



**BIG**

**COUNTRY**



**COUNTRY  
CLUB**

**1993**

**ISSUE 26**

# Hi,

A belated New Year to you all - it can only be better than 1992, in more ways than one!

It's all good news at the moment, anyway. The album was finished at the end of December and is entitled "THE BUFFALO SKINNERS" now due for UK release on 22nd March with international release in late March or early April. I have to say that now that I've heard the tape I can fully understand why everyone is absolutely thrilled with it and all of us in the B.C. camp are really looking forward to a GREAT 1993.

*".... they are back with a fanfare - their new album "The Buffalo Skinners" is truly a smash album and the trademark anthemic guitars and a harder rockier sound than their more recent releases. For everyone who remembers the thrill of the first two albums "The Crossing" and "Steel Town", prepare to be delighted."*

#### THE ALBUM:

**Recorded at:** RAK Studios, London during September and October 1992 by Chris Sheldon with Simon Phillips on drums.

**Produced by:** Big Country at Abbey Road and Townhouse Studios.

**Mixed by:** David Bascombe and Mike Fraser at Abbey Road and Townhouse Studios.

#### TRACK LISTING:-

Alone	We're Not In Kansas
Seven Waves	Ships
What Are You Working For?	All Go Together
The One I Love	Winding Wind
Long Way Home	Pink Marshmallow Moon
The Selling Of America	Chester's Farm

#### Catalogue Numbers:-

Cassette - TCNOIS2  
Album (vinyl) - NOIS2  
CD - CDNOIS2  
Five track promo CD - CDNOISDJ2

#### ALONE

The first single now due for UK release on 1st March in the following formats:-

Cassette Single	Alone / Chance*
12" Limited edition picture disc	Alone / Rockin' In The Free World / Never Take Your Place
CD	Alone / Rockin' In The Free World / Eastworld / Chance*
CD (release 8th March)	Alone / Never Take Your Place / Winter Sky* / Look Away*

\* Live versions from the Town & Country Club, London October 1991

**Catalogue Numbers:**

Cassette - TCPULS4  
12" picture disc - 12PULSPD4  
CD - CDPULSS4  
CD (released on 22nd February) - CDPULS4  
Promo CD - CDPULSDJ4

Future drummer plans. As mentioned by Stuart later in the magazine, at the moment it is not known who will be on drums during the tour. There is a short list of "maybes" but, I will keep you informed as and when anything is known.

The video for "Alone", directed by Roger Pomphrey who also directed "Beautiful People" and "Reptile" with Martin Chambers from the Pretenders on drums is a performance video, shot in the studio on 18th December which also includes location footage of Stuart in St Ives which was shot Sunday 20th and Monday 21st December.

As far as a rescheduled Convention is concerned. I have talked to Ian and Stuart about this and we are all more than happy to do another but feel that this year is now impractical due to the pending tour schedule etc. Another suggestion has been to have a limited number of CC members to one of the rehearsals if there is to be a production rehearsal which would include lights, PA etc. but at present no-one is certain as to whether this will be possible or practical. Again, of course, if anything develops I will be using your Hot News envelopes. But, we do have a tour this year which is the best news ever.

As far as magazine interviews, TV and radio etc. B.C. will be cropping up worldwide in numerous magazines etc. so, all I can say is, keep your eyes and ears open - we very rarely know publication dates, sorry.

*Ian*

P.S. Don't forget the **Big Country Hot Line 0898 600031**. Many of you write to me asking how often it is up-dated? Well, that is impossible to answer because if there's no news then up-dates are sometimes a while apart but, at times like this, it is up-dated frequently with new messages from the band and, from the week beginning 27th January, you can hear the new single "Alone" and, as of the week beginning 21st February, you will have the opportunity to hear the whole album.

Calls charged at 34p per minute cheap rate and 45p per minute at all other times.

## **STOP PRESS WHO'S ON DRUMS?**

**AS WE GO TO PRINT IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT  
MARK BRZEZICKI WILL BE TOURING WITH THE  
BAND THIS YEAR!**

It has recently come to our notice that Phonogram are, or maybe have, re-released "No Place Like Home" and "The Big Country Collection 1982 to 1988" is being released on Connoisseur Collection via Pickwick!!



# BIG COUNTRY

The name is so apt. Swirls of anthemic, guitar-driven songs blessed with huge, open spaces of production. Throughout their twelve year history, BIG COUNTRY have set standards rather than follow them. They have forged a unique path of musical integrity rather than imitating trends. Yes, indeed one of Britain's great bands - and one of the country's most significant success stories.

The band was formed in June 1981 by former Skids guitarist/vocalist Stuart Adamson and guitarist Bruce Watson. The Scots pair soon recruited drummer Mark Brzezicki and bassist Tony Butler to complete the line-up and, in May 1982, they signed a deal with Phonogram Records.

Over the succeeding decade, Big Country released a whole host of acclaimed albums, viz "The Crossing" (1983 reaching number four and going platinum in the UK, it also established the band in the US, where it went gold), "Steeltown" (1984, a chart topper in Britain), "The Seer" (1986, it reached number two in Britain and featured Kate Bush on the title track), "Peace In Our Time" (1988, yet another top ten album in the UK) and "No Place Like Home" (1991). Add in the 1990 compilation album "Through A Big Country" (selling more than a quarter of a million copies in Britain alone) plus no less than eleven top thirty singles (including ten in a row) and, without a doubt, you are looking at one of the most commercially successful rock bands of recent years.

However, this is 1993 and Big Country are back - bigger, better and brighter than ever before. They have signed a new deal with the Compulsion label (run by Chris Briggs, the A & R man who signed them to Phonogram all those years ago), and the first album released by their new company, "THE BUFFALO SKINNERS", sees the core of Adamson, Watson and Butler (Brzezicki having left in 1989) forging a sound that uniquely combines the traditional quality of this band with a contemporary freshness and attitude.

*"It was great to be able to produce ourselves and do things the way we wanted to", explains Adamson. "I believe that this is the best album we have made since our first two. It features the sort of music that we are into, namely guitar-based rock. There are no egos with this band, no pretensions. I would really hope that people would come to this album without too many preconceptions of who we are and what we do."*

Featuring the highly-rated Simon Phillips on drums, the album was recorded with engineer Chris Sheldon. (*"He was great to work with. He is wonderful at capturing the moment"*) at RAK Studios - mixed at Abbey Road Studios in London with Chris Briggs acting as Executive Producer. It represents a diversity of styles from the anthemically crashing opener "Alone" to the concluding melodic blaze of "Chester's Farm". Each song is lovingly crafted and honed to the highest standards. Moreover, the album also features two songs already familiar to Big Country fans, namely "We're Not In Kansas" and "Ships", both of which were included on the "No Place Like Home" set. So, why the repetition?

*"The versions on the last album just didn't do the songs justice", explains Adamson, a man with a fierce pride in songwriting. "So, we took the opportunity to put matters to rights this time."*

Oh, and where did that strange album title come from?

*"It's a great phrase, isn't it? The line itself came from a poem I came across. It describes to me the fact that we are willing to squeeze the last breath out of nature and the environment simply for personal gain."*

So, there you have it. With a tour on the horizon, 1993 looks set to see the welcome return of Big Country to every corner of the globe. And rock fans everywhere will surely be delighted to have this vintage band back at their best - skinning the charts and once again setting the pace.

Malcolm Dome

# WE'RE NOT AT HOME!!

Initial tour dates have been confirmed and there is likely to be more added as time goes by, which should include America and Europe and, hopefully, more UK dates later in the year. Anyway, so far we have:-

18th March  
19th March  
21st March  
22nd March  
23rd March  
24th March

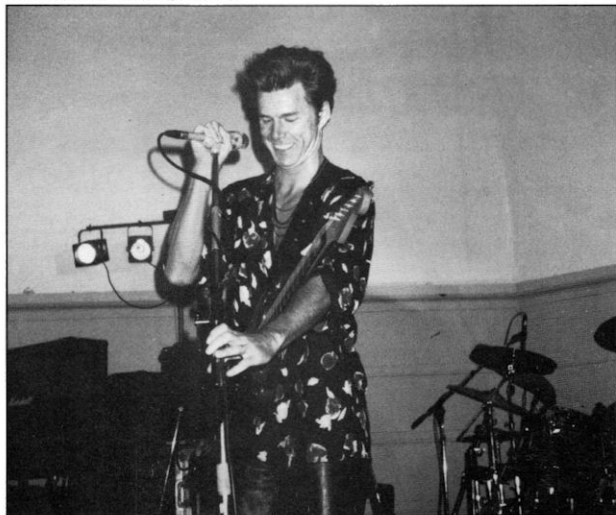
Town And Country Club, London  
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
Town And Country Club, Leeds  
Barrowlands, Glasgow  
Mayfair, Newcastle  
Festival Hall, Corby

For fans in Germany:-

14th March  
15th March

Ewerk, Cologne  
Nachtwerk, Munich (this is for a TV show only - live broadcast to the Bavarian countries and then to be networked in Europe over the following couple of weeks - keep your eyes open.)

*Credit for the photo to Oliver Hunter (Membership No 000295).  
C C Convention 31st August 1991.*





I had a long chat with Stuart on 26th January talking about the new album and he also answered questions, as raised in your letters. So, here are the results:-

JB The new album "The Buffalo Skinners" is due out very shortly but, since this magazine is scheduled to be out before the album, can you tell us a little about your feelings towards it?

SA *Yeah, the new record - I can't say anything else other than I'm absolutely delighted with it. I think that for the first time in ages we've been able to really focus on what it is we wanted to do, you know, and the vision that we have of the group. It's, I think, that over the past couple of albums we've been listening far too much to what other people have been saying about how the group should sound and about how the group should be and I think it's been like us going away from what we wanted, to be quite honest. It's been great this time to get a kinda carte blanche, as it were, and get a free hand to do exactly what we wanted in the way that we wanted to do it. I think, in this way, it's probably the most representative album that we've done since the first two or three.*

JB I know that Ian and Lynda are REALLY enthusiastic about it. Unfortunately I've only had the chance to listen to it once on our very bad tape deck in the office which is not giving it a fair chance at all. The tape only arrived the day before yesterday but the tracks that I've had time to listen to in the car on my short journey home are really good stuff. It's more your old sound, I think, isn't it?

SA *I don't know whether it is the old sort of sound, I think it's the way that we should sound I think it's .... well, it has things on from the past, as you know, 'cos we've always been and always will be a kinda, well, I've certainly always wanted to be, a very rock-oriented group.*

*And I just feel that the past couple of albums have been really unfocused, and almost directionless and this is what I want to do, you know and it's, well, I'm absolutely delighted with it, I have to say that I think it's the best record we've done, especially compared with the last few; I'm pleased with the songs, I'm pleased with the playing, I'm pleased with the production and I really think it's what we should have been doing for the past couple of years, to be quite honest.*

(Note: Since speaking to Stuart, I've had time to play it loud on our system at home and can understand, fully, everyone's enthusiasm - Jan)

JB Having produced this album yourselves, and knowing you have such strong feelings as to how you want the songs to sound, do you, in hind-sight, wish that you had self-produced previous albums?

SA *No, I think that we had to go through what we've gone through over the past few years to get to where we are now. You can't just, eh - sometimes you get yourself in situations that are unavoidable, I think that a lot of the things that came out over the past couple of years were possibly influenced by all of the kinda wrangling that were going on behind the scenes, you know with Mark and the record company hassles and business problems and these kind of things do affect you and really I just think that they were not quite what we were capable of, although I was happy with them at the time, I see them now as being not really what I should have been doing.*

JB "Ships" and "Kansas" have been repeated on this album. I believe that this is because you felt that the last album did not do these tracks justice, hence the repeat?

SA *Yeah, well, we re-recorded "Ships" and "Kansas" just because we felt that we hadn't done them justice on the album, certainly not compared with the live versions and I think that, well, it's just that we really liked the songs and really liked playing them live and one or two versions that were much more like the live versions that we had done on the previous tour.*

JB Yes, the versions on this album, I think, are really great, I must say.

SA *Yeah, the way that they sound they fit much better with this record than they did with the last one, especially sounding the way that they do - they sound much more like the band playing them. That's what I wanted for the whole record.*

JB That's certainly how it comes across to me. They were going to be singles, why did that not happen? Were you waiting for the album to be completed to avoid an isolated single, or what?

- SA *That's right, we just wanted to wait until we had the album completed, yeah. Just to make sure that that was the direction that we were going to go in and really it's a very natural thing for us and, as I've already said, I think it's what we should have been doing the past few years, anyway.*
- JB I guess the rest of the band are just as happy as you with the new stuff?
- SA *Oh, yeah, definitely.*
- JB Well, let's hope that you get some air-play this time.
- SA *Well, that's really out of our control. I have to say that having had the experience with the two singles from "No Place Like Home", both of them having been well received on the singled out programme and then not get any day-time play, it's scandalous.*
- JB I know, the first time that I heard "Reptile" on, I think it was Round Table, it was absolutely raved about.
- SA *People rave about it and then you don't get any day-time play and you start to think what's the point of having a singled out programme on in the first place?*
- JB I agree, it seems a waste of time, as you say. Was "Alone" your first choice for this single?
- SA *Yeah, I always wanted that as the first single. I always wanted the first single to be a rock track and really the record company were happy to go along with that.*
- JB Was it more your personal choice or the band's as a whole?
- SA *Both personally and as a band. You know, we had two or three choices going around but, myself, I was very strong on that and Chris Briggs was very strong on it as well. I feel that it was between that, "Seven Waves" or "The Long Way Home". We had a few tracks lined up but I always felt that that was the best one to go with first.*
- JB I guess you had stacks of material from which to choose. Do you, now, have more influence over which are released as singles, which are "B" sides and which tracks are used on the album?
- SA *Yeah, much more. As far as what the "B" sides and stuff are, that's something that I'm not particularly perturbed about anyway. But I'm certainly far more happy with the fact that we are encouraged to be the group that we feel we should be rather than be what someone else thinks we should be, which always leaves you in a situation not knowing whether you are doing the right thing or not, you know, when you're getting kinda no support from your A & R people you really don't know. You know, we would write songs and the only reaction would be to keep writing more songs and neither "Kansas" nor "Ships" were picked up on by our previous A & R people and I thought that they were two of the best songs that we'd ever written and the A & R people of the previous record company just couldn't hear them at all and I think that was very indicative of exactly what was going on at the time.*
- JB It must be so disheartening for you when it's like that.
- SA *Disheartening, yeah. I mean "Kansas" and "Ships" were written quite early on in the writing for "No Place Like Home" and when we took them into the record company I thought they'd be very pleased with them and we got this kinda bland, really bland, non-committal kinda attitude towards us. I think what it was, was that some of the hassles that we'd had business-wise and stuff kinda disheartened the record company as it did us, you know.*
- JB Yes, I'm sure it did.
- SA *I think it really was time for a whole fresh start.*
- JB Well, it's gonna be a good year, isn't it? It's got to be for all of us. Anyway, the album title, "The Buffalo Skinners" for me, having had a touring holiday in America last summer, certainly conjures up emotional feelings about what we, the "new colonials", did to the native American. You say that it describes to you "the fact that we are willing to squeeze the last breath out of nature and the environment simply for personal gain". Is this something you feel very strongly about, and do you feel that we are all doing enough to help conserve our planet, and the people on it?
- SA *The title comes from a few things. I like the idea of the kinda picture that it paints, you know, of something that may be passing and that's precious and should be kept hold of, and I like that kinda idea - that something's beautiful but it's transient. I also like the fact that it reflects an environmental concern too. Yeah, it's something that concerns me, personally, and I'd probably say that I have a stake in it. Everybody has a stake in it and if more people would realise that,*

*then it's possible that more things would be done about it.*

- JB Yes, we've all got to do our little bit, haven't we?
- SA *Yeah, we can all do our little bit but it's all very well trying to switch your light bulbs off and things, use green products but if people in industry and stuff aren't doing anything about it, then doing your bit, really - it's a losing battle.*
- JB Absolutely. On to drummers now. Simon Phillips plays drums on the album but, on the video for "Alone", it's Martin Chambers from The Pretenders. Why not Simon?
- SA *Well, that's a very simple one. The reason that Simon didn't do the video was that he was actually in America at the time. Both Tony and the guy who directed the video, Roger Pomphrey, knew Martin well and they just asked him to come along. He always does well on videos and when they asked him just to be in the video and he was happy to do it, it turned out well.*
- JB Great. Might he tour with you?
- SA *I don't think so, no. I think he's got his own project he's working on.*
- JB Oh, right. So, do you know who's going to be on drums during the tour?
- SA *No, I've not got a clue.*
- JB I see. Ian has given me a list of **maybes** but....
- SA *Yeah, well that's about the stage that we're at at the moment.*
- JB Right. Presumably you audition the drummers or is it left to.....?
- SA *Yes, we do, yes.*
- JB Have we seen the last of Chris Bell?
- SA *As far as Chris is concerned, we don't know what may happen. We get on really very well with him. I don't know exactly what we're doing just now. I really like him a lot, a hell of a lot. He's really great fun to go on the road with - we've possibly not heard the last of him - I like him too much for that.*
- JB Ian has given me the track listing for the album but could you give us an idea as to where you get your inspiration for the lyrics?
- SA *Lyrics come from everywhere. I'm quite an avid reader. I'll read absolutely anything - books, magazines and newspapers.*
- JB And ideas grow from a phrase or something you may read?
- SA *Yeah, sometimes some things come from that and some things come from my own personal experiences - things I've lived through and felt strongly about or things I've spoken to other people about. It's the sort of thing I'm always on the look out for. I try to keep my mind open all the time for little phrases or ideas that I think may be interesting and I think sometimes you're not particularly..... I mean, you start out writing a song and you're not too sure what the subject matter is, you just find phrases and words that feel good and that sound quite strong and then gradually the song grows out of that.*
- JB So, anything can act as the seed for a song?
- SA *Yeah, like a little seed. For example, the song "We're Not In Kansas" just came from a line in the film The Wizard Of Oz. I tried to draw an analogy between that and kinda Dorothy being in Oz and not quite understanding where she was and someone looking about them in a contemporary environment that they aren't used to and suddenly realising that they don't know what's going on around them at all.*
- JB Right. Whilst recording "The Buffalo Skinners", did you ever have 'one of those days' when nothing would go right and all you could do was throw your hands up in the air and call it a day until tomorrow? If so, did you just throw your hands up in the air or throw something else?
- SA *Well, about having one of those days. We had a **whole ten of those days!** We spent a week and a half actually recording the backing tracks for the album no, no, a week doing the backing tracks, and then we'd been over-dubbing for a week when we realised that one of the machines was running fast! All the stuff we'd over-dubbed was actually out of tune so, we had to go back*



and do a whole week's worth of work again. I had a bit of a moment when that happened.

JB I bet you did. Did it come out better the second time or do you FEEL it came out better?

SA *Yeah, I think it did, yeah. I think we kinda changed the sounds about a little bit so it was worth while but, on the day that we actually found it out I must admit I did go into one a little bit. I do that, that tends to happen occasionally anyway, not as often as it did in the past but .... I do. You have certain ways of seeing things and I think if you're not strong about it then what's the point of anyone else listening to you?*

JB Did you write all of the tracks on this album or is it more with the band?

SA *Well, I wrote all of the lyrics but the music is mixed up between the group.*

JB Right. Do you write the lyrics first and the music around them or what?

SA *Sometimes the idea for a lyric - I very rarely write an entire lyric first but quite often I have an idea for a chorus, verse or a title or something like that before I actually start working on the music. Sometimes it kinda comes along concurrently, you know - you have an idea for a loud piece of music and you think, Oh God, that goes with that, an idea for a song, and the two of them all link up together.*

JB I see. Have you got a favourite track on the new album?

SA *Um. Not really. Not at the moment - I like the whole record just now.*

JB Thoughts have been given to holding another Convention along the lines of the success of the one held in Dunfermline. Ian has, in fact, suggested that maybe we could have some C.C. members along to your last rehearsal in February/March, like a mini Convention. I think this would be a great idea if we could work it out. If this were to go ahead, it need not be on the same scale as the Dunfermline Convention but a great opportunity for your fans to preview the new material. What are your feelings about another Convention or fans attending one of the rehearsals?

SA *I think that might be a good idea. If we actually go and do production rehearsals where we get like a big room and have a PA and the lights and stuff we may well invite people along to that, I'm not very sure. I'd really love to have another Convention again, I really enjoyed the last one. It was great fun. I liked the fact that I was involved, although a lot of stuff went on, it was really a bit of a laugh, you know it was great just to be involved in it. I felt really good about it.*

JB Yes, it went well. I admit to having palpitations several times, never having done anything like it before but it went well. We would like to do another and, as you know, we tried to get one together for Leeds last year but, with you in the studio, there was no way I would have gone ahead without the band being there.

SA *No, that would have been hopeless.*

JB It would just have been a riot, the fans come to see you, everything else is really by-the-way.

SA *No, there's no point in having a Convention without the group there.*

JB But the thing is that with you on the road this year I'm not sure we'd be able to fit in a Convention on the same lines - we'll have to see. But I think fans attending one of your rehearsals, as you say, could be really worth trying to develop. Once dates are known, we'll certainly get together with Ian and work on it and see if we can get something together.

(Note:- I've since had a further conversation with Ian but this is looking as if it won't be possible. Hopefully, we'll be able to work something out in the future.)

JB Finally, Stuart. I know you have been a fan of the two fanzines "We Save No Souls" and "Inwards" but, do you know what has happened to "Inwards" as I've received a letter from a C.C. member who seems to think that this is no longer in production? The member concerned has received no replies to phone calls or letters for a while now.

SA *No, I haven't heard from them. I don't know what's happened with it. I'm sure it hasn't stopped entirely, maybe they might be working on something. The only answer I can give you to that is no, I don't know, and that's about the size of it. I'll let you know if I hear anything.*

(Note:- I've since heard that "Inwards" is, indeed, still being published).

So, there you have it. Many thanks to Stuart for the time he spent chatting to me.







# YOUR GENERAL LETTERS:-

From **Liam Davey** (Membership No 001593)

*"This letter applies to the magazine Record Corner. I have been a serious collector for several years and D. William's record collecting has been very informative in the magazine. However, could you possibly run the same section under the Title 'US Radio Show LP's'?"*

*These items are very rare indeed and I know several C.C. members who would be very interested if we could have a complete list made available within the magazine.*

*My own collection consists:-*

- 1983 "King Biscuit" two LP radio show New York Ritz USA (Air date 23rd October 1983).
- 1983 BBC one LP Penthouse/Omni Magazine College Rock Concert No. 1013 Hammersmith Palais 1983 (Air date 11th December 1983).
- 1984 Westwood One two LP show Big Country, Berlin. (Air date 4th September 1984). Venue unknown.
- 1984 The source two LP show. Venue Austin, Texas, USA. (Air dates 27th, 28th and 29th July 1984)
- 1986 King Biscuit 2LP Show. Venue Philly Tower Theatre USA, No 649 (Air dates 12th October 1986).
- 1989 BBC Transcription Disc 1 LP show. Venue Hammersmith Odeon, London No. 454

*I also know of a 1983/84 Barrowlands New Year's Eve gig King Biscuit 1984 2LP Radio Show but, I don't happen to own a copy myself. Yours, Liam"*

*So, if other fans can let me know what their collection consists of, I will add to this, hopefully compiling a full list of what is out there.*

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*Liam subsequently wrote saying:-*

*"..... I have since acquired a record that I have never heard or seen before and I think it will be of interest to other collectors of the band.*

*It's a USA only promo LP - two-sided. Running time is just over one hour.*

Side A	Side B
Wonderland	Fall Together
Look Away	I Walk The Hill
Fields Of Fire	Hold The Heart
The Storm	The Teacher
The Seer	One Great Thing
Where The Rose Is Sown	In A Big Country

*The interview, between and during tracks, is with Stuart and Tony and takes place on the "Seer Tour" of America in 1986*

*I paid £50 for this LP which must be very rare indeed."*

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From **Sam Russo** (Membership No 003660)

*"I'm from the USA and I was just wondering if I could order any tapes, CD's etc from Country Club. In the USA, all I can get is "The Crossing", "Steele Town", "The Seer" and "Peace In Our Time". I managed to get "No Place Like Home" and "Beautiful People" but trying to find B.C. records is very, very difficult. So, please let me know if I can buy records through the Club."*

*I do get lots of letters asking this question but, unfortunately, I have been unable to sell records through*

*the Club (except on the very odd occasion - such as a limited number of the Japanese box sets). Maybe, with the new record deal, this might be made available to us in the future but in the past this has been made impossible due to the enormous minimum order regulations placed on us.*

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From **Kevin Jones** (Membership No 000223)

*"Firstly, many thanks for printing the lyrics to "Into The Valley" in the last magazine.*

*Is there any chance of printing the lyrics to "Kiss The Girl Goodbye"?"*

## KISS THE GIRL GOODBYE

*They hit the bank on a dog day afternoon  
With the black top popping and the radio out of tune  
They looked so young and wild and hungry people signed  
For desperate times need desperate passers by*

*One of them was a waiter  
Another one was a gambling man  
The third man was a preacher's son  
And they kissed their girls goodbye*

*They left the strip just before the hurricane blew  
The governor turned his head and the customs man knew  
They looked so lean and wired  
The controller asked why  
Well desperate men need a desperate kind of sky*

*One of them was a sailor  
Another one was a fishing man  
The third man was a farmer's son  
And they kissed their girls goodbye*

*Kiss the girl goodbye then man  
Kiss the girl goodbye  
For now's the time and now's the hour  
To kiss the girl goodbye*

*They hit the street with the moon in a funny mind  
For a drive past shooting for a deal made just in time  
Well they look so young that something's got to give  
Well desperate men have desperate lives to live*

*One of them was a brother  
Another one was a married man  
The third one was a mother's son  
And they kissed their girls goodbye.*

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From **Riku Metelinen** From Finland (Membership No 001905)

*"A month ago, I wrote to MTV and asked if they could show Big Country more often in their shows. Last week a reply came with three MTV stickers. Anyway, I have an idea. If we all write to MTV and ask about Big Country Weekend, Rockumentary or Unplugged I'm quite sure they must show more Big Country instead of today's pop trash songs. So why don't we do it?"*

*The reply from Michele Beech, Press Department, MTV Europe, 20/23 Mandela Street, London NW1 ODU reads,*

*"Dear Riju, Many thanks for your recent letter and taking the time to write to us. We value the opinions of our viewers and it's very important for us to receive this kind of feedback.*

*Thanks again for writing and keep watching."*

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From **Alexander Bain** (Membership No 003649)

*"I thought this little note may be of interest to any fellow B.C. fans.*

Push Posters in Glasgow stock some Big Country posters and tour programmes for any of you wishing to add to your collections. The P & P is a bit pricey but the produce is in good nick.

I've listed some examples below but if you want a full listing, write to Push Posters, P O Box 469, Glasgow, G1 1TT. Even though it is a P O Box number, delivery doesn't take long.

Posters: Size 'B' - 35" x 25" (large) priced at £3.25  
Size 'C' - 60" x 40" (giant) priced at £5.75

Seer Tour - size 'B'

Save Me - size 'C'

Heart Of The World - size 'B'

Tour Programmes - Crossing £5.00

Steelton £5.00

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From David Wright (Membership No 003027)

"In the last edition of Country Club (No. 25) there was a feature by Dominic Williams about Big Country promos. He mentioned the Big Country box set. The information that he gave was not entirely correct.

I'm basing this on the fact that there are two box sets that I know of. I have one and the other is with a dealer/friend. Both of these are identical.

As far as I know, the boxed set was issued just before the release of Steelton, not The Crossing. It contains the first five singles in 12" format. The records themselves are standard British releases and not stamped promo or white label copies. The picture disc of "Chance" and the shaped edition of "Fields Of Fire" are NOT included. The records included are:- "Harvest Home", "Fields Of Fire", "In A Big Country", "Chance" and "Wonderland". There is also no display plinth as mentioned by Dominic although I seem to remember an item like this used to promote "The Crossing".

The box itself is very impressive. It is black and hinged at the back. On the front is a gold leaf label with the compass motif. In the top left hand corner it is marked "Special Collectors Edition Not For Resale." At the bottom, also in gold leaf, it is marked "The Big Country 12" Collection".

One thing that Dominic was correct about is the price of the item! If you see it advertised for less than £100.00, then snap it up - it is VERY RARE.

I hope this information is useful to other members / Big Country collectors."

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From Simo Neiglick (Membership No 003377)

Simo and, for that matter, many others have written to say, "..... I bought the B.C. Lyric Book a while back but it didn't contain lyrics to:-

"Freedom Song", "Kiss The Girl Goodbye" and "Return To The Two-Headed King" (next time, hopefully)

You can make this up by printing the lyrics in the magazine. I do hope this is possible."

## A FREEDOM SONG

At night when I lay sleeping  
You stole the breath from me  
And I dreamed  
A hundred thousand dreams  
And none of them was real

For history will find us  
If you bring the world to me  
While all we know is all that's been  
And none of what may be

So let them sing a freedom song  
If only for a day  
Everybody loves a freedom song  
For how long

When people rise above themselves  
To find that waiting mends  
Then all the walls come tumbling down  
And things begin to end

Then guide us to the wilderness  
My enemy and me  
With time and you against me too  
The past draws ever near

\*\*\*\*\*

From David Wright (Membership No 003027)

"In the last edition of Country Club, you mentioned the Homeland bootleg. You said it was on Wind Records. My copy is different and I was wondering if there is more than one.

My copy is by Juke Box Records London (a well known label) and does not have a serial number. The cover is yellow with a black and white picture of the group on the front. The sleeve is headed "Big Country Homeland Live In England 12/31/83". The record itself is the Barrowlands New Year's Eve gig on clear vinyl with a black centre and tracks are:-

1,000 Stars  
Angle Park  
Close Action  
Lost Patrol (which is misspelt as Last Patrol)  
The Storm  
Wonderland  
In A Big Country  
Chance  
Inwards  
Fields Of Fire

If anyone has a different copy, I would be interested to know."

Also David asks:-

"Finally, I have enclosed a newspaper cutting from the Nottingham Evening Post (dated 8th January 1993) from the Simon Mayo's pop column.

"..... there's also a great bunch of compilations lined up including a Best of the Boomtown Rats, A Big Country ....."  
Do you know anything about this release?"

As mentioned earlier in the mag - Phonogram seem to have something up their sleeves!

\*\*\*\*\*

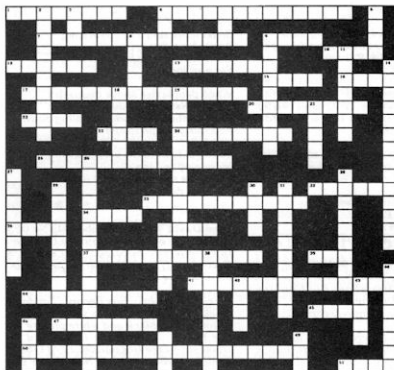
NOTE:- On reading the above article, I also noticed that Cliff Richard has a new release on 15th February "Peace In Our Time" Just a bit of trivia (Jan).

\*\*\*\*\*



Adrian Vogler  
(Membership No 001712)

Adrian wrote about several things but, I've had to hold over the rest of his queries etc. Anyway, as I haven't seen the album cover yet, I thought it might be interesting to show what Adrian came up with, albeit much reduced and converted from colour to black and white.



## LYRIC XWORD

SENT IN BY  
BARAH  
BROWN  
(Membership No  
003536)

Entries to no later than  
14th April 1985

### ACROSS

- Keep on ----- (8)
- "Bring me my dove, be my shelter from the storm" which song? (3,7,3)
- "When I was young you said to me" which song? (4,2,3,5)
- me by (6)
- Emotional monarch? (4)
- Stuart thinks they're beautiful (6)
- She washed her hair among the stones and saw what was to come" which song? (3,4)
- "Just as you saw you -----" (4)
- The "restless" workman's name (3)
- "Though all we lost in autumn days cannot be born again" which song? (8,7)
- "We knew well enough only time proves the cost" which song? (3,5)
- They ran in the hills in Eiledon (4)
- In this place, where could you be happy? (4)
- "Then I broke loose, you weren't around" which song? (4,4)
- "For mine can never be the hands -----" which song? (3,5,5)
- "From your father's hand that always seemed like a fist" which song? (5)

- "Why are faces filled in anger, that should only shine with youth" which song? (6,1,6)
- This animal once had his fill in cities (4)
- A person who sees visions, a prophet or part of a B. C. song title? (6)
- "Playing poker with my -----" (4)
- "Preaching, with a vengeance so bitter and worn" which song? (2,4)
- The moon and this were his girls (3)
- "In your raven hair, I will find a summer night" which song? (11,3)
- "Pictures of the world are shown, in places I have never known" which song? (6,3)
- Where the rose was -----? (4)
- "With a dream in her eyes no one's seen" which song? (3,4)
- "And me to ground our heathen foe" which song? (5,3,4,2,4)
- Who saw the harvest? (4)

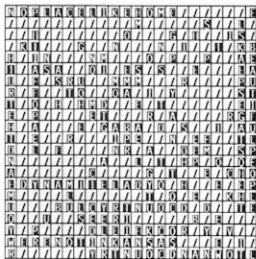
### DOWN

- "I looked west in search of freedom" (4,2,4)
- I never meant to kill a ----- (3)
- I will leave ----- freight (3)

- Cast ----- all of the devils you hold (3)
- Daisy of the south? (5)
- Tracks of my ----- (5)
- "We are waiting on the forest, deep and dark below the wall" which song? (9)
- "How the scouts in the stables will kiss again" which song? (7)
- "A stranger came by travelling and went to every door" which song? (5,2,3,4)
- "I hung the jury, I fled the crime" (4,2)
- "Why must it always be dreams, when your voice comes to me?" which song? (4,5,2)
- "You, me and the -----" (5)
- "When begins the winning?" which song? (4,4,4)
- How many stars? (8)
- "We are hot dust, we are not stone" which song? (5)
- "On our knees with our eyes on the ground" which song? (9)
- What was lucky in East of Eden (4)
- "But many went before us, and will the cities are clear" which song? (4,6)
- "Stones will stand together as if searching for the -----" (5)
- "Here was the future for hands of skill" which song? (9)
- Boon goes the world of this lady? (8)
- To the east of a biblical garden? (4)
- What do they do when it rains? (5)
- "In this place I will lay my life -----" (4)
- There's a red one on "The Seed" album (3)
- "Between the city and the -----" (3)

## WORD SEARCH

SENT IN BY NEIL RUTHERFORD (MEMBERSHIP NO 001570)



## LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

Never the easiest sort of competition to show the answers but I hope the words now leap, or nearly leap, out at you if you were unable to find them all.

The first correct entry out of the sack was from Gerard Kerin (Membership No 001857) from Ireland, and I will getting a "little something" off to you very shortly, Gerard.



# WELL, YOU ASKED:-

- Q** From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). What is favourite album of 1992?

**Bruce:** *Harvest Moon* by Neil Young.

**Tony:** *Diamonds And Pearls*, *Prince* (although there were a few dodgy tracks on it). *Keef's* (as in Keith Richards) came a close second.

- Q** From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Bruce, are you planning on doing any more demos because "Fly Like An Eagle" is a classic?

**Bruce:** *Probably. Glad you liked "Fly Like An Eagle" but it's a bloody pity that Phonogram pressed it at the wrong speed!*

- Q** From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). During (I think) The Seer Tour I read in one of the tabloids that Big Country swapped the Big Dish's backing tapes for a heavy breathing XXX soundtrack - is this just vicious rumour or is there any truth in it? If there is some truth in it then, come on, tell all.

**Bruce:** *It was a tape of elephants mating, actually!*



- Q** From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Tony, how many bass guitars do you normally use during a gig?

**Tony:** *I have used three or four basses during a gig before because I used to employ different sound for certain songs but, ever since I got the TC Graphic Equalizer, I found I could almost duplicate most of the sounds and pre-set them and only use one guitar (but I don't). I shall be using the trusty Precisions (Black Bitch and Woody Baby) and the new ESP Precision (Spunky) as a spare on the next tour.*

- Q** From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Where in Australia were the videos for "King Of Emotion" and "Broken Heart" filmed. Was it unbearably hot?

**Bruce:** *These videos were made in Wittenoom, Australia and, yes, it was nauseatingly hot. (Was he there the at the same time of year as Stuart, I hear you ask).*





# STUART REPLIES:-

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Are there any plans for a new live video including behind the scenes footage?

Stuart: *Not at this moment in time. We haven't thought about a new live video yet. Possibly towards the end of the year if things go OK this year.*

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Stuart, do you remember a concert when B.C. stood in for Paul Young because he was ill with a throat infection? Anyway, it was a time when your guitar broke - how did you feel at the time and was the guitar retired after the gig?

Stuart: *Yes I do. It was at Wembley Stadium supporting Elton John and it wasn't the guitar that broke, it was actually a lead, just one single lead that didn't work and it was a bit of a pain the neck to be quite truthful, standing on stage in front of all those people at Wembley and having a guitar not working, we got it fixed but ..... The guitar wasn't retired after the gig, I've still got it at home.*

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Stuart, what is your favourite guitar riff/solo?

Stuart: *Does this mean one of mine or someone else's?*

Jan: Oh, I guess yours.

Stuart: *My favourite riff? Shit, I'm trying to think ..... oh, various things. I like them all, you know, I write them because I like them but some of the songs on the new album have got some great guitar riffs and they're kinda my favourite ones just now:- the ones from "Alone", and "A Long Way Home" and some of the little "B" benders and stuff and "Ships".*

Jan: As you say, you don't write anything you don't like, anyway.

Stuart: *You try not to, it's only afterwards you think "Oh shit, what did I do that for?"*

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). How does it affect you when people jump onto the stage and drag you off the microphone?

Stuart: *I actually don't really mind that, what I do mind is if they jump all over my foot pedals and a lot of them mess up your guitar sets - that's a pain in the arse. I remember one time in Montreal when a girl jumped on the stage and she jumped right into the microphone and knocked it straight into my teeth and I had to go and get a filling in my front teeth and stuff, that was really bad so I don't mind people being on the stage too much it's just when they start fucking the gear up that it becomes a drag.*

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). What is your favourite album of 1992?

Stuart: *Just let me think ..... Oh yeah, the Tom Cochrane album, it's called Mad World.*

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). During (I think) The Seer Tour, I read in one of the tabloids that Big Country swapped the Big Dish's backing tapes for a heavy breathing XXX soundtrack - is this just vicious rumour or is there any truth in it? If there is some truth in it then, come on, tell all.

Stuart: *This is actually true. It wasn't the backing tapes, we just played a movie sound track back through the monitors on the last gig on the tour. That is very true, yes.*

Jan: Did they take it well?

Stuart: *Yeah, they did, yeah (laughs) - they had no choice.*

- Q From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299). Where in Australia were the videos for "King Of Emotion" and "Broken Heart" filmed? Was it unbearably hot?

Stuart: *These were filmed in the western desert in Australia, actually up north just outside a place called Wittenoom.*

Jan: I bet it was bloody hot up there then, wasn't it?

Stuart: *No, it wasn't actually too bad at that time of year because it was just at the end of their winter. So, it was OK. It was good, I really liked it, especially in Perth - that was a great city.*

(Small chat about Australia.....)

- Q From Daniel Arkin (Membership No 003653). Is it true that Stuart and Bruce, prior to being joined by Tony and Mark, released an album called "Harvest Home" in 1982? If it is true, have you any idea where I might acquire a copy?

Stuart: *No, we never released an album called "Harvest Home" in 1982. That's completely false.*

- Q** From **Gwenda Matthews** (Membership No 003009). Stuart, could you, please, give a run-down of your top ten holiday jaunts?

**Stuart:** *Does this mean holidays that I've had?*

**Jan:** Yes, I guess so.

**Stuart:** *Oh, I don't know. I like to go to lots of places. I like to go to any place that has sun, a beach and lots of water.*

**Jan:** Right, so you're more of a 'beach' holiday maker, rather than a traveller or sightseer?

**Stuart:** *Yeah, very much. I like surfing and that sort of thing, you know. Any place with some surf, sun and a beach and I'm happy. I don't mind travelling and sight-seeing etc. but I do so much of that anyway, I like to do that on tour too. I'm not one for sitting around in hotels.*

**Jan:** Do you always holiday with the family or do you have time away with the lads?

**Stuart:** *Yeah, usually. I haven't had a holiday with the boys for a while now.*

- Q** From **Richard Bateman** (Membership No 003645) On future albums, Stuart, have you considered an acoustic track?

**Stuart:** *That's a maybe in the future. I haven't done one on this album.*

- Q** From **Kevin Jones** (Membership No 000223) On the "Earthrise Rainforest Album", the track "Spirit Of The Forest" has several artists credited with vocal contributions. One of these artists is Big Country. My question is, what part of the song were the band involved with? Any light you can throw on the this would be greatly appreciated.

**Stuart:** *I haven't got a clue.*

**Jan:** I'm buggedger if I know.

**Stuart:** *Well, I'm absolutely buggedger if I know!*

**Jan:** OK, we'll skip that one, then.

- Q** From **Clive Gorman** (Membership No 003600) During the tracks "Inwards" on The Seer Live in New York video, Stuart begins to stare intently at something near the front of the stage then, after a couple of minutes of playing the guitar, he stops everything and begins shouting to whatever it was in the front row and we hear Tony shout, "Get down!" Stuart then jumps off the stage and tries to make his way to the miscreant but was stopped by the stage bouncer while someone else swats the trouble-maker down. What I want to know is, what happened?

**Stuart:** *There was some guy absolutely out of his brain - he was at the front of the gig trying to cause a big huge fight with the bouncers and it was quite heavy and I went down the front and kinda sorted it out a bit, but it calmed down and I don't think anyone was actually swatted at the time.*

- Q** From **Clive Gorman** (Membership No 003600) Clive's letter is dated October 1992 and he says that "recently in a magazine, one of the members of the group "Teenage Fanclub" said that he possesses one of Stuart's old guitars (I think he meant Stuart but in actual fact he said that "...it belonged to that bloke from Big Country". What is the story behind that guitar?

*From the archives - sent in by Christina Ceccoli (Membership No 003592). Dusseldorf, Philipshalle 23rd September 1986.*

**Stuart:** *I don't know the answer at all to this last question. Probably what it is, is that we get a lot of gear and do a lot of business with a shop called "Sound Control" in Scotland, they have branches in Dunfermline and Glasgow so it's probably some guitar that either myself or Bruce has traded in and which was then sold in the Glasgow shop to this guy from Teenage Fanclub.*



# PEN PALS

Gwenda Matthews (Membership No 003009)  
Scotland.  
Year of birth 1969

Gwenda wants MORE penpals nationwide.  
Interested in trading records, tapes,  
photography, swimming, travelling. Music  
tastes include The Alarm, Simple Minds,  
Capercaillie and The Big Dish. All letters will  
receive a reply.



Just write in to me giving your name, address, membership number and brief details of yourself and your hobbies and I will add your details to the list in the next issue.

If any one wishes me to re-print their name on the pen-pal list, you have only to ask.

David McClure (Membership No 003620)  
Scotland  
Year of birth 1975

Hobbies: Pike fishing and hill walking.  
Musical interests: Runrig and Capercaillie.  
David would love to hear from other B.C.  
fanatics from around the world.



## PLONKERS RUBBER STAMPS

Stamps from the shelf or made to your own personal design.

Plonkers, P O Box 59, Ashwell, Herts, SG7 5NT

# NOTICE BOARD

Liam Davey (Membership No 001593)

UK

WANTED:- A VHS video of the Limehouse gig, record on 15th October 1986 and broadcast via satellite to the States. He is willing to pay a good price if any of our American friends can help with this). He is also willing to trade for any other of B.C. UK releases on video in the UK.

Jeff Armstrong (Membership No 003346)

USA

WANTED:- CD boxed set (although Jeff placed orders with two record stores nothing ever arrived). Also Jeff believed he had all of B.C. records but one has slipped him by, namely:- "Made In Heaven". He says, "It's just killing me knowing that there is a B.C. song out there that I haven't heard. Your help would be greatly appreciated."

Tim Jones

Wales,

Tim wrote to say he has two records ON OFFER which F.C. members may be interested in:- Pete Townshend "Empty Glass" £4.00 and Big Country "Wonderland" mini LP £8.00 or £10.00 for both. Cheques payable to Tim Jones.

Andrew Bradley (Membership No 003654)

UK

Willing to buy from fellow C.C. members any CD singles, The Seer Live in New York video and Part II of the Restless Natives soundtrack.

Alexander Bain (Membership No 003649)

Scotland

WANTED:- A copy of the film "Restless Natives".

Sarah Davies (Membership No 003643)

UK

WANTED:- photos of the gig at Leicester Polytechnic 1991. She says, "It was a particularly special night for me because I was able to get to the front (without being crushed to death) and was closer to the band than I've been before. Any negatives will be promptly returned"

David McClure (Membership No 003620)

Scotland

David has a mint condition 12" clear vinyl copy of "Wonderland" - he is willing to swap for a 12" copy of "The Teacher" or 12" of "One Great Thing" (Boston mix). Must be mint condition.