TEN YEARS ()F BIG COUNTRY

COUNTRY CLUB

1992

ISSUE 24



Well, here we go again. Magazine time seems to be every other week for me although I know it seems an age between each issue for you. For future reference, mags are due out in: – January, May and September and every thing humanly possible is always done to get them out on time.

So, what is occuring? The record deal signing went without a hitch (for new members, the Band are now with Compulsion Records under the wing of Chris Briggs who, as you will know, was involved with B.C. in their very early days). The Band have re-recorded "Ships", "Kansas" and "Rockin' In The Free World" with Simon Phillips on drums who, apparently, is absolutely fantastic and really fits in well. The Band have self-produced these tracks which have been engineered by Chris Sheldon (Chris also engineered "Heart of The World" and "Save Me") and mixed by Dave Boscombe. Simon may also be used on drums for the next album. Hopefully, therefore, and I stress hopefully, we will see a single during the summer, otherwise it will be a little later in the year. Let's all hope that our badgering of Radio I will have some effect on future singles. At present they are all busy writing and demoing new material for their NEXT ALBUM and recording should begin in the summer - release date unknown, but probably next year. Stuart, Bruce and Tony are all in really great spirits and everything is going tremendously.

I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the video of the televised Bonn concert which I received. Unfortunately, the letter came adrift from the tape but I know you will know who I'm talking about. It was very kind of you and brought back memories of a very great evening (drink induced amnesia left the latter part of the evening in a little haze)!!! But I KNOW I had a great time and it was the best way to start a holiday.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot! This is only a small matter but YES, WE ARE NOW TALKING ABOUT HOLDING ANOTHER CONVENTION. God help us! The plan is to hold it a little further south than Dunfermline – Leeds, Cambridge or Hertford are, at the moment, three alternatives. When? I guess it will be about the same time as last year – late August – so don't go booking holidays that are likely to clash – YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED! Just because last year we promised an acoustic set and you all got a full electric set, don't take that for granted because this year we REALLY ARE planning an acoustic set only but I know it will still be a great, intimate event.

I want you all to get your thinking caps on and come up with some ideas for the 1992 Convention. Also, I would be grateful for any volunteer helpers:-preferably locally to the office in Ashwell in Hertfordshire or even geographically suitable to the venue, once chosen. This "help" could involve mailing out notices, tickets, manning the door, helping on the merchandise etc. etc. In fact, anything. One idea we have at the moment (because of the costings and timings of one of the venues) is to have a support act and what we thought may be a bit of fun would be if any of you have a small band (B.C. influenced) who would like to support B.C. at this coming event. If this idea develops, we may ask you to send us a demo tape. Anyway, keep me supplied with HOT NEWS envelopes to keep abreast of the latest.

Also, as with last year, we will need to know how many fans would be interested in a coach. Obviously, it is no good us laying on a coach or six if there are going to be lots of empty seats because then it becomes far too expensive for the few booked seats but, if the need is there, we are happy to have a coach from London, one from the West Country and one or two from Scotland, for example. I know the coach trip last year was very long and made a long day of it but everyone says it was worth it and the atmosphere on the coach with videos etc. was a great start to the day. In fact, if it had been possible, I know I would have enjoyed the atmosphere and excitement on the coach and it would have saved us blowing up the Ford's engine! Anyway, over to you but I will, of course, let you all know as and when things start to develop by this following method. Send in to me a stamped, self-addressed envelope, with CCC clearly marked in the top left hand corner and we will mail off all details as and when they are available. Once again, there will be a special deal for all members, who will naturally have first claim on the tickets if it is tight on numbers (i.e. even more intimate!)

Whilst the Band were still with Phonogram, there was talk and expectation of "Restless Natives" being released on CD and a four-track video but since the Band's release from them they are, obviously, under no obligation now to release anything and, if they do, it is likely that we won't actually know until it hits the shops!

I've received a few more copies of replies received by you from the BBC but most are still full of the same old lines as I printed in the last issue except the reply to Tahir Punnoo (Membership No 000431) from Mark Goodier:-

"Thank you very much for your letter. I understand your concern about the lack of play for Big Country. I can only speak for myself and not for the producers and D.J.s who programme the other shows here. I thought that "Republican Party Reptile" was a very good attempt by the band to change their style and direction and played the song several times on the Evening Session. It received a few other plays but obviously the judgement of the producers concerned was that it was not going to be a very big success. Sadly, they were proved right as it only managed a very poor chart showing."

We may all ask how a better chart showing can be achieved if the public do not hear the records. Anyway, Mark Goodier goes on:-

"There seems to be even more bad news for the band because I understand they've just been dropped by their record company. However, I have known Stuart and Bruce for many years and I am convinced they have a lot more music to make so we haven't heard the last of them."

A little misinformed but at least there's a bit of hope that Mark will give B.C. some air-time?!

Still on the subject of Radio 1. Following our "campaign" to pester them, **Douglas Johnson** (Membership No 001705) printed the following in We Save No Souls and, for those who do not subscribe to this fanzine, I repeat Douglas's copy:-

"Those of you who are members of Country Club will no doubt be aware of their "Save Big Country" campaign. They have asked all fans to bombard Radio One with letters, faxes, phone calls and petitions to complain about the station's apparent refusal to give any of the band's new material a fair hearing. Anyone at the last night of the (mainland) UK tour at Leicester may have been approached by one of several charming young ladies to sign a petition to be sent to Radio One. This is being organised by Julie Wooldridge (C.C. Membership No. 000093) from Walsall and what she and I would like you to do is to give her your support. She would like readers to organise their own "mini petitions" to be gathered into one large one which will be used at the first possible opportunity i.e. when the band next have a single out. Pester your friends, family, work colleagues etc... and get at least one page of signatures and addresses. Send these to Julie at:-

Get weaving, stop our band become a "non-league" outfit".

For those who would like to subscribe to We Save No Souls fanzine, then drop a line to ${\bf Douglas}$ ${\bf Johnson}$ at:-

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q When I went to see you at the T & C, and also at the U.E.A., I heard the song "Winter Sky" but can't seem to find it anywhere. Can you help? (From Shirley Edmunds (Membership No 003180).

Answer: "Winter Sky' was the "B" side of "Just A Shadow" released in January 1985.

Catalogue numbers - 7" BCO 8 and 12" BCO 812. I hope this helps you track it down.

O Could you, please, delve into the archives for me and try to let me know the set list played at Wembley on 12th December 1986? I realise this was ages ago but it was my first B.C. gig and it was this gig that really turned me on to B.C. and, as I did not know all of their songs then, I would love to know what they played. (From Richard Fitzgerald (Membershy No 001879)

Remembrance Day Walk The Hill Look Away Teacher One Great Thing Restless Natives

at Liverpool

Hold The Heart Honky Tonk Woman Wonderland Inwards Harvest Home Fields Of Fire In A Big Country

Chance Steeltown Just A Shadow Where The Rose Is Sown Rain Dance Lost Patrol

Porrohman

Q Stuart, do you plan on playing piano in any upcoming tracks, as you did on "The Crossing" album? (From Stan Lenkiewicz (Membership No 000414) Stuart: No, I don't think so, but you can never tell, as I still like to write on it occasionally.

Q Amanda Giddens (Membership No 001583) has a fiver resting on this question. When you played Knebworth in 1986, did you stay at the Crest Hotel? Stuart, Bruce and Tony: Yes, but we only had day rooms.

0 Is the M.P. William Adamson any relation to you, Stuart? From Gwenda Matthews (Membership No 003009) Stuart: No, not at all.

O On the B side of the 12" version of "Wonderland", there is a track called "Giant". The same track also appears on the C.D. boxed set of "Steeltown" but is called "All Fall Together". Which is correct, and why the title alteration? (From Stuart Adams (Membership No 003102) (Micmoership nov 003102)

Bruce: "Giant" was first recorded as an instrumental at Castle Sound in Scotland. It was used as the "B" side for "Wonderland". In Canada and America, "Wonderland" was classed as a mini album so we had to find some extra tracks. Stuart came up with the idea of writing lyrics and rearranging "Giant." The finished track was entitled "All Fall Together"

0 Paul Ryding (Membership No 003181) asks how Stuart feels about Istvan Kozma leaving Dunfermline Stuart: I think it was inevitable as he hasn't fitted in with either Iain Munro or Jocky Scott's style of play which is a real shame. He's definitely been one of my all time favourite players and I was depressed for about a fortinght after he left. I hope it goes well for him

Q How much "say" do the Band have as to which tracks are included on an album and which are released as singles etc., or is it mainly the decision of the record company?

From Neil Fey (Membership No 003202)

Stuart: The decisions on track listings and single releases are really taken in meetings between the record company and ourselves. We are all very involved in this.

0 David Nicholson (Membership No 003573) hopes he is not being too personal when asking the following: As we have just voted in a General Election, may I ask your views on denationalisation? Being proud Scots, do Stuart and Bruce agree with Scottish independence? Sturt: I think that all major services should be run by the state, i.e. gas, electricity, water, telephone, post, education, health service. I certainly don't think that privatisation leads to more efficiency, only over highest before the deads to more efficiency.

O What have you learned in the last ten years as a band? Stuart: To pursue your own goals; that music can change people's lives; that people's lives can change music; that you can travel the world and see nothing; that racism and bigotry are big change miss, that you can trivel the worth and see nothing, that reason and orgary are ong business; that no-one has the answers; that you can never under-estimate public taste; that money and sex spin the globe; that honesty is a dangerous quality; that Scotland has crap weather but plenty of it; that separatism and nationalism only build more walls; that hunger and homelessness is the real obscently; that there's nothing funny about peace, love and and nondelessness is the real obscenity; that there's nothing Junip about peace, tove and understanding; that the best football is played in Italy; that you your own rots; that everybody get the blues and no one will vote for the greens; that British Telecom is a medieval landlord; that guilars are sexy, that you have to make your own peace. (to be continued).

Bruce: Being a member of the band, obviously the songwriting and then the live performances are the most important things to me, but you have to take into consideration the other things, such as videos, image and the way that we are perceived in the press. the other things, such as viaeos, image and the way that we are perceived in the press. These things are equally important but because we are musicians first and foremost, these all tend to take a back seat. Ive also learned that every country has a different way of working, for instance in America you may have to tour for up to nine months at a time. visiting every radio station in town, whereas in Britain you can spend two weeks playing major cities, doing the occasional TV and have a find the second company but when the guy who signs you ups and leaves to go to reduced water the condition pair of the week and give which the given and and the week to go to you with new record company personnel, who may not necessarily like the band's music or understand how to go about promoting them. This can lead to animosity between both parties and, because the record company then think what they have is "dead wood", they try to change the band's direction drastically. This leaves the band feeling manipulated and all trust between the band and the record company goes out of the window! Management usually

get the blame! I also learned that one shouldn't go out drinking with the older boys in the band as it hurts worse than buggery!

Tony: Having been in a rock 'n' roll band that has been creating music for ten years is an achievement in itself in this day and age. I always thought that being in a band where all the members had sympathetic ideals and attitudes would take out all the bullshit that is normally associated with bands but, had it not been for the strength of character of the members and close supporters. I suppose Big Country would have disappeared years ago. Don't get me wrong, it has been difficult but, at this very moment in time, it all seems VERY worth it!

But what has the band learned in ten years? I think we have learned how to deal with success and failure and the music industry with the contempt that it deserves. We make the records, you fans buy them and everybody is happy, that's what is important.

Q What sticks in your mind most from the last ten years?

Stuart: "The Big Day" in Glasgow. The Grammy nominations, Knebworth with Queen, the first club tour in Britain

Bruce: Over the last ten years there have been many incidents that have stuck in my mind, most of them not fit for publication but also some funny and happy ones. For instance, the time Tony fell through the stage at the Dance Factory in Dundee - he had to play the last two numbers twenty-four inches below everyone else on stage! The time Stuart got electrocuted in Texas; appearing in the fined of Live Adi Steeltown going to Number One in the first week of release; being nominated and also playing at the Grammy Awards; having Windsor Davies plss on my shoe in the toilet at a Brighton hote! Seeing Robin Williams and the late, great Sam Kinison at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles; having a policeman point a gun in my face in New Orleans after a night out with Mark Brzeticki all went horribly wrong! I'm also told I in New Orleans after a night out with Mark Brzezleki all went horribly wrong! Im also told I had a great time in Japan, but I can't remember. Being involved with Chris Briggs second time around; working with Steve Lillywhite for six weeks recording "The Crossing" – never a dull moment. Tony nearly drowning when shooting, "In AB ig Country" video; RUSSLIV.

Tony: I'm not a great collector of memorabilia and I've never kept a diary but I'm always reminded of past achievements, disasters etc., either by nostalgic conversations with Stuard and Bruce or the occasional visit to lan Grant's house, which is a shrine to rock 'n' roll in

general.

Obviously, Brzezicki's departure will be remembered as a low point in the nostalgia stakes. Knebworth with Queen, Grammy nominations, Noo Year at Barrowlands, Big Day in Glasgow, "Sheds", "Polygram American (The Final Days)", Peter Wolf, oh no, I'm beginning to depress myself, Id better stop!

There are obviously other events that have given immense pleasure and a few very proud moments but I would prefer to assign those to my personal memory banks. (Ed - how selfish!)

O

How did your find working with Simon Phillips on "Ships" and "Kansas"? Stuart: It was as if he had been in the band for years. We didn't rehearse but got all the tracks first take and with no click track. He's the most gifted musician rve ever played with.

Bruce: Working with Simon Phillips was a fantastic experience as he knew what was required on each song. I particularly liked the way he came in, listened to the song once, made a few notes on the arrangements, so to behind his kit and literally thrashed each song out; "Kansas" being one take, "Ships" being second take (only because we ran out of tape). He institutively knew when to lay back and when to rock out. I think he helped to retain the excitement factor which can sometimes get lost when working for long periods of time in the recording studio. Ive only got two words to say to Mark Brzezicki Simon Phillips!

Tony: I was introduced to Simon Phillips over ten years ago when I had the pleasure of working with him on the Pete Townshend solo albums, so you can imagine how thrilled I was when I learned that he was finally going to work with us. (Simon was originally ear-marked to play on "No Place Like Home" but a last ditched attempt to re-recruit Brzezicki stopped that). If there are any of you out there who are not familiar with his work. I would advise you to find a copy of the "Who Lives at Universal Studios LA", Simon is absolutely magic! As for his performance with us, well, all I can say is I hope that he is available to work on the new album. It's great when a stranger can sit behind a kit and play like he's been with the band for years. (Ed - do you get the feeling Tony likes him?)

P.S. Although Simon has created a new excitement, I still spare a thought for Chris Bell who did a great job on the last tour. So, by no means is Chris history.

BIG COUNTRY REUNITED PRESS RELEASE

Big Country have been signed up by the newly formed COMPULSION RECORDS after a massive transfer deal. The Band were formerly with Phonogram Records, to whom they were originally signed by Chris Briggs - now head of Compulsion Records, a Chrysalis label.

This is the final piece in the Jigsaw in re-assembling the original championship squad that scored so heavily in the Eighties with a string of single hits like "In A Big Country", "Chance", "Fields Of Fire", "King Of Emotion" and massive albums like "The Crossing", "The Seer" and "The Greatest Hits". Big Country actually scored seventeen chart hits during this period, making for an incredible strike rate. Compulsion Records is run by former Phonogram A & R supremo, Chris Briggs, the man that signed the band ten years ago this May. Briggs recalls "I went to see the band on the last tour and I thought that they were better now than then. We had an incredible run of success, I feel the time is right for the band to return."

Manager Ian Grant has looked after Big Country, leading them to numerous cup successes in the glory years and then helping them maintain their position in the premier league. He said of the deal "I took Chris to see the band at one of last year's T&C shows prior to the band becoming available. He commented, 'Phonogram don't know what they've got on their hands'. When the band departed from Phonogram, he stood by his comments and signed them. The band are more than pleased to be back with Chris."

Long term booking agent and promoter, John Giddings, will help ensure tht the immensely popular live band are booked in the right venues, home and away. It's not surprising that Big Country eagerly await the onset of the new season. Except to see them challenging for honours.

The full line up is as follows, with the first eleven now reunited, being that of 1982 when Big Country exploded onto the scene:

Stuart Adamson - vocals Bruce Watson - guitar Tony Butler - bass Ian Grant - Manager Chris Briggs - Record company John Giddings - Agent Solo - Promoter Poole/Edwards - Publicity Producer - To be announced after transfer deal Legal - Gentle Jayes Publishing - Virgin Music

Before you all swamp me with questions for Simon Phillips, here's a brief biography-

SIMON PHILLIPS

Place of birth - London, England Height - - 5' 7' Date of birth - 6th February 1957 Drums - Tama

Cymbals--Avedin Zildjian Sticks-Pro-Mark Heads-Remo

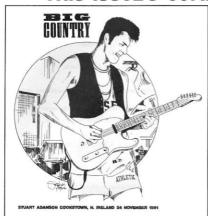
PROFESSIONAL HISTORY: After hearing a chap named Dave Rogers playing drums with his father's, Sid Phillipsi, Dixideland Band, Simon was inspired to attack assorted pots and pans, trash can lids and anything vaguely percussive with pieces of fire kindling at the age of three. He drove his folks crazy for nine years until allowed to join dad's band with whom he toured and recorded until the age of sixteen. Simon was reading his first tax demand whilst his clasmates were reading their school reports. and thus inspired, in a fit of enthusiasm, he embarked upon the penilous career of a professional musician.

ACHIEVEMENTS: On his travels to date, he has had the good fortune to encounter, tour and record with many bands and artists of whom some are: The Who, Mick Jagger, Tears For Fears, Roxy, Music, Judas Priest, Heaven 17, 801, Jeff Beck, Jack Bruce, Michael Schenker, Nik Kershaw, Phd. Al DiMeoln Human League, Pete Townshend, 10CC, Russ Balland, Robert Palmer, Stanley Clarke, The Pretenders, John Anderson, Whitesnake, Toyah..... to name but a few. He has also co-produced and engineered three albums with Mike Oldfield, Crises, Discovery and Islands and has produced various European artists.

HOBBIES: A motor racing enthusiast, he has made a dynamic contribution to the sport... preferring to drive Formula Ford on its rollover bar rather than its wheels!

PROTOCOL: Is a debut solo venture which is an instrumental album of music featuring Simon's talents as a writer, producer and performer. Simon plays all the instruments featured on this album.

THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITION



A little different this time but I did think it would make a change and also give our overseas members a more than normal chance as I know that WE would have difficulty with wordy competitions in language. Normally the overseas members do extremely well with the competition entries and I do congratulate them.

So, have fun!

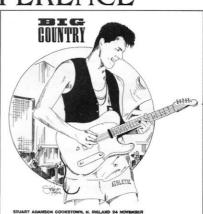
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Stephen Ashe (Membership No 003312) has put his drawing skills to use and drawn Stuart from photos of when the Band visited Ireland on the last tour.

There are TWELVE differences and the first correct entry drawn from the mail sack will win a little something.

Entries in no later than 14th August 1992, please. Next magazine due out in September.

Stephen will, of course, be receiving a package through the post shortly. Well done, Stephen



NOTHING TOO DIFFICULT BUT A FEW POSERS FOR FUN ONLY

From Scott Dickson (Membership No 003375)

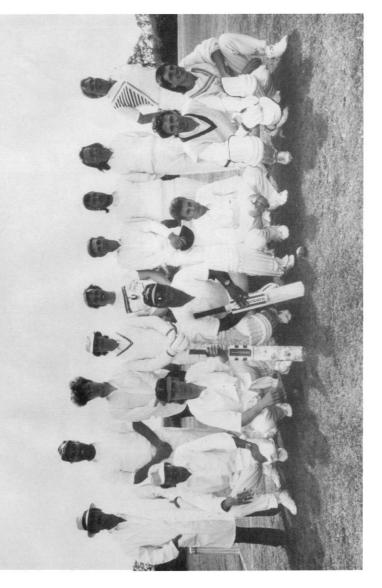
- What B.C. song was featured on the soundtrack "Against All Odds"?
- 2 Name three bands who supported B.C. at the Olasgow Hogmanay gig at Barrowlands.
- 3 "The Crossing" LP was released in four colours, name them.
- While Big Country were co-headling with Bryan Adams in East Berlin in 1986, who was playing on the other side of the wall to a smaller audience?
- 5 Who supported B.C. on all their Scottish dates in 1984 except the Playhouse gig in Edinburgh?
- 6 Who did Richard Jobson (with Armoury Show) support at the Barrowlands in January 1985?
- 7 Simple Minds supported Skids in 1981. True or false?
- 8 Richard Jobson released an album of spoken verse and poetry. What was it called and on what record label?
- 9 What was Richard Jobson's other solo album called?
- 10 Stuart played guitar on the last Skids album "Joy".
 - a) What track did he play on?
 - b) What two other famous Scottish musicians played on the album and what band are they in?
 - c) Who produced the album?

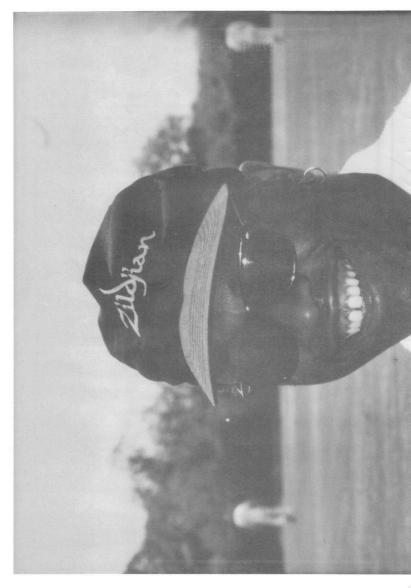
From Graham Barnes (Membership No 003426)

- In which country were the videos filmed for "Peace In Our Time"?
- 2 On the "River Of Hope" video, what does Mark call his drum kit?
- 3 Which album are these tracks from: "All Fall Together", "Heart And Soul" and "The Crossing"?
- 4 What year did the band do their gig at Barrowlands, Glasgow New Year's Eve?
- 5 "The Seer" tour video was filmed where in New York?
- 6 What does Stuart always tell the fans at the end of a gig?
- 7 What broke upon us with fury and flame?
- 8 What football team does Stuart support?
- 9 When was "Just A Shadow" released?

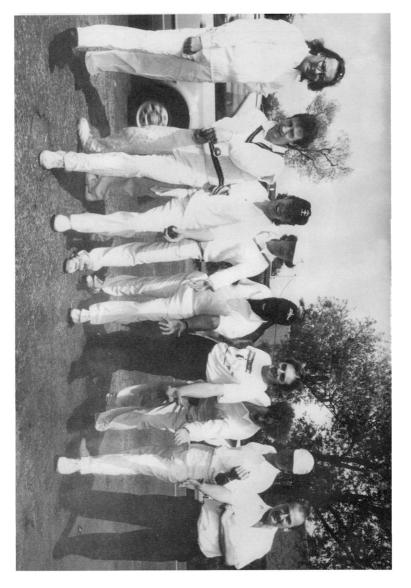
From lan Forster (Membership No 001547)

- What was Big Country's biggest hit single?
- 2 What number did it reach?
- 3 Who is Big Country's manager?
- 4 Who is Mark Brzezicki playing drums for now? (September 1991 as I have had these questions on file for a while now.)
- 5 Who opened for Big Country on the Under Wraps Tour 1987?
- 6 What song opened "The Crossing" Tour?
- 7 What song opened the "Through A Big Country" Tour?
- 8 Give the first (character) names of the "clown" and the "wolf man" in the film "Restless Natives"
- 9 What is the song "L000 Yard Stare" about?
- 10 Who else played Knebworth 1986 besides Big Country?









YOUR GENERAL LETTERS:-

From Oliver Hunter (Membership No 000295)

"I read with interest Dominie Williams' articles on record collecting. It has been a long time since there was last such an article in the magazine. I agree with him about the rarity of the "Look Away" 12" (Outlaw Mix) (BIGCXII), which was why I was particularly pleased to find a still-sealed copy for sale in the "Record Collector" for £10.00. I have never even seen the cassette BIGCMS on the "One Great Thing" (Big Bad Country Mix) though I keep scanning my trusty "Record Collector".

From Leigh Dalgleish (Membership No 003397) Looking for a travel companion for the next tour:-

"... I just cannot stop listening to them. I've not played any other group on my stere or in my car for a record two weeks. I luv 'em so much. That's why I'm sitting in at nights - I'm saving up and I'm going to save up until the next British tour comes up and I'm going to save up until the next British tour comes up and I'm going to save up until the next British tour comes up and I'm going to save up until the next I breatly would be the most unbelievable experience, I cannot stop thinking about travelling from venue to venue, staying in different places, meeting loads of Big Country fans and hopefully the Band. Unbelievable. I've never met them. Well, at the Convention, I left after the sig, unawars, and at Tower Records, Giasgow the bouncers pushed us on after one signature, unreal for a person that was in the record shop waiting for two bud such as a signature of the control of the contro

Leigh Dalgleish,

, Scotland.

Scotiani

From Irene Masterson (Membership No 003605)

Irene writes, "For all Irish fans looking for B.C. gear, go to Dublin City Centre. All the second-hand record shops have lots of stuff, very cheap. I got fourteen 7" and four 12" for less than £30.00"

From Graham Marshall (Membership No 003588)

"I have every single limited edition and album the Skisk ever recorded and, as a bit of news for other fans, the "Days In Europe" album you showed in the last magazine is, in fact, called "DANS IN EUROPA", Scorry, for the mistypel and the Japanese import can be bought in Tower Records for £12,99. Also now available is the "Skisk Live" recorded for BRC (Cat No. WIN CD 008) available at all record shows for £7,99.

I have noticed (only being a recent member) that there are many people still interested in the Skids and as a direct result of that I have done a small article on the history of the Skids records that you may or may not wish to print."

To all overseas members who wish to receive HOT NEWS: I realise that you can't send a STAMPED self-addressed envelope but, if you send International Reply Coupons, these will do nicely, thankyou.

Whilst on the subject, I also need to point out that FRANKED self-addressed envelopes ARE NO GOOD. Franked mail needs to be posted locally and on the same date as that franked. Stamps of I.R.C. only, please.

From Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299)

"For Skids fans. There have been two new releases on CD. The first being a live concert recorded in Paris 1979, Available on the WINDSONG label (WIN CD 008). The CD was awarded 4/5 in "SELECIT March issue. The other release is a CD single called "Skids Versus The Ruts", Tracks on this include "Into The Valley! "Working For the Yankee Dollar". Ruts tracks are "Balylon's Burning, and, if the reason was the Company of the Ruts of the Ruts of the Skids of the Skids Sk

From Jain Maccorquodale (Membership No 003384)

From an macking. I associate the would be possible to compile a list (catalogue of all members' live audio tapes and/or video concerts. I, myself, have around thirty-five live concerts on audio and about twenty on video and I know there are many many others circulating. So, if a register was set up, we could sway with each other, I have done lots of swapping with others and I don't think any of us have any qualins about sharing with fellow fans."

Sounds good, eh? So, I wrote to Iain asking whether he would be prepared to compile such a register for us. He wrote back on 10th March, saying:-

So, Iain, I hope that you start getting mail from other fans, listing their collection, so that you can compile this for us. We look forward to hearing from you as to how it develors.

lain Maccorquodale.

. Scotland.

From Gwenda Matthews (Membership No 003009) and Liam Shand (Membership No 000249)

Don't worry, this is not the start of another list of "thanks for the Convention type letters", but:-

"... thank you for making the 31st August 1991 the best day of our lives. The Convention was extra special for side to the fact that we first met there. Not only did Big Country bring us together, they will remain with us the rest of our lives. Liam and I got engaged on Valentine's Day and are getting married in May 1993."

Congratulations to Gwenda and Liam and we wish you all the happiness in the world for your future together.



BIG COUNTRY RECORDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

by Dominic Williams (Membership No 000325)

Before getting on to the more interesting items, it would be fair to say that most of the Big Country records released in this country were released overseas in practically the same form, though some were not released at all. I am certain that my article will not include every single import - please let me know of any ones that I have omitted.

The most interesting version of "The Crossing" was released in Australia with a free 12" single featuring "Fields of Fire? /" in A Big Country," both 12 mixes. The LP serial number is BIGA1, the free 12 single BETA1. Instead of the lyric inner bag, there is a lyric sheet. In Greece, "The Crossing" was released in a red sleeve with gold lettering on Polygram, serial number 812870-1. An interesting and, probably unique, coupling of tracks came from Germany where "Fields of Fire" and "In A Big Country" were released as a double A-sided 7. 812867-7 with the front of the two UK single sleeves joined together for the sleeve. The Japanese 7 of "Fields" came in a plain sleeve but with a picture insert, JPP-125. The picture on the sleeve is of a table containing, among others, a photo of B.C. and a bottle of whiskey. The Japanese 7 of "In A Big Country" came with a lyric picture insert as well.

"Fields Of Fire" was the title of a Japanese only 12" single/mini lp. It was released in a Crossing-type red sleeve with lyries to the five tracks printed on the back. The track listing is:- "In A Big Country" 12" / "Chance" 12 / "Fields Of Fire" 12" / "The Crossing" / "The Tracks Of My Tears." The serial number for this item is 15PP-35.

"Wonderland" was released as a mini lp in several countries, although not in the U.K. The Netherlands version, serial 82236-1 contained "Wonderland" 12 / "All Fall Together" (Glantzemis). "Angle Park" 'Heart And Soul' / "Lost Patrol" (live), the sleeve being printed in different colours to the Netherlands version. The Canadian version offered different tracks again: "Wonderland" / "Angle Park" / "All Fall Together" 'Chance" 12 / "Heart And Soul" / "The Crossing", serial number VEP 325. The Canadian version is also available on cassette VEP 4325. "Wonderland" was also released as a normal 12 and had the same tracks as the U.K. version, serial 818006-6. The USA 7 has a serial number of 818834-7 and is coupled with "Lost Patrol" (live).

The most interesting item from the Steeltown era must be the 12" of "Where The Rose Is Sown", serial SOVPX2348 from Canada. The single contains only two tracks: "Where The Rose Is Sown" 7" version and "Prairie Rose". "Prairie Rose". "Prairie Rose". "Prairie Rose". "Or ourse, accompanied "East Of Eden" in the U.K., "Rose" 7. "Belief in The Small Man" and "Bass Dance" on the "B" side of "Rose". The label of the Canadian 12" has a large picture label featuring a picture of the band, the sleeve is cut out on the front to display this picture, Also, unlike the U.K. version, the sleeve has the lyrics on the back. The Dutch 12" of "Rose" has similar tracks and sleeve, serial number 880433-1.

Two interesting singles from "The Seer" were released in The Netherlands. "Look Away" 12", instead of having the 12 version and "The Restless Natives" soundtrack, featured "Look Away" 12 mix on side 1, with side 2 featuring the track "Restless Natives" and the 7' version of "Look Away". There is a nerican "Look Away" 12 which is practically idential to the U.K. version, serial 884645-1. Also from The Netherlands is a "Teacher" 12" with two versions of "The Teacher" and "Home Came The Angels", and a yellow sleeved "One Great Thing" (Big Baad Country Mix).

"Broken Heart" produced three interesting versions in Canada. A four track released on 12" 872223-1, cassette 872223-4 and CD 872223-2. The 12" came in an embossed red gatefold sleeve, individually numbered. The cassette came with a leaflet advertising the Live in Russia video through mail order. It also leatures the lyrics to "Broken Heart." An American "of "King Of Emotion" exists, 2773-7. There is also a 12". A release, unique only to The Netherlands, was "River Of Hope" "In A Big Country" (live in Russia), 874616-7. As far as I know, this was only available on 7". It comes in a black picture sleeve with red and white lettering.

The only interesting import I've seen from "No Place Like Home" is a CD single of "Republican Party Reptile" that I bought in The Netherlands. Unlike the U.K. version, it is a normal CD, not a picture CD. The tracks are the same, but the inlay card has the reptile picture on the front, serial number BICD1 (UK number), but the international serial number is different: 868831-2.

Anyone needing to complete their collections can write to me with a stamped addressed envelope to:-

10 Harper Grove, Sutton-In-Craven, N. Yorks, BD20 7JN, U.K.

I have been informed that the 12" poster sleeve of "East of Eden" is actually the normal 12" with the 7" poster inside, but with a sticker on the cover.

Once again, thank you very much Dominic for your contribution.

MORE RECORD COLLECTING

by Graham Marshall (Membership No 003588)

THE SKIDS: A BRIEF RECORDING HISTORY

Being a fairly new member to the club, I have seen in the last two issues that there are still a number of people still interested in Stuart's previous band. The Skids.

Formed in 1976 in Dunfermline around Stuart and William Simpson, they were later to be joined by Richard Jobson and Tom Kellichan and then by Russell Webb and Mike Baillie

The Skids enjoyed a brief recording history from 1978 to 1981 although, suffice it to say that, without them BIG COUNTRY probably wouldn't be here.

As far as LPs are concerned, Scared To Dance was released in March 1979. It reached Number 19 in the album chart and can, nowadays, also be found on CD with extra tracks. In October 1979 came the release of Days in Europa. Originally released in a yellow cover featuring an Olympian and Ayrian style writing. The album received bad publicity for the cover and was re-packaged and re-released in a black sleeve. The album was remixed and also included a different version of "Masquerade". Reaching No 32 in the charts then, it can now be found on Japanese Virgin CD.

In September 1980 the Skids released what many regard as their finest album, The Absolute Game. This reached No 9 in the charts and included a free album recorded twenty-four hours before the release. The free album Strength Through Joy was a very different cut from the Game and included many of the guitar effects that Stuart used on The Crossing LP.

Early in 1981 Stuart left the Skids but Richard Jobson and then bassist Russell Webb went on to release one more album. Joy was an album full of Scottish history and culture but empty of Stuart. It collapsed and with that the Skids were no more.

In 1982 Virgin released a compilation album Fanfare and 1989 released a CD only compilation Dunfermline, also now available is a CD only live album recorded by the BBC in 1979.

On the singles front the first was the Charles EP released in 1978 on No Bad Records from Dunfermline, it included Reasons and Test Tube Babies. Available on 7" only. (Never charted)

First for Virgin was Sweet Suburbia / Open Sound - this was released on 7" and 12" white vinyl (No. 70 in the charts). Next was The Saints Are Coming / Of One Skin / Night And Day / Contusion or, better known as Wide Open EP. This can be found on 7" and 12" red vinyl (No 48)

Into The Valley / TV Stars was next and can be found on 7" and 12" white viry! (No 10). Into The Valley was a taster for the Scared To Dance album.

The next single, Masquerade, could be found on two formats

- - Masquerade / Out Of Town / Another Emotion / Aftermath dub a club version of Masquerade (double pack) (No. 14)

Charade / Grey Parade, preceded the original release of Days In Europa and was on 7" only (No 31). The next single, Working For The Yankee Dollar was released prior to the repackaged Days In Europa and was also in two formats:-

- Yankee Dollar / Vanguards Crusade Yankee Dollar / Vanguards Crusade / All The Young Dudes / Hymns From A Haunted Ballroom (No. 20)
- The last single from the Days In Europa album was Animation / Pros And Cons. 7" only reaching No 56.

In August 1980 the band released the first single from their album The Absolute Game - Circus Games / One Decree issued on 7" and 7" poster sleeve (Na 32).

Next from this album was Goodbye Civilian / Monkey McGuire Meets Specky Potter Outside The Lochore Institute. This time the special edition was a picture disc (No 52).

The third and last single from the album was also the last to feature Stuart as a full time member. Woman in Winter / Yankee Dollar (live) came also with a limited edition comic book (No 49).

The next two singles Fields / Brave Man 7" and 12" and Iona / Blood And Soil 7" and 12" preceded the album Joy in 1981, Neither charted although Iona did feature Stuart on guitar,

The only other Skids single available was a 12" only, released featuring Into The Valley / Masquerade / Yankee Dollar and Scared To Dance. Released in 1982 - it never charted.

There was also a flexi disk free with Smash Hits featuring the Olympian and Fhave also heard of a different version of Animation although I have never seen it

Available on video is a six track collection from Virgin which are:- Into The Valley / Charade / Yankee Dollar / Circus Games / Goodbye Civilian / Iona.

The Skids were great but, without Stuart's distinctive guitar sound, they were lost. Their sound and live work lifted mine and many other hearts in the same way Big Country do today. If you have not tasted some of their great music, then the CD Dunfermline should set you on the right track.

By the way, I'm sorry it is so long but, once I started writing, I couldn't stop."

CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 4TH MAY 1992 by TONY BUTLER

I arrived at the cricket venue "The Jolly Farmers" (mine weren't so jolly, either) full of images such as square cutting the ball off the back foot for four, playing a defensive block in Boycott fashion to the fast bowlers, striking the ball off the middle of the bat for six from the spin bowlers and losing court of my wicket taking tally after three overs, the toast of the bar after a famous victory..... then I woke up!

Bowled out for a duck after three balls, hit for ten runs in one over. I'm glad this was a charity day 'cos I don't think anybody noticed how dreadful I was!

lan Grant painstakingly, along with his family, organised the Entertainment XI, against the "Jolly Farmers" pub (his local watering hole), with proceeds going to various local charities. It was a sunny day with most of the invited celebs turning out - The McGann brothers - Mark and Paul, Stephen Frost (one half of the Dangerous Brothers - Carling Black label ads), Hugh Cornwell (ex Stranglers), Phil Daniels (Actor), Wesley McGooghan (sax player for Billy Ocean) and Andy West (co-collaborator with Hugh Cornwell on CCW album), Apologies were sent from Pat Cash, who's manager had dissuaded him from playing in case he hurt himself; Eddy Grant, whose promotion trip had been postponed, so he was still in Barbados; Stuart - the match was not confirmed as definitely happening, due to a waterlogged pitch, until Monday morning, so it was too late for him to travel down from Scotland - he was riding his motorbike down.

With some ingenious umpiring from Keith Altham (top music biz publicist), the Entertainment XI won by two runs. Our erstwhile Captain and organiser, Ian Grant, who was wearing a victorious smile that is most probably still etched on his face today, along with his son, James, gave the team a massive boost with their respective balting and bowling contributions.

Many thanks to all the B.C. fans who turned up. Your attendance bolstered the charity coffers to over £1,000, with the money being divided between Guide Dogs For The Blind and the local animal rescue centre. The Last Chance.

I must mention the unusual match commentary by Andrew Bremner maybe not!

As for my performance, where are my golf clubs?

CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

THE JOLLY FARMERS V AN ENTERTAINMENT ELEVEN

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY MAY 4TH 1992

COMMENCES 1 PM

Featuring:

STUART ADAMSON TONY BUTLER PAT CASH HUGH CORNWELL EDDY GRANT STEVE SEVERIN PHIL DANIELS MGGANN BROS

KETH ALTRAM (KA Public by) Daye Bylandram (Biete Adems' Menoger) AND MANY MORE TOP MANES TO BE ADDES

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE "LAST CHANCE" ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE, EDENBRIDGE AND "GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND".

THE JOLLY FARMERS, WHITEWOOD LANE, HORNE, SOUTH GODSTONE, SURREY

For more information, about contact.

The more information of the section of the

PEN Just write in to me giving your name, address, membership number and brief details of yourself and your hobbies and I Year or own 12/2 Bauhaus, New Model Army, which is the state of the st will add your details to the list in the next Thomas Baeck (Membership No 003173) Interests Thomas ally form scotland of the world but especially form scotland. Lippie would like it know whether sire a printing the control of t Douglas Wickenden (Membership No 003460) Julie Holloway (Membership 10 003210) Julie would like in tening to Simple Marys, Uze.
She also likes and Erasure.
Depoche Mode and Erasure. Musical to the really warled Hobbies are confined and TRY MCC to play the quitar. Christina Ceccont (Membership W. Cerman) Tracy Wright Membership No 003567) Hobbes Includes the cludes Narm descentive.

Hobbes Includes the cludes Narm descentive.

Hobbes and Grees Tiger, amongs others. west or waste a zero room to C. are U.Z. the Sand Musical uses of near include - chema, football Musical uses in the strong town. We waste rights around town. Sarah Brown (Membership No 003535) Les Schriber (Membership No 003240) U.S.A. Les World like to hear from other (ans hung in the world like to hear from other to the course the world like to hear from other the course the world like to hear from the there were the world like to the world like Hobbies include camping most kinds of music. Hobbies include campi Eva Pollard (Membership No 003606) Karen Russell (Membership No 003016) U.K. Eva to especially interested in writing to other American lans. , were where the training of training of the training of training of the training of train Lynne Foden Membership No 001810) U.K.

COMPETITION WINNERS

LAST ISSUE'S COMPETITION

The first correct entry pulled from the mail sack was from Ralf Kirschnick from Germany (Membership No 001828).

Well done, Ralf, and I will get a little something in the post to you shortly.

(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

D CROSSWORD ANSWERS					
Г	(as set in Issue 23 by Richard Cole (Membership No 001965))				
E	ACROSS		DOWN		
_	1	Who told of famous sons who write their name in	1	"In I will lav my life down"	
		peace? THE SEER	3	"In, I will lay my life down" THIS PLACE Peace In Our Time, self-produced tapes?	
	3	What would you be if the wave set you free?	-2	REL	
_	5 &	THE SAILOR	4	Tony Butler junior? ALEXANDER	
T	33 D	(5a) and (33d) like saints we never	5	"There I stand with all my kin"	
		were! STARRED and CROSSED	6	STEELTOWN "The beating heart will never"	
1	7	From "No Place Like Home" a rather explosive	6	DIE	
_		woman, initially speaking	8	Big Country's sex, gender-wide?	
1	9	DL What the Country Club are offering for winning	10	MEN " are right, who started this?"	
T		this competition.		WE	
_	10	PRIZE "We're at, all the papers say"	11	See 29 Down "Nobody smiled as we took back our	
П		WAR		OWN	
П	12	"From here eternity"	17	The fourth album - a prophecy? PEACE IN OUR TIME	
	14	I choose this place to call my own	18	One of Stuart's former bands, fortunately not	
	15	EILEDON Produced "Peace In Our Time"		permanent.	
		PETER WOLF	19	Big Country cried out to this Motown Great	
	16	Is there anywhere like home? NO PLACE	20	SMOKEY ROBINSON	
TAT	17	Post Mark drummer	20	"When a card is so high and so wild" WE SHOULD BURN IT	
	19	PAT "Just as you, you shall reap"	21	What was "in his eyes" on a Steeltown classic?	
T 4	19	SOW	22	FLAME OF THE WEST The town which Bruce was born in and "O" what	
	23	"Look Away" is Big Country's biggest so far!		a state?	
	25	HIT Tony and Mark's former band, initially	23	TIMMINS ONTARIO B. C. 's "stoned" cover version	
\mathbf{D}		speaking.		HONKY TONK WOMAN	
	27	OTA Mr Grant, of The Management	24	Bruce's schoolday band, minus Kylie Minogue? THE DELINQUENTS	
		IAN	26	" holds no shame, I will be coming	
A	32	Initially, the leader of the band?		home again" THE HOUSE ON FIRE	
	35	The video, Barrowlands - New Year's	27	Author of Bruce's fave book "A Day In The Life	
	36	EVE " Waving, But Drowning"		Of A Petrol Attendant" IVAN MOSKOVITCH	
0		NOT	28	One of the many "Restless"	
(T	37	Number of small Adamsons? TWO	29 &	NATIVE	
9		140	11	"Save us all from love and hope, give us	
				(29) give us (11) IRON / ROPE	
H			30	Colour of Bruce's eyes?	
				BLUE	
			31	Some kind of Party Reptile REPUBLICAN	
			33	See 5 Across	
			34	Last single released from "The Crossing" CHANCE	

CHRIS BRIGGS

I could not be happier. Big Country are in better shape as a Band than I have ever known them to be.

When we are ready to go into the studio to record the next album, the Band will probably release a single,

B.C. How do you feel about your reinvolvement.

expect their first single, under your label, to be released?

of Stuart's. I signed them shortly after Tony and Mark joined.

How and when did you first become involved with Big Country?

0

Everyone concerned, let alone Big Country fans, is very pleased and optimistic about your reinvolvement with

I realise this may be a little difficult for you to answer but we have all been very disappointed with the recent chart success of and air-time given to Big Country releases. Have you got a plan of attack to try to remedy this?

Everything stems from the record. If we produce great work, success will naturally follow. This label is totally committed.

As we know, the Band have re-recorded "Kansas", "Ships" and "Rockin' In The Free World". When do you

lan Grant took me up to Dunfermline to see Big Country Mark I rehearse a few weeks after I had shown interest in a demo tape

What is your exact role in looking after Big Country? I'm involved in everything a record company should do to support a major band. I am an 'A 'n' R' man by trade so my main interest is on the recording side.				
Which show(s) stand out in your mind that you have seen by the band? Supporting U2 at The Hammersmith Palais and headlining at Wembley. I can't remember dates.				
Why do you think Big Country have not achieved the status we all believe they deserve? Not a simple question to answer. A lot of different reasons but lack of interest from their previous label must be a factor.				
What is your opinion of Big Country as: Songwriters, players, and live performers? ALL TOTALLY FANTASTIC!!!				
Without giving too much away (I know you won't, anyway) but how is the new material shaping up for the new album? Can we expect a similar style to any of the previous albums or will it take us by surprise as did "No Place Like Home"? I think it will be their best album since "The Crossing".				
What has been your background in the music business? I started working as a freedance journalist 1972-75 (2bg 2ag - Sounds) and press officer. I moved into A 'n' R in 1977/78 at Chrysalis followed by spells at EMI, Phonogram and A & M, then back at Chrysalis with my own label "COMPULSION".				
How do you find working with B.C. again? The first week back in the studio was bliss!				
How have the band changed since you were last involved with them? Everyone involved seems even more committed (if that's possible), even more determined and they wear much better trousers.				
What specific qualities do you think Big Country possess? Talent and lenacity.				
What do you think of the state of the U.K. music industry? If you were in a position to change anything, what would that be? Scrap singles charts. More FM radio competing directly with naff pop stations. Compulsory musical knowledge exam for all record industry executives.				
I receive loads of letters from fans in North America asking if "No Place Like Home" is likely to be released or do they, now, have to wait for the new album? What is the situation, please? As far as I know, the only way of getting "No Place Like Home" in America is on import. Warners have no plans to release it at this time.				

ROTICE BOARD

John Dobosz (Membership No 002336)

. W. Australia

I printed John's ad in the last issue BUT I mistyped his address, sorry John. Therefore I feel it only fair to repeat it, with additions, in this issue:-

WANTED:- "Peace In Our Time" 12", CD single and 12 "Broken Heart" CD which includes "Made

In Heaven" and "When A Drum Beats He is prepared to swap with anyone for some of the Skids records, Fanfair and Scared To Dance and is also willing to part with any of his 7" singles.

Graham Marshall (Membership No

Scotland

Graham would like help from anyone out there who has any video footage of the Skids apart from the Virgin video released last year

Peter Hornberg (Membership No

, Holland.

Peter has a copy of the Bonn concert as televised in Germany which he would like to swap for a copy of the T & C concert of the first week of October 1991. A bit of trivia, but it is Peter who undresses on the Bonn video when prompted to do so by Stuart!

Jenny Stevens (Membership No 003527)

. Australia.

Jenny has written to me asking that I send her all names and addresses of F.C members living in Australia so that she and a few friends can organise a Convention of their own as, obviously Australia is a little too far for them to come over here for our Conventions. BUT I'm a little reluctant to send names and addresses of people who may not like me to circulate their details so if any fan living down under would like to participate in a "get together", then just drop Jenny a line. Sounds like it could be fun. I doubt that the Band will be able to make it but at least it would be a great opportunity to meet others with the same love of Big Country and swap memorabilia etc.

Let me know how it goes and send photos

Neil Hodson (Membership No 003258)

U.K.

WANTED: - Any printed sheet music or guitar tabulation of any B.C. songs. He will pay or swap other B.C. items. Gary Kennerley (Membership No

U.K.

Gary would like a copy of the T & C gig as televised on 20th January.

Tim Jones Sarah Brown (Membership No 003535)

.U.K.

Sarah is after a copy of the "The Seer" video as it has now been deleted. Has anyone got a spare they would be willing to sell on to Sarah?

Kevin Wright (Membership No 003299)

U.K.

WANTED:- Skids memorabilia - photos, osters, programmes, tapes etc. and B.C. hotos live tanes etc.

ON OFFER:- 12" records and B sides except "When A Drum Beats", "Made In Heaven", "Flag Of Nations".

FOR SWAP:- "Wonderland" 12", "Heart Of The World" 7", "Fields Of Fire" 7", "In A Big Country" 7", "All Of Us", He can also offer copies of Skids material.

Peter Kay (Membership No 003429)

Scotland.

WANTED:- A good copy of the Dingwall egend gig either 10th or 11th October 1991. He is willing to pay a good price.

ON OFFER:- 7" "Just A Shadow" / "The Teacher" / "Peace In Our Time" / "Heart ON OFFER:- / Just A Shadow / Teacher" / "Peace In Our Time" / ' Of The World" / "Beautiful People" 12" "Where The Rose Is Sown" /

David Downing (Membership No

.U.K.

WANTED:- Anyone got a spare "See Live In New York" video? This video is now deleted from the catalogue and David vould love to have a copy.

Irene Masterson (Membership No

WANTED:- A copy of Channel 4's "Play At Home" 1984 featuring, of course, B.C. Also A Certain Chemistry.

Wales Tim is not actually a member of Country Club but, nevertheless, he has:

FOR SALE:- Town & Country colour book (excellent condition) - £3.50, Debut LP Magazine with a sixteen track record including "Harvest Home" - £4.00. Please make cheques payable to Tim

Darren Halford (Membership No 003147)

, U.K.

Darren has bootlegs available:-Hammersmith Odeon gig 24th May 1990, T & C 6th October 1991. These are not of the highest quality but, he says, better than nothing. He also has available "Scared To Dance", "Days in Europa", "The Absolute Game" and the Baktabak inverview disc from 1986

In return he would like to get hold of:"Harvest Home" 12", "In A Big Country"
7", "East Of Eden", "One Great Thing" and "Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" 12 plus any pictures, interviews, tour programmes, anything and everything from over the years

Leigh Dalgleish (Membership No 003397)

Scotland

STILL WANTED: - Any "On The Air" material. Surely somebody has something? The single, in particular, he is looking for is "Another Plant".

WANTED:- "Wonderland" (Count 55), "In A Big Country* 12" red sleeve (COUNT 313) and "Harvest Home" 7" (Count 1).

ON OFFER:- Three original 12" - "Fields Of Fire alternative mix (Count 312), "Look Away" 12 / "Restless Natives" Pt 1 (BIGCX 1) and Pt 2 (BIGCX 2)

Liam Davey (Membership No 001593)

WANTED:- Black promo box sets of 12" and albums. Also can anyone help on a USA promo radio LP "King Biscuit" 1984 show? Does it exist? If indeed it does exist, what tracks are included and where was the show recorded?