

COUNTRY CLUB

1990



issue 19

*Hello
everyone,*

As you can imagine, everyone who has anything to do with Big Country has been totally rushed off his or her feet recently and that is one reason why this fanzine is a little late. Yes, a little late - not extremely late, as someone dared suggest! So, I may as well apologise now and get it over with. Sorry!

1990 has been a fantastic year for Big Country. You will all be aware of the fact that Mark Brzezicki left the Band last year and has been replaced by Pat Aherne. He has settled down brilliantly and you can read about his thoughts of the past few months elsewhere in this fanzine. My hubbie and I managed to see several of the gigs on their recent tour and we were most impressed. Judging from the fans' reaction, he is a most popular addition.

At the time of writing this, the Band are just finishing recording the demos - they have got fifteen new songs ready and another five will be finalised by the time you read this. They have been in some residential recording studios in Surrey and, although they have had a real bundle of laughs, it has been extremely hard work, as you can well imagine.

They are talking to several producers to ensure they get everything absolutely spot on and Chris Kimsey, Steve Lillywhite and Tim Palmer have all been involved in one way or another so far. We will let you have more details just as soon as we have them available. To be honest, we have not heard any of the tracks ourselves but we are assured that we will not be disappointed. We are told (in the strictest confidence, of course!!) that there is a possibility of a single being released just after Christmas, so keep those record vouchers you always get from your auntie in the country as your Christmas present and rush to the shops just the very soonest moment you can after the news of the release. The album should hit the market in January with any luck ("What's luck got to do with it, to do with it?" - a new Tina Turner single) and we can keep our fingers crossed that it actually goes all the way to Number One this time. "Through A Big Country" failed to get to

Number One in the Album Charts in its first week by just a few hundred sales! What an achievement that would have been. Anyway, it was in the charts for seventeen weeks in all and sold 250,000 copies in the U.K. We are all very proud.

Some of you may have seen a survey on Power Club on British Satellite Broadcasting of ten fan clubs, including those for Jason Donovan, Kylie Minogue, The Pasadenas, Soul II Soul, Bros and Brother Beyond. When we spoke to them afterwards, they said that only two clubs impressed them at all, especially the content of the starter pack and one of them was Country Club, of course!! We did not see it ourselves but have asked for a video or a transcript so we can really see and hear exactly what it was all about. We are trying constantly to improve what we offer but it is really great to know that we are considered good value for money. It all means that, when I am up until midnight doing club business, I can feel that it is all really worth it.

The Town and Country gig was recorded for television and will be televised on 12th November 1990 so keep your eyes peeled. It was another tremendous gig and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely.

Well, that is it just for the moment. I had better get back to my super new-all-singing-and-dancing computer which cost us an absolute fortune. We also bought some amazing new programmes, most of which I really do not understand at all. The instruction manuals are each the thickness of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Oh, well!

Lotzaluv,

Jan

1990 DIARY(so far!)



To give you some idea of just how busy the boys have been this year, we thought you should see a list of their dates since January. It's not a complete list but it does make you wonder just how they find the time to relax!

22nd January	Demoing in Dunfermline
27th January	Simon Fowler photo session
11th March	Tony - judge at TSB Rock School
8th to 15th March	Record "Save Me" and "Heart Of The World" at Livingstone Studios, London.
17th to 20th March	Record B-sides at Chipping Norton Studio
19th April	Rehearsing in Dunfermline
20th to 23rd April	Demoing in Glasgow
24th April	Video shoot for "Save Me" in London
25th to 26th April	Tour rehearsals in Dunfermline
27th April	Cannon & Ball T.V. show in Leeds
29th to 30th April	Tour rehearsals in Dunfermline
1st May	"Rock Steady" T.V. show in Dunfermline
2nd May	Stuart - guest on "Singled Out" Radio 1
9th May	Press interviews and 01 For London
14th May	St. Andrews University (rehearsal)
15th May	St. Andrews University (warm up)
16th May	Dumfries, Loreburn Hall
17th May	Aberdeen, Capitol
18th May	Inverness, Bowling Pavilion
20th May	Glasgow, Barrowlands
21st May	Newcastle, City Hall
22nd May	Birmingham, Hummingbird
23rd May	London, Hammersmith Odeon
24th May	London, Hammersmith Odeon
3rd June	Glasgow, "The Big Day"
13th June	Video shoot for "Heart Of The World", London
30th June	Switzerland with Tina Turner and Neville Brothers
9th to 16th July	Rehearsals in Dunfermline
but interrupted on	
10th July	Stuart and Bruce - Radio 1 Roadshow, Arbroath
13th to 14th July	Ghost Train, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
18th July	Princes Trust, Wembley Arena
20th July	BBC 1's Garden Party in Glasgow
21st to 26th July	Demoing in Glasgow
29th July	De Panne, Belgium (with Van Morrison)
31st July	Stuart, Bruce and Pat perform on balcony at re-opening of Virgin Megastore, Edinburgh for Richard Branson
3rd August	Limerick, Eire (with Meatloaf)
4th August	Manchester, International 2
5th August	Cardiff, St Davids Hall
7th August	Doncaster, Dome
8th August	Cambridge, Corn Exchange
10th August	London, Town & Country
13th 16th August	Demoing at Bletchingly, Surrey
15th to 22nd September	Demoing at Bletchingly, Surrey
5th to 10th October	Demoing at South Thoresby, Lincolnshire

A FEW MORE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q

What is your favourite word?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

YES!
Nebulous.
YES.
A-L-R-I-G-H-T, said in a West Coast American accent.

Q

Which living person do you most admire?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

Too many. Anyone devoting their life to environmental issues.
Les Paul, Leo Fender, Jim Marshall, Pierre de Legge (winner of 1972 Tour de Saigon unicycle race).
Istvan Kozma.
Nelson Mandela.

Q

What is your greatest extravagance?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

Expensive belts.
A chrome framed, white wall tyred customized chopper unicycle with extended forks and a rhinestone and diamond encrusted leather King and Queen saddle with back rest.
Too many guitars.
Golf.

Q

Who are your favourite writers?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

Jack Vance, Garry Niven.
Darrel's Chickens, Edgar Allan Poe, known to his close friends as "Eddie watcha Missus that was a good 'un the Poe".
George Orwell, D. H. Lawrence, Albert Camus, Luke Rheinhardt, Stephen King, Morrisey.
Tom Sharpe, Jilly Cooper.

Q

What are you reading at the moment?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

"The Day Before Midnight" by Steven Hunter.
"A Day In The Life Of A Petrol Pump Attendant" by Ivan Moskvitch. "Dirty Clog Dancing II" by Viscount Ralph Smedley. "The History And Development Of The Great American Prät" by Homer Washington III.
"The Great Shark Hunt" by Hunter S. Thompson.
"The Flashman Series" by Ian McDonald Fraser.

Q

Who are your favourite painters?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

Cezanne and Monet.
Man Ray and Magritte.
Renoir, Van Gogh and Monet.
Not really into art, man.

Q

Which living person do you most despise?

PAT
BRUCE
STUART
TONY

Gaddafi.
Phil Collins' ghasly portrayal of "Buster" in the film of the same name. Oh, and the bastard who stole my unicycle's wheel.
Pik Botha.
Anyone who presumes they have a right to kill by a religious mandate.

HOT NEWS

I am happy to carry on with the HOT NEWS ENVELOPE system. I always try automatically to send out a note of HOT NEWS with any merchandise orders which seems to be a popular little service but anyone who wants to receive this news has only to send in a self-addressed stamped envelope, clearly marked HOT NEWS, and I will pop in a news sheet as and when there is any hot news. OK?

☆☆ ☆☆☆ ☆☆☆

A FEW POSERS

(compiled by D. Chinery Membership No 000369)

Q On which Prime Mover's track did Stuart play?

Q Who supported the Band on the "Under Wraps" Tour?

Q With which Band did Pat tour extensively in 1986/87?

Q Which Big Country video was filmed in Swanage, Dorset?

Q At which venue was the "Whistle Test Special" filmed in April 1986?

Q What was the Official Big Country book called?

Answers in the next issue.
(Shame on those who don't know the answers!)

SUPERB PRIZES

Whereas the prize for the competition to the left is NOT getting a kick up the bum if you get them all right, the boys have kindly offered the following for the bigger competition of the long list of questions to the right.

FIRST PRIZE:- Two tickets for any U.K. show on Big Country's next tour, meeting the Band after the gig and having lots of goodies generally thrown in your direction.

SECOND PRIZE:- A copy of the forthcoming album, in whichever format.

THIRD PRIZE:- There'll be lots of prizes of the forthcoming single for runners-up.

ENTRIES TO BE IN NO LATER THAN 20th December 1990, please.



COMPETITION

- Q Name the editor of Issue 1 of the magazine, called the "Harvest Festival Issue"
- Q Where was Tony Butler born?
- Q What was the name of the Band that Tony and Mark Brzezicki were in that supported the Skids?
- Q Name the Skids line-up on the "Absolute Game" album.
- Q Which Top Ten Hit was not released on a U.K. album?
- Q Where did Big Country take a party of journalists and record company executives?
- Q What was the B-side of the "Peace In Our Time" single?
- Q Which single by the Pretenders did Tony Butler play bass on?
- Q Who was Big Country's first producer?
- Q For whom did Big Country open at Wembley Arena in 1982 for six nights?
- Q Pete Wishart was in the original Big Country line-up. What group is he in now?
- Q Which is Big Country's biggest selling Album?
- Q Where was Steeltown recorded?
- Q What was the title of Big Country's college and club tour of 1987?
- Q Name the guest singer on "The Seer" title track.
- Q Bruce performed with Fish & Guests at a charity show in March 1989. What was the charity?
- Q With whom did Stuart guest with at The Hammersmith Odeon in November 1989?
- Q Which record company have Big Country moved from and to in the U.S.A.?
- Q Name two of Stuart's favourite sports.
- Q What is the name of Big Country's U.K. Tour Promoter?
- Q Which member of Big Country often keeps a diary of events?
- Q Name Stuart's birth sign.
- Q Where did Big Country perform for Channel 4's "Rock Steady"?
- Q Who directed the video for "Wonderland"?
- Q Whom did Big Country support in their original incarnation in 1982?
- Q Where were the videos for "King Of Emotion" and "Broken Heart" filmed?
- Q The Band played at a peace festival in 1988. Where was this?
- Q What was Stuart's first group called?
- Q "In A Big Country" was nearly called something else. What might it have been?
- Q Where were the live tracks featured on a flexi disc, given away with Country Club magazine performed?
- Q What were the masks worn by the two heroes in "Restless Natives"?
- Q Stuart wrote a song for her solo album. Who is she?
- Q The producer of Big Country's first two albums married a well known singer. Who is she?
- Q Name five of the songs Big Country have covered either on record or live and the original artists.
- Q What is Stuart's real first name?
- Q When did Big Country perform at Live Aid?
- Q Robin Millar produced "The Seer" album. Who was he famous for producing prior to this?
- Q Stuart supports which Scottish soccer team, and what is their nickname?
- Q What make of drum does drummer Pat Ahern use?

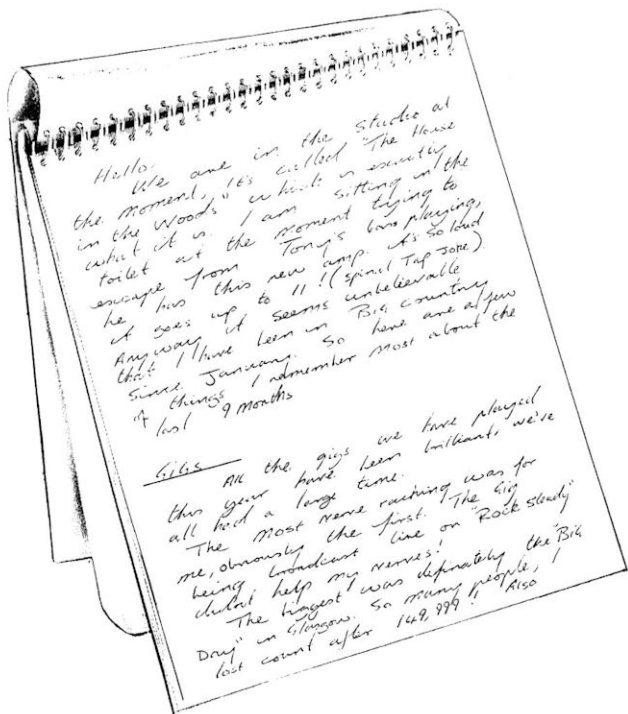
THE PRIZES FOR THIS COMPETITION ARE DETAILED ON

COME TO THE T & C
PLEASE KEEP THIS
MESSING ROOM TIDY

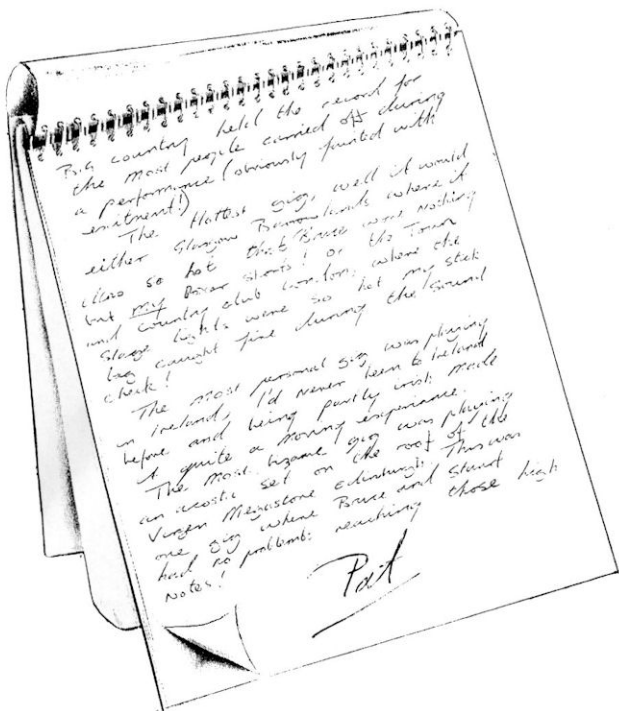




A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PAT TO ALL FANS



If you like the idea of a hand-written letter from one of the Band in each issue, let us know what you want each to write about.



Pat continues:-

RECORDING

I really think we have recorded some great tracks this year. I must say I was bitterly disappointed with the failure of "Save Me" and "Heart Of The World" to chart but that's another story. Anyway, there are more great songs on the way, perhaps we should release them under the name Electric Big Country featuring M. C. Stu!

FANS

I never realised what fantastic fans Big Country have (or had till I wrote for the Fan Club!) I was amazed to see the same people turn up again and again, you know who you are. Also it's nice to be in a band where the members really do appreciate such loyalty unlike some bands I have played for in the past. So keep up the good work it is much appreciated.

The studio has stopped shaking now, that must mean Tony has finished his bass playing, thank God. No seriously of all the bass players I have worked with over the years Tony is definitely one of them!!

Thank you for your continuing support.

P.S. Try sneezing with your eyes open.

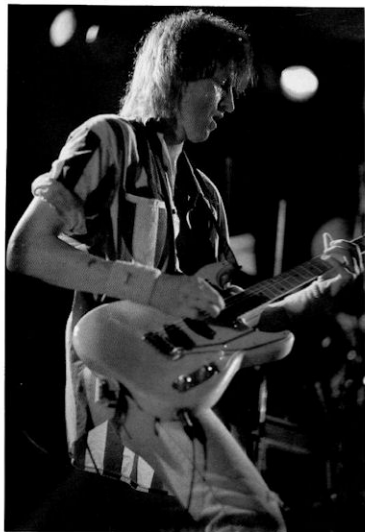


**(Above) Pat showing his thoughtful nature and flowing locks
on a day out on Lake Windermere .**

and

(Below) Tony showing off his! (Thoughtful nature , that is)

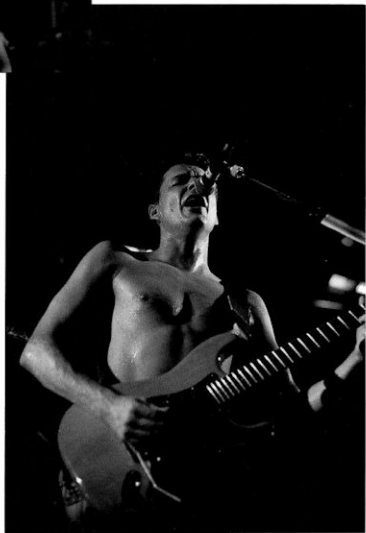




**(Left) This is
Competition No
7278 Part A:
"What note is
Bruce playing and
from what num-
ber?"**

**(Right) And Part B
to the above
questions is:
"What happens
next?"**

**These two photographs
were taken by Paul
Assinder.**



MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

I appear to be missing some membership numbers and I really would like your help to get everything straight. On the envelope (which you have probably put in the waste paper basket by now!), there will either be a membership number, in which case O.K., or there will be a row of question marks like this:- ?????? which means I don't know your membership number.

Now, if you do know it, could you write in and let me know. please?

Thank you.

HELLO, KIRSTY GRANT!

Kirsty is an Honorary Member, being our Manager's daughter. She was recently in a car that was involved in a very nasty traffic accident. I am afraid that she was hurt rather badly and spent some time in hospital. We understand that she is recovering physically but is, understandably, still very shocked.

I am sure you all join me in wishing her well and that we all have her in our thoughts and prayers, regardless of our religion or creed.

Get totally well soon, Kirsty !!

Big Country first * last



Rockin' all over at Big comeback

rocker Stuart

Big Country LP the best to date

THE MILD man of happy hubby Stuart t band Big Country. While some pop star home w...

pure brilliant

A super turnout for Big Country

TONIGHT'S concert The Dome in Doncast by Big Country ... to be a sell-out ... show ... 'ire's Jix

That Scottish influence

COUNTRY, who are ... at International ... are back ... chart with ... Heart of ...

After a quiet ... back in the ... road ... 1989, the Scott ... has been back in ... studio to record a new ... single and ...

"Gre ... along w ... "Fields Of F ... The rest of the ... "In A Big ... "Ch ... "Wh ... "Just ... Away ...

ALBUMS THROUGH A BIG A COUNTRY (PHONOGRAM) ... just how consistently good B ... have been. This greatest ... history from "Fields ... "Save M ... release ... comp ...

PEN PALS

Many of you have written in to ask whether we will still operate a Pen Pal Service.

Of course we will !

Just write in to me (with a stamped addressed envelope, as always, please) giving your membership number and brief details of yourself and your hobbies and we will compile and circulate a list to all of you who are interested.

Meanwhile, here are a few to start with:-

RALF HEIDERICH (Membership No
003184)

Germany
Date of Birth:- 1961
Would like a female pen-pal from Great Britain.

MARIA ORTPAUL (Membership No
003112)

Germany
Date of Birth:- 1969
Hobbies include travelling and chess and, apart from B.C., musical preferences include Alarm, The Call and U2.

CHANTEL BRIODY (Membership No
001868)

Date of Birth:- 1969
Would love to have some other B.C. fans as pen-pals.

AMANDA MELLOR (Membership No
003038)

Date of Birth:- 1971

MAURO SBRANTI (Membership No
003170)

Italy
Date of Birth:- 1968
Would like to correspond with other members of the Country Club. He would, preferably, like to write to and hear from fans in Great Britain. He would also like to get in touch with other Italian fans.

NOTICE BOARD

EDWARD RUSH (Membership No 001654)

Scotland

Edward would like a VHS copy of the Whistle Test Special gig at Reading Hexagon on 14th April 1986.

Edward continues in his letter "..... Finally, what a night it was at the boys' most Northerly gig, the one in the Big I, yes, Inverness, 18th May 1990. It was probably Inverness' biggest day since the Battle of Culloden Moor in the 18th Century! I was right at the front, dead centre, and what a time I had, loved to see Restless Natives as the intro, would have been nice to have heard more old album material like Steeltown, should have played that for Ravenscraig, rather than Just A Shadow, but all in all a brill show, all credit to the boys for a perfect performance, not a bum note despite jumping all over the place. I look forward to a return trip....."

MARIO ORTPAUL (Membership No 003112)

West Germany

Would like to trade anything on Big Country, especially tapes in exchange for photos and reports etc.

DAVE CHINERY (Membership No 000369)

Would like to swap his copy of East Of Eden (merx 175) for a copy of One Great Thing 12" (not gatefold) or Look Away (outlaw mix) (BIG CX11)

Dave Chinery has also sent details of where to order some RARE BIG COUNTRY RECORDS:-

FOR A FULL LIST, PLEASE WRITE DIRECT TO:

BOB CLAYTON,