



**BIG
COUNTRY**

**COUNTRY
CLUB**

1994

"STOPGAP"

31

Hi everyone,

Not so much a magazine this time more a newsletter!!! I am afraid that my husband, Andrew, has not been at all well recently and I simply have not had enough time to devote to this issue but I want to do everything I can to keep you informed, particularly about releases and tours. So, here is what I have been able to prepare as a stopgap. I hope you understand but I guess the important thing is to keep you up-to-date. Anyway, keep your letters etc. coming 'cos I will keep them for future use.

The Live album, as recorded during the Hogmanay gigs and to be entitled "Without The Aid Of A Safety Net", is due to be released on 6th June. The accompanying video is hoped to be released at the same time although this MAY be a little later.

"WITHOUT THE AID OF A SAFETY NET"

Track listing

(not necessarily in final running order):-

ACOUSTIC SONGS:-

Harvest Home
Peace In Our Time
Just A Shadow
Thirteen Valleys
The Storm
Chance

ELECTRIC SONGS:-

Look Away
Steeltown
Ships
Wonderland
What Are You Working For?
Long Way Home
In A Big Country
Lost Patrol

All of the above tracks will be included on the CD and cassette but the vinyl will drop two or three, final vinyl track listing to be confirmed.

TOUR NEWS

Friday 29th April - McRobert Centre, Stirling
Saturday 30th April - Town Hall, Inverurie
Sunday 1st May - Lemon Tree, Aberdeen
Monday 2nd May - The Duthae Centre, Tain
Wednesday 4th May - Town Hall, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Thursday 5th May - Gathering Hall, Portree, Isle of Sky
Friday 6th May - Rothes Halls, Glenrothes

The above dates are all acoustic and will be recorded for possible release in the future as either "B" sides or, if the acoustic material on the live album is particularly well received, then maybe the recordings from the above will be released as an album in their own right later in the year.

Saturday 11th June - Enlichhein Festival, Germany
Sunday 12th June - Jubeck Festival, Germany
Tuesday 14th June - The Grand, London
Wednesday 15th June - De Montfort University, Leicester
Friday 17th June - UEA, Norwich
Saturday 18th June - Doncaster Dome
Sunday 19th June - Konz Festival, Germany
Tuesday 21st June - Cambridge, Corn Exchange
Wednesday 22nd June - Rock City, Nottingham
Thursday 23rd June - Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
Friday 24th June - Arena, Kettering
Sunday 26th June - Academy, Manchester
Tuesday 28th June - Town & Country, Leeds
Wednesday 29th June - Mayfair, Newcastle
Thursday 30th June - Bowl, Redcar
Saturday 2nd July - The Forum, London
Saturday 9th July - Balingen Festival, Germany
Sunday 10th July - German Festival
Friday 29th July - Rock & Blues Custom Bikers Show Long Eaton, Derbyshire

Festivals throughout July and August to be advised.

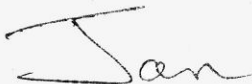
All of the band are in Dunfermline now busy writing new material and apparently this is going great guns with loads of ideas. As to the timing of this, they expect to start demoing shortly and recording during the summer with release expected, probably, early in 1995.

BIG COUNTRY INFORMATION HOT LINE:- Just a line to inform you that as from 1st April 1994 the charges for this line have been increased to 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times. So, call the Hot Line No:-

0891 600 031

to hear the band tell you what's new.

Cheers



P.S. HOT NEWS:- Until now, I have filed your hot news envelopes alphabetically but, however hard I try, this can, with several of you having the same surname, lead to duplication and/or omission. So, therefore, I now ask that you also, please, mark these envelopes with your membership numbers because, as of now, I intend to file these envelopes numerically. Ta muchly.

YOUR GENERAL LETTERS:

Louise Coull (Membership No 000428) sent me the following review saying "... don't think the guy who wrote the review has ever been to a BC concert before. At least he now knows what he has been missing! Concert was brilliant - the best way ever of bringing in a New Year. These guys are the best - they don't get the credit they deserve."



■ Providing an acoustic interlude during the Aberdeen concert are Stuart Adamson (right) and Bruce Watson.

Let's hear it for Big Country . . .

SCOTTISH rock band Big Country gave Aberdeen a real festive treat for Hogmanay at the weekend.

The four-man band returned to the city to play a storming two hour-plus set at the Capitol.

Fans in the large audience were ready for an honest to goodness Hogmanay party with good loud music — and that is exactly what they got.

The band opened the show with a half-hour acoustic set, starting with Harvest Home and other favourites like Peace in our Time.

But the relatively quiet start

REVIEW

□ ADRIAN O'DOWD

did not deter the crowd from rushing forward to the stage to cheer on Dunfermline's finest.

After a short break, Big Country went back on stage armed this time with "loud" electric guitars.

There were a few surprising covers — Smokey Robinson's Tracks of My Tears and 70s band Blue Oyster Cult's Don't Fear the Reaper — but vocalist Stuart Adamson coped just as well with those songs.

One over-enthusiastic fan leapt on stage and grabbed the microphone from Adamson for a moment during Look Away, but soon vanished in the arms of a bouncer, leaving the band to start the song again.

The old hits, such as In a Big Country, got the best reaction from the crowd, most of whom were up dancing for the majority of the concert.

They may have been absent from the charts for some time, but Big Country proved their following in the North-east is just as big as ever.

All in all, not a bad way to see in the New Year.

Press and Journal

MONDAY JANUARY 3 1994

Since the last issue which included a letter from Stephanie Palermo from Memphis, I have received loads of letters saying how unfair Stephanie was being. Here is part of just one such letter from Jeffrey Marsh (Membership No 003463)

".... I think she is being awfully critical after having heard only two Big Country albums, the first and most recent. Stephanie has no frame of reference for the journey the band has taken through its other albums. It's like basing your entire opinion of Europe after having visited only two cities. There is so much more to experience before you can form an opinion as a whole. There are so many other songs to hear. As far as I know all albums are available in the States. NPLH is here as an import so it might be harder to find but all the others are at major record stores."

Extracts from a letter received from Thomas Kercheval (Membership No 003418)

"..... Being a BC fan in America has been truly lonely over the last few years so it was with intense excitement that I purchased two tickets for the long awaited (at least by me) return performance at the Bayou in Washington. I'd never seen the boys live before but I knew as sure as the pope wears a pointy hat that I was in for an awesome experience.

I was a bit worried for them. I didn't want to see my heroes embarrassed. You see, it was only through a chance call from a friend that I heard about the show. It wasn't advertised at all. To make matters worse, every time I joyously exclaimed that I would soon see the great Big Country I was greeted with blank stares and 'The great big who?' I had terrible visions of being one of only ten people in this large club, which doesn't provide for much of a mosh pit. I even began to wonder if, horror of horrors, I was indeed the last Big Country fan in the USA! Thankfully, I would be proven quite wrong and would later severely pummel myself for even entertaining such a thought.

Anyway, after what seemed like a millenium, the last of the two forgettable support acts vacated the stage and, as if on cue, the now very large crowd made a bee-line for the open area in front of the stage. (It was as if I had stumbled into a long-lost family reunion). We Yanks had been far too long denied this night and we had high expectations, expectations that would be far exceeded!

Suddenly a rousing cry was taken up from the front of the hall to the rear as the lads appeared at last. Chants of 'Stuart' filled the air and broad smiles graced the faces of the band. The crowd erupted as the band launched what would be a juggernaut of a performance with 'All Go Together' followed immediately by 'Kansas'.

All bias aside, I can honestly say that I've NEVER heard a band sound better. The guitars were blazing and the reunion of the finest rhythm section in rock was a truly spectacular experience. Screw the

techno-orgasm that was U2's Zooropa - THIS was the tour of the year! Mark's familiar drum intro kicked off 'Look Away' which sounded better than ever, followed by impressive versions of the bulk of the new album each of which sounded even more hard-edged than the studio versions.

The phenomenal set ended, of course, with the band's namesake song during which Stuart gave a sincere, humble speech about how much the band appreciated the response they'd received and a promise to return soon. A promise they would quickly keep for, within a matter of minutes, they were back for their first encore, a sweet rendition of 'Chance'. During the familiar 'Oh Lord' audience participation segment, Mr Butler leaned over in the direction of my girlfriend, a dark-haired beauty who had been singing along with each successive tune and yelled, 'Sing it, baby!' I thought, 'Hey, Tony Butler's making a play for my woman. This is great!'

Along with a few of the faithful, we waited outside the club. Those I talked to were equally enthused about the show and I realised that there were, indeed, PLENTY of BC fans in America. I even got into a fierce argument with a fellow fan about which album was better. I proclaimed that 'Steeltown' was the best album made by ANY band EVER and probably the best album that any band would ever make. As I was about to challenge this clod to a death-duel, the guys nonchalantly emerged dressed in leather jackets and knit hats. I shook Bruce's hand first and congratulated him on a great show and after chatting with the band for quite a while, Stuart exclaimed, 'Well, we've got a long journey ahead of us so we'd better get on the bus. Stay Alive, Cheers!' With that, the band left for the next lucky town. It was a night that I will never forget, nor will many others. I know BC is a band that the US could easily embrace again. They are truly lethal live and I only hope that they will receive the full support of their new label although I don't understand why tour dates were virtually impossible to find or, for that matter, why 'The One I Love' was released to radio stations as a single to great response but never, to my knowledge, released in stores or even in video form. If they never reclaim the charts I hope they always realise how many lives their music, music which

is truly a gift to this world, has touched and inspired. To me, that is the highest level of success!"

A copy of the set list
Thomas sent:

ALL GO TOGETHER
KANSAS
LOOK AWAY
WORKING FOR
CHESTERS
WONDERLAND
PINK MARSAMALLOU
SHIPS
LONG WAY HOME
ALONG
ONE I LOVE
IN A Q1 C
CHANCE
LOST PATROL
HEY HEY

NOTICE BOARD

Andrew Johnstone (Membership No 003771)

Scotland
WANTED:- Could someone tape the track "Buffalo Skinners" for Andrew. He'll pay the cost or is willing to swap a bootleg of BC on July 4th 1983 at Tifany's in Glasgow.

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Todd Lester (Membership No 003465)

NEW ADDRESS:-

USA

Issue 29 included a note from Todd offering help to American fans in obtaining BC records. Please note that Todd has recently moved so if you require his help then drop him a line at his new address. He believes that not all of his mail has been forwarded so if you have written and not received a reply then I suggest you write again.

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Matthias Holl (Membership No 003739)

Germany
WANTED:- 12" "Just A Shadow", "Heart Of The World" / "Troubled Man" and CD "Heart Of The World" / "Restless Natives"

Can swap (amongst others):- CD "Peace In Our Time" / "Promised Lane" / "The Longest Day", CD "Broken Heart" / "Made In Heaven" / "When A Drum Beats", 12" "One Great Thing" (Big BAAD Country mix), 12" "Save Me" / "Dead On Arrival" and CD Big Country Collection (1982 - 88)

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Kit Curry (Membership No 000412)

Ireland
WANTED:- bootleg recordings from UK or USA from Buffalo Skinners Tour. Kit has other shows which she is willing to swap.

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Sergio Alvarado (Membership No 003823)

Costa Rica
WANTED:- Copies of any televised BC shows, documentaries, promo videos and live records.

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Andrew Grosso (Membership No 003891)

Italy
WANTED:- 12" "In A Big Country" (Count 313), 7" double "Wonderland" (Count 55), 7" double "Look Away" (Big CD1), CD "Save Me" (Big CD 8), 12" "Heart Of The World" (Big CD 912), CD "Ships" 1 and 2. Also live material from 1983 to 1993 except the commercially released videos, a copy of the Karlsruhe-Durlach concert broadcast in May 1993.

ON OFFER:- "The Seer" Live In New York, a copy of "Restless Natives" on VHS in Italian, the Skids albums "Scared To Dance" and "Joy", a cassette recording of B sides like "Restless Natives", "Prairie Rose", "Believe In The Small Man", "The Crossing", "All Fall Together" and many more.

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Leigh Dalgleish (Membership No 003397)

Scotland
WANTED:- Japanese box set, "In A Big Country" 12" red cover, 7" "Harvest Home" picture cover only and any promo CDs.

If any body is interested in expanding their collection, Leigh has obtained ten to fifteen lists of record collectors for promos, limited editions 12", 7", CDs and video memorabilia. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and Leigh is happy to send you a copy.

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James Birch (Membership No 003860)

USA
James is preparing a list of ALL North American BC fans. He hopes this will aid in getting rarer music more widespread. He says, IF WE UNITE, WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER. If you live in Canada or the U.S. James would like to hear from you. Send him a 3" x 5" index card showing:- your name, address, phone number, age, year you began collecting BC records etc. and if you are open to corresponding with other fans. Please include two stamped, self-addressed envelopes.

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Satu Holmberg (Membership No 003608)

Finland
FOR SALE:- "East Of Eden" (extended version) 12" - £5.

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Greg Watkins (Membership No 003904)
Tara Siam Business Inf Ltd., 21st Floor, CP

Thailand
WANTED:- Any live audio and video concert material except Hammersmith 26th May 1986, Essen 1986 and commercially released material. All costs gladly paid.

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John Davis (Membership No 003360)

UK
WANTED:- A decent copy of the last year's BC gig broadcast on German TV (N3 or WDR he thinks). Please get in touch with John if you can help. Incidentally, John says, "Tonight, (30th March) on UK Gold is the early '80's comedy 'Three Of A Kind' and BC are doing 'Lost Patrol' which John was going to record so if you would like a copy get touch with John by sending a blank tape and return postage.

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Nolin Tanaka (Membership No 003920)

USA
WANTED:- A long list of tracks on CD (the list is too long to print) but anyone selling any CD's perhaps you could get hold of Jim.

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Thomas Kercheval (Membership No 003418)
Thomas, I read with sad interest your comments on "We Save No Souls" and "Inwards" and yeah, a regular column as suggested and written by you in the CC mag would be good. Feel free and I look forward to hearing from you. Jan

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