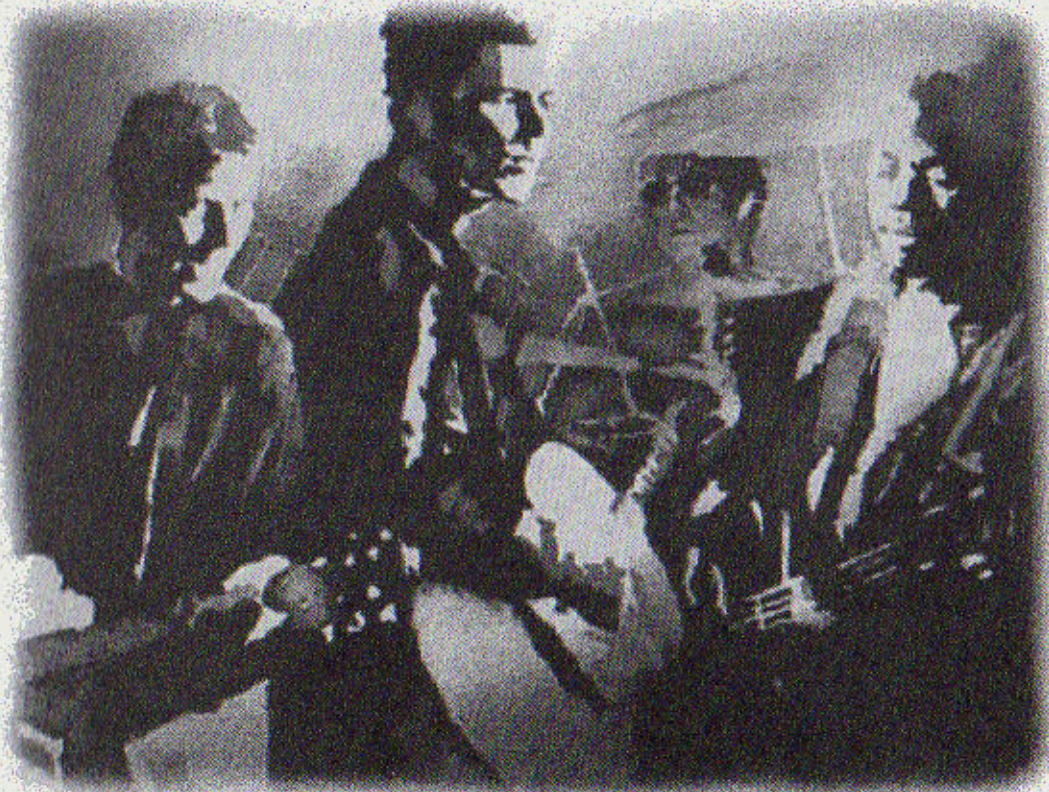


COUNTRY CLUB



ISSUE 49

AUGUST 1999

NOTE: THIS ISSUE WAS MISTAKENLY MARKED AS 49.
THE CORRECT NUMBER SHOULD BE 45

A MESSAGE FROM IAN GRANT

November 97. Stuart calls from Nashville. He wants to get the loud guitars out again and misses the guys. I suggest demoing in Nashville. This is great, as Ray Davies has said he would like to be involved with the band and obviously we needed songs before he could get involved. One session either side of Christmas in Nashville taking us into 98. The songs were ok but Stuart had been writing with Nashville songwriters and he was not quite back in the band mode. That's why I suggested a tour and when Barrow FC (ironical that it didn't take place as such) was offered by John King I thought we could build a little tour around it. So in May the band did do 8 dates in Scotland and England. Everyone got off on being back together and demoing sessions took place several times in UK and then between The Stones dates in August of that year. The band had got into full gear now and were writing the best material in a while.

The Stones tour was a massive boost to motivation etc and one more session in Nashville in September left them with close on 30 songs. Ray and I were still talking. He took some interest and came to a few rehearsals and we met at Konk. He was having trouble with Velvel, his US partner in a new venture, who were going to fund 50% of a Big Country deal. The months dragged on. The band and I were beginning to get a little irritated, not that we were being impatient. Ray thought that the songs weren't quite there and suggested he and Stuart write in New York at his place. This the two of them did, in December. Into 1999 and still we weren't getting anywhere with Ray and a deal. I had just become acquainted with Bill Kenwright. I helped him out with a band of his that he had signed and recorded for inclusion in his new film "Don't Go Breaking My Heart". He wanted to return the favour and liked the idea of being part of a label anyway. We decided to put Big Country and Snowdogs, a young band I had been working with, in the studio. I had been offered the name and logo of legendary Track Records by one of its founders and in no time at all, Big Country were ensconced at Rockfield studios in Wales recording their 8th studio album. Rafe McKenna who I came across as he produced Kolony for Bill seemed like worth a try with BC. He was terrific and the band soon warmed to him. He had worked with Eddi Reader in the past and brought her into the project. You now know some of the results.

For the first time I held the destiny of the band in my own hands and set about setting up a team to work with. It's been pretty cool so far with a lot of work coming our way. I really think that act positive and positivity comes to you. The Kosovo gig at SECC was the first gig that gave the band some long awaited profile. Huge coverage in Scotland and broadcast nation-wide on BBC2 tv. The London gig at Shepherds Bush was put on the schedule way back and also a private gig the night after. We managed somehow to include a last minute appearance with Rod Stewart at Hampden Park Glasgow and for Jacques Villeneuve at his Lucky Strike bash, pre- Silverstone. This we hope leads to another appearance for Jacques but this time in Japan at the final grand prix in October. The 'Fragile Thing' video shoot in the USA led to an intimate and successful gig in Nashville.

Now in the UK, with a Radio 2 "A" list and larger regional tv and radio promotional tour in the week, preceding the gig in Hyde Park (which Kele Le Roc will replace an unavailable Eddi Reader), a tremendous "roots" following on the web, I am feeling somewhat pleased with our start. There's a hell of long way to go though. We must chart high with the single and hope that you are able to dig deep and find the pennies to purchase all 3 formats in week one - 9th August. You shall also see the release of the album in all major territories. We have deliberately set the UK up first before trying to release on small dodgy labels overseas. That's not to say I want the label to be with majors everywhere, far from it, but with a UK success story to tell, everyone will take more notice, simple as that.

Onwards and upwards!

And a BIG thanks from me for all the amazing support this band continues to receive.

Ian Grant 18/07/99

Welcome to the revamped Country Club. We apologise for the lapse in time since the last issue and assure you that we shall be endeavouring to do four Issues per year, jam-packed with exclusive news and interviews, gig reports and much more.

In this issue, you shall find comprehensive news of what the band have been doing in the past year, and full reports on the recent concerts. Add to that extracts from Bruce Watson's infamous Diary, a telling insight from Ian Grant about the last 18 months, information on the Big Country Website and extracts from it, the story of FOUR shows in 32 hours, the rumours and gossip surrounding BC from the Damascus News Desk, and you can see we have packed a lot into this issue.

However, it is not enough we feel, and we shall be striving to further improve the CC in future issues, the first of which shall be out in the last week of August. This shall be a bumper issue, concentrating on the new album, so make sure your membership never runs out, for you will not want to miss a thing! We shall also have reports from The Wicked Women Breakthrough for Breast Cancer Concert which BC were involved in on 24th July, as well as their headline appearances at the Perth and Torbay Festivals in the next issue.

With a new single out 9th August ('Fragile Thing'), and album 6th September ('Driving To Damascus') in the UK, this is the start of a new exciting chapter in the life of Big Country. Go out and buy all 3 formats of the new single in the first week of release and help it attain a high chart entry. Buy copies for your friends and family as Birthday presents or just as a simple present! The more copies bought (preferably in Chart Return Shops - HMV, Virgin, Tower, Our Price, Pinnacle shops etc.), the higher the band shall Chart. We already have our first "A" Playlist since 'King Of Emotion', so there is certainly a buzz about the new single, so dig deep and buy both CD's and the 10" Please also note that CD2 is available in a fold-up box with a "drop-in clear CD".

For up to date information on what's happening with the band, please check with the Big Country Phonenumber on 0891 600031 (calls cost 60p per minute), or visit the Big Country Website on <http://www.bigcountry.co.uk>

We welcome submission of articles, and would be pleased to hear your feedback on the CC, and any suggestions you may have. In the meantime, enjoy your reading, stay safe, stay free, stay happy, stay alive !!

Willie

(This issue of Country Club has been put together by : Willie, Ali and Mazz, with special thanks to TonyG. Also many thanks to everyone else who contributed to this issue.)

NEWS, RUMOURS AND GOSSIP FROM THE DAMASCUS NEWS DESK

Welcome to the news. The past few months have been highly eventful in the life of Big Country, and in this Bulletin we hope to update you with rumours and gossip in what has happened or is alleged to have happened and also a few things that should, might or may happen in the future. We hear that Big Country may be playing at a Unicef concert in Pristina in September. The United Kingdom shall be able to purchase the new album "Driving To Damascus" from 6th September 1999, and a second single from the album shall be released the following week on Monday 13th September. No final decision has been made on what the single shall be ('See You' and 'Somebody Else' have been mentioned), but it is almost certain that a CD ROM of the video's of the first two singles from DTD shall be on the 2nd single. There are no release dates for singles or the album outside of the UK, as it is hoped that success in the UK shall enable the band to secure good deals around the world, and thus lead to bigger media exposure and promotion, which should lead to the band playing more gigs in as many countries as possible. News reaches us that during the Ray Bruce show the other week on BBC Radio 2, during a quiz, a female caller was asked "Which artist had more Top Ten Hits in the 80's - Big Country or Rick Astley?", to which the contestant replied "Rick Astley?". "No" said Ray Bruce, "it was Big Country with 11, to Rick's 7". All around the UK BC fans were heard to mutter "Silly Cow".

DAMASCUS NEWS DESK (Cont.)

We also hear that BC may be involved in the City Radio concert in Liverpool in August. While in Nashville, the band are believed to have recorded a 'Live' session of tracks for a UK Radio and Television Promotion, which shall see Stuart and Tony visit 30 different local Radio and TV stations in five days. Rumours also persist that the session may be made available in the future as a Web/CC only release. Watch this space for more details!. Our intrepid reporter can reveal that the tracks recorded were 'Driving To Damascus', 'See You', 'Dive Into Me', 'Fragile Thing', 'Chance' and 'Look Away'. Mr Watson was heard to say that all tracks were done with Electric guitars as opposed to acoustic.

Stuart Adamson found himself in a tight spot in March, when he was caught in a Fire while sleeping. The following information is courtesy of The Scottish Sun, Tuesday 16th March 1999, written by Martin Wallace:

"SLEEPING ROCK STAR STUART IN FIRE HELL".

"Rocker Stuart Adamson had a narrow escape after fire gutted a shop while he was asleep in a flat next door. The Big Country frontman was awakened by choking smoke which had seeped into the bedroom above his trendy Tappie Toories Pub in Dunfermline, Fife. Cool-headed Stuart, 40 - who feared his boozier was ablaze - said "It was really lucky that I woke up when I did. The room was full of smoke and it was really hard to catch my breath". The blaze broke out in a Fotoframe shop next door to the pub. Fireman had to haul barrels of inflammatory fluid from the burning store before they exploded. A Brigade spokesman said "Mr. Adamson was amazingly calm". (The report also featured a picture of Stuart). We are sure everyone will be happy to hear Stuart escaped safely.

It looks as if there may be gigs in Athens, Dubai and generally in that area in September. Also on the subject of touring, there is the possibility of an 8 date UK tour with Stiff Little Fingers and Mike Peters in October.

At the Scotland For Kosovo concert, Mark Brzezicki was heard to comment that it was a nightmare for a drummer as he couldn't hear the monitors, and that he had to watch for when Stuart finished playing as he couldn't hear it, and all he could hear was the occasional 'plink plink' of guitars. He asked the roadie to turn up his monitor, but he had to speak in time with the drumming, in staccato fashion. As he couldn't hear his monitors and was essentially playing 'blind', credit is extended to him, as our sources didn't even notice a problem!

During a recent "survey", fans were asked by Ian Grant on the BC Website who they would suggest to replace Eddi Reader, as she was unable to make the Hyde Park breast Awareness Benefit Gig on 24th July. Among the suggestions were Carol Laula, Lorraine MacIntosh, Carol Decker, Belinda Carlisle, Cery's Matthews, Lana Rogers, Chrissie Hynde, Beverly Craven, Danni and Kylie Minogue, Sheryl Crow, Tori Amos, Sinéad O'Connor and Liz Fraser. It was finally decided to get Kele Le Roc, a sexy 23 year old singer who has had two sizable UK Hit Singles so far this year.

The following is an edited version of an article from The Sun 6th July : "At the F1 party in London after the SBE gig, racing driver and "guitarist" Jacques Villeneuve ... hand picked rock legends Big Country ... for his superb Lucky Strike Party.... Jacques spent a lively set doing the dance of the whirling dervish with Danni Minogue to top hits including 'Fields Of Fire'. Shaft (the writer) couldn't help thinking he (JV) fancied a jam with the lads, but guitarist Bruce Watson told me "Nae F***in' chance, I've heard he's sh*t". Unconfirmed reports state that Mr Watson did not in fact say these words. We believe there was more expletives involved.

Speaking of Mr Watson, he claims that when he is on the Internet he is always naked. Asked why this is, Mr Watson is believed to have replied that the PC in his house is "right outside the bathroom, so whenever I come out, there it is". While in Nashville, the band had to borrow their instruments for the gig at Sutlers. Mr Brzezicki had a lovely tiny snare, and when a fan informed him that they thought he was the finest drummer they had seen perform, he modestly replied "Ah, it's my job". Also in Nashville, Mr Butler was forced to use the ladies room prior to going on stage as the mens room was full.

The day after SBE, the band chartered a plane to support Rod Stewart at Hampden Stadium. In front of 45,000 people the band were forced to cut their set to three songs ('Look Away', 'FoF' and 'Chance') due to technical problems. See Ian Grant's story on the weekend elsewhere for further details.

Finally, News Just In. While in Nashville, Bruce was heard to make a comment that the only thing his son wanted from America were Twinkees. Tony asked what a Twinkee was and various people tried to explain.

Bruce said it was about the size of a sausage, and was also informed that it was a sponge cake with a cream filling. Later on, Mr Watson went to a store to buy Twinkees and Cigarettes. He was asked for ID by the cashier and responded "What for the Twinkees?". The cashier pointed out that Mark looked old enough to buy the cigarettes and so Mr Watson bought the Twinkees and Mr Brzezicki bought the Cigarettes.

BIG COUNTRY : THE PAST YEAR

MAY 1998

- 19th, The Restless Natives tour kicks off at Rock City in Nottingham, England, supported by Pelt.
20th, The band perform at the UEA in Norwich, England.
22nd, The band perform at Coatham Bowl in Redcar, England.
23rd, The band perform at Barrow-in-Furness, England.
24th, The band perform at Tappie Toories, Dunfermline, Scotland, Stuart's pub.
25th, The band perform at "The Lemon Tree", Aberdeen, Scotland.
26th, The band perform at "Brannigans", Dundee, Scotland.
27th, The band perform at "The Blues" Inverness, Scotland.
28th, The band perform at "The Garage" Glasgow, Scotland.
31st, Stuart appears with Marcus Hummon, with Mark Brzezicki as his special guest on bongos, at "The Borderline" in London.

JUNE 1998

- 1st, Restless Natives & Rarities released in the United Kingdom.
1st, Stuart and Marcus Hummon perform at the "Cybar" in Brighton, England.
18th, Stuart and Marcus Hummon perform at "Caffe Milano" in Nashville, U.S.A.
23rd, "Kings of Emotion" released in the U.S.A.

JULY 1998

- 10th, The band perform at the "Olympia" Dublin, Ireland.
11th, The band perform at the "Olympia" Dublin, Ireland.

AUGUST 1998

- 8th, The band perform at Tallin, Estonia, supporting the Rolling Stones.
16th, The band perform at Zagreb, Croatia, supporting the Rolling Stones.
20th, The band perform at the Plymouth Festival, in England.
22nd, The band perform at the Weston Super Mare festival in England.
23rd, The band were to perform at the Pontefract festival, in Yorkshire, England, but this didn't happen..
26th, The band support the Rolling Stones, at the Berlin Olympic Stadium, in Berlin, Germany.
28th, The band again support the Rolling Stones at the Leipzig Festwiese in Germany.
29th, The band perform at the Porthcawl Festival in Wales.

- 30th, The band support The Rolling Stones at Hanburg Trabrenbahn, Germany.

SEPTEMBER 1998

- 1st, The band perform at the "Kade" in Zaandam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

DECEMBER 1998

- 4th, Stuart and Marcus Hummon perform at "Bongo After Hours" in Nashville, U.S.A.
17th, Bruce Watson's Wild Blue Yonder cd, "Faster than the Speed of Sound" is released via the official BC web site.

JANUARY 1999

- 2nd, Stuart and Marcus Hummon perform at "Caffe Milano" in Nashville, U.S.A.
16th, (approx) "In the Scud" EP cd released via the official BC web site.
25th/26th, The band begin recording demos in North London.

MARCH 1999

- 2nd, The band begin recording "Driving to Damascus" at the Rockfield studios, in Wales.
15th, Stuart has a narrow escape as fire sweeps through the building next to his pub, Tappie Toories and the band move on to Monnow Valley to continue recording.

APRIL 1999

- 11th, mixing begins on the new album.

MAY 1999

- 31st, The band perform at the "Scotland for Kosovo" benefit concert in Glasgow, Scotland.

JULY 1999

- 2nd, The band perform at the "Empire" Shepherd's Bush, London.
2nd, The band perform at the F1 party in Chelsea, London, England.
3rd, The band perform at Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland, as a support for Rod Stewart.
3rd, The band perform at the "Inns of Court" ball at Temple, London, England.
9th, The band perform at "The Sutler" in Nashville, U.S.A.
24th, The band perform at the "Breakthrough Against Breast Cancer" Benefit concert at London's Hyde Park. This event was also seen that evening on BBC1 television.
25th, The band perform at St. John's Precinct, Perth as Headline act of Perth Free Festival.
30th, The band perform at Torbay Music Festival as headline act.

(With thanks to Rob Oliver for his assistance in collating this information)

SCOTLAND FOR KOSOVO BENEFIT CONCERT,

31st MAY 1999

Held at Glasgow's SECC venue, in front of 9000 people, Big Country had the honour of being the headline act, and also performing during the Grand Finale, which saw all the acts who had performed earlier joining them on stage to bring the curtain down on a superb evening in aid of a highly worthwhile cause.

For 3 ½ hours, the crowd was treated to some of Scotland's finest talents, each playing a set of their greatest hits. The evening started with Teenage Fan Club, followed by Jonathan Watson, before GUN (who had reformed specially for the concert) transformed the arena into a heaving mass of sweating, pogoing bodies. Jimmy Sommerville was next on, before Ricky Ross (exDeacon Blue) performed a Solo acoustic set. Simple Minds were next on stage, and they played an impressive 4 song set ('Waterfront', 'Someone, Somewhere In Summertime', 'Alive And Kicking' and 'Don't You (Forget About Me)') prior to Midge Ure (exUltravox) who also played an acoustic set.

And then at 10.15pm, the moment many of us had been waiting for - the long and eagerly awaited return of Big Country. The anticipation levels amongst the BC fans congregated around the front of the stage was electric as the band strolled out under the spotlights to be greeted by an enormous roar of approval, as Stuart yelled out "Good Evening everybody, we're just going to make a hell of a racket for a while" before launching into a searing version of 'Look Away'. Immediately, the band had the crowd eating out their hand, as Stuart led the audience in a singsong of the Chorus, before bursting into a storming 'Fields Of Fire', which raised the roof. Suddenly there was 9000 souls, who had already been enthralled by so many fine acts before them, joining together in unison to sing along to FoF - it was an amazing feeling, as it wasn't a BC gig, yet everyone was caught up in the emotion. You began to feel that this was something special. Yet, it was Stuart who made the crowd feel special, by announcing "You've all been absolutely amazing, thank you for coming out tonight. And if there's bigger hearts in people in the world, I've yet to come across them, give yourselves a round of applause. We are a tiny little country here with all this huge, awesome talent in it and I'm absolutely privileged to be able to share the stage with them tonight. Thanks folks". IABC was next up, before Stuart introduced Eddi Reader on stage for her first public performance with the band as they previewed 'See You' which was favourably received by the audience, before the guys finished their set off with 'Chance', another song that saw the crowd joining in.

The band then stayed on stage as a host of music, media and sporting personalities joined them for rousing renditions of Dylan's 'Hard Rain's Gonna Fall' and Lennon's 'Give Peace A Chance'. Another touching sight for me was the appearance of the Adamson and Watson children on stage with their dads during the Finale, and you could see the delight oozing out of both Dads and their kids. It may have been a short set for the band, but the 9000 people could not have failed to have been impressed by BC, and it looks like it shall only be a short while before the name Big Country will be on everyone's lips again.

WILLIE

By the time they came on, the crowd were well and truly warmed up, and it was great to see everyone jumping around. It was clear too that the guys got a buzz from being on stage again. Eddi Reader joined them for "See You", which, at the time was likely to be the first single, (now possibly the second). The reaction to this was not overwhelming, but generally positive. I had it on my mind all night, so I guess you could say it got to me! The oldies, like "Chance", "In a Big Country", and "Fields of Fire" went down a storm as expected....., the atmosphere was brilliant and I saw Bruce's wife, Sandra and his son Jamie on stage, also Stuart's children, Kirsten and Callum joined in. A ball was had by everyone and £250,000 was raised for a worthwhile charity. Just brilliant!

MAZZ

Went to the Kosovo benefit gig on the recommendation of a mad Scottish mate of mine (not a million miles away from this publication) and his good lady (a sensible-ish English type) anyway to tell you the truth I really went for Gun and Simple Minds. Having heard some BC tunes in the motor on the way up to Bonnie Scotland and with the atmosphere and emotion of the gig I don't think it will be too long before I see Big Country again (that's if I can score some day / night passes from the Mrs - Hey Rock n Roll "Man").

DEAN HILL (Minus his BC Cherry)

SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE, LONDON, 2nd JULY

1999

Friday, 2nd July 1999 - the day that seemed as though it would never come, had arrived.

After meeting up with "the gang" from the bulletin board at Harvey's, we made our way excitedly to the Shepherd's Bush Empire, just before Kolony came on (ok), followed by Snowdogs (not bad!) and, at last Stuart, Bruce, Tony and Mark burst onto the stage with a cheery "We're Big Country and we're Driving to Damascus" from Stuart. Within two bars, the audience were clapping in time or jumping up and down. If this is the "different" Big Country, I like it !! Familiar, but not so elaborate, I was relieved to still hear the "loud guitars" synonymous with Big Country. "Driving To Damascus" was a great choice to open the show - I can't wait to hear it on CD. This was followed by the excellent "The President Slipped And Fell". Wow! were we in for a night?! "Perfect World" made way for "Just a Shadow" - twice ! Stuart stopped half way through to change guitars, while the audience carried on singing! They restarted to cheers, as this crowd were determined to enjoy themselves, hiccups or not. By the time "John Wayne's Dream" had finished, I was wondering how I could possibly wait to hear these again on the CD, they're great! Eddi Reader joined the band on stage to sing "Fragile Thing", a poignant song of "loss and redemption" according to Stuart. This was the first time I had heard this song, and the chorus has a nice 'hook' to it.

Let's hope this can bring the recognition back to Big Country that they deserve. We were also treated to Eddi's inimitable style of dancing for this ! After "I Get Hurt" and "You Dreamer", we heard "Spirit To Me", with Eddi Reader. A slightly 'deep' ballad with some interesting guitar work. Eddi's voice again blending well. "Dive Into Me", also with Eddi, followed. Now this was interesting to see how it had evolved from "In the Scud" and been given the Big Country 'works'. Another thumbs up! I first heard "See You" at the Glasgow SECC and was impressed with it, now I loved it. Eddi has a lovely haunting lilt to her voice that adds another dimension to the song. During "I'm Not Ashamed", the band neatly went into "Harvest Home" and back out to "Ashamed " again. "Somebody Else" co-written with Ray Davies of the Kinks followed. A great rocking number. Stuart said how great it had been to work with Ray Davies on this. The crowd erupted like Mount Vesuvius when the first chords of "Wonderland" hit us. Again, Stuart slipped another song in the middle, this time an instrumental "Restless Natives". Eddi came back to join in with "Grace", a song Stuart said "grew out of you people because each and every one of you - you bring me grace, thank you". "Look Away", "Chance", "In a Big Country" and "Fields of Fire" followed, the crowd going wild, begging for more. Unfortunately, there was an 11pm curfew, so this magical night had to end. Some people waited by the stage door afterwards, but another engagement was pressing, at the Formula 1 party, and off Stuart, Bruce, Tony and Mark went, into the warm night, leaving behind a happy bunch of people who received the new songs with excitement and enthusiasm, longing for the album to come out, and hoping it's not too long before we see them again. I personally would like to thank Stuart, Bruce, Tony, Mark and Ian for a magical night, made extra special by the people I met before and during the show. It was amazing how well we all got on, and I shall look forward to meeting up with them again next time. Thank you guys.

MAZZ

For the last encore, Stuart said "We have time for only one more song, because there's a curfew. What shall it be?", and then they played IABC. However, they seemed quite impressed by the "We want more" chants and gave in, playing a short - but complete - version of FOF, ending just milliseconds before 11 pm ;-)

CLAUS TAPPERT

COUNTRY CLUB MERCHANDISE ETC :

P.O. BOX 107, SOUTH GODSTONE, REDHILL, SURREY, RH9 8YS
BIG COUNTRY INFORMATION LINE : 0891 600031 (Calls cost 60 pence per minute)

SBE 2nd July (Continued)

All in all, a great evening - made some new friends, met lots of old friends, put faces to names and had a top night rocking with BC.

OLIVER HUNTER

SBE saw a sellout crowd reminisce to the old BC and celebrate in the brilliance of the new material ('Dive Into Me' [which is a vastly improved track verging on the anthemic], 'Somebody Else' [where BC sound like Del Amitri] and 'President', to name but three) for almost two hours. Watching from the sidelines (due to getting a fractured ankle at SECC gig), I watched in awe (and jealousy) as the crowd pogoed for the duration, even through the unfamiliar new songs, and God, how I wished I was in there. The "Golden Oldies" went down a storm, I particularly loved the reworked I'm Not Ashamed with Harvest Home insert, while the new songs are shaping up well and once the CD comes out, I have a feeling it's going to become one of the fave BC albums.

WILLIE

It was brilliant to see so many people turning up and packing out the SBE to see and hear BC showcase the new album. Standout tracks for me were 'Dive Into Me', 'I Get Hurt' and 'Driving To Damascus'. It was also very pleasing to hear 'Just A Shadow' after such an absence from the BC setlist. I'm sure I have now passed the 100 BC gig mark now, (it's hard to keep track after all these years and old age and so on) so thanks to SBTM for them all and here's to the next 100 !!

ALI

SBE 2nd JULY 1999 SETLIST & QUOTES

- 1 - Driving to Damascus (SA: "We're called Big Country and we're Driving to Damascus.")
- 2 - The President Slipped And Fell
- 3 - Perfect World
- 4 - Just a Shadow
- 5 - John Wayne's Dream (SA: "It's about managing to keep the dreams that you have as a little kid into adulthood and not losing sight of the things that are precious to you.")
- 6 - Fragile Thing (+ Eddi Reader) (SA: "A song of loss and redemption.")
- 7 - I Get Hurt (inc. instrumental smidgen of "Susie Q")
- 8 - You Dreamer
- 9 - Spirit To Me (+ Eddi Reader at end)
(SA: "When things happen to you when you least expect them to.")
(SA: "That's a very dark place indeed.")
- 10 - Dive Into Me (+ Eddi Reader)
(SA: "This a song about welcoming people into your life.")
- 11 - See You (+ Eddi Reader)
- 12 - I'm Not Ashamed (inc. Harvest Home)
- 13 - Somebody Else (co-written by SA and Ray Davies)
- 14 - Wonderland (inc. Restless Natives instrumental)
- 15 - Grace (+ Eddi Reader)
(SA: "A song that grew out of you people because each and every one of you - you bring me grace. Thank you.")
- 16 - Look Away
- 17 - Chance (+ Eddi Reader)



18 - In A Big Country
19 - Fields of Fire (scratch)
Photo by Oliver Hunter

THANKS TO OLIVER HUNTER AND MIKE LYND FOR THIS

BRUCE WATSON'S DIARIES

A WEEKEND

(A Summary about what a Rock Band does when they are working)

Four shows in two days. First show is at the London Shepherds Bush Empire at 9pm. Play to an enthusiastic audience then right offstage to play at the Jacques Villeneuve Formula 1 party in Chelsea at 1.30am. The set goes to plan until some smart arse in the balcony drops a bottle of red wine on to our sound engineers head which then smashes onto the mixing console and takes out the PA system. Back to Stanbridges to get 3 hours sleep.

The same morning we fly up to Edinburgh to catch a bus to take us to Hampden Park in Glasgow to support Rod Stewart. British Airways decide to confiscate our flight case with accessories and cables at Gatwick Airport, Mark had bought it 2nd hand from BA Salvage yard and it still had the BA logo on it. We got our cables back in a poly bag later in the evening. On-stage we set the gear up to discover BA had trashed Stuart's amplifier rig. Shorty has to repair the amp on-stage in the rain. When he switched it on, it started acting up, so Stuart had to use a borrowed amp. The band played 3 songs really quickly and took the fuck off.

At the airport we chartered a small 8-seater aircraft. As the gear was being loaded onto the plane the back end started to drop. The pilot and Tall Spice were not impressed and the equipment had to be weighed. We were around 10 stone too heavy for the plane. So we had to leave certain equipment behind - It was a toss-up between Mark's cymbals and the beer. The cymbals and borrowed amp lost out. The takeoff was painless, but on landing we overshot the runway by 100 feet and ended up scaring a family of cows in a field, the wheels and the propellers kicking up divots of grass at the cockpit as we prayed not to crash. The next show is at the Inns of Court Ball, at the Temple in London at 1.30am in the morning. We arrive in time to watch the Human League mime beautifully through their greatest hits. Back to Stanbridges for 3 hours sleep as we fly to Nashville in the morning.

2. NEVER REFUSE A VINDALOO IN NASHVILLE

Feeling totally shagged out after the flight from hell, we decided that a quick shower followed by a steaming hot curry would make us feel human again. Stuart dropped us off at the apartments then shot off as he was late for his 'poo and set' appointment. We synchronised our watches and agreed to meet in the parking lot 30 minutes later. Mark and I arrived at the car almost simultaneously, but there was no sign of Tony. He eventually surfaced 10 minutes later. He felt completely knackered and unusually for him, decided to pull out of the curry deal because he said he didn't trust American Indians, the restaurant, not the feathered variety. "Not hot enough for me, and the same goes for the lager, I've drunk stronger tea" he moaned, "drop me off at the Sports Bar and I'll get myself a bowl of chilli".

We dropped him at the Sports Bar in Brentwood, then Mark and I set off to the Sitar Indian restaurant for that much required 'hot food of the Gods'. Unbeknown to us at the time, Tony was going through a mistaken identity crisis in the Sports Bar. As we were chucking large amounts of onion bagels and beer down our necks, he was being frog marched from the bar to a waiting squad car where he was interrogated by two 'uniforms' and a 'plain clothes'.

BRUCE WATSON'S DIARIES (Continued)

Cue Dream Sequence

Tony was sitting at the bar quietly watching the game and eating his chilli, while Mr and Mrs DoGood were sitting behind him reading the local paper. As they reached the 'WANTED, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN' page, their faces dropped in horror. There was a photo fit of the local drugstore/gas station hold up man and it just happened to be the spitting image of Tony Butler, who was sitting opposite them, tucking into a rather large bowl of chilli. Well, this was just the opportunity for Mr and Mrs DoGood to be local heroes. They swiftly dialled 911 and got an innocent bass player arrested. 'I hope these smug bastards get burgled and have their nice clean carpets dumped on!'.

Anyway, Tony was interrogated in the squad car. He was asked to produce ID where he promptly pulled out his British Drivers license which when opened out resembles a pink and green newspaper. The cops were completely confused by this, so the big stupid cop asked where he had been on the twelfth of the month. Tony thought about it and recalled that he was probably down 'The Bell' in Lancelton getting sozzled. The intelligent cop then asked "Which part of Australia is that in Sir?". "It's in Cornwall, England" Tony replied. "Well, it sounds Australian" the cop countered, to which TB responded "I am not Australian, I am Tony Butler, Bass guitarist with legendary Scots rockers Big Country". "Oh, so you are saying you are Scottish now and not Australian at all, are you trying to confuse us Sir?". The intelligent cop pulled out a copy of the doppelganger photo fit and pointed to it. "Is this you Sir?". "No, it's a photo fit of a local felon who holds up Gas Stations" Mr Butler responded. "He's wearing the same hat as you sir" he was informed. "Then arrest my hat" TB replied. "Are you trying to be funny Sir?". "No, I am trying to make light of the situation that I find myself in. Look, I have been drunk in that Sports Bar regularly in the past, ask the bartender who I am and he will verify that I am a musician, and not a felon"

With that, the stupid cop entered the bar and returned with the vital information that Tony wanted to hear : "Okay sir, we are going to let you go, the bartender verified your story, but I must warn you that impersonating an Australian in certain states is a minor offence, so you just be careful out there".

3. BLACK SUITS IN THE SUN

The 5.30 wake up alarm call sounded and I dragged myself into the shower. Today we were doing some location shots with Jim Herrington. We gave breakfast a miss and agreed to meet up in the old parking lot behind the rail station. As the morning turned into afternoon the heat (which was 98 degrees) began to take its toll on our art director Paul McGarvey. Not wearing a hat or sun block, his head resembled someone who had left their head out in the sun for too long. A large red bonce dripping in sweat, he could hardly speak. Angie our make-up girl moved swiftly and applied some cream to his scarlet noggin. "Easy on the blusher now Angie" I shouted. A gang of leather faced hobo's came walking past and invited us to get drunk with them. We politely declined. This severely pissed off our wardrobe lady Becky, who was gagging for one.

The rented 1973 Winnebago pulled into the rail yard and we all rushed in desperate for some comfort and air conditioning - the cool air hit us like a friendly skelp aff the puss. We drove downtown to get a few shots next to some lovely buildings but were moved on by the cops. We were actually shooting next to the federal building and we didn't have a permit. Herrington took umbrage to this and he took his anger out on his tripod. The winnebago took us to the Double Z ranch in Bellburg for the next shoot. Stuart and Mark borrowed an old 63 Ford Falcon for the drive. The location was an old dilapidated church in the middle of 'Bumfuck Nowhere'. Two strange looking codgers turned up in an old wagon selling watermelons and canelopes. I checked in the front of the wagon in case they had brought their duelling banjo's with them. By now the heat was unbearable and to make matters worse Jim wanted to shoot inside the church.

BRUCE WATSON'S DIARIES (Continued)

The church is a typical Southern building with Timber cladding and a very hot tin roof. Foolishly we changed into black suits and entered the church, which felt exactly like walking into a sauna fully clothed. As we were shooting from the waist up I decided to remove my trousers as they had a lining in them. This just felt like I was wearing two pairs of trousers and was damn uncomfortable around the tackle area. Wearing a black suit in 98 degrees scorching heat is a pretty silly thing to do. The sweat was now washing off us and by the end of the day I'm sure we all lost a few pounds.

The rest of the evening was spent at the Sherlock Holmes bar with some scudders from our website. Becky managed to outdrink everybody in the bar and on the drive home she blasted out some heavy dub reggae on the car stereo. Needless to say the residents of Brentwood were not impressed. As we pulled into our apartment block, Mark had to swerve slightly to avoid hitting a dead skunk in the middle of the road. I don't know if anyone in Britain has ever smelled a skunk, but let me tell you that when the odour wafted through the cars AC system, it was like the devil himself had let off a trouser cough.

4. STAY WHERE THE STARS STAY

'Stay where the stars stay' was the promise emblazoned on the front of the Drake Motel. This was to be our base and location for the next 12 or so hours. The motel was not located in the nicest area of town and the hookers were just shutting up shop as we arrived. Outside our room was an immaculate 1963 Champagne Gold Cadillac. This was owned by the stunt man that worked on big budget movies such as Die Hard 2 and Speed. His name was Ed and he told us many horror stories about the movies he had worked on. As this was going to be our car for the shoot, Tony was given a quick driving lesson as he was the designated driver. As per yesterday, I decided to remove my trousers as the camera was only shooting from the waist up. The crew attached the camera to the driver side door and off we went following the directions we were given via walkie-talkie. After the first shot, we returned to our base ready to do the same shot again. Tony pulled out and we waited for our instructions. "Action" and we were off again. At that, the clouds burst open and the heaviest rainstorm I have ever been in, pissed down on us almost immediately. Panic stations set in as we struggled to find the windscreen wipers. "Pull that one, push that one" I shouted. "Ed didn't show me where the wipers were, I didn't expect rain" replied Tony. The shower lasted for about 15 minutes and we got absolutely drenched in the open top car. A friend of Stuart's called Phil Madeira turned up to meet the band so we got him a job as an extra for the day. "What this video needs is a Mad Preacher ranting and raving about all the illicit shagging that's going on in the world today" he said. Becky immediately got onto the phone to the Mad Preachers costume shop and ordered one extra large outfit. Phil is a big lad and talks non-stop, usually about shagging. He had spent a lot of time touring England and knew the lingo quite well. "Did you guys know that the word shag in America is actually a dance, that is why the new Austin Powers movie is not offensive in the States". We immediately decided that we should switch the word 'dance' to 'shag' in all song titles we knew, here are a few examples : 'Shagging with tears in my eyes', 'Save the last shag for me', 'Lets shag', 'Shag with the devil', 'Sabre shag', 'John, I'm only shagging' and last, but not least, Van Morrison's 'Moonshag'.

Then someone said that Fannie in America meant arse in English, so as you can imagine, the conversation got extremely silly for the next few hours. We drove back to the same old church in Bellburg so that Phil could do some more ranting and raving. As it gets dark quite quickly, we spent the evening in downtown Nashville shooting some time lapse shots. On the way home we noticed that the dead skunk had been removed but the smell was as strong as ever. Tomorrow we play a gig at the Sutler and the next day we record a six track CD for radio stations. Well, its time to hit the sack, as you can see, its been quite a busy time and my body is now shutting down. Nyto!

BRUCE WATSON.

WATCH OUT FOR MORE FROM BRUCE WATSON'S INFAMOUS DIARIES IN FUTURE ISSUES

SUTLERS, NASHVILLE, 9th JULY 1999

As the crowd waited anxiously for four familiar faces to appear at The Sutler's Club in Nashville, Tennessee, the room buzzed with excitement and questions. This was the first time for Big Country to play on American shores since the Buffalo Skinners tour, and it would be the first live BC experience for many fans in the audience. No one knew quite what to expect from the new songs for the upcoming album 'Driving to Damascus,' however, when BC took to the stage, they started off with three new songs in a row, ("Driving To Damascus," "The President Slipped" and "Perfect World") and by the end of the third tune, Big Country had the collective mouth of the fans gaping in awe. The band was in great form, despite the fact that they were using borrowed equipment for the concert and had no effects pedals on hand. There was some great verbal interaction with the audience from Stuart, as well. At one point, a cellular phone rang, and Stuart stopped his intro of the next song to say, "Okay, who's got the f***in' phone on? What's so important that someone has to call you here tonight? Have some relaxation time." Quite funny. He also introduced the song "Spirit to Me" by saying, "I'd like to take you to a very dark place - Bruce's house," to which Bruce replied, "You mean your wallet." The boys bounced around that tiny stage as if they were playing for a huge arena. And the audience, caught up in the energy and excitement but hindered by crowded tables and chairs, were bobbing their heads and tapping their feet with all their might. The set showcased an album's worth of new songs, and the two encores included a few of the familiar crowd-pleasers like Chance, Fields of Fire, and IABC. The fans' general consensus about the new material can be summed up in one word: AWESOME. With spine-chilling guitar riffs and smashing drums, classic BC was back, but with a harder 90's edge. It was 'Steeltown' meets 'Why the Long Face,' and the crowd couldn't have been happier. BC offered to this small group of loyal, aging fans all of the hope, passion and promise they displayed in the early 80's. Best of luck to you, Big Country, on the release of 'Driving to Damascus,' and may the music business smile on you again.

JOANIE WILLIAMS

Big Country were to play Sutlers in Nashville on the 9th of July. I knew no matter what I'd be there. My hopes and expectations were low. Ah the life of a pessimist. What I'd hoped was that they'd do a show and maybe I could have a drink or 2 with the guys. What I got was the time of my life! The time is now a fond memory and a special experience. I found that I wish I would have said more. I know that I'm part of something so special. I believe that being a BC Fan is something so special. I believe that all these years has made me a stronger and better person. I would never trade this for anything in the world. I end by thanking Bruce, Mark, Stuart and Tony. I also thank the fans who love and understand what BC are all about. I wish the best for all on the CD and new phase of BC.

ARC (Anne)

This was my first time seeing them. I was blown away. Without a doubt, the best live show I've ever seen.

KIMBERLY HANSING

Well, I must say AWESOME!, I really enjoyed it!! My favorite songs are Fragile Thing and Driving to Damascus, I liked the Restless Natives in the middle of Wonderland.

HOWARD

SUTLERS, NASHVILLE, 9th JULY 1999 SET LIST

Sound Check: You Dreamer (With Stuart saying, "Welcome to our sound check!") / Driving to Damascus / President Slipped And Fell / Perfect World / I'm Not Ashamed (with verse and bridge from Harvest Home) / John Wayne's Dream / Fragile Thing (on which Stuart used a slide) / I Get Hurt (which was where I first noticed all the funky stuff Bruce does with his hands) / You Dreamer / Spirit To Me/ Dive Into Me / Wonderland (w/o the Echo) (which is where I started feeling like Alice in the Looking Glass - I'd never seen BC before, this was where The Dream began!) / Alone / Look Away / Fields of Fire (with a break into the classic Scots ballad "Go Lassie Go, "my favorite Scots ballad) / Encore 1: Chance / In a Big Country / Encore 2: Rockin In The Free World
THANKS TO JOANIE AND KIMBERLY FOR THIS.

SUTLERS, NASHVILLE, 9th JULY 1999

(Continued)

I just wanted to say that the Nashville show was UNBELIEVABLE!!! The new songs are simply fantastic!! Honestly, I've never seen the band more fired up and into what they were doing. They just absolutely pulverized that little room, leaving mouths agape. "Driving to Damascus" is just classic BC, and "John Wayne's Dream" will surely end up on the "how could this have been a b-side" list. "Spirit To Me" was a beautiful, powerful ballad, with lyrics that were just as powerful as the music. "Perfect World" just destroys.

I'm so excited about where this band is headed. They have GOT to tour America this time out. People have to see this band. It was great seeing so many BC fans from the list and this board at the show. Such a communal atmosphere there - it was really quite magical. I can't wait for this album. Everyone should be really excited about it, judging from what I heard on Friday. No one's going to be disappointed in this one.

DISS

The Big Country boys took the stage and rocked the venue like a ruptured colon with a vengeance! It was a great gig, and definitely worth checking out, yes indeed.

SUNSHINE (A Depeche Mode fan who went on the recommendation of Spookey (London)).

BIG COUNTRY ; THE WEBSITE

The Internet has opened up a whole new world for Big Country fans as well as the Band and Management. There are two Official BC Sites - the main site which is accessible to everyone with Internet access, and the Members Site. The Main Site has 4 Bulletin Boards where fans can leave their messages/questions, plus an up-to-date News Page, Merchandise Section, Discography, Archive, Biography and links to other Fan Maintained Sites, BC Management and many others.

The Members Section contains an Auction Page (where fans can bid for items of BC memorabilia), Archive, Bulletin Board, Live Chat, Merchandise Section (where you can get 10% discount on all BC Items) and Competition page, where you can win a special prize. The members section costs £10 per year, and in addition to qualifying for discount on Merchandise and the chance to win prizes, the chat room has become a favourite meeting place for many fans. There you can meet many friendly fans and chat about BC, and you never know when the band and Ian Grant will pop in for some serious chatting, or just for some fun banter. Highlights include Bruce's Scud Nights and Tony's Love Fests

The Chat room has also seen many friendships formed between fans, and this interaction, combined with the Bulletin Boards has resulted in many BC fans meeting up prior to the gigs. Regulars usually meet in the chatroom usually from 10pm nightly in the UK, while US fans usually are online from midnight UK time.

VISIT THE BIG COUNTRY WEBSITE AT <http://www.bigcountry.co.uk>

For instance, on 21st February 1999, prior to going into the Studio to record the new album, a chat room meeting was arranged where fans were invited to ask their questions direct to the band - here is some of the information that was forthcoming during that chat (which incidentally lasted for almost four hours), and some quotes from the guys.

Album title : Unknown

Recording Starts : 3rd March 1999

Estimated Recording Time : 6 Weeks .

Recording Location : Rockfield Studios, Wales

Producer : Rafe McKenna (Bruce : He has worked with Ash and the Corrs and Dalty)

(Stuart : Rafe's last project was Ash. The music will be BC but with a bit more space, I know its kind of vague but I'm not a critic and believe that music should be heard ,not analysed "anal-ised".)

(Bruce : Rafe McKenna and Big Country are producing the album)

Record Company : Track Records were mentioned, but not confirmed.

(IG : Tony and Bruce can only answer the label thing. Not all the paperwork is finalised. This does not stop the recording starting on time on March 3rd. Unless Mark goes AWOL)

BIG COUNTRY ; THE WEBSITE (Continued)

First Single Release : Unknown

First Single Release Date : Unknown

Album Release Date : Unknown (Bruce : dont know release date that's impossible)

Number Of Tracks On Album : 12

Album Tracks : 4 definite's ; Devil In The Eye, Fragile Heart, Driving To Damascus and Somebody Else

Convention Location (UK) : Leeds / Leicester. Newcastle and Blackpool suggested also. (Bruce : I would also love to do a Convention as well)

(ig : Leeds wasn't it chaps? Somewhere up that way. Leicester. Shit, I forgot)

(Tony Butler : Newcastle would be cool for Brit Convention)

Convention Location (USA) : Nashville, New Orleans, Normal, Chicago, Austin, Minnnesota were suggested.

Touring Plans : To be decided. (ig : If everything goes well, the band will be spending more time in USA than Europe. That is that's best for them and you.) Possibility Of New Years Eve Gig : Bruce Watson stated he would

"love to do one" New Years Eve Gig Location : Glasgow Barrowlands suggested.

Band Members Present : Bruce Watson, Tony Butler, Stuart Adamson and Ian Grant

Chat Duration : Four Hours

Interesting Quotes :

[Stuart] : The more shows in the US the better as far as I'm concerned. Not that I don't enjoy Europe ,but it's been too long here

[Bruce] : We hope to be touring all over the states (re touring in USA this year)

[Stuart] : We thought about Steve and he was up for it ,but we decided on someone new, to move things forward. (re Steve Lillywhite possibly producing the new album, and the decision to go with Rafe McKenna)

[ig] : Yes he is Johnny. Listen folks its simple. All the band have to do is grab the attention of the movers and groovers. Its a game. Starting with a collection of songs, single, media plan, marketing plan, tour and more tour and more tour and cross fingers and toes. We aint even started yet. The seed is planted and the shoots will grow forth. Right time of year too.

On Album release and subsequent Touring : [Stuart] : Hopefully ,album in the summer, don't know dates yet.

Possible Album title : [Bruce] : The album will be called ' The woman who loved me farted to much'

Possible Album tracks : [Stuart] : My personal favourite is ' My Bin Is In Australia'don't ask it's a long story.

On the "appearance of 'Mark Brzezicki' in the chatroom :

[Bruce] : Sorry but I couldn't resist impersonating our drummer it was me

[ig] : Bruce, i know your impersonations of Mark anywhere

On songs that don't make the Album :

[Woody] : The songs which don't make the cut, any chance of selling them on the internet? members only perhaps

[Stuart] : Well, hopefully there'll be plenty of chances for 'B' side releases

On the Album being released in the USA : [Stuart] : A US release is crucial for us at this stage I think.

On the Album being released all over the world : [ig] : The new album will be released in as many countries that wish to release it. Too early for factual details. Check the BB's for details in weeks to come

On what the fans can do to help promote Big Country :

[ig] : Folks. What you can do if you really want to help prepare the next lift off is a) get a friend to join this site or just plain visit the other one outside here b) email and phone your local radio station asking for whatever song you wish. Its important to do this now and even more so when the new singles are out. In USA "phones" are actually taken into consideration into the science of the charts. The more phones, the more increase in rotation. Be cool if someone other than me posted this kinda message on the bbs. oops there I go again, leaning on you people

On the Album Style ; [Bruce] : A rocking album yes

=====

**COUNTRY CLUB MERCHANDISE ETC : P.O. BOX 107, SOUTH GODSTONE, REDHILL,
SURREY, RH9 8YS**

=====

BIG COUNTRY INFORMATION LINE : 0891 600031 (Calls cost 60 pence per minute)

THE WEEKEND OF MADNESS

There is nothing unusual about doing two gigs over a weekend, but 4 shows in 32 hours most certainly is unusual. However, that is exactly what BC did, it was bound to be eventful and it most certainly was.

On Friday 2nd July 1999 the band opened their hectic schedule with a highly successful sold out Shepherds Bush Empire show. Fans came from 11 countries as far away as New Zealand and all over America, plus Europe and from all over the United Kingdom. After a near two hour set, the guys came off the stage at 11pm, had a quick shower and change of clothes and then set off across London as their next turn was at the special request of Jacques Villeneuve. At 2am the band appeared at his Lucky Strike Formula One party at an Arts Centre in Victoria. Jacques and his dancing partner Danni Minogue were seen dancing like crazy to an electric BC set. Jacques was to have joined the band on stage for an encore, but a young lady tripped over in the VIP area above the mixing desk area and sent a full beer glass flying that unfortunately landed on the mixing desk. As a result, all vocal mikes were made redundant and IABC was concluded instrumentally and brought the bands set to a sudden end. However, the band made such an impression on Jacques that he has invited them to appear at the Formula One Finale Party, which shall be in Japan in October.

So, with two gigs out of the way, albeit tired with only three hours sleep, the band flew to Edinburgh to make their way to Hampden Park in Glasgow, where they were special guests of Rod Stewart. On arrival it was discovered that a flight case containing the band's leads and other effects was missing. It showed up on the computer as having left Gatwick Airport in London, but it was not in the hold, on the ground or inside the airport and this delayed the band getting to Glasgow. With thunder, lightening and torrential rain, the band began to have doubts as to whether the gig would happen. To show face they scurried to the ground only to find out that Stuart's guitar effects rack had been trashed. So, leads had to be borrowed, begged and stolen, and with no soundcheck the band were sailing into this one blind. Promoter Barry Marshall informed the audience of 45,000 what had happened and the band finally made their appearance at 7pm to a highly enthusiastic and receptive crowd. On finishing the set, there was then a mad dash to Glasgow Airport to fly back to London to play their fourth and final gig of the weekend. Unfortunately there was no scheduled flights after 19.15, so an 8 seater plane had to be hired to take off at 9pm. However, it is not all plain sailing in the life of this band, and it was drummer Mark Brzezicki somewhat concerned about the weight of items loaded on the small plane, who insisted that the plane had everything taken off it and weighed. He was right to do so, as it turned out that it was 10Ks overweight. And so, sacrifices had to be made and the fridge, drinks and his cymbals were jettisoned. The plane finally took off in dreadful weather heading for Stapleford Airport in Hertfordshire.

But the excitement was not over. The plane descended, touched down and then overshot the runway, eventually coming to a halt on grass after spinning one way and then the next. A white knuckle ride if ever there was one. When the plane came to a rest there was much hysteria amongst the band and pilots, for all anyone could do was laugh now that they were safe on terra firma. The flight case did turn up at Gatwick, while the cymbals were sent to Stanstead on a separate flight and Stuart's rack had to stay in Scotland to be repaired. But, with one more gig to go, the roadcrew had to be despatched to both airports to collect the missing cas and cymbals whilst the band were collected from Stapleford to be driven back for the Inns Of Court Ball at the Inner Temple in London. They got on stage at 2am on the Sunday morning, and played a set that saw them leave the stage at 4.30am. Now running on pure adrenaline, the sight of outrageous babes and copious consumption of booze, the band headed for Gatwick Airport at 6am to catch an 11am flight to Nashville.

A weekend of madness? You bet. But somehow, I bet the guys wouldn't have it any other way. This is the sort of buzz the band thrives on, and is testament to them as people, no matter what obstacles are put in their way, they will keep on putting their heart and soul into Big Country.

WILLIE / IAN GRANT

Merchandise

MUSIC - Big Country

Big Country Website EP (Internet Only Release) £8.50
Bootleg cassette (Internet Only Release) £5.00

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TOUR MEMORABILIA

Passes 98' (Guest pass or Backstage pass) £2.00
AAA £3.00
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NON BIG COUNTRY ITEMS

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Other music available
Divers single Format: CD (3 tracks) (Track records artist) £3.50
Snowdogs single Format: CD (3 tracks) (Track records artist) £3.50

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Fuzzy (CD) £6.50

EP's :

One Day To The Next (CD) £6.50

Clothing (Limited Rare Stock)

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