



**BIG
COUNTRY**



**May 1997
ISSUE 40**

Hi everyone,

There must be a word which means "*quiet but not quiet*" but I'm bugged if I know what it is. Anyway, everyone is extremely busy but, really, there is not very much firm news to tell you at the moment. So, during this quiet but not quiet time we thought it would be interesting to look back over the years from your, the fans, point of view. Delve into your memories, write to me about your favourite tracks/albums/gigs, your most memorable moments with BC, when you first got "hooked". Anything you would like to share with like-minded people really. There may be loads to tell you in the next issue (due in September) so I obviously can't promise to print everything received but, go on get those pens out and let's look back over the last fifteen years. Copy date mid August, please.

We mentioned last time that Ian was trying to acquire the rights to the Eclectic video - well, still working on it but no news at present.

3rd March was the white label "club test" release of "*IABC*" dance mix (12 RIPE 221 - 12") which charted at 38 for one week. We were, therefore, hopeful for a commercial release of this in June but it now appears that this will be included on an RCR compilation due out during the summer. There is the POSSIBILITY that I may be able to get hold of some of these white labels to sell. I'll try anyway.

The "*Rarities*" and "*Restless Natives*" saga continues! We are still hopeful that this WILL be released but, July will come and go without it hitting the shops!! **Release date now scheduled for 15th September.**

The "*Eclectic*" album is now expected to be released in America the last week of August, possibly with a slightly different track-listing - more BC songs and fewer covers plus a previously unrecorded song from Stuart as a bonus track. Stuart, at least, will be doing some promo over there with the release but it is looking more likely that there will be some BC dates in the States during late September - acoustic with, possibly, a few electric gigs as well. Naturally, I will let you know if, when and where.

Castle, apparently, recorded the band's gig at Brighton on 5th November 1995 and two guys from the now disintegrated Castle label have teamed up together to form a new record label and they have bought the rights to this recording which is expected to be released on CD later in the year.

As far as anyone can remember, in all of the fifteen years that BC have been together this could be their first year "off", and even if the American dates do happen later in the year the "year off" will remain fact as far as Europe is concerned.

Cheers,

Jan

The HOT NEWS system. The way to keep up-to-date. How it works:- all you need do is lodge a stamped, self-addressed envelope here, clearly marked Hot News. (Overseas members should send International Reply Coupons). This envelope should show your membership number and the date of the last Hot News received by you. I will then keep them until there is news of release dates/tours or what-have-you. If you don't participate then, I have to say, you could miss out - funds do not run to a general mailing every time there is a bit of news, sorry. To keep abreast between the regular newsletters/magazines you need to participate in the Hot News System, whether by E-mail or "snail mail".

If you wish to receive this news via your computer screen then just let me know your E-mail address and I will add you to the BC address group.

Country Club, P O Box 59, Ashwell, Herts SG7 5NG, England
INTERNET:100647.3550@Compuserve.Com

News, News, News

Tony: Great West Records, Tony's record company, is to be officially launched on Saturday 2nd August at the Cornwall Coliseum. The show is to be called "The Great Big Noise" and tickets will go on sale in early to mid June.

Tony's solo album, plus four of his first signings to GWR will be released on 4th August. These CDs will only be available in record shops in Devon and Cornwall or direct from GWR via mail order and the internet.

Tony will be performing at the GWR launch on 2nd August with an, as yet, all-unknown band and as a warm up for this show there will be a gig on 31st July in a club to be confirmed in Plymouth.

Full details on all of the above will be passed on to you as soon as known.

Stuart: As far as Stuart is concerned he is having a great time working out in Nashville and we will keep you up-to-date when there is something firm to tell you. He's writing with several other writers and hopefully by the next issue we will have lots to pass on from and about Stuart.

Bruce: It's now official, Bruce's band is called "*Wild Blue Yonder*". They have been and are doing local pub gigs which are going well. I realise it's a bit late but 22nd May - Eastport Bar, Dunfermline and Sunday 1st June at Tappie Toories.

Mark: Still loads of projects in hand and the following is correct at the time of going to print:-Basically Mark is doing loads of writing with **Josh Phillips** for various people.

Recently Mark appeared with **Whitesnake** at a charity gig in Buckingham which, Mark tells me, was fantastic. They have a new vocalist but the rest of the line up were the original band members and there will be more gigs.

Then, during June Mark will be with **Bernie Marsden and Micky Moody's band "Moody Marsden"**.

21st June - Vienna with **Bernie Marsden**

22nd June - Kiev with **Procul Harem**

26th July at The Round House, Camden (to be confirmed) with **The Crazy World of Arthur Brown**.

Recording soon with **The Crazy World of Arthur Brown** (songs written by Mark, Josh and Arthur Brown)

29th August - Edinbrugh Festival with **Midge Ure** and Josh with the **POSSIBILITY** of other gigs on Saturday 30th/Sunday 31st.

In the last issue I mentioned that Mark was working with a couple of female vocalists. Well, They are **Debbie** and **Katie** who go under the name of "**Sister Sister**" - songs written by Mark, Josh, Debbie and Katie and they have about half an album together at present.

We also mentioned a project with a **young male vocalst** - This is **Rob Collins**, a 21 year old with, apparently, an incredible voice. Josh's girlfriend is a TV researcher who was working on a pilot talent show, Rob Collins was part of this show (apparently the show has not been aired - not sure whether it will be) and he was amazing with a great attitude and in Mark's description of him such words as *Elvis, George Michael, classic, Frank Sinatra, young, great talent* were used and "*The Sun*" has given him a bit of space already to say "*Watch out for Rob Collins in 1998*". Anyway, Mark and Josh are also writing for him.

So, there you have Mark's news but, as he said on the phone, this is all correct as 27th May at 11.30am!!



The mail box

Ralph Kirschnick (001828) kindly sent me a copy of magazine issue 6 so, that is now reinstated on the merchandise list if anyone is interested. Thank you, Ralph.

He also sent me some amusing newspaper headlines - not BC orientated but worth a smile or two:-

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Drunk Gets Nine Months in Violin Case
Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
Panda Mating Fails: Veterinarian Takes Over
Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim
Shot Off Woman's Leg Helps Nicklaus to 66
Plane Too Close To Ground, Crash Probe Told
Juvenile Court To Try Shooting Defendant
Stolen Painting Found By Tree
Two Soviet Ships Collide, One Dies
Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years in Check-out Counter
Killer Sentenced To Die For Second Time In 10 Years
Never Withhold Herpes Infection From Loved One
War Dims Hopes For Peace
If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last A While
Enfield Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge
New Study Of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Astronaut Takes Blame For Gas In Spacecraft

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Kevin Wright (003299) asks

Q Is there a possibility of obtaining the rights to the Das Fest concert and releasing this as a CD or video. I think this is one of their best concerts to date and am convinced it would sell well?

Ian There are a couple of live recordings out at the moment with another expected later in the year. How many can be out there at the same time? So really there is no hurry in obtaining rights or releasing any other live performance(s) at the moment.

Q Will Big Country be looking for a long term record deal (ten years as an example) or would they go for a licensing deal? How would a licensing deal work?

Ian I really have no idea what sort of deal at the moment. We are not evening considering it yet.

Q Looking back at "Why The Long Face" how do you feel about the album now? Did you achieve what you set out to do with this record and do you feel it was an improvement on the Buffalo Skinners?

Ian WTLF did not really do what we had hoped for but, I think BS was the best album. It did, however, put BC back on the map.

Tony I feel the same way about these two albums as I always have. Great albums released at the wrong time by the wrong companies. As to whether one album was an improvement on the other I think is irrelevant. They are two good albums that came one after the other. It's what came after that should be questioned.

Bruce They were just different albums so I can't say that one was an improvement on the other. "Nit", that about sums it up.

Q Have the band ever played "Flame Of The West" at any gigs?

Ian Yes, on the “Steeltown” tour.

Q Are there any songs that you would like to bring back into the live set that you have not played for a while?

Tony For the first time in fifteen years I have had a chance to put the band’s music out of my mind but occasionally I hear a track on the radio or somebody will buy me a pint just so they can tell me where they were when they first heard “Look Away” or had their first shag with “Chance” playing in the background. To answer your question, I would be quite happy to play all new stuff next time we tour or really dig deep into past albums. Who knows, we’ll see.

Bruce Not really, I’d like to play new stuff.

Mark “Close Action” and I’ve always wanted to do “The Crossing” but that wish seemed to fall on deaf ears!

From **Jim McConnell** (002954)

Q Over the years BC have played support to many of the best bands in the world (The Jam, U2, Thin Lizzy, Queen, Rolling Stones etc) but who were your personal favourites and why?

Ian They were all very significant although they didn’t support Thin Lizzy, Jim. The Jam launched the band with the wonderful opportunity of being able to play to 60,000, Queen was just phenomenal, playing to 180,000 and The Stones was just brilliant and fantastic fun.

Tony Unfortunately we never supported Thin Lizzy but I’m sure that would have been cool. All the other bands you mentioned were great, memorable nights but to document them is a bit like train-spotting to me.

Mark Probably “The Jam” ‘cos I really liked them when I was younger. It was a real thrill to be around those who I had idolised - it was special in that it was our first big gig and we were just taking off and it was The Jam’s “farewell tour” - it was just great to be around them at that time.

Bruce With no hesitation Bruce said, "The Stones, they are really nice people and we got to know them really well. They looked after us superbly and made it so easy."

Q A couple of years ago Neil Young made an album with Pearl Jam as the backing band ("Mirrorball"). If BC were to play backing band to anyone recording an album who would they like it to be?

Tony Neil Young, because every band should get to do an album with him.

Mark London Symphony Orchestra. I think the different instrumentation would be fantastic.

Bruce I'm not that sure I'd really like to do this but perhaps Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

Q Last year there was a project you were working on called "Project X", then it was no more. What was it, what happened?

Tony Project X will happen but not just yet. There are too many individual projects going on at the moment.

Q Which of BC's albums is your own personal favourite?

Tony The next one! And that's the way it should be.

Mark "No Place Like Home". This album was unfairly dismissed by all and grossly underrated. Of the more obscure stuff I think "Soapy Soutar" is fantastic, the keyboards bring in a different element.

Bruce Again, no hesitation - "*Buffalo Skinners*".

Notice Board

Oliver Hunter has, once again, kept me up-to-date with what is being discussed on the BC mailing list on the "Net". The members of the mailing list are working on a BC tribute tape. Various people have covered BC songs in whatever way they could - Oliver has done the backing track of "*Broken Heart Thirteen Valleys*" and Tom Stieber in the States is doing the vocals. The entries are being compiled by Dave Schwartz in America and the artwork is being produced by another list member. Although cassette format is more likely there is a possibility that a CD may be produced. Sounds interesting.

Tim Jones,

FOR SALE a mint condition, never played copy of "*Eclectic*" promo tape with a white wraparound sleeve including a listing of track 6 as "*Dixie*". Tim is open to offers on this - either write to him at the above address or give him a call on

Matthias Holl (003729),

, Germany.

INTERNET:matthias.holl@uni-tuebingen.de

WANTED: "*A Certain Chemistry*" payment or swap possible plus CD exchange - several possibilities to swap for "*Long Way Home*" live CD Balingen, Germany, July 1994.

Harald Kohncke (004142),

, Germany

INTERNET:kohncke@uni-muenster.de

WANTED: "*Ships*" CD including "*Woodstock*" payment or exchange possible.

Keith Groom (003749)

, UK

WANTED: video of Big Country on "*Helter Skelter*" all shows if possible. Cash or trade, cheers!

Peter Hornberg, (000046),

, Holland

Recently bought "*Big Country The Greatest Hits Live*" - apparently the

same as "Without The Aid Of A Safety Net" but with a different cover - a picture of the band in their early days. Marketed and distributed by Disky Communications in Holland and it cost £5.00. Peter feels that he can get more copies if anyone is interested. Also he bought a CD entitled "Big Country Master Series" released by Polygram International (53Y 230-2 Mercury) compiled by John Tracy 18 tracks - "IABC", "Look Away", "Chance", "Heart Of The World", "Wonderland", "Starred and Crossed", "Soapy Soutar", "Heart and Soul", "Pass Me By", "Fields Of Fire" "King of Emotion", "All Of Us", "The Crossing", "Black Skinned Blue Eyed Boys", "Dead on Arrival", "Tracks Of My Tears", "Angle Park" and "Where The Rose Is Sown." Peter says he can also get hold of this if anyone is interested.

This was a case of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing and, therefore, with the impending release of the "Rarities" this "Master Series" is likely to be deleted and will be very rare!

Andy Kasparian (001741) wants to share some good news with others who may be having difficulty in getting hold of BC records etc. For \$20.00 this company will search for one full year for whatever you are looking for. It can be expensive but they did find the great box set for Andy although it did cost about \$300!! Anyway, ask for Stu and tell him Andy Kasparian sent you.

Worldwide Music Network,
Post Office Box 421235,
Plymouth, Mn 55442-1235, USA.
E-MAIL:Wwmnet@aol.com.
Tel: (612) 551 9222 Fax: 9220

In issue 39 **Karl Prose** mentioned another bootleg entitled "Where Did The Feeling Go?" (BIG C 987) and has since sent me the track listing for this CD, which is:-

God's Great Mistake / You
Dreamer / Look Away / Sail Into
Nothing / Send You / Ships / I'm
Not Ashamed / Wonderland /
Harvest Home / Fields Of Fire / In
A Big Country / Chance

Pen Pals **Gareth Lankshear** (004186),

, Wales. Gareth is particularly looking for some German pen pals.

