

BIG COUNTRY

Issue 1

55p Inc. Postage

Harvest festival edition



Welcome to the COUNTRY CLUB

Big Country comprises four experienced and talented musicians who together have found an enchanting musical recipe which excites each individual member, spurring them on to greater collective achievement. In the few short month's since the band's formation the magical ingredient which keeps them so much in tune with each other has gone from strength to strength. No-one can quite put their finger on the source of that magic - but hopefully you will agree that it does exist, and will wish it, and the band, a long and successful partnership. This is the very first issue of Big Country's official fan magazine, produced by popular demand. We hope you enjoy it...

BIG COUNTRY
Official fan magazine
published by Big
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Thanks to Ian Grant,
Pat and Beri at Cairo
Management; Chris
Bates and Nigel Wright
James Langton; Alan
Edwards; and all who
have chipped in,
especially the band.

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TOUR DATES

Big Country set off on their first tour on October 15th. At present we only have details of Scottish dates, but English gigs are planned for later in the year. The schedule so far is:

15th: Edinburgh (Coasters) or Livingstone (Melvilles) - check with venue
16th: Perth (Salutations Hotel)
17th: Kilwinning, Ayrshire (Flicks)
18th: Hamilton (Park Lane disco)
19th: Stirling (Avant-Garde Club)
20th: Aberdeen (Valhalla's disco)
21st: East Kilbride (Bruce Hotel)
22nd: as for 15th
23rd: Glasgow (Strathclyde University)
24th: Kelso (Cross Keys Hotel)
26th: Dunfermline (Glen Pavilion Ballroom)
27th: Dundee (Dance Factory)

RECORDING NEWS

The debut album is, like "Harvest Home", to be produced by Chris Thomas. The boys will be back in the studio after the tour, and have already laid down several album tracks at George Martin's Air Studios complex in Oxford Street, London. They are likely to continue recording there with engineer Steve Churchyard, who also worked on the single. An album release date is planned for early 1983. No sneak previews of the contents allowed, but rest assured some of the best live numbers will be included.

What the press

THE UNENLIGHTENED

NME are, predictably, unimpressed. They did not bother to review the single, but this is what Mark Cordery wrote after their first gig at the Barracuda Club, London, in July:

"I suggest that, career-wise, it would be to The Big Country's immense advantage to undertake a major tour of the more obscure Dutch bars or outlying farming communities where, I am led to believe, they would be highly esteemed." Clever stuff, eh?

Fiona Russell Powell (who?) writing in The Face, dismissed them like this:

"Plenty of new names this month, Cynthia Scott, Big Country, Big View and Eel Dog, but all pretty second-rate, and I'm not prepared to compromise, are you?" Certainly not, dear.

Time Out, London's once excellent ents rag reviewed the single thus:

"Once a Skid, always a Skid and Stuart Adamson's much-touted quartet sound much like his last, which means this sounds as though it was written on bagpipes."



Big Country on the Who's US tour

Rock megastars The Who have invited Big Country to be their special guests on the last leg of the US and Canadian tour in December. Details are not yet available, but the band should be joining the Who entourage at the beginning of the month for a three-week visit. Mark and Tony have both played on Pete Townshend's solo albums, and are also featured on Roger Daltrey's current solo project which is yet to be released. Another link is producer Chris Thomas who has worked on both Big Country and Townshend recordings, and has evidently spread the word about the band's potential. Press reports have rumoured that this is to be the last ever Who tour. If so Big Country could witness a piece of rock history in the making. At any rate they will have a great opportunity to introduce the Big Country phenomenon to our cousins across the ocean. For an account of their American debut see the centre pages.

have said so far . . .

THE UNSURE

Extract from the Record Mirror review by Mark Cooper:
"Stuart Adamson resurrects the guitar and drums cinema of early Skids. Harvest Home has suitably poetic lyrics, plenty of rifferama and distinct sounds of life. Unfortunately many of these are hidden by a careless production"

How about listening to it a second time. We wouldn't like to end up saying 'I told you so' now would we ?

THE INSPIRED

Strong stuff from Gary Bushell, reviewing "Harvest Home" in Sounds:

"A stunning debut from the spectacular Big Country, a band whose name will come to be synonymous with vitality and vision. Country's scope and ambition are as beautifully broad as the name suggests. 'Just as you sow, you shall reap' is one of the hook-lines here. If it's true the caring, daring Big Country are certain to reap both popular acclaim and critical admiration."

Carol Clerk from Melody Maker said this about the gig at Night Moves, Glasgow:

"Music that incorporates the proud lilt of traditional folk with the assembled might of modern electrical techniques and a little of something else besides, this is a dramatic, emotional and dynamic blend that's irresistibly unique and seductive and breathtaking."

A few words from Paul Ashford, Musicians Weekly:

"... but still largely untapped like North Sea oil there's a reservoir of techniques and sounds in the tradition that may make Big Country great."

Obviously a trio of great perception.

BRUCE WATSON

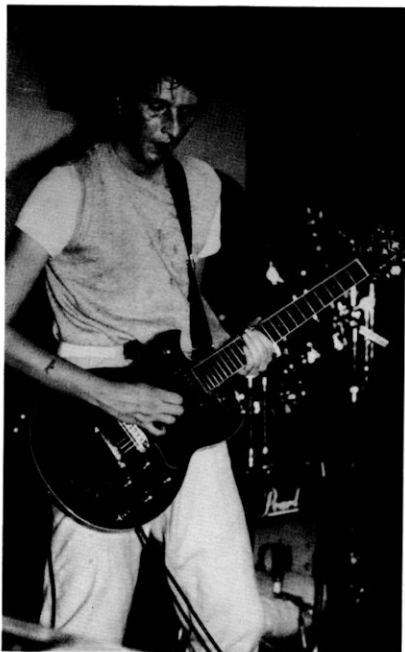
GUITAR AND BACKING VOCALS

Date of birth: 11.3.61

Place of birth: Timmins, Ontario, Canada

Present home: Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland

Bruce is the baby of the band at 21 and has been playing guitar since he was 16. As a kid he asked his mum and dad to buy him a Beatles guitar and a Chad Valley drum kit to play about with. "I decided I liked the guitar better, and while I was still at school I used to skive off to work so I could buy a proper guitar and amp." He formed a band with a few lads from school, and had his debut at the Lady of Lourdes Chapel, Dunfermline, after only four months playing. "We were really bad," he recalls. "We played thrashy punk stuff but we got six encores." The Delinquents were born. They started getting serious about playing when they got a drummer who could actually play. The bass player just happened to be Stuart's brother-in-law, and after shortening their name to Delinx, the band started to get gigs supporting the Skids around Scotland. During the day Bruce was worked in the dockyards at Rosyth as a labourer. "I used to clean out the sewage tanks in the submarines - it really stank." When Delinx split up in 1979, he



formed a new band with the ex-Skids drummer, but that didn't last, so disillusioned he sold his equipment and set off for the bright lights of London. "We spent a couple of weeks squatting in Brixton but I got fed up and came home." Back to the docks to earn enough money for new equipment. He started writing his own songs, and then joined a new band called Euro-set, which lasted about a year. When Stuart asked him if he'd like to form a band he had signed on the dot and was not playing at all. The duo jammed at a local community centre, creating the bones of the songs you hear in the set now. When Tony and Mark joined, the band was complete. Bruce said: "I have fulfilled part of my ambition now. I am really enjoying being part of this band. I like playing live, but everything that's happening now is a fascinating experience. I know I still have a lot to learn, but that's all part of the challenge. Bruce lives at home with his parents: "I quite enjoy it now. I think it's because I'm working away in London a lot. I enjoy seeing different places, but it's always nice to get home for a while."

TONY BUTLER



Tony had the rare fortune to be encouraged to play bass guitar at school. An enlightened music teacher asked all the kids one morning what instrument they would like to learn. Tony had been watching Top of the Pops the night before, and fancied being a guitarist, but chose bass to be different. "I'll always be grateful to him for his help and encouragement." So at the age of 13 he was playing in the school band when he was approached by one of the other boys who suggested he met some friends of his - the Ealing Family Townshend. His meeting was followed by more than ten years musical association with various members of that family. In the early days he played with Simon Townshend and middle brother Paul - with his brother Lenox sometimes joining in on vocals. But when they began to take the music business more seriously, Tony stuck with Simon and the others went their separate ways. They would rehearse for days on end and finally made their debut at a council run festival at the Questors Theatre in Ealing. When Tony left school he got a job as a clerk with the BBC, which gave him a chance to save for his first decent guitar - a beautiful black Rickenbacker, which he still uses occasionally. The Simon Townshend Band lasted several years, with a break when Simon got a solo record deal. Tony took the opportunity to broaden his scope by joining his cousin's reggae and calypso band - playing the West Indian dances and church hall wedding receptions. But he later rejoined Simon, eventually being asked by Pete to come and work for him. Tony ran the Townshend synthesiser hire company, driving up and down the country - but when Pete needed a bass player for demos at short notice, he started to ask young Butler, and was impressed with what he heard. For the rest of the tale check with Mark's story, for they have followed the same course for around four years. Tony is now fully committed to Big Country. "When I first heard Stuart's tapes I knew this was going to be something special. I had been looking for a band to get involved with, but nothing seemed to click until I found Big Country."

BASS GUITAR AND
BACKING VOCALS

Date of birth: 13.2.57

Place of birth:

Shepherds Bush

Present home: Ealing,
London



STUART ADAMSON

GUITAR AND LEAD VOCALS

Date of birth: 11.4.58

Place of birth: Manchester

Present home: Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland

Stuart quite unmodestly says he knows Big Country are a brilliant band - and speaks from the heart when he says this is the finest thing he's ever been involved with. One of his aims through BC is to put back all the best that he feels has been lacking in current music. "The joy has gone out of most of the music you hear nowadays - and it is sorely missed." His other aim is for the band to remain honest. "When something is not right you should stop it. Big Country IS right."

The young Adamson became a music addict at the tender age of 9. His mother had always liked records, and each Saturday she would send him from their home in the small country town of Crossgates to the shops in Cowdenbeath. "She would give me about 4/6d (22p) to buy a single for her every week. The first one I chose myself was 'Tears of a Clown'." Gradually Stuart was allowed to pick more records than his mum, and music became his main interest in life. When he was 12 his dad bought him a nylon-stringed Spanish guitar. He learnt all the chords and practised hard



- then got a 'cheap' electric for Xmas. With his first band, which he formed at 15, he played cover versions of chart hits, learning and discovering the scope of the guitar as he went along. The rest is history. The Skids were formed and went through various transformations, always including Stuart - the dominant musical influence in the band. These days he is, understandably reluctant to hark back to those times. He says the honesty went out of the Skids and he was happy to leave after months of disillusionment. Big Country is his life now. "We all fitted in like an Airfix kit. I know there is a magic there. You only have to look at the audience reaction so far." Many people look to him automatically as the leader of the band. His name is known, he is the principle songwriter and lead vocalist. But he is anxious to stress the importance of the rest of the band. "All the songs are left open for contribution. I just play the riff, I don't tell anyone what to do. Without the others there would be no Big Country." He has no ambition to be a typical rock star. His spare time is spent quietly at home in Dunfermline with his wife and young baby, writing new songs and being an ordinary family man. He has never felt the need to move down south, even though Mark and Tony live in London. The band rehearses both in Scotland and London - and have a lot to thank British Rail for.



MARK BRZEZICKI

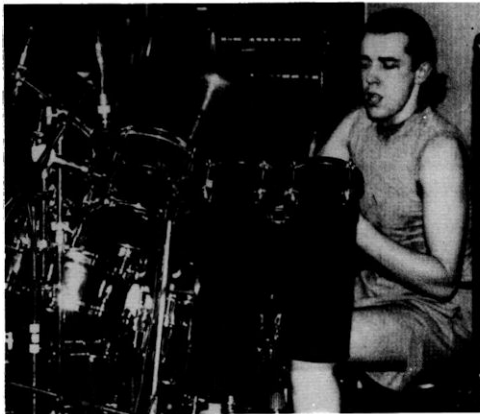
DRUMS AND PERCUSSION

Date of birth: 21.6.57
Place of birth: Slough
Present home: Twickenham

Mark has all the classic characteristics of a born drummer. If's he's not behind his drum kit, he's tapping the table top with his fingertips or slapping his knees with his palms. In fact that is how he discovered the pleasures of the tones you can achieve by drumming on different surfaces.

At 16 he saved enough money to buy what he now calls a "joke kit" - a bass drum, snare and tom tom. At the same time his two brothers bought a bass and guitar, and after rehearsals the trio started playing at the local working men's club. Mark had by then started an apprenticeship as an aircraft fitter at British Aerospace. He worked by day and played the drums at night, practising at every spare moment and using his hard-earned cash to pay for a better kit. The brothers eventually went their separate ways and Mark spent quite a long time in another band called Silver Stream, playing pop cover versions at dances and weddings. He first met Tony when he decided to join an Ealing-based band called On The Air, led by Simon Townshend (Yes, brother of Pete). Mark said: "I know I can work well with Tony. He is like my second half now." At the start of 1980 On The Air was signed up by WEA Records and released a single. Mark gave up his job to go professional, but by then he was a fully qualified fitter and had even done an extra year's management training. The first single went nowhere, but on release of the second On The Air set off on tour, supporting the Skids - and met Stuart. Early in 1981 OTA disbanded, but Mark and Tony decided to stick together to do session work. They had both already worked on Pete Townshend's solo album "Empty Glass", and felt they could bill themselves as a complete rhythm section. All went well for a while, but sessions can

be tedious and unfulfilling, depending on who you are working with, and the duo needed something to get their teeth into. The offer to join Big Country came early this year. Mark said: "Tony was so enthusiastic about it I knew it had to be good. The songs sounded so good with an instantly recognisable sound all their own. I felt I could fit in right away. Everyone in the band is a capable musician, and we can respect each other." He has great hopes for their future. "I don't think there should be anyone who has not heard us. This is a way of life for me now - and I am proud to be a part of it all." He says he will be happy when he sees the Big Country name in lights above Hammersmith Odeon



Big Country fly across



The band flew over to the States earlier this year to play at venues in New York and Washington, where The Members were promoting their Membership Club. Strangely enough the problems arose before they left this country, when they tried to get visas for their stay, and Bruce turned up with a passport picture showing him at the age of 18 months. But they eventually departed on Thursday August 19 for their American debut.

TONY BUTLER tells you his version of their visit

THURSDAY

We arrived at the American Embassy the morning our flight was to depart. Years of waiting to fulfill an ambition hinged on Beri, the Cairo Management secretary, virtually getting down on her knees and begging the officials to stamp our visas. We had only had a few days notice of our trip to the States, and there hadn't been time to get everything sorted out beforehand. We eventually got on the 6pm flight, seven hours later than planned. All of us were extremely excited about going to America, wondering what kind of reception we'd get, but Stuart and Mark aren't keen on flying and hated the journey.

After six hours flying came the first glimpse of New York. It was midnight in the UK, but only 7pm in the States. After the formalities of customs and so on, we were greeted by our radiant, but knackered Manager Ian Grant. Then we were badgered by taxi drivers who didn't seem to understand the word "No". Then we were whisked down the freeway towards midtown Manhattan. Our cab was a HUGE Cadillac with the best sound system I've ever heard in a car. After half an hour we realised we were being taken the wrong way round - and the Spanish cabby tried to charge us 45 dollars, instead of 30, when we got to our hotel - the Iroquois on West 44th Street.

FRIDAY

Going to bed at about lam New York time, it seemed silly that everyone got up so early the next morning. The sound check wasn't till 6pm, so we had the whole day to explore. On the way to the gig we stood outside the hotel and tried to catch a couple of real yellow cabs. They're brilliant - they're so hideous and uncomfortable, exactly as I imagined them. About a mile going downtown on Fifth Avenue was the Peppermint Lounge. It's quite an impressive club on three floors with video monitors, so you can watch the band playing from anywhere, and during change overs they show promo videos. We met the Members for the first time since our arrival, and after a soundcheck went back to the hotel, where I caught some American TV. The quiz programmes are hilarious, the adverts are cheap. Channel 5 news devoted 15 minutes to Joe Jackson, who was in town, and 5 minutes to the rest of the news - including the 17 murders that took place in the midtown on our first day in New York.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
AUGUST 20 & 21

BECOME A MEMBER
OF LONDON'S
MEMBERSHIP CLUB

FEATURING THE
MEMBERS



AND

FRIDAY: **DARLENE LOVE**
(OF THE CRYSTALS)

"HE'S A REBEL"

"DA DOG RON RON"

WITH THE LIFTOWN HORNS

SATURDAY

FIRST U.S. APPEARANCE!

A BIG COUNTRY

\$10 BEFORE 11



Cute - isn't he?
This is the photo
that baffled emb-
assy officials
were presented with
by Bruce. He's
grown up a bit now
you'll be pleased
to hear - but can
you spot the
resemblance?

the Atlantic (eventually!)

At 12.15am we arrived back at the Peppermint Lounge for our American debut. The gig passed without major hitches, and the New Yorkers seemed to go a little apeshit over the group. After the apres gig pleasantries we avoided the herpes carriers and went back to the hotel for a large nightcap. It looked like the US was going to like Big Country.

SATURDAY

Everyone went in different directions. Bruce went to Greenwich Village. Mark and Stuart went to Central Park and watched the local Saturday league baseball games, which by all accounts were hilarious. I met up with a family friend called Steve who took me round the city, including 42nd Street which is like Soho, but ten times worse, and Chinatown, which is like the one in London.

The gig was going well again on our second night when, during the final number, Mark's floor tom tom fell on his leg, making it impossible to play properly. He promptly stopped the song, threw the drum stage left. Stuart announced this was a well rehearsed part of the song. Five seconds silence, then we were back into the song. What a great gig.

SUNDAY

Still laughing about the tom tom episode, we were on our way to Washington DC for our last gig. We shared the minibus with the Members, which had its hysterical moments. I was a bit disappointed with Washington. The White House wasn't as big as I thought it might be, and the outskirts of town where the 9.30 club was situated weren't very embracing either. The two sets we played that night were the best of an ever increasing tightness and solidness of the group and the audience's enthusiastic response was confirmation enough.

We stayed at the Iowa Jimu hotel in Washington, and driving back to New York the next day we caught a glimpse of the famous monument of the same name, which we think is on some famous group's record sleeve.



Tony's photographic talents leave a little to be desired, but he did manage to come back with this little gem of the hotel where the band stayed in New York. Apparently their rooms were about ten floors above the front door

MONDAY

It took a long time to get back to New York. By the time we arrived we only had time to do a little shopping, and then it was on to the airport for the flight home.

We were sad to be leaving, but glad to be going home. That was the general consensus of opinion, but as we were sitting in the airport bar waiting for our flight to be called, we reflected on the experience and looked forward to the next adventure.

Who saw the fences falling
Who broke the ploughman's bread
Who heard the winter calling
Who wove the tailor's thread

How many sheaves were counted
How did the carriage shine
How many thoughts were doubted
How did the landlord dine

Just as you sow you shall reap
Just as you sow you shall reap

Who led the Mayday feasting
Who saw the harvest home
Who left a future wasting
Who watched the families go

See how the bowls are empty
See how the arms reach
See where the butter melted
See where the altars creak

'Harvest Home'

Just as you sow you shall reap
Just as you sow you shall reap
In a harvest home

Where were the days of promise
Where were the gifts divine
Where were the heroes honest
Where was the summer wine

Watch how the waves must shatter
Watch how the shore divides
Watch how the nets will tatter
Watch Canute and his bride

Just as you sow you shall reap
Just as you sow you shall reap
In a harvest home

'Balcony'

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

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

COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

TONY AND THE PRETENDERS

Bass player Tony Butler plays as a special guest on the Pretenders current single "Back on the Chain Gang", which is dedicated to the band's late guitarist James Honeyman-Scott. Jimmy was just 25 when he died - only a few days after bassist Pete Farndon decided to quit the group. Chrissie Hynde and drummer Martin Chambers bravely decided to carry on with the planned single. Tony had met the band through producer Chris Thomas, who suggested he stepped in to play bass for the recording. Tony said: "It was fun working with Chrissie Hynde and Martin - something I've always wanted to do. It's a shame it was in such sad circumstances."

WE'RE NEARLY FAMOUS NOW...

During a recent Big Country recording session at Air Studios, two young ladies were spotted camping outside the doors, clutching autograph books and sitting on sleeping bags - obviously prepared for a long night's wait for their heroes. But when our lads emerged they didn't bat an eyelid. The girls were in fact hoping for a glimpse of Madness who were also in the studio, recording their next album...

FORGET DAVID BAILEY - HERE'S DONALD CURRIE

Big Country super-roadie Donald Currie (alias Dodds) picked up a camera for the first time and took the amazing shot which appears on the front cover. The obviously talented Dodds is the band's right-hand man, so we're hoping he doesn't start getting ideas about becoming the next David Bailey. After all, who else would set up the backline at gigs, make sure everyone's in the right place at the right time, drive up and down the British Isles in the name of Big Country, supply the beer and Mac-Donalds, and generally wet nurse the lads. You can meet Dodds in the next edition, when he'll tell you all about his day to day adventures in "Dodds' Diary". Order your copy now.

YOU'VE HEARD THE SOUNDTRACK - NOW SEE THE FILM

Let's hope "Harvest Home" rises up the charts - then you might all have a chance to see the promotion video the lads made a couple of weeks back. They spent a whole day filming with a professional crew at an old pumping station in the depths of Wapping. Our gallant heroes are seen trekking through the countryside in suitably rustic garb, and by all accounts had great fun playing film stars.

FUN AND GAMES IN MONTSERRAT

Producer Chris Thomas has been working at the other Air Studios out in the Caribbean haven of Montserrat, recording Elton John's new album. But I understand there have been a few hold-ups because the celebrated Watford chairman insists on coming home for all his team's home games - and poor Chris has to sit around soaking up the sunshine. Anyway, he'll soon be back in this country to work on the Big Country album. He seems determined to squeeze them into his very tight schedule, which is good news for all concerned. You only have to listen to the grand job he did on the single.

BREAKING CHINA

Listen out for Scottish band White China, featuring Stuart's wee brother-in-law Jamie. They supported Big Country at their gig at Glasgow Night Moves, and showed great potential. Watch this space for more news of their progress.

Country Postbag

Thanks to everyone who has written in so far. We will try to publish as many letters as possible, and answer all your questions. Most of you will, hopefully, find your answers on the other pages of this magazine, but please do write if there is anything you would like to know. Also, let us know what you think about this first edition, and any suggestions you might have for future issues. Here's a selection from the band's current postbag:

I was and still am a great fan of the Skids, and when they broke up I thought that's that, but Thank God for Big Country. I've got the single "Harvest Home" and I also got the session for Peter Powell and Kid Jensen, on which I got a name check and was extremely proud.

TIMOTHY DICKSON

GRIMSBY

I went to see Big Country at the Retford Porterhouse in September and after the gig (which happened to be the best gig I have been to in years) I met Stuart and the group and had a chat and some photos taken. I also gave him my address to send me a tape if possible and some photos, (I also bought him a drink) so please remind him. I hope to see them play again soon.

RUSS SANDERS

WORKSOP

I missed Big Country's Radio 1 session on the Kid Jensen Show. Is there any chance of it being repeated ?

TIM BROWN

NORTH SHIELDS

(Well Tim, why don't you write to the Beeb and ask them to put it on again. There's nothing like pressure from the listeners)

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed the gig at Glasgow Night Moves. Really inspiring. Not up to the usual Night Moves band crap. Big Country, along with The Freeze from Edinburgh and TV21, are the only decent band to have played there since the place opened a year ago. It's unreal. The support band White China were obviously influenced by Stuart Adamson and were good also. The audience really enjoyed the gig. Brilliant atmosphere, apart from the spitting - really filthy. I don't know why they do it. Some people need to do a bit of growing up.

JOAN RITCHIE

THORNLIBANK, GLASGOW

Other than "Harvest Home" has anything else been released since Stuart's split from the Skids with this band or any other ?

If it's any consolation, I shouldn't worry much about the Round Table review - they were all a bunch of DOOM BRAINS anyway.

Keep the best new sound around going.

STEVE WAITE

ALDERSHOT

(Firstly, there have been no other releases. Now - what's all this about doom brains. Surely you're not talking about that intelligent trio Ian Gillan, Jonathan King and Dave Lee Travis ?)

PRIZE CROSSWORD

THREE SIGNED 12 INCH
SINGLES TO BE WON

How do you fancy winning a signed copy of the limited edition 12 inch single version of Harvest Home, which includes an extra track "Flag of Nations" ? Put on your thinking caps and complete this simple (well, fairly simple) crossword. The first three correct entries opened after November 5, 1982, will be the winners. Send your entry to Crossword, Big Country Club, 123 Edgware Road, London W2 2HX. Don't forget to include your name and address. Winners will be published in Issue 2.

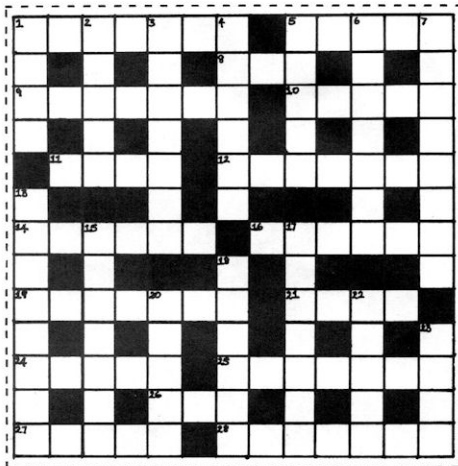
CLUES

ACROSS

- 1) and 1)down Occurs this time of year, as in single (7,4)
- 5) Move aimlessly - get my meaning ? (5)
- 8) Real beverage (3)
- 9) School teachers, or last stage of recording (7)
- 10) What one should do in front of the Queen (3,2)
- 11) Wooden family (4)
- 12) Gets by force (7)
- 14) Aristocratic number (5,1)
- 16) Partner of Sherlock (6)
- 19) Sparse, slim, etc (7)
- 21) Curved structure (4)
- 24) Stupid fellow (5)
- 25) Safe keeping (7)
- 26) Large deer (3)
- 27) Hottest part of feet (5)
- 28) Certainly not saints (7)

DOWN

- 1) See 1) across
- 2) Drum platform (5)
- 3) Peak of all mountains (7)
- 4) Musical preferences (6)
- 5) Could be said about 14 across (5)
- 6) Direction of one of Big Country's songs (7)
- 7) Ten hundred (8)
- 13) Half of Big Country breed (8)



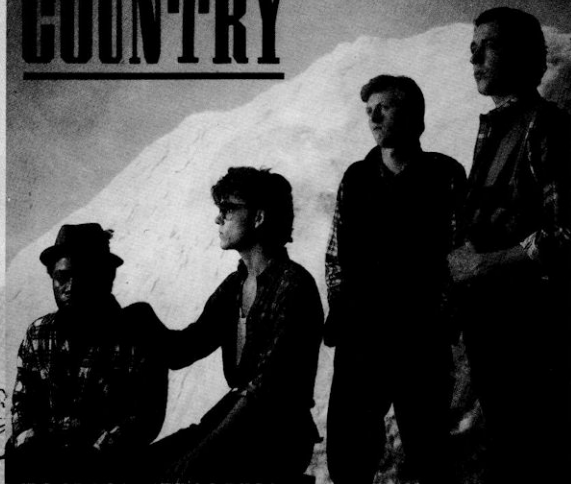
- 15) Make use of the situation (7)
- 17) Offspring of first man on earth (7)
- 18) Marks on the album (6)
- 20) Symbols for musical sounds (5)
- 22) _____ Action (5)
- 23) Runs not touched by batsman (4)

WINNING HARMONIES

Can you spot which song the lads are singing in this picture ? The first person to write in with the correct answer will win a signed copy of the photograph. It will, of course, help if you have managed to catch the band live. Good luck

Send your entry to the same address as above, marking the envelope 'Photo'.

BIG COUNTRY



HARVEST HOME

How to join the Country Club

This is a club for all Big Country enthusiasts - we are sure the numbers are growing daily - and we aim to please you by providing as much information about the band as possible. At the moment all we can offer is a subscription to this official magazine, and membership of the Country Club, but we promise there is more on the way. As a special introductory offer you can do both for a mere £4.50. This means you will become a member of the club, and receive the next six issues of the magazine through the post, hot off the presses. It's an offer I'm sure you can't refuse, so fill in the coupon below, and send it to the address on page 2.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

I want to join the Country Club and enclose a cheque/postal order for
£4.50 (made out to Country Club)

Football Focus

FOOTBALL FACES RELEGATION FEAR

The current football season is shaping up better than any in living memory, since the ones immediately following England's World Cup glory of 1966. More goals, an injection of exciting new coloured players, the arrival of some unexpected newcomers to the top of the First Division and the departure of Kevin Keegan from the International scene. Only one snag - no-one gives a monkey.

With many First Division gates dropping below 10,000 and even Manchester United/Liverpool clocking up figures around the 30,000 mark, one is left to wonder whether it's all a little too late.

Whether or not fans have been lost as a result of the recession (I doubt it as the average entrance fee is only £2 or £3), crowd violence (a small proportion maybe), lack of goals (unlikely, some of the best games I've seen have been 0 - 0 or 1 - 0), TV (no again, viewing figures for soccer on TV have fallen), or the general apathetic malaise that is Britain under an austere Conservative Government, no-one knows. Maybe the emergence of sports like darts and snooker has more to do with it?

On the bright side of the park both Luton and Watford dazzle at the top of the First Division, helped particularly by Stein, Ricky Hill, John Barnes and of course Luther Blissett - all black, all magic.

Not far behind them, unglamorous Stoke City are taking points left, right and centre. What this proves once and for all is that a small club with good young players and genuine spirit can successfully challenge the big money clubs. Both Manchester United and especially Arsenal fail to look convincing, despite the millions of pounds worth of hardware on show. No amount of expensive tastes and bonuses can be plonked together and turned into a TEAM..... money can't buy spirit, which is something of a relief in this sometimes overly materialistic sport. Outside the First Division keep an eye on Fulham, Lincoln and Oxford, all of whom have adventurous set-ups and can be expected to follow hot on the heels of Watford et al.

Despite a disappointing start in Copenhagen, the omens are good for England with the belated introduction of Walsh, Devonshire, Hill and Barnes hopefully heralding a new era. The departure of Keegan, Neal, and even Brooking, is long overdue and frankly Rix, Butcher and Osman will be lucky to maintain their status.

North of the border it seems like a two horse race, with Glasgow being the victor whichever way it goes. Charlie Nicholas at Celtic looks like an excellent prospect - maybe the cash flow crisis will allow him time to develop before Manchester United trundle out the predictable million pound bid.

COUNTRY SPORTS

Stuart is a keen footballer and plays in his local league, as well as being a staunch Dunfermline supporter. Tony could be described as more of an armchair sportsman, watching his favourite team Tottenham on the box, as well as the occasional darts and snooker competition. Bruce goes in for the more rural pastime of target shooting with his air rifle. Both he and Stuart are keen bikers, but more about that in another issue. Mark's artistic streak leads him to gentler occupations - such as drawing the cartoon on the back cover - but he certainly gets enough exercise playing his drum kit....

The Lost Patrol

