01698 267515)
- 6th October Glenrothes - Rothes Hall (Tickets £10.00 - 01592 611101)
- 7th October Glasgow - Barrowlands (Tickets £10.00 - 0131 557 6969)
- 8th October Edinburgh - Usher Hall (Tickets £10.00 - 0131 228 1155)
- 10th October Sheffield - City Hall (Tickets £12.00 and £10.00 - 01142 735295)
- 11th October Grimsby - Auditorium (Tickets £11.00 - 01472 311311)
- 12th October Newcastle - City Hall (Tickets £12.00 and £10.00 - 0191 222 1778)
- 14th October Watford - Coliseum (Tickets £11.00 - 01923 445000)
- 15th October Plymouth - Pavilions (Tickets £11.00 - 01752 229922)
- 17th October Guildford - Civil Hall (Tickets £11.00 - 01483 444555)
- 18th October Cambridge - Corn Exchange (Tickets £11.00 - 01223 357851)
- 20th October Liverpool - Royal Court (Tickets £11.00 - 0151 709 4321)
- 21st October York - Barbican (Tickets £11.00 - 01904 656688)
- 22nd October Manchester - Academy Students Union (Tickets £11.00 - 0161 275 2930)
- 23rd October Llandudno - North Wales Theatre (Tickets £11.00 - 01492 879771)
- 25th October Nottingham - Concert Hall (Tickets £12.00 and £10.00 - 01159 482626)
- 26th October Bradford - St Georges Hall (Tickets £11.00 - 01274 752000)
- 27th October Derby - Assembly Rooms (Tickets £11.00 - 01332 255800)
- 28th October Wolverhampton - Civic Hall (Tickets £11.00 - 01902 312030)
- 30th October Cardiff - St Davids Hall (Tickets £12.00 and £10.00 - 01222 371236)
- 31st October Ipswich - Regent Theatre (Tickets £12.00 and £10.00 - 01473 281480)
- 2nd November Bristol - Colston Hall
- 3rd November Southend - Cliffs Pavilion (Tickets £11.00 - 01702 351135)
- 5th November Brighton - Dome Theatre (Tickets £12.00 and £10.00 - 01273 709709)
- 6th November London - Hammersmith Labatts Apollo

As Hot News participants will know, there has been quite a few mailings recently with new or altered dates so keep those Hot News Envelopes coming 'cos dates are being altered and confirmed quite frequently. Make sure you keep abreast of what's going on - you've been warned.

THE LAUNCH OF "WHY THE LONG FACE"

The Borderline, London on 27th April 1995

"The secret diary of a housewife aged 30 and a quarter"
by Christine Curley.

Tuesday 25th April. How it all began

6.35pm Phone rings..

- I.G. *Hello, Christine? Ian Grant here.*
C.C. *Ian Grant?!*
I.G. *I'm pleased to inform you that you have won second prize in the Big Country Hot-Line competition, would you be interested in attending the Launch Party at the Borderline on Thursday? Jan at Country Club can't make it and has offered you her ticket!*
C.C. *You're joking!*
I.G. *Do I take that as a 'yes'?*
C.C. *You bet!*
I.G. *Oh, only one thing though, could you do a review for the Newsletter?*
C.C. *Sure, no problem. Gulp.*

With panic now setting in firmly, I replace the handset. REVIEW - Oh hell. What exactly does that entail? Assess the day, the album? What?

Wednesday 26th April 11.15am

- C.C. *Hello Jan? Help! What does review actually mean?*
J.B. *Your view on the whole event.*
C.C. *Oh, is **that** all? Fine!*

Now this has confirmed my worst thoughts. I have a real task on my hands. People are depending on **me**! The most responsible job I've had for the past five years was to try and 'wind' my children and that was 'with the aid' of Gripe Water!

Thursday 27th April THE BIG DAY

Birmingham. 9.05am - Borderline, London. Here we come.

Ace reporter, Christine on her way. Camera bulging with film and Kevin (husband and an E.L.O. fan - shame) in tow.

London. 11.58am

Finally park the car in Frith Street, just behind the Borderline. (£9.00 parking for 2½ hours!) With camera in hand we head for Manett Street.

The Borderline is a small place but seems very well equipped for this type of occasion. As we approach it we can hear Big Country rehearsing (my heart is now trying to be a kamikaze pilot and trying to throw itself onto the pavement beneath me).

Inside the double doors, we are told that the band are still rehearsing and could we come back in half an hour? Oh yeah, sure, what's thirty minutes? (A long time.)

After two cups of tea and a very sticky donut at a quaint London café, we reassemble at the Borderline. As I look around the lobby I notice lots of photos of artistes who have performed there; Fish, Debbie Harry to name just a couple.

We form an orderly queue and await our names to be crossed off 'The Management's List'. In front of me I see Josh Phillips, who was, of course, the keyboard player for the band during their P.I.O.T. album/tour.

My turn to be crossed off the list. "*Christine Curley*" I state. I scan the paper praying I'm on there. Phew, just on the bottom. "*There I am*" breathing a sigh of relief.

We're in. Down some dark stairs and into the actual audience area. Lots of equipment being set up for cameras etc....

Bruce is on stage sound-checking his equipment.

As we stand and associate ourselves with the club a guy walks past me sporting shoulder length brown hair and wearing a waistcoat and jacket! Kevin (E.L.O. fan) informs me tht Stuart has just brushed past my shoulder. After picking myself off the floor and looking twice I finally recognise 'God' himself. WOW!! He disappers as quickly as he came.

We find a seat, grab a 'freebie' drink and await proceedings to commence. Josh Phillips is at the next chair to us and is chatting to Mark. After all the hussle and bussle has died down and all the audience are in place, one of the road crew announces "*Ladies and Gentlemen, please give a warm hand for the best group in the world - Big Country*".

Tony stepping on stage first, wearing a moustache and dark shades. Next on is Stuart with flowing locks and a little beard and 'tosh, now wearing white jeans and black T/shirt. Bruce looking as young as ever (clean shaven) is next on with Mark on last.

"*Hiya*" Stuart says to the waiting crowd. "*How y'all doing? We're Big Country*".

With no further hesitation, they storm into the first song.

"God's Great Mistake" The opening bars of this just blew me off my seat. If this was anything to go by I thought, we are in for a real treat! As the song progressed I was right. This track is absolutely fantastic live. Kevin (E.L.O.) tapping his foot along with the press etc. He clambers under the table to get a better view for the photos.

Four minutes later, great applause and a few whistles. This looks pretty promising. The band are on top form.

"You Dreamer" Like the first, this was a stonker! A different style from what we are used to but definitely not a wrong turning point. Again the crowd love it.

"One In A Million" Out came the E bow. E bow, that takes me back to 1983. Great lyrics and, once again, a great track.

By this time they seem to be really enjoying themselves. Bruce turning 360° on the spot, Tony headbanging and Stuart doing a little posing for the line of camera men at the front of the stage.

"Send You". Again, another change of style. Another corker.

S.A. - *"The next song is our first single from the new album. It's all about never having any regrets over anything you have ever said or done".*

"I'm Not Ashamed" Excellent choice for a first single! A slow deceiving start, roaring into a catchy little number.

"Blue On A Green Planet" Brilliant.

S.A. - *"Cheers. I hope you've enjoyed listening to our new songs and enjoy yourselves at the launch party and we'll see you all again very soon."*

Instruments replaced on their stands and they start to head off the stage. Stuart whistles Bruce and Mark back. Instruments replaced to their rightful positions.

S.A. - *"Now a blast from the past"*

A brilliant "In A Big Country" has the crowd singing and clapping.

S.A. - *"Cheers"*

2pm and they are gone. Everybody loved it. Whistles, cheers and cries of MORE echo through the Borderline.

Definitely NOT A LONG FACE in sight.....

Ian Grant informs me that they will be back out soon to mingle with the press etc.

2.07pm First out is Stuart - back into his jacket and waistcoat. He looks slightly anxious but rather excited in anticipation of any press feedback. We shake hands and wish him and the band good luck for the album. We pose for a photo then he goes to mingle. Mark next. Bruce and Tony nowhere to be seen. We wait for a while but no sign.

2.25pm Exit from the Borderline. On leaving, we are given a 'Press Package' - bag containing Promo CD, press photo, biography and T/shirt.

2.35pm Leave London for home - head pounding.

My personal thoughts of the album are excellent. Not unlike "Buffalo Skinners" in some respects but also a good move in the change of style on certain tracks. A definite MUST for fans. The songs I had the pleasure of listening to at the launch came over excellently live. On album and in concert you will not be disappointed.

If the press are fair to Big Country and give them the credit for all their hard work they should receive an excellent review. I don't think Big Country will do any wrong with this album.

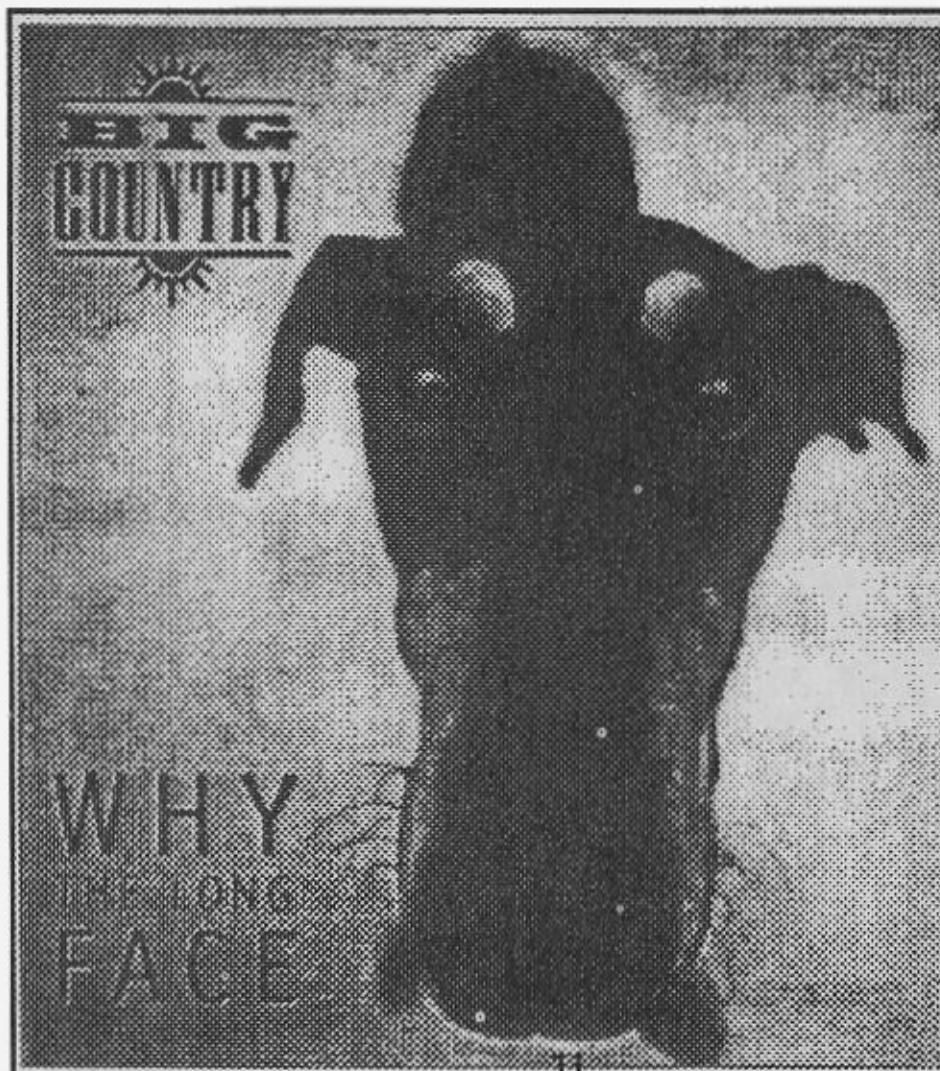
"WHY THE LONG FACE"

You Dreamer
Message of Love
I'm Not Ashamed
Sail Into Nothing
Thunder And Lightning
Send You
One In A Million

God's Great Mistake
Wildland In My Heart
Take You To The Moon
Far From Me To You
Charlotte
Post Nuclear Talking Blues
Blue On A Green Planet

Once again, Jan, many many thanks.

Love Christine





Just a large party, really!

After two or three weeks of me totally getting stressed out – living, breathing and dreaming the Convention whilst all around me were keeping infuriatingly calm I was exhausted before the 21st May arrived, let alone at the end of the day when we arrived home at about 3.30am Monday morning and getting up the usual time of 7am to be back at the office by 9am. How I managed to do a full day's work on that Monday I shall never know. Anyway, it all seemed to go pretty smoothly and it all seemed worthwhile and I duly celebrated!

Well done, again, to Eddie Shiels and Karen Tolan who managed to answer all forty questions of the quiz correctly (according to **my** answers, anyway – Stuart did point out that, as far as he knew "The Crossing" was only released in Blue, Red and Green – the white being a bootleg). A mention also to the person who managed to get ONE answer correct but, I am sure, they were taking the piss with answers such as *In a hospital* when asked, *where was Tony born* and *where did Big Country take a party of journalists and record company executives?* answer, *McDonalds*. And, as for Stuart's real name being Mortimer III! It put smiles on our faces, though. A mixed selection of goodies were presented to Eddie and Karen during the proceedings. Well done.

The doors opened at 2pm and at about 2.30pm there was the first play-back of the new album – a couple of fans were singing along word-for-word on the first play-back! They must have got hold of a promo copy somewhere, I guess.

At about 3.30pm our "support" band played a couple of songs and they seemed to go down really well. Jeremy and Duncan Yarnall, Phil Reed and Christian Wilson were all given a certificate which certified them as having played live and supported Big Country at the Convention and also "support" laminates. Well done, fellas.

Then Big Country played their set – wonderful stuff. New songs – requests and generally a bloody good time. After a short break the band were back on stage to answer the fans' questions which covered many things right down to Stuart's lottery numbers! (No, I can't remember what the numbers are).

Next the quiz prize presentation and raffle draw. The band had donated an item each and, together with a selection of memorabilia the draw took place. Although Stuart wanted to draw tickets, fairly, until all prizes had been claimed Bruce decided that he would hurry along the proceedings and sling some of the items into the audience – all good fun and I hope most managed to get something.

Then, at about 8.45(ish), the autograph signing took place with a queue which seemed, to me, to go on for ever and ever.

And, that was that – all that worry, stress and strain and it was over. My husband, Andrew, step-son, Myles and his girlfriend Tessa kindly packed up for me as I was unable! We loaded the trailer and Andrew and I joined the band and Ian for a curry. There were two girls in the Balti restaurant sat on their own but, before long, we had all joined them and the band were chatting away to them for however long (Stuart had, by this time, retired to his bed) before Tony said to them, *"You know who we are, don't you?"*. To which they answered, *"NO"*. Then, when Tony said, *"We are Big Country"* they giggled and deservedly looked a little embarrassed – where the hell have those two been hiding?

In all, a very good day and the band, of course, were terrific – making it a very intimate day with their fans which is what a Convention is all about. Don't miss out if there's ever a Convention Mark III in the future.

Anyway, I would like to say thank you to every one who has written expressing their thanks for a great day – I'm really pleased that everybody had a good time and for those who missed, here's a few comments from those who were there:

".....Brilliant time we had at the Convention. Everything was perfect, what an amazing day – hope you had a good time too (Can you remember?) How many bands would give up the time Big Country did and let us share great music, chat and jokes with them. Mick and May Roberts"

".....all the hard work that you and everybody concerned put into the Convention made it a great success. I had a great day and I am sure everybody there did also. Thanks again to you, Stuart, Tony, Bruce and Mark for a day to remember. Trevor Milburn"

".....great time all through the day. Even though I have always been a BC fan it never occurred to me to join the fan club – I am very glad that my friend brought me along and I was able to meet everyone. Debra Kelly"

".....enjoyed the CC Convention. Well worth going to and now looking forward to the new album! Jackie Sheffield"

".....congratulate you, the band and everyone involved in the Convention. It was absolutely brilliant. The band were excellent and the new stuff sounds amazing – it's a pity it wasn't videoed. John McKinstry"

".....went off very well and it was great to have an opportunity to hear the new material and meet the band. The boys seemed to enjoy themselves and appeared very relaxed all afternoon. Dave Coogan" Dave, a Porrohman is a Witch Doctor.

".....I was a bit nervous about going on my own as I didn't know what to expect but I enjoyed it immensely – thanks again for a great day. Caz Jones"

".....convention brilliant. In my opinion it was far better than Dunfermline any day. Amanda." Amanda, you ask ME what time it all ended - bugged if I know! I guess 10.30 - 10.45 (ish).

".....successful BC Convention. Having never been to a convention before my husband (my reluctant chauffeur and companion for the day who has still to be converted to the wonders of Big Country and myself had no idea what to expect. We felt a little uncomfortable at first but soon relaxed. We thought the lads who did a few numbers before Big Country were very good but we didn't catch their names..... interesting during the questions and answers session to get to know the band members a little better. Now I can think of many questions that I would have like to ask but as usually happens in these situations my mind temporarily malfunctioned and was programmed only for input and not output!.... Valerie Busby."

".....Convention - it was truly fantastic. The band are truly genuine heroes. Kevin Jones"

MERCHANDISE

A couple of new items:

- De Montfort Convention "Why The Long Face" white T/shirt.** Album cover on the front - in full colour
on the back Convention details printed in black. XL only £11.00 plus P & P
- "Why The Long Face" grey T/shirt.** Big Country logo and dog's face on the front
on the back Why The Long Face printed over Big Country logo. XL only £12.00 plus P & P
- "Fleadh" white T/shirt.** Photo on the front
on the back Big Country logo - Fleadh, Finsbury Park, London 10th June 1995. XL only £12.00 plus P & P
- "Why The Long Face" promo poster** £ 3.00 plus P & P
Double-sided black and white poster £ 3.00 plus P & P
Front - full photo of the band
Back - a collage of photos taken by and sent in by fans from various gigs
- White bandana** printed with the "Why The Long Face" album cover - full colour £ 3.50

Post and Packing

T/shirt / Bandana

UK - £ 0.80p
Europe - £ 1.75
Rest of the world - £ 3.00

Poster

UK - £ 1.00
Europe - £ 1.50
Rest of the world - £ 2.50

YOUR QUESTIONS

- Q** From **Simo Neiglick** (Membership No 003377). What's the story behind Big Country signing with Transatlantic? What happened to Compulsion?

Briefly, Chrysalis just had no faith in Big Country whereas Dougie Dudgeon at Transatlantic does and is very enthusiastic.

I gather from your letters that you, fans, feel a little disheartened by the fact that someone screwed up and a few records got out early etc and by the fact that "Our Price" did not have the single but that's "Our Price" and not Transatlantic - but on the whole advertising, promo etc is vastly improved. Don't be too hasty in your criticism.

- Q** From **Simo Neiglick** (Membership No 003377). What are the bonus tracks on the 10,000 special edition album CDs?

In the end, apparently, this special edition did not occur.

- Q** From **Donna Miller** (Membership No 003928). How many US CC members are there? Any members from Kentucky?

73 American currently fully paid up members but only one other from Kentucky.

- Q** From **David Scammon** (Membership No 001710). Could you, please, tell me if it is possible to buy some past CD singles through Country Club?

Sorry to David and all others who have asked this. No, I have never sold BC records through the club - record companies don't make it easy by insisting on an enormous minimum order so that it makes it impossible and, anyway, once they are deleted they are gone except from second hand shops, record fairs etc. etc.

NOTICE BOARD

Martin Sneddon (Membership No 001749)

Scotland
Martin's is willing to buy B.C. music if anyone can help out. He also taped Rock Steady "Dunfermline concert" broadcast on BRAVO Sky TV recently if anyone is interested.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Alan and Tina Walker (Membership No 001730)

Scotland
Looking for a couple of Big Country fanatics living in Scotland with whom to travel to gigs and share petrol costs.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Neil Brigham (Membership No 003644)

UK
Neil is after sheet music for "Fields Of Fire", can you help?

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Ed Clark (Membership No 003976)

USA
Ed would like to purchase videos compatible with American VCRs - can anyone point Ed in the right direction?

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Paul Wills (Membership No 003368)

UK
Paul, probably like most people, missed B.C. on GLR recently - can anyone help.

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Robert Smith (Membership No 001707)

UK
Wanted: sheet music for "The Crossing". Will pay top price for the book - can anyone help?

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Lewis Crow (Membership No 003890)
Lewis wrote voicing concern about BC signing to Transatlantic - let's give them a chance, they seem to be doing OK with advertisements/promo/TV/Radio and they are VERY ENTHUSIASTIC about the album. Lewis also wrote about the Big Country discussion list on the Internet. Anyone with Internet access can send an e-mail message to: bc-request@specklec.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de and they will be added to the world wide list of subscribers.

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Ralf Kirschnick (Membership No 001828)

Germany
Ralf wrote with the listing for the 4-track UK promo CD "Tracks from Without The Aid Of A Safety Net - Live" (CDPULSDJ8): Look Away, Chance, Peace In Our Time, Ships. The paper sleeve is a blown up version of the upper half of the "WTAOASN" CD cover (the logo with the title printed on top of it) and

looks really cool. Paul Wren (003985) says the current price of this is £18 to £20 due to its rarity.

Ralf also got hold of the US "Best of" whilst in the states earlier this year and Stuart Arnott (Membership No 000455) has written with the track listing of this.

Harvest Home	Fields Of Fire
In A Big Country	Chance
Wonderland	East Of Eden
Where The Rose Is Sown	Just A Shadow
Look Away	Teacher
One Great Thing	King Of Emotion
Broken Heart	Peace In Our Time
Save Me	Heart Of The World
Republican Party Reptile	

Ralf is now available through CompuServe (see pen-pal listing) and yeah, Ralf, keep us informed - thanks for the information printed off your computer - I'll find the time to read it all one of these fine days!

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Robert Lingaur (Membership No 003881)

USA
Wanted: All or most of BC videos - must be VHS American system.

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Paul Wren (Membership No 003985)
Paul has written re some previous queries raised:

For the "anoraks" amongst us - the CD and cassette versions of "WTAOASN" have the same tracks but in a different order. However, the vinyl version contains only 10 of the 14 tracks on the CD/Cassette (missing tracks "P.I.O.T.", "What Are We Working For?", "Long Way Home" and "Lost Patrol". From Paul to Stephen Ashe - the Radio One Sessions album IS available from all big outlets in the UK.

From Paul to Kevin Wright - "One Great Thing" (big Baad Mix) 12" issued September 1986 BIG CR3. This is reasonably easy to pick up through the usual specialist suppliers expect to pay about £8.

To Steve Mullin re "The Crossing" CD. Paul doesn't think you can obtain on CD the extra 4 tracks mentioned that do appear on the cassette versions. "Wonderland" 12" version is available on the "Broken Heart" CD single (UKBIGCD6) also on "Big Sampler" US promo 4 track CD (R DJ 625932) and on both Greatest Hits compilations but nowhere else that Paul is aware of.

Paul has managed to get two live bootlegs:-
1) "Homeland" - clear vinyl (Juke Box Records, London). Recorded on 31st December 1983 in England - can this be right? i.e. they were at Glasgow, Barrowlands that night and featured a different set. So, does anybody know where and when?

2) "Long Way Home" - CD by "Save The Earth" Records (STE 041). Interesting tracks include an acoustic version of "Long Way Home" and a cover of "Hey, Hey, My, My". I believe the CD was recorded in Germany in 1994 - can anyone confirm the specific date/venue?

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Sarah White (Membership No 003994)
As a point of interest Sarah reminds us that the magazine "Record Collector" has quite a few record dealers listed who have extensive BC records: Record Collector, 43.45 St Marys Road, Ealing, London W5 5RQ.

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Satu Holmberg (Membership No 003608)
Finland.
FOR SALE: A Certain Chemistry £5.00 - Live In New York video £5.00 - Through A Big Country Greatest Hits video £5.00 - Country Club Convention (Dunfermline) video £7.00 - Without The Aid Of A Safety net video £10.00 - Peace In Our Time video £5.00 - Barrowlands New Year's Eve 83/84 video £5.00.

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Nigel Tobin (Membership No 003045)
UK
FOR SALE: Preferably to be sold as a job lot to the highest bidder. In fact, the list is far too long for me to print but an extensive list of records, CDs and videos. Drop Nigel a line for a full list if you are interested.

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Pete Fliegner (Membership No 001735)
USA
Wanted: "Steeltown", "The Seer" and "Peace In Our Time" CDs plus any version of "No Place Like Home"

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Daniel Christen (Membership No 000487)
Switzerland.
Daniel has found a US promo CD "The One I Love" including: "The One I Love" 5/07, "The One I Love" 5.06 (remix), "In A Big Country" 3.55 and "Look Away" 4.23 (RDJ 62593-2 Fox Records)
WANTED: Auld Lang Syne (live), Margo's Theme, Highland Scenery, Inwards (live), Peace In Our Time (live), 1,000 Yard Stare (live), Peace In Our Time (acoustic), Thirteen Valleys (acoustic), Fly Like An Eagle, Rockin' In The Free World (live) and Eastworld.
ON OFFER: BC B-sides, Through A Big Country video, Rockpalast concert (Seer tour) video or tape (complete show - excellent quality)

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Andrew Harries (Membership No 001718)
Wales.
FOR SALE: "WOTAOASN" CD, Radio 1 Sessions CD and Defrostin bootleg CD - Austin Texas 1984. "Beautiful People", "Save Me", "Heart Of The World", "PIOT", "Broken Heart" and "King of Emotion" CD singles.

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David Scammon (Membership No 001710)
Eire
WANTED: "Ships" CD single and "Beautiful People" CD single.

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Sarah White (Membership No 003994)
WANTED: A copy of "A Certain Chemistry".
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Riku Metelinen (Membership No 001905)
Riku says, Write to Ray Cokes and ask if BC could perform in 'Most Wanted' or if he at least would show the video:
MTV, Most Wanted, P O Box 1284, London, NW1 8UH

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Liam Davey (Membership No 001593)
UK
A long list of records and CDs FOR SALE. Write to Liam for a list and prices etc.

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Francesco Micozzi (Membership No 001714)
(MC) Italy
WANTED: CD single "Save Me", "King Of Emotion", "Republican Party Reptile" and others plus Japanese CD box set.

PEN-PALS

Just write in to me giving your name, address, membership number and brief details of yourself and hobbies and I will add your details to the list in the next issue. If anyone wishes me to re-print their name on the penpal list, you have only to ask.

Ralf Kirschnick (Membership No 001828)

Germany
or
CompuServe ID 100525,333 or Internet: 100525.333@compuserve.com
Year of birth: 1965
Hobbies include computing, music and movies. Other musical interests: Simple Minds, John Hiatt, Sheryl Crow, Gun, Texas, Pat Metheny and lots of others.

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Francesco Micozzi (Membership No 001714)
Italy
Year of birth:- 1968
Francesco would love to hear from other Italian BC fans.



Your letters:-

From Rob Ford (Membership No 001787)

Rob's letter is dated 4th April 1995. Before the Convention and certainly before release of 'Why The Long Face'

.....found out that the album is through Castle Communications Distribution and I'm pleased to report that at the moment there seems to be a bit of enthusiasm about the band!

I have been very lucky and have been given a tape of the album. I've lived with it for a week before passing any judgement and I can honestly say that it gets better and better with each play. (I agree with you, Rob, on that - it's certainly a grower - Jan). I thought Buffalo was a return to form but this surpasses that.

The track 'You Dreamer' stands out as a single (Hopefully the first one) and anyone I've played it to, mostly not BC fans, have commented that the chorus sticks in your head straight away.

Although perhaps too heavy as a single for some people's tastes the track, 'God's Great Mistake', is superb and I can imagine this opening a gig and really getting things going.

A brief description of the album to me would be 'The Crossing on Steroids'. In other words it has all the classic BC trademarks but with a harder edge. I'm delighted with the album and if anyone from the band enquires about fan feedback then assure them that they have made a superb album which although not avertly commercial contains twelve possible singles and should please fans old and new alike.

My own choices for singles would be, 'You Dreamer', 'Charlotte', 'God's Great Mistake' and 'Sail Into Nothing'. Anyway that's all - can't wait for a tour."

From Tony Moore (Membership No 001531)

.....writing to you about a 16 track CD album from 'Spectrum Music which is part of 'Karussell'. The album is called 'In A Big Country' by Big Country. The release date is 26th June 1995, the catalogue number is CD 550 8792, the barcode is CD 731455087925 and its running time is 69 minutes 12 seconds!

Track listing:

*In A Big Country
Thousand Stars
Tracks Of My Tears
Giant
One Great Thing
Hold The Heart
Look Away
Honky Tonk Woman*

*Restless Natives
The Longest Day
Everything I Need
Black Skinned Blue Eyed Boys
Fly Like An Eagle
Kiss The Girl Goodbye
Keep On Dreaming
Freedom Song*

I hope you find this useful... Tony"

(Release unknown but there will be a Radio One In Concert album released (BC as recorded at the Hammersmith Odeon in 1989) on Strange Fruit (as the Radio 1 Sessions).)

From Stuart Arnott (Membership No 000455)

.....said I would let you know about some of the more obscure Big Country items that I have managed to pick up and some bits of info that some fans may not be aware of if they wanted to complete their collection.

As mentioned to you I have a copy of the 12" singles box which is probably the rarest of the promo items issued.

The box set contains three white label promo copies of 'The Crossing' in the blue red and green sleeve, 12" white label promo of 'Chance' and normal issues of 'Harvest Home', 'Fields of Fire', 'Fields of Fire' (shaped picture disc), 'In A Big Country' and 'In A Big Country' (red sleeve). It also contains a poster, LP sized Big Country logo and stickers. I was fortunate enough to get this for £49.00 from a collectors record shop in London. If you add up how much each item is worth individually, then £49.00 is a very good deal.

Did you know that Phonogram issued two singles of Beautiful People, one, as Bruce complained, was cut at the wrong speed (too slow), they rectified the mistake the following week but because the single didn't do so well the correct speed disc is much harder to find. The only way to tell if you have the corrected version as the catalogue numbers are the same is if you have a timer on your player, then the correct speed runs at 18 minutes 22 seconds and the slow speed at 19 minutes 17 seconds. The graphics on the correct disc are also deeper than on the slow speed. Blue is the easiest way to tell the discs apart as the blue on the wrong disc is a sky blue whereas the correct disc is royal blue.

The 12" of 'Broken Heart' has a different version of 'When A Drum Beats' to the CD single, for some reason Phonogram, in their infinite wisdom, cut a verse out of the CD single.

In the early '80's there was a magazine that came with a free LP called 'Debut', in issue 1 Big Country, along with The Thompson Twins were featured, the LP contains a different version of 'Harvest Home' to the one that appeared on 'The Crossing'.

Around 1984 Big Country contributed to a compilation LP called 'Sometimes a Great Notion' the track was 'All Fall Together' and again this was a different version to the ones that were on the 'Wonderland' mini LP. The 'Wonderland' mini LP had two different versions depending whether you bought the Dutch or Canadian release.

That is three different versions that I know of

This is going through my UK releases - I have all sorts of different bits and bobs from all over. If you can use the above or any other stuff just let me know and I will gladly pass it on. - (Wait to hear from you, Stuart, cheers. Jan).

Stuart finishes his letter, My wife thinks I am a transpotter equivalent in BC trivia. I have written to Phonogram asking them if they have any plans to re-release the Big Country catalogue with extra tracks etc., I will let you know if I get a response.

To answer Steve Mullins question in the Notice Board Issue 33. The four extra tracks on 'The Crossing', as far as I know a CD does NOT exist (this is what I am complaining to Phonogram about), the nearest is the JAP box set which will give him the tracks he wants but not all on 'The Crossing'.

All the best.....