

COUNTRY CLUB

PEACE IN OUR TIME



I S S U E • 17

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RESTLESS NATIVES

I'm still receiving loads of questions about the Restless Natives Soundtrack. Please note that it has not, and will not be released under it's own heading. It is available as a B side only. Unfortunately these records have been deleted, but may still be available from Oldies Unlimited, who advertise regularly in the music papers.

INTRODUCTION

Hello Good Evening and welcome to issue No.17 of Country Club's magazine. As you can see, the last six months have brought a lot of changes within the fan club. I'm sure all our older members now know that Andy Marlow has retired as Club President, to become a full time mother. Before I proceed, I think this is a very apt place to wish Andy all the best and to thank her for her tremendous efforts over the last few years.

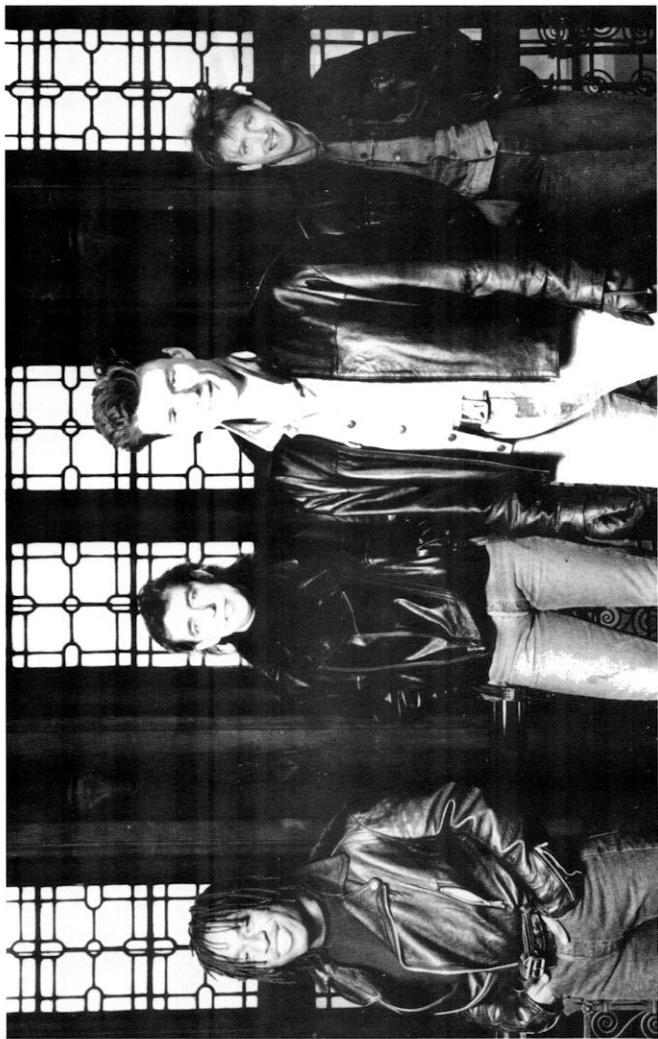
I have now taken over her position and I wish to express my thanks to everyone who has written in to welcome and congratulate me on my new position. Unfortunately a lot of your letters are still being forwarded to me from the old address in Northampton, so please bear with me while I sort everything out (and don't forget to make a note of the new address - see last page).

Andy has set very high standards with her past Country Club magazines and you can rest assured that this standard will continue. Country Club will now be written and edited by myself and John King(**) and we promise to do our very best to keep all fan club members happy and content.

Please remember that this is a CLUB and clubs only thrive if we all get involved - whether it's just dropping us a line, contacting other members via the pen pal page or by actually writing articles for the magazine (we can't promise we'll use all the articles but we will try; please do try to involve yourself, you'll find you get so much more out of it).

Anyway, I think this is as good an intro as any so read on and enjoy.

John is a member of the fan club who because of his great writing skills and, of course, his love for the band (not to mention his persistence) has been promoted to co-editor.



* BITS AND PIECES *

This year there will be a new member to the Big Country family. Tony's wife Jackie is expecting a new arrival sometime in June.

Meanwhile, Bruce's wife Sandra gave birth to a boy on 27th March 1989. Their son is called Jamie and he was born prematurely. At birth he weighed only 4lbs 1 ounce. At present he is in a special care unit but will be allowed home when he weighs 5lbs.

Stuart came down with a throat, nose and ear infection during the 'Peace in Our Time' tour. Quite a few shows had to be postponed and re-scheduled, but because of continued illness some shows had to be cancelled indefinitely.

Big Country and Grant Edwards Management would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by this. When there is an illness within the band that results in the cancellation of dates the only thing they can do is announce the cancellations, which they do as quickly as possible via the bands promotion company. Again we apologise for the many fans who were disappointed and we hope that the forthcoming dates will enable you to see them again.

I'm sure you'll all be glad to know that Stuart has made a full recovery after a course of steroids and a few weeks rest.

I'm sure you must have noticed that Tony Butler has put his hair in 'locks' (this type of hair style is generally associated with the Rastafarian religion). His motives and reasons behind this change will be revealed in issue no.18.

During November '88 Mark took part in a small UK tour with his brother Steve and pop superstar Midge Ure. They toured small venues under the banner 'The Flying Bees' and were billed as "bright newcomers" by the promoters. It was an 'undercover' tour with little or no advertising to enable Midge (who with Bob Geldof masterminded the Live Aid concert) to recreate some of the songs from his new album.

NEWS UPDATE

Big Country Dates 1989

APRIL

29th LEEDS - University
30th NORWICH - UEA

MAY

1st LOUGHBOROUGH - University
3rd FOLKESTONE - Lees Cliff
4th READING - Hexagon
6th CRAWLEY - Leisure Centre
7th HANLEY - Victoria Hall
8th RADFORD - St Georges Hall
10th VOLVERHAMPTON - Civic Hall
11th NEWPORT - Centre
12th GLOUCESTER - Leisure Centre
14th OXFORD - Apollo
15th LONDON - Brixton Academy
17th LONDON - Town & Country Club
18th LONDON - Town & Country Club
19th CAMBRIDGE - Corn Exchange
20th SCARBOROUGH - Futurist Theatre
22nd ABERDEEN - Capitol
23rd INVERNESS - Bowling Pavilion
24th FALKIRK - Town Hall
26th GLASGOW - Barrowlands
27th EDINBURGH - Playhouse
28th PRESTON - Guildhall
29th CARLISLE - Sands Centre
31st BRISTOL - Studio

JUNE

1st ST AUSTELL - Cornwall Colliseum
2nd GUILDFORD - Civic
4th ROTTERDAM - Nightown
5th ENSCHILDE - Virihof
7th AMSTERDAM - Paradiso
8th GRONINGEN - Oosterport
9th GELEEN - Henehof
10th TILBURG - Noordeligt
13th HELSINKI
14th STOCKHOLM
15th OSLO
17th MUNCHENGLADBACK - Festival
18th BREMEN - Moderns
19th HANDOVER - Capitol
20th BERLIN - Metropol
22nd MUNICH - Theatrefabrik
24th FREIBURG - Festival
25th ST GALLEN - Festival
27th TURIN
28th ROME
29th MILAN

JULY

1st JERSEY

New Videos

Sometime this year (rumours have it that it will be this summer) a new Big Country video entitled BIG COUNTRY "RIVER OF HOPE" will be released on CDV (Compact Disc Video). Side 1 will feature their 'River Of Hope' documentary (see page 16 for review). Side 2 will feature the band live at the Palace Of Sports in Moscow which was recorded during their 'Peace In Our Time' world tour (Peace In Our Time - Moscow 1988 has already been released on video).

LIVE FROM THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY

The idea of Big Country kicking off their "Peace In Our Time" tour by going to Russia was originated by their manager Ian Grant. You may not find that very unusual because Big Country along with other acts such as Status Quo and Elton John have previously played in Russia, but this time there were quite a few major differences.



VLASOV

Big Country are the FIRST ever rock band to enter and play in the USSR without the help of any state run organisation. Ian Grant managed to pull this off with the help of Stas Namin (Stas is a mega artist who has sold over 40 million records in the USSR). Stas secured authorization for the shows to be performed in front of a standing audience, which is unprecedented at a Soviet concert.

Once the six dates in the USSR were sorted out, Ian and Alexey Nikitorov from the Soviet Embassy thought up the idea of promoting the release of the LP at the Soviet Embassy. The organization of such an event obviously took time, effort, loads of correspondence and good management skills. But I can assure you the end result was worth it.

After weeks of hard work a date was set for 21st September 1988, and Big Country were given the use of the Embassy from 9 in the morning until 9.30pm. It was arranged for Big Country to participate in a large press conference, two or three photo sessions and a live half hour set, which was all to take place at the Embassy Of The Soviet Socialist Republics in London. To top it off everything was to be televised.

Being the president of the fan club I was fortunate enough to be invited to this unique occasion. I must admit, the Soviet Embassy wasn't as impressive as I thought it would be. In fact it was quite average. I arrived there with members of the bands management company at around 7.15am, where I was early enough to watch all the guests arrive. The guest list was as long as my arm, including the bands families, very close friends, all the main journalists from every newspaper and magazine imaginable, the bands agents, members of Phonogram Records, people from the Foreign Office and the British Council, the Political Officer of the U.S. Embassy, presenters from T.O.T.P., Network 7, Super Channel, MTV, BBC Chart Show, Night Network, 01 4 London, Wogan, D.J.'s from Radio 1, NEWS Beat, Capital Radio, etc. The list is endless. All in all I think there were approx 250 people present not forgetting the ITN (Independent Television News) crew.



BIRYUKOVA



LUKYANOV

The atmosphere was very good, everyone was waiting with bated breath unable to hide their anticipation while drinks were being passed round (I only wish I had tasted some of that potent Russian Vodka).

Just after 8.00 someone announced that the band would start playing their 4 hour set, so everyone hurried into the adjoining room. The band then proceeded to stun everyone with a brilliant set that went as follows:-

Peace In Our time
Look Away
Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)
1000 Yard Stare
King Of Emotion
River Of Hope

The acoustics were spot on, Stuart was in brilliant voice and all the instruments were played with the soulful accuracy that Big Country have always been credited for.

DOLGIKH



SOLOMENTSEV

DEMICHEV



The press conference started as soon as the set was finished. Unfortunately I didn't have a tape recorder with me so I was unable to record all the questions that were asked, but here are a few that I managed to jot down:

Q Who invited you to the USSR.

A We were invited by the Trust Berlin Youth Association originally, but then thought we'd arrange a tour in all the eastern countries.

Q What was your main reason for going?

A We went to the USSR to break down suspicions within the nationalities. We wanted to find similarities that people have, instead of bitching about the differences.

Q When you were last in the East how did the crowd react?

A The crowd reacted in the same way they do here which we found very suprising.

Q Will records be available for sale over there?

A Records are not available in Russia, they will be soon but money is not the motivation for going there.

Once the press conference was over it was time to sample the food which was first class. Everything was running to schedule. At about 9.30 we were clearing up and ushering the last few people out of the Embassy. During this time ITN had filmed the complete set and part of the press conference, they then had to rush to the studio to get the film ready to be edited and broadcast within the hour.

From there it was a mad dash back to the band's hotel to see "News At Ten". Fortunately the news started late because of a party political broadcast so we didn't miss anything. Big Country were given two lead-ups on the news and at around 10.45 the band were shown singing 'Peace In Our Time'. Stuart then had a short interview with one of the newscasters and two Russian boys were shown playing Mark's drums.

The event was a complete success.



WORDSEARCH

I've got three laminated passes that were used to allow people into the Russian Embassy on 21st September 1988 to give away. All you have to do is put a ring around the 22 hidden words in the wordsearch below and send your entry to me. All correct entries will be put into a bag and three names will be pulled out by a member of the band. All the words are connected with Big Country. (All entries must be with me by 31st June)

B E J Z W T U S J U S I A S T E E R A G
I N A B I G C O U N T R Y W A G L A B R
N W O T L E E T S B F L D A L U I I E R
O J K M S O O P T I O N Y D A L W X N G R
I A D D D J O A A K E Y S V S K M D R E
T S E F R G I H S O J K T P H V N A E M
O E B A A D A C H E V F K Q I L O N Y E
M V Z T W A L K A F L O O K P O E C F M
E I E B N T D E D O E A C E I O P E C B
F T O R I V E R O F H O P E S K N C E R
O A U N S E E F W O N D E R L A N D E A
G N S C H A N C E P L F D R I W M D A N
N S T E I L E D O N V E S T I V A R T F C
I S T H E C R O S S I N G . R Y P H C E
K E F D Z P A T C H W F L K K E F E V D
E L Z B P O R R O H M A N F E U I S M A
A T O N E G R E A Z E Q U I P E T E S Y
B S D O Q E M I T R V O N I E C A E P W
P E E H S P S I P E T O C N I W Y R A C
F R O M H E R E T O E T E R N I T Y Y C

THE WORDSEARCH WAS SENT IN BY JUSTIN KEANEY, FROM WARICKSHIRE. HE WILL BE RECEIVING A PRIZE FOR HIS EFFORTS.





"MONSTORISED BY THE AMBIENCE"

OR

"BEHIND THE SCENES" WITH THE CREW!!!

With Big Country well and truly on the road, the Behind the scenes section for this issue is devoted to looking at the Big Country Show, how it's put on and what exactly the roadcrew have to do. What follows is an account of how the show is put on to the actual performance coupled with an interview with three members of the roadcrew - **Ron Maningley, John Rankin and Pete Keane.**

The report starts on February 2nd at the Britannia Hotel where I was due to meet the crew in the bar (where else!) on one of their well earned days off. The three members I was due to interview seemed in excellent spirits and I knew that the interview would go well. So, before we find out about putting the show on itself, you better know what Ron, Pete and John actually do.

Ron's job is "Stage Manager".

"I'm one of those from the load-in, when the trucks are unloaded - making sure things are going up roughly in the right place and making sure we keep some kind of time schedule. Then I put on my backline hat. I look after the drums - wire the bass up and make sure the guitars are working properly. Same thing again with the keyboard. And then I'm there for the load out". **Pete** and **John** look after Bruce and Stuart respectively in that Pete sets up Bruce's gear, "I wire it all up, I look after the equipment, I maintain and tune line guitars and make sure his gear happens every night". John does the same with Stuart's gear. Already we see that whilst many of us may dream about being a member of the roadcrew, in reality the hours are dreadfully long and there is a lot of hard work involved - plus a lot of technical knowledge of the equipment you are using. The typical day for these people starts at 9.00am when the trucks are unloaded and the equipment is set up in the theatre. First of all the lighting rig is put into position. Following this the backline is set up together with the actual equipment. At this stage everything may seem fine, but this is where all the technical bits and pieces happen. When everything is set up then all the equipment has to be checked to make sure it is working, and all the lights have to be checked and positioned. You must remember that every venue is different and therefore the angles and positioning of the lights have to be done at every venue. Problems such as changing the bulbs and checking that every light works are probably forgotten by the public at large. With the adjustments and checks made to the lighting (we're talking about 3.00pm now!) the sound engineers come into action. They make sure all the sound and the P.A. systems work correctly as well as being responsible for the actual sound quality on the night. Whilst this is going on the crew are busy checking Stuart's gear, Bruce's gear and doing what



they said they did. Again you can see there is plenty of room for problems to occur whether it be from merely re-wiring a guitar or changing a drum skin to the actual equipment failure - all this has to be found out at this stage, before the group arrive to do their soundcheck - this happens at about 4.30pm. The band individually check their gear and make sure they are happy with this before they run through a few songs. In the meantime the sound engineers are making further final adjustments to the sound. After Big Country have soundchecked the support band do the same. At this stage we have a show - everyone should be happy as the doors open at 7pm. This is when the crew actually get a break as the support band generally bring their own roadies. Then the crew have to be on hand during the Big Country performance in case of problems. They also keep a check on the equipment during the gig - all of which makes the guitar change over's during the gig that bit more efficient! Then, of course, the equipment is dismantled and put back in the trucks. On a lot of occasions (or most) the crew travel in "Hotel Voloo" (Ron's phrase not mine) in that they get theirsleep en-route to the next venue, unless they have a night off where they can get a nights rest in the hotel. So, with the dairy of the day completed, what do the crew have to say about their jobs. I'm sure you agree that this is no easy job. Therefore my first question was **why do you do it!!!** -

TRANSAM TRUCKING LIMITED



John "I dunno, we do it because we enjoy it I suppose. It's a way of life - you've been doing it for years and you enjoy it. You know, you turn round to a man working in a pit and say 'why do you do this?' - he won't say for the money really because there is no money, what he'll say at the end of the day, is that he enjoys the company of the other people who do it - and therefore he enjoys the life. We enjoy the life."

Ron "It makes it a comradeship".

So far the job sounds like hard work, long hours but many people still dream of doing what you're doing.

John "This is a burning thing isn't it. Everybody thinks that people wanna do what we do, but once they do it they don't wanna do it. It takes a special breed of man.... If you can put up with all the hassles".

Ron "Then you're halfway there".

John "But we always have an amazingly good time. As I said it's about comradeship. It's about doing the dirty on anyone you can".

Ron "Before they do it on you".

John "Mess each other up as much as we can".

Ron "Then laugh at the end of the day".

Robertson Taylor Insurance Brokers Ltd.

John "You see, at the end of the day, if something goes wrong with our gear, we all help each other out, and that's the name of the game. Unless you're willing to do that. Unless you're willing to become part of a team, you're mucked up...."

Already we've seen what goes into putting a show on, but what are the regular problems that we encountered on tour.?

John "Having to get up at 2.00am thats a real problem. The next problem is that I've got to get the gear up. Everyday we encounter different problems...."

John "We're doing a tour at the moment which is sold out. And we're doing some amazingly good venues and some amazingly 'ungood' venues".

Ron "You see we have a hell of a lot of equipment and we need space to put it up and we need space to work, and some stages are so small that you just get the bare minimum on...."

John "You get the drum rise and everything piles on the drum rise, but every gig happens, every gig works...."

Ron "And at the end of the day thats what our mob is about".

John "Thats what we're employed to do - to make sure the gig happens and that's it. Everything else is immaterial. The gig must happen".

So from the crew's point of view what has the 'Peace In Our Time' tour been like so far?

John "I would say this tour has been really good as far as band/punter sort of thing. It's been amazing.... I haven't seen a tour like this since I worked with Duran. Admittedly it was larger venues with Duran, I mean the contact or response between the band and punters is a great reaction. It's been quite amazing from that point of view".

Ron "It's nice to work with a band where you get that kind of reaction".

Pete "The band appreciate your work as well".

Ron "If you've worked well and you've worked hard it's a shake of the hand and well done chaps. It's great".

John "If something goes down, the band do realise it's not our problem. You know if a piece of equipment is not working right".

Ron "They know these things happen and they let us deal with it".

COACH HIRE



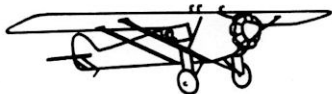


John "Moscow was amazing. It was Stuarts gear that went down and they went on stage 3 times. but at no time did Stuart blame me. He was as much in the dark as I was!"

The crew do seem to have a lot of laughs an the road, so an obvious question was to find out about any funny stories they could recall:

Ron "Well there's Roy! Roy was a dead person who joined us in the states, that was quite funny. He came over to the states with us in a flight case, his last wish was to be scattered in the states. So he came with us to the states and he toured with us for 2½ weeks. He had his own pass, he had his own hat on, he spent nights at the bar with us, worked with us at every gig. He was... how do you say... the backbone of the crew. He was good fun. He suprised a lot of Americans - Especially when we asked one to take him to church on Sunday!"

Well thats about it folks. I hope you've found this Behind The Scenes a good insight into what goes into making a tour happen and how hard these lads work on your behalf. Thank you to Pete, John and Ron who gave up their evening off to be interviewed. They made me feel very welcome on my two days with them and were a lot of help during their busy schedule. They all agreed that this tour is working very smoothly so I hope you enjoy or enjoyed it. Have you been monstorised by the Ambience yet?!



SOLO
AGENCY

' RIVER OF HOPE '

DOCUMENTARY

Big Country's forthcoming documentary 'River Of Hope' is based around their latest LP 'Peace In Our Time'.

It starts with the launch of the LP at the Soviet Embassy, and follows the band to Moscow and back. It is a very detailed documentary which delves into the real reason behind the trip to the USSR. The band clearly state their views on trying to bridge the gap between East and West and prove that it's not just a press hype.

It is a down to earth view of the organisation of the whole event. Showing all the problems that had to be overcome such as trying to find adequate hotel accommodation for the 250 people that were flown specially to Moscow. The reaction of the press is also noted, but it shows that although they were present throughout the whole trip most of them still didn't understand the true reason for going. Various members of Phonogram Records also state their view and it's interesting to see how the ideas of people from different departments alter slightly.

'River Of Hope' throws a lot of light on the direction Big Country are heading and is a brilliant insight to a band who will be remembered for more than just their music.



Everyone who went to Russia with Big Country received a bag of goodies at the airport from the production manager of Phonogram Records. The bag contained:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Russian Newspaper | 1 Roll of Toilet Paper |
| 1 Small Bottle of Vodka | 1 T-Shirt |
| 1 Bar of Galaxy Chocolate | 1 Tub of Caviar |
| 1 Metal Badge | 1 Bath Plug |

also enclosed were the following letters

**BIG
COUNTRY**

**BIG
COUNTRY**



SOME USEFUL TIPS

1. THE HOTEL SYSTEM
ON ARRIVAL AT THE RUSSIA HOTEL, EACH BUS CAPTAIN WILL HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED EVERYONE'S PASSPORT. THE PASSPORTS WILL BE COLLECTED BY BARRY HEAD (OF GRANT/EDWARDS MANAGEMENT) AND HELD AT THE PASSPORT SECTION OF THE HOTEL. YOU WILL NOW BE GIVEN A CARD. THIS CARD INFORMS YOU OF YOUR FLOOR LEVEL AND ROOM NUMBER. YOU THEN HAND IN THIS CARD AT THE RECEPTION AREA ON YOUR FLOOR LEVEL, AND YOU WILL BE HANDED YOUR KEY. YOUR PASSPORT IS RETURNED ON DEPARTURE.
2. CURRENCY
£1 = 1.06 ROUBLES
WAITERS WILL HASSLE YOU. RATE? £1 = 4 ROUBLES.
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE ROUBLES OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

1. YOU ARE TO ENTER A COUNTRY, STRANGE AND ALIEN TO YOUR OWN. WE HAVE ALL BEEN INDOCTRINATED IN WEST/EAST PROPAGANDA SINCE CHILDHOOD, AS HAVE THE SOVIET PEOPLE, VICE VERSA. HOWEVER THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD THEIR COUNTRY SHIELDED FROM BEHIND THE 'IRON CURTAIN' AND THEREFORE THE PEOPLE ONLY KNOW THEIR OWN WAYS AND SYSTEMS, TAUGHT TO THEM WITHIN THE SYSTEM.

THEREFORE WE ASK YOU TO BE PATIENT, UNDERSTANDING IN ANY SITUATION THAT MAY BE SOMEWHAT EXASPERATING OR OF DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCE. ANY OTHER REACTION IS OF IGNORANCE AND/OR ARROGANCE.

WE FEEL MIKHAIL GORBACHOV IS MAKING PROGRESS IN HIS OWN TIME, MAKE YOUR OWN MIND UP, IF YOU CARE, BUT, AT LEAST AT VERY LEAST THIS EVENT IS A TESTIMONY OF 'GOODWILL' BETWEEN THE YOUNGER PEOPLE OF TWO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN ESTRANGED FROM EACH OTHER SINCE THE LAST WAR WHEN THEY WERE OUR ESSENTIAL ALLY.

HAVE AN ADVENTUROUS TRIP!

IAN GRANT
GRANT EDWARDS MANAGEMENT
BIG COUNTRY



Peace in Our Time

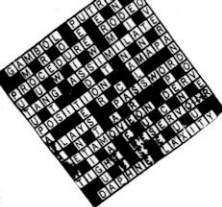


Peace in Our Time

As you know, to receive your news stories you must send a stamped addressed envelope to me with 'Hot News' written on the envelope. Despite the amount of times you've been reminded of this, I still only receive a response from 50% of Country Club's members

So, as an incentive for you to send me your news envelopes, I'm going to set a 'Hot News Draw'. All you have to do is send in your envelopes which I will place in a big bag. Just before I send out your news stories I will dip my hand in this very full bag (for your sakes I hope it's full) and take out an envelope. The name that I pull out will receive a prize.

The prize for the first 'Hot News Draw' will be the Russian goodies bag as mentioned above.



SUPA DUPA COMPETITION



Please answer the following questions and send your answers to within 8 weeks of receiving your magazine. (write COMPETITION 1/89 on your envelope.)

1. What is the shortest Big Country track time-wise?
2. How many formats of "One Great Thing", "Look Away" and "Broken Heart" were released?
3. Name the 9 Big Country tracks that have titles beginning with "The"?
4. How many tracks have Big Country produced themselves or produced with the co-operation of someone else (up until and including "Peace In Our Time", as well as all single releases)?
5. Name 7 producers who have produced Big Country Records?
6. What are the catalogue numbers of the following Big Country records;
"Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" - 12" red vinyl/poster pack
"Where The Rose Is Sown" - 7" Double Pakc
"Peace In Our Time" - 12" Live Edition
and what were their release dates?
7. There have been 3 Big Country singles released on 7" and 12" only. What are they?
8. There is a track on a Big Country 12" single and C.D. single that have an almost identical chorus to a previous Big Country Single. What are the two tracks?
9. Name the 6 songs Big Country played at the Russian Embassy, London on the 21st September last year? (easy)
10. How many extra tracks were on all the formats (not including title song) of "King Of Emotion" and "Where The Rose Is Sown"?
11. What Big Country songs are these lines taken from:-
"And I find the enemy has to feel the same as me."
and
12. "Laugh now, while the fire heats the iron so cold."
and
13. "There's no time to explain, I've been here such a short time,
I will be here again."

ACROSS:
 1 Drug against first signs of bacterial infection of ear (10)
 6 Not all Henry's following (4)
 9 I'll enter into a pact to disrupt poll-tax (10)



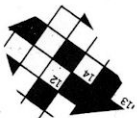
14. "I can see you on the beach on your knees, spilling more salt into an already dead sea." and
15. "I've had enough, give me the strength to carry on."

Please answer true or false to the next five questions.

16. Big Country have had 10 consecutive top 30 hits.
17. "In A Country" reached the same chart placing in America as it did in the UK.
18. Big Country have released at least one single every year since 1982.
19. Two Big Country songs were written with Ronald Reagan in mind.
20. At least 1 Big Country record has been released in every month of the year except December.



... ..



The person who answers most (if not all) of the above questions correctly, will receive the following prize:-

- i a reproduction of the artwork on the "Peace in Our Time" LP. (This is on a board that is 20"X 38" in size)
- ii A reproduction of the artwork on the "Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" single.
- iii "The Seer" Live In New York video (VHS format)
- iv 1 signed b/w picture
- vi 1 T Shirt
- vii a couple of posters

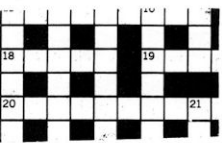
Three runners up will receive a signed b/w photo, a reproduction of the artwork on the "Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" and a t-shirt.



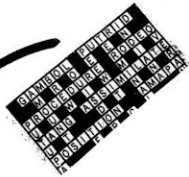
... ..



COMPETITION SENT IN BY JOHN MCKINSTRY, SCOTLAND WHO WILL ALSO RECEIVE A PRIZE.



DOWN:
 1 What may be seen on arrival at church (4)
 2 Use a bit of technology to copy? (4)
 3 Mental worker has container that allows no drip (6-6)
 4 A



BIG COUNTRY TOUR SETS

What follows is a list of general tour sets that Big Country have performed since 1983. This should give you a chance to see how Big Country's sets have changes over the years and where your favourite songs were dropped from the set.

Please bear in mind that these are the general sets and that all the slight amendments I know about I have included. So please don't kill me if you've been to a gig where the set has been slightly different to that listed, or if an extra encore was played. If anyone knows the set to the "Crossing The Country Tour 1983", then please send this in as this is the only set I couldn't find out about.

"Crossing The Fall Tour" - Sept 1983*

1000 Stars
Angel Park
Close Action
Balcony
Lost Patrol
In A Big Country
The Storm
Porrohman
Chance
Inwards
Fields Of Fire

Heart & Soul
Harvest Home

Tracks Of My Tears
In A Big Country

Barrowland New Years Eve gig - BALCONY replaced with WONDERLAND.
HEART & SOUL was occasionally replaced with THE CROSSING.

Length of set - 1 1/2 hours.

"Town And Country" Tour - Oct/Dec 1984

Raindance
Wonderland
Last Patrol
Steeltown
East Of Eden
Inwards
Angle Park
In A Big Country
The Storm
Chance
Where The Rose Is Sown
Come Back To Me
1000 Stars
Harvest Home

Close Action
Porrohman

Tracks Of My Tears
Fields Of Fire

On the December leg of the tour FLAME OF THE WEST took the place of EAST OF EDEN. CLOSE ACTION was dropped and EAST OF EDEN took its place in the set. JUST A SHADOW was inserted after IN A BIG COUNTRY.

Length of the set - 2 Hours

"The Seer" Tour - Mar/June/Dec 1986

Wonderland
Fields Of Fire
Where The Rose Is Sown
Raindance
Remembrance Day
I Walk The Hill
Just A Shadow
Steeltown
Look Away
Chance
Porrohman
The Teacher
In A Big Country
Inwards
Harvest Home

Flame Of The West
The Storm

Lost Patrol

Tracks Of My Tears
Fields Of Fire (scratch version)

On the June leg of the tour, HONKY TONK WOMAN was played with/replaced by TRACKS OF MY TEARS. RAINDANCE was dropped quite early on in the tour.

For the 'Whistle Test' gig at Reading Hexagon, JUST A SHADOW was placed before LOST PATROL. RAINDANCE and PORROHMAN were dropped for this gig.

On the December leg of the tour, ONE GREAT THING replaced FLAME OF THE WEST, RESTLESS NATIVES followed by THE STORM (this was introduced on the European leg of the tour) and THE SEER was added to the set.

length of set - 2 1/4 hours

"THE UNDER WRAPS" TOUR - DECEMBER 1987

Restless Natives
I Walk The Hill
Where The Rose Is Sown
Time For Leaving
Wonderland
Look Away
Thousand Yard Stare
Just A Shadow
Steeltown
Starred And Crossed
The Seer
Porrohman
Peace In Our Time
In A Big Country
Chance
Fields Of Fire

Lost Patrol

The Storm
Harvest Home

Inlawards
Tracks Of My Tears
Honky Tonk Woman (played at most venues)

Length of set - 2 1/4 - 2 1/2 hours

BRUCE & SANDRA 'TIE THE KNOT'

On Saturday 9th April 1988 Bruce Watson finally tied the knot with Sandra McCallistar after 8 years of courting (three of which they were engaged for) but to say the wedding was spontaneous is an understatement.

Bruce and Sandra had often talked about getting married and in 1988 they decided that they would definitely take the plunge, either when Sandra joined Bruce in Los Angeles (where Peace In Our Time was being put together) or when he returned to Scotland. When Sandra joined him on 7th April they realised "the right time was now"

On Wednesday 6th April they told Ian Grant that they had decided to get married the following Saturday. Ian was thus landed with the responsibility of organising everything. Anyone who knows anything about weddings must know that it's suicidal to try to organise such an event in 3 days, but I'm pleased to say they managed to succeed without any cut wrists.

All You Need Is Love

THE VENUE

The ceremony and reception was to take place on the roof of the apartment the band were staying at.

THE VICAR

Because they decided not to go for a registry office they had to find someone to marry them, and what other suitable place to find a vicar but in THE YELLOW PAGES. Yes, Ian got hold of a vicar via the yellow pages.

THE WEDDING DRESS

Apparently L.A. isn't the best place to go shopping for a wedding dress especially when you go shopping for it the evening before the big day. Sandra said, "...all the dresses we're absolutely horrendous. They all had bangles and stuff hanging from them, so I ended up buying my dress from Laura Ashley".

THE WEDDING CAKE

The less said about this the better. I don't think I should incriminate anyone by mentioning who bought the cake. All I can say is that it was bought from an 'X Rated' shop, so the design didn't leave much to the imagination.....

THE FLOWERS

Everyone forgot about flowers until the day they were needed. Whilst Sandra was at the hairdressers someone told her where she might be able to get hold of some. She said " ..it was like a big freezer. All the flowers imaginable where there. We picked some white orchids and white baby roses and had loads of bouquets made up. They were ready within three hours".

Because everything had to be arranged in three days a job was designated to everyone.

Barry - Tour manager	Had to look for the ribbons
Tony - Bass player	Had to sort out the lunch
Mark - Drummer	Had to pay the licence for the wedding to take place
Bruce - Bridegroom	Didn't do anything, he was too busy being a nervous wreck.
Ian - Manager	Overseer of the whole event he also gave Sandra away
Debbie - Ian's wife	Matron of honour
Kirsty - Ian's daughter	Flower girl
Joella - Tony's daughter	Flower girl
Bud & Vera - they run the apartment	Arranged for a landscape gardener to plant flowers everywhere and had helium filled purple and lime balloons everywhere



Before they had time to think twice the day had arrived. They ditched the idea of getting Sandra a limousine because she decided it would be easier to use the elevator instead.

Sandra says, "I didn't have enough time to be nervous or think about anything. I would have liked my mum to be there but because it was arranged on the spur of the moment it was impossible. But I'm glad it took place where and when it did. It was different and very special. Very very special. I wish I could do it all again. Nothing like it could ever happen here in England and to top it all the weather was beautiful everything was just right.

The I Do's were said and there there was lots of champagne and dancing to Eric Clapton records.

So if you want a wedding with that 'special' touch contact the Grant Edwards Marriage Bureau and they'll sort you out!!!



THE R.E.L. TAPES

12" REVIEW

Those of you who have been paying attention to Big Country's recent releases will have noticed that the B Sides and 12" extras have all been taken from the "R.E.L. Tapes". R.E.L. Tapes are the unused demo's for the "Peace In Our Time" album. They are called the R.E.L. Tapes because a lot of the preproduction (eg demoing) took place at the R.E.L. Studios in Edinburgh.

Those who have been collecting the current 12" series will realise that if you collect all 4 of the singles, you will actually end up with another L.P.'s worth of material - which to the ardent Big Country fan is a great bonus.

What the demo's certainly highlight is the more experimental and carefree side to Big Country. The music on occasions seems to be more of a jamming session, and in the main songs are recorded live from one of the takes, rather than the structured layering of the tracks, which is usually the case when the actual recording of the album takes place. Therefore, what we are actually hearing on these tapes is Big Country in their rawest stage, and this certainly enhances the personal feel of the songs. On some of the songs you can actually hear vibrations on the drum skins, which has been created by the sound. This would never occur in the proper recording process. What all this leads to is that these are tracks in their raw, live state and they are brilliant.

The **KING OF EMOTION** single features **THE TRAVELLERS**, a jiggy instrumental track which falls into the experimental category for Big Country. Personally, I thought Andy's comments on issue 16 summed this track up brilliantly - "a gig that would

King of Emotion



SIDE ONE
KING OF EMOTION

SIDE TWO
THE TRAVELLERS



give Fairport Convention a run for their money". Also you will find **STARRED AND CROSSED**, a song that was premiered on the "Under Wraps Tour". On the tour this certainly received a mixed reaction. However it's as good as any other country and western song I've heard - and again it shows yet another face to Big Country's ever expanding musical output.

Moving onto **BROKEN HEART**, the 12" here is a four track affair. **SOAPY SOUTAR STRIKES BACK** is a Bruce Watson creation, and the song again is certainly 'different' as it takes on the role of being an extended jamming session for the lads. The Indian horns that were used on **BROKEN HEART** are again present, which adds an exotic, eastern feel to the song. **WHEN A DRUM BEATS** is a superb traditional rocker in the same vein as **ROSE** and **BELIEF IN THE SMALL MAN** - so then folks it's time again to dust down those air guitars, crack the floorboards, wake the neighbours and overload the hi-fi. songs like this put Bon-Jovi to shame!

ON THE BEACH is another instrumental track which is superbly titled, as I can easily see myself relaxing on a beach, with the sun belting down and a cool refreshing cocktail in my hand with this song on the tranny. Anyway back to the real world...

The **PEACE IN OUR TIME COLLECTION** is another four track affair. **PROMISE LAND** has an awesome and powerful introduction which moves into a bouncy and lively affair of true distinction and class. **OVER THE BORDER** is again another truly excellent track with a calm, easy going verse one minute and a loud, brash rocking chorus the next (if you really want to shake your neighbours walls turn the chorus up to full blast and watch the buildings quiver!). **THE LONGEST DAY** I must say is my favourite of the R.E.L. Tapes so far in that precision guitar work coupled with a very 'Broken Heartish' chorus makes this a song of true class.

BOX ONE
BROKEN HEART (THIRTEEN VALLEYS)
TUNING ADJUSTMENT
PRODUCED BY PETER WOLF

BOX TWO
SOAPY SOUTAR STRIKES BACK
TUNING ADJUSTMENT
PRODUCED BY BIG COUNTRY

PEACE IN OUR TIME



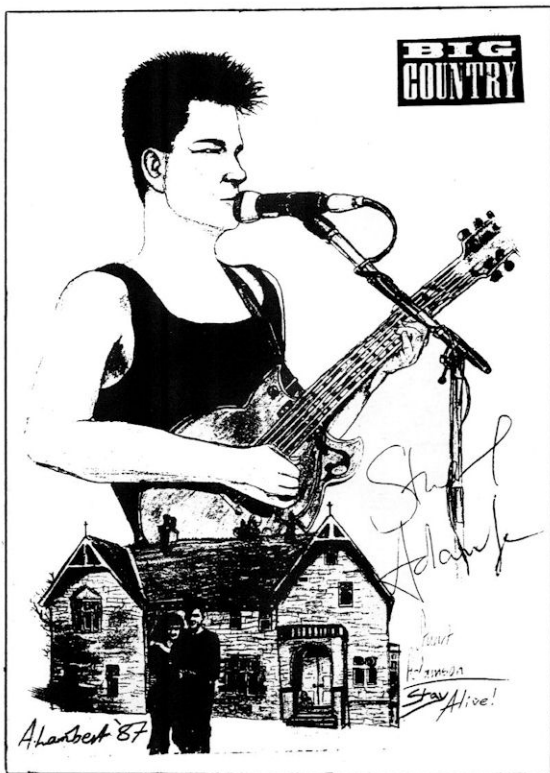
Whilst the R.E.L. Tapes have so far produced some experimental tracks, they have served in showing new depths to the Big Country repertoire. Many of you who have invested in the 12"''s so far will argue as to whether some of the tracks should have been on the album, many will argue that the material was there to make it a double LP. Whatever your thoughts, you cannot deny that Big Country have again maintained the high standards they always set themselves.

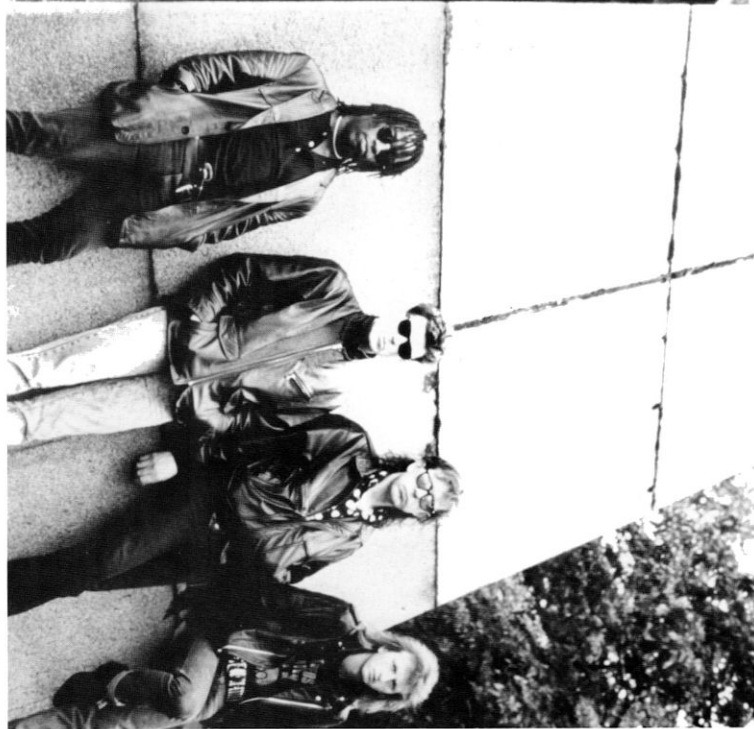


YOUR CREATIVE NATURE

I know there are hundreds of Country Club members who are very creative when it comes to putting pen to paper. By this I mean anyone who can draw, or write short stories and poems. If so please send your work in and if it is printed in the mag, I'll get the band to sign it and it will be returned to you as your prize. So come on, **get those pens out!!!!!!**

Pictures should be no larger than A4 (21"X30") and short stories should be no longer than 1,500 words.







PEN PALS WANTED

Dear old dear, the pen pal page isn't looking too healthy is it. Come on, all you have to do is drop me a line listing your likes, dislikes and hobbies etc. It's as simple as that!

Mika Tervo

FINLAND

Dave Chinery

Musical interests; 02, Alarm, Diesel Park West, Mission, Cult, Fields of
Rephilm etc.

Ingrid Van Laer

BELGIUM

Likes: Big Country (of course),
holidays, reading, soccer and having a good time.



L · E · T · T · E · R · S



Dear Andy

While looking through a history book on shipbuilding in Androssan I found a reference from our local newspaper 'The Androssan & Saltcoats Herald' dated the 18th August 1867 no less, this interesting excerpt.

'On the 16th day of August the crew of the HARVEST HOME owned by Barr and Shearer were sentenced to eight weeks imprisonment with hard labour for refusing to put the tug to sea.'

Fascinating stuff, eh!

STEPHEN J COCHRANE
AYRSHIRE

Mr Stuart Adamson

My friend and I would like to thank you for the song "Everything I Need". It is truly one of the most beautiful and expressive love songs. We believe it sums everything that true love is about.

TOM BEJGROWICZ & GREGG ROBERTS
KUTZTOWN, USA

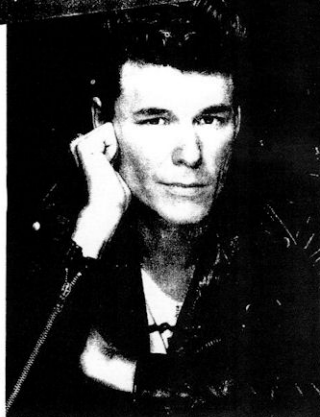


INTERESTING 'PRESS CUTTINGS'

Here's another new feature that I need your help with. At some time or other I'm sure you've come across an article on Big Country that you've found very interesting and informative. If so, please send me a copy so that fan members who live in other countries can enjoy a good read as well.

The first in this series is from JUST 17 (UK) that was published on 30th November 1988.

STUART ADAMSON



54

Performing behind the Iron Curtain and going doolally as Dunfermline won the Scottish Football Cup are all among Stuart Adamson's favourite days. Andrew Fleming meets the man from Big Country (in Russia, to be precise) to find out more.

THE
BEST
days of my life

PLAYING IN RUSSIA

This was brilliant. We played a gig in East Berlin once and it went so well that we were asked to come and play in Russia. Not only did

we think it would be a great experience, but the trip would fit in well with the sentiments of the album (*Big Country's album is called Peace in Our Time*). One of the gigs was held in an ice-rink on the outskirts of Moscow. At the beginning, the audience were a bit reserved, but as we got well into it, they got wilder and wilder. At one point even the soldiers were dancing, which just summed up the whole point of coming over here.

The most amazing thing about Moscow is the architecture, it's breathtaking. I think generally though, they're well behind Britain and many other parts of the world. I mean the food is very basic — stale bread and apple juice for breakfast. The band would love to come back here some day, though.



MEETING SANDRA, HIS WIFE

I was still a teenager in Dunfermline when I met Sandra. Friends and I would go down to this dancing club called The Roxy, and we met each other one evening. It wasn't exactly love at first sight though, we were friends for quite a while first, and we went out for ages before we decided to get married. If I can remember right, it wasn't a get-down-on-one-knee job — after a while, both of us just knew we were going to get married.

GETTING HITCHED

I can remember being so nervous on our wedding day. My best man and I got all dressed up in these morning suits and looked really smart. The worst thing about the wedding was making the speech at the really posh reception after



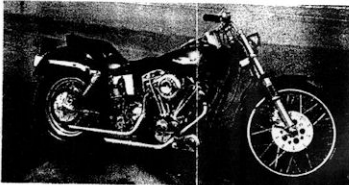
George Best

Pictorial Press

the wedding. I can sing in front of thousands of people, but making the speech to thank everyone was so nerve-wracking. The funniest bit of the wedding was when we went to this hotel for our honeymoon. I found out that George Best (famous old crinkly footballer) was staying in the same hotel as us, so I was more interested in getting a glimpse of George than spending time with Sandra! No, that's not true.

PASSING HIS MOTORBIKE

TEST
I think I was the first person ever to fail my motorbike test in Dunfermline! It used to be so easy up there — all you had to do was take the bike round these cones and you'd pass. I failed! Finally I passed though, and it was brilliant. I love the feeling of



Pictorial Press

driving along in the freezing cold with the wind rushing past your face. It's so invigorating, so refreshing, and you feel really free — not like when you're enclosed in a car. I've got a couple of bikes at the moment up in Scotland and I go out on them as often as I get the chance. Sandra does tend to worry when I'm out. I think bikes are safe as long as you don't do anything silly.

HIS YOUNGSTERS BEING

BORN

Unfortunately I was somewhere in Europe when our first kid was born. I got a phone call from my mother-in-law telling me that Sandra had just had Calum (now aged six), and it was the weirdest experience, knowing that we'd become parents. Suddenly there was this added responsibility. I didn't get to see him for ages, 'cause I was on tour with the band.

When our daughter Kirsten (now three) was born, I was at the birth, which is the strangest experience ever. I think it's a very mother/child experience which men will never really be able to understand. The children are great — really the best thing that's ever happened to Sandra and myself. They're quite clever as well.

DUNFERMLINE WINNING THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL CUP

I've been going to see Dunfermline, my local football team, since as far back as I can remember. At one point I was well into it — I had the scarf and everything. The year they won the cup was just unbelievable. I can remember every minute of the game and when they won there was the most massive cheer ever. The town was mad that night. All the shops on the main road put up congratulations banners on

their windows and the team came home on an open-top bus with the cup. Everyone was going mad. I still go and see the team play whenever I get the chance, with my brothers-in-law and my father-in-law. I'm still a keen supporter.

ANY CHRISTMAS DAY

I get well into Christmas. As a youngster I loved it, and it's brilliant playing Father Christmas to Calum and Kirsten. I loved waking up as a kid to find that Father Christmas had been. I can't tell you what the kids are getting this year, 'cause no doubt they'll see this and that'd spoil the surprise.



Pictorial Press



99/10



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THE OFFICE ADDRESS IS:
30 BRIDSTOW PLACE
LONDON
W2 5AE

Dear Andy

Here I am again with E-Bow into from deepest Avon (Land of the 13 valleys).

Firstly, there's Rosetti. They distribute E-Bows and Gibson guitars. They can be called up on (0786) 550033. They should either be able to supply you with an E-Bow or tell you your nearest dealer, however....there's more. I got my E-Bow from Guitar Workshop in Bristol (0272) 642675. I recently asked them (on behalf of Country Club), if they can do mail orders and whether they can get 'loads' of E-Bow's, 'yes' they replied, so there's the place for all you E Bow Less B.C. guitarists. If this fails, try Heron Music, 158 Whitehall Road, St George, Bristol BS5 9BP (0272) 593763.

I hope that clears up the problem of getting E-Bows, and I think that any guitarist out there who've discovered a new effect unit or whatever, should write in and tell us. Who knows, the mag could even have a 'technical talk' page written by the guitarists of the U.C. (that would be different!)

Stay Alive

JASON ALLEN
BRISTOL

Dear Andy

Firstly, the album is great. I have forgotten that "King Of Emotion" was of a different style to previous B.C. recordings. In fact, Stuart has answered all his critics by recording an album which is, in my opinion, a) A totally different sound to previous B.C. material, but still retaining the essential, unmistakable B.C. feel. b) Producing an album with some songs (words) that have remarkable resemblance to "The Crossing" album, eg Chance = 'Thirteen Valleys'. c) Producing powerful 'slow' numbers, and being brave enough to select "King Of Emotion" as a 'come-back' single. d) Not going back over well-trodden ground, just to produce "Ten Fields Of Fire" and thereby gaining a quick buck but regretting it afterwards.

Therefore I conclude that the album is a masterpiece.

big Country still are, and probably always will be the best ever rock group in the UK for those who can be bothered to take rock music listening seriously. The live performances are out of this world - so much better than vinyl recordings; while the words to the songs still retain so much tucked away and undiscovered that you never grow tired of them. I am proud to only follow 1 band, BIG COUNTRY!

M. PUDVELL
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dear Andy

I decided to renew my membership to the Country Club before the new album was released and I know now that I wasn't wrong. It's ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT. I just can't stop listening to it. My favourite track is "Peace In Our time", but the other songs are equally brilliant. The 'was's' on "Time For Leaving" and the chorus of "River Of Hope" especially.

I hope Big Country will finally get the success they deserve here (in Belgium, that is). Their songs aren't played very much on the radio over here, but I hope this'll change with this new album. And I especially hope that they'll come and play live in Belgium again. They can perform in my back garden any time!

Some people might say B.C. have changed, but to me they're still the same. The lyrics are still as strong as ever (I think the lyrics of "River Of Hope" are about the best Stuart has ever written) and the music still makes me want to leap in the air. I don't think any real fan will be disappointed by this album.

INGRID VAN LEAR
BELGIUM



