

THE OFFICIAL
U R I A H H E E P
APPRECIATION SOCIETY



ISSUE 32

Hello again and welcome to Issue 32.

First thing , we must apologise for the late arrival of the magazine , a lot has happened since the last issue. The main thing being that we have updated our computer and the system that we use to publish the magazine . So, you may well notice that the look of the magazine has changed slightly and it will allow us to try a few different things in the future.

We have also been hanging on so as we can publish the dates for the American tour ! Well those of you who surf the net will have heard it first, that due to the delay in getting Sonic Origami released in America , the American tour has had to be postponed till the end of August , beginning of September . This has thrown further into confusion the upcoming dates for the band , all we can say is , let us have your stamped addressed envelopes and we will keep you in touch that way. Again you can always email us for up date gig information on uhas@compuserve.com or check the website www.uriah-heep.com . The band are very disappointed that the tour has had to be delayed at such a late stage and I know that some American fans have already purchased tickets , We believe these will be valid for the new dates later in the year , but it is wise to check with the venue ASAP.

Spitfire Records in the USA , who are a division of Eagle records will be releasing Spellbinder and Sea of Light at the same time as they release Sonic Origami. They hope this will gain maximum impact in America . Also "Across the Miles" will be released as a single at the same time , with it's AOR feel , the band hope to break into the charts once again and really take the USA by storm.

We have some sad news to report, which is the death of Darryl Sweet , the drummer and manager of Nazareth . As you'll have seen in previous magazines , Uriah Heep and Nazareth have toured extensively together over recent years and have become firm friends . This news came as a great shock to Heep and Mick will say a few words later on in this Issue.

We do have some exciting news too ! And that is the dates for **HEEPVENTION 2000**, which will take place in London over the weekend of May the 6th and 7th , 2000. I would advise you all to make a note in your diary's now as we have some very special things lined up . It is being arranged by Alan Davis and Graham Hulme , in conjunction with The Heepsters on the web , Stay on Top fanclub in Germany and ourselves , and of course we'll keep you posted with all the latest news as soon as we have it .

Gunhill

John Lawton and the new band will be working on some new tracks and recording a new CD , if all goes to plan , in June and July . They hope to have it ready for when they tour Germany later in the year. John also is planning to visit **Heepvention 99** which is being held in Myrtle Beach in the USA and there will be a Heep-jam with John doing a few songs for all those in attendance . It has also been said that John is hoping to do some recording with Ken Hensley in the not too far distant future again we'll keep you posted on any news as soon as we know about it .

Following are the Gunhill dates as they stand at the moment it is advisable to check prior to travelling as dates do have a habit of changing:-

June:

Fri. 25. The Anchor, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. England

Sat. 26. Snooks, Hemel Hempstead, Herts., England >>LUNCHTIME GIG <<

September:

Fri. 3. The Anchor, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead, England

Fri. 10. Down Town Blues Club, Hamburg, Germany

Sat. 11. Neu Helgoland, Berlin, Germany

Mon. 13. Thalia Gewoelbe, Halle, Germany

Fri. 17. Brauhaus Radigk, Finsterwalde, Germany

Sat. 18. Groeninger Bad, Magdeburg, Germany

October:

Sat. 16. Snooks, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. England >>LUNCHTIME GIG<<

Sun. 17. Prince of Wales, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England

November:

Sat. 6. Snooks, Hemel Hempstead, Herts., England >>LUNCHTIME GIG<<

Fri. 19. The Anchor, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead, England

Sun. 21. Prince of Wales, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England

For more information please email : gunlaw@mcmail.com or visit the website at <http://www.aha.ru/~uheep/lawton>

Once again we have managed to absorb the postage costs to keep the subscriptions down , so please could all those who receive reminder letters with this issue please return them as soon as possible as it is becoming increasingly difficult to send out the reminder notes to those that don't pay. Thank you in advance .

Our thanks once again go out to Mick, Bernie, Trev, Phil and Lee. John and Iris Lawton , Ken Hensley, Tina Hartley, Barry Winton and all who have helped with this Issue. Keep the Letters and reviews coming without your input this magazine wouldn't exist . And of course extra special congratulations to Manchester United on completing a unique treble . We knew you could do it !

Enjoy the mag,
Keep on Rockin

And we'll see you in about 3 months.

Alan & David

June 1999

Mick and Bernie talk exclusively about recent events.

Darrell Sweet

We will all miss Darrell tremendously....He was a wonderful man with the best sense of humour in the world along with the biggest heart...On our recent European tour we have dedicated the song Question to him most nights. All the band and crew have laminates made up of him dressed up as Mr Boogaloo which we wear with pride.. He came on stage dressed up like that (silver foil - silver top hat) on our Double Trouble tour through Germany last year and made us all laugh, something that came so very natural to him...We have lost a great drummer and a good friend... Mick.

Bernie tell us about the recent cancellation of the USA tour.

Well, I think it's a blessing in disguise , Spitfire were just not ready , Eagle records had messed up the European release of Sonic and are making sure that they don't do the same with the US release. This is the last big springboard for Sonic and we really want it to be 100% right. I always say do it right or not at all ! In fact I was the only one at Gatwick airport who wasn't angry when we heard .

What ? You were at Gatwick ?

Yep, sitting on the side of carousel No.1 ! We had just got back from St. Petersburg and were waiting for our luggage when the phone rang and we were told not to repack the cases . Everyone was real angry about it , but I said they wouldn't do that unless it was for the right reasons. I spoke with Donnie the other night for about 40 minutes talking about it , I know it has cost a lot of money cancelling the shows , but the reaction Donnie is getting from all the people that have heard Sonic is so positive , I mean , most don't even know we're still going and they hear Sonic and the reaction is WOW ! And we have to capitalise on that .

What are the plans now ?

Well , it's all up to Neil Warnock now. Heep are the masters at filling in at a moments notice at festivals and that's what we'll have to do . So come on people get ill , we need the work ! We can be ready to do a show with 24 hours notice and Neil at the moments is busy emailing and faxing all the people he knows telling them we're available. He's also looking at maybe tours of South America or South Africa , because it's the right time to tour those territories .

Did you have a good Birthday in St.Petersburg ?

Well I came back from St.Petersburg with a sore throat and I don't get them very often and I suffer with a bit of Asthma too , so the current high pollen count doesn't help ! But apart from that it was brilliant , we couldn't eat all the Buluga caviar they gave us !! And the Brandy glass Lee had was the largest I've ever seen !! Yeah , it was a good Birthday .

Members Letters & Concert Reviews

New Preying Mantis CD

A new Preying Mantis Double CD has been released in Japan. It is called "Demorabilia" it was released on March 17th to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal and the 20th Anniversary of Preying Mantis. The CD also features eight songs recorded by Bernie for the Clive Burr "Escape"

project.

Produced by Tino Troy.

Disc 1

1. One of these Days 2. Wasted Love 3. Fantasy 4. Woman of the Night 5. Prisoners 6. Born Evil 7. The Horn 8. Top of the Mountain 9. All over again 10. Romancer 11. Your Number 12. Give me a Reason.

Disc 2

1. Question of Time 2. I need your Lovin' 3. Battle Royal 4. I know it 5. Got to get it 6. Over and over 7. Never say no 8. Heat of the Moment 9. Whose life is it Anyway? 10. Enough is Enough 11. Raining in Kensington 12. Nightmares 13. Give me a Reason 14. The Story.

Hirotaaka Ishikawa – Japan.

Dear UHAS I was at Lillehammer on 25/2/99 and saw Uriah Heep in concert there. Around 400 people were there, it was a great concert with a very nice atmosphere and the band were in very good shape. They are very nice guys, I met them both before and after the concert. I also saw them at Finnsnes were again they had great fun. I told Mick about my Uriah Heep collection and that, at last, I had managed to get a copy of the Spice single. Do you know how many copies of the Spice single were released in 1968 ? Also , is it possible for the fan club to make a special release on CD, 7" or maybe even a booklet , for members only, to celebrate Uriah Heep's 30th Anniversary?

Best Wishes **Kjell Arne Hunstad. Norway.**

UHAS Reply:- The Spice single was released in very small numbers by United Artists and the only copies I have ever seen ,have all been Demo copies. Mick did say that surprise, surprise they have never received any royalties for it ! We would love to do a special release for the 30th anniversary, It's all down to the money.

Dear UHAS, I enjoyed reading Issue 30. I am not good at English and couldn't read or understand all of it. I didn't think there were so many Uriah Heep fans around the world. I love both the classic Heep and the present members. I would like to say a little to Scott Cokeley on Page 28. I have Keef Hartley's 72nd Brave. I am sure Gary Thain sang on that song. I was a little shocked to listen to his vocal the first time, In fact I didn't like it , but I am still his fan. You may think it strange, but in Japan, lots of girls loved him for a long time. I have a favour to ask of the UHAS members. Is there anyone who could let me know the words to

this song? I couldn't catch the words correctly. I will send a tape to anyone who can help me. I will close my letter with this fact, did you know that Gary played with Keef Hartley on stage at the legendary Woodstock Festival in 1969 ?

Motoko Noda 1-12-14-305 Sumiyoshi , Ikeda City , Osaka 563-0033, Japan.

Dear UHAS, I bought Sonic Origami on the first day of release and was very impressed Indeed. I am one of the older "Heepies", I first saw them in 1972, and I love the old stuff, but "Sea of Light" was a great album and they've done it again, and topped even that brilliant album with Sonic.

I've just brought "Equator" and although I had it on tape, I never really played it that much. However, since I brought the CD I have realised what a good album it is and now its getting plenty of play. With the release of "Equator" on CD (at last!) Is it not possible for someone to reissue David Byron's Baby faced Killer and the Rough Diamond album too on CD ? Also how about reissuing the Heep video's which have been deleted ? Especially "Easy Livin- the History of" and "Live Legends".

I love the frequently asked questions section, even at my age. I am finding out new things about one of the Worlds greatest rock bands.

Gary Smith Leicester.

UHAS Replies:-We had no idea how popular the FAQ section would be , we've asked Pete to start work on a "not quite so frequently asked questions" section !!I doubt now if the video's will be re-released at least not on video tape format , maybe something will happen in the future with maybe DVD or another new format . Baby Faced Killer has been issued out in Germany ,but is now deleted and Rough Diamond remains one of the few albums still not to have been issued in CD format. Both "On the Rocks" and "Take no Prisoners" are still available from Repertoire Records in Germany . www.repertoire-records.com

Dear UHAS, Thought I'd write and say what an excellent gig it was at the Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton in March. Nearly didn't get there as I was dying of flu, but I wouldn't miss it for anything that trivial! We stayed at the bar while the support were on, they were loud enough from that distance. But when Heep came on it was great to see the place fill up. They were great as usual (I'll never make a critic!). Great to watch , great to listen to. We raved about it all the way back up the motorway. On the way out, a couple of lads who had tried to get in to see Catatonia next door , but couldn't get in as it was sold out, were behind us. They had come in to watch Heep and from what they were saying, were very impressed. By the way , was Bob Catley from Hard Rain/Magnum ,at the gig? If it wasn't him ,he has a Double.

Also can I just rave about the John Wetton gig we went to at Huntingdon Hall in Worcester. We didn't know what to expect as we only really know his stuff with Asia. The gig was in an old church, so you were sitting in the pews. All I can say is that man has got one hell of a powerful voice. I was so impressed , I brought his "Arkangel" CD in the Interval. The two guys with him were also excellent, the busiest acoustic sound I've heard in a long time .

Lynne Hunter-Roy Hereford.

UHAS Replies:- It was Bob Catley at Wolverhampton ! Glad you enjoyed the John Wetton gig , I've now seen him quite a few times and you can always guarantee a 100% performance from John and his band.

Dear UHAS, As a fan from the USA, I have to say , I am so excited to hear about a possible VH1 documentary oh Uriah Heep (Issue 31, Donnie Frizzell Interview) I have been watching "Behind the Music" and "Legends" that VH1 has been putting together over the last few years, and they have become masters at this endeavour. Grand Funk Railroad, Credence , Steppenwolf , Led Zeppelin and many more have been covered on these programs . I encourage Uriah Heep (and their associates) to push this as hard as they possibly can, It can be used as a medium to promote "Sonic Origami" Please give this opportunity your all . I can help with 100's of articles, photo's and rare Heep items and I am going to contact VH1 with this offer.

"Heart" another of my favourite bands just did "Behind the music" in January and Included a commercial for Nancy Wilson's new solo album. I'm sure Heep could get BIG Exposure all across this huge country "in one shot" if they can successfully pursue this . PLEASE !

What had driven me to writing this letter is , I am watching "David Bowie-Legends" on VH1 right now. Trevor was mentioned and shown several times. I was disappointed , however that on the "Ozzy- Behind the Music" special , that Lee and Bob Daisley were neither mentioned or shown. I think Ozzy should feel indebted and should always credit Uriah Heep for the great personnel he has acquired from them . It is also a tragedy that Bob and Lee should be omitted from the credits on the "Diary of a Madman" album they played so brilliantly on . The only reason I brought the "Blizzard of Ozz" album is that I saw Lee Kerlake's name on it !

Another of my Favourites "Def Leppard" has done a VH1 show recently and also a MTV rockumentry , and sited Uriah Heep as an Influence. Also on VH1's "Kiss exposed" a large KISS poster with Uriah Heep , in big letters , was shown full screen. This Uriah Heep exposure in the USA is rare, and VH1 has a passion for bands that endured short lived fame (on a very high level), drug and alcohol related pasts and untimely deaths. Unfortunately Heep has faced all these, but it's about time it's all thrown in the worlds face so everyone can appreciate their great music. Its also important to note that VH1 airs these programs over and over at different times throughout the week.

Barry Lombardo USA

UHAS Replies :- We agree 100% with you Barry , I'm sure Donnie will be pulling out all the stops on this. The USA ,being so big , means it's so easy to tour and yet be hardly noticed at all. The band really does need all the help it can get on doing this and we're sure the letters going in will help. Hopefully the delay will help maximise the success Heep deserve.

From Dio fans to Heepsters !

The first time I discovered Uriah Heep was totally by accident ! It was London in October 1998 and myself and a friend Giles had tickets to see Dio. My real dad used to listen to Uriah Heep when I was very young, I couldn't remember much about their music and didn't know what to expect.

We sat in the pub near the venue and noticed all the Heepsters crowding together in the pub, I remember turning to Giles and saying "where are all the Dio fans?". I couldn't see any Dio fans at all.

The first band came and went, they were OK but nothing special and then on came Heep and I was totally blown away! We just stood looking at each other totally gobsmacked

and I kept saying "I don't remember them being this loud!" The atmosphere in the crowd was fantastic, like a big ball of energy sweeping over us, bringing us all together. It didn't matter that we hadn't been to a Heep concert before, I felt like I'd been a Heepster my whole life and it wasn't long before I was singing along to the songs just like the rest of the crowd, as if I already knew them.

The band were fantastic and really enjoyed playing, Bernie is a great front man and really seems to enjoy his job. I don't think I've ever seen anyone smile so much on stage! He got us all involved too by getting us to sing along, but I don't think that we really needed Encouragement! There was such a positive feeling about the band and the crowd, I can't explain it, but with some bands you feel separated from them, like you're not part of the show. Heep made us feel like part of the show, like we were a family.

The set seemed really short, I can honestly say I didn't want it to end and seeing Dio afterwards didn't seem so important anymore. I did enjoy the Dio concert, but it just didn't compare with Uriah Heep, plus the Dio fans were a lot more aggressive in the way they pushed me so hard into the metal barrier in the front that I kept passing out!

When I went back home on the train, all I kept thinking about was Uriah Heep and how cool they were and how much I enjoyed seeing them. I know I went to see Dio but it was Heep that shined through at the end of the day and I'm so glad I discovered their music.

I saw Heep again in March this year and brought my friend along again. This time we met up with a bunch of really cool people in the Bull & Gate pub. We were the first people in there and soon arrived Scottish Louis and his wife May. I noticed that Louis had a Members badge on and called out to him to come and join us, they sat down and it wasn't long before other people joined us too. This guy from Boston had flown in especially to see Heep (Hi Mark) wearing a T-shirt of himself with some band members, I think it was from the last Forum gig, we also met Enrico, Ian and Pete Wharton who runs a Heep site on the Internet. It was just great to meet so many people into Heep. It didn't matter that we hadn't met before, it was like we had been friends for ages.

The gig was even better than the last one and we had a great time. We were so close to the stage that I could have reached out and touched the band if I'd wanted. I got loads of photos too. When the first song "Between two Worlds" came on, I just went crazy! Red hair flying everywhere. When I sang along to "Sunrise" I almost had tears in my eyes, I must have been totally overwhelmed by the atmosphere and everything going on around me. My only regret is that I didn't go to the other two UK dates this year as I didn't find out about them till too late (Boo Hoo). All I have to do now is build up my record collection (I have a lot of catching up to do) and wait for Heep to return.

Rainbow Lannerback. Peterborough.

Ray On The Road

Confirmation that Uriah Heep are on tour come from both the excellent UHAS magazine and www.uriah-heep.com website. Three dates in England, Norwich, Wolverhampton and London, no dates in the North. Never mind I'll have to travel South. Time to check work shift patterns. No way can I get Wednesday or Saturday off, so this means I will have to see Uriah Heep in Wolverhampton. Never been there in my life! I discuss this with the family, both kids (14 year old twins) want to come with me. Unfortunately my daughter Mara becomes ill and will not travel with my son Matt and me. As mentioned I have never been to this part of the country, so I need more information about the Wulfrun. An Email to Dave

Owen and I'm sorted.

Memories of the past come flooding back. All the reviews in the magazines are divided, would I still like JH live? Would I hark back to the days of Lawton and Byron? The kid in my head stays neutral. I listened to all 22 albums and wait for the night to make my own mind up. My brother gave me a ring from Riga (the capital of Latvia) to let me know that Heep are still good and also he let me know what is in the set. He also sent me some amazing press cuttings from the Riga gig, I could never see the press in England doing reviews like that.

At long last, the day finally arrives and I pick up my son from school at 4pm and start the 126 mile dash down the A1 – M18 – M1 – A42 – M42, then everything came to a halt! A traffic jam on the M6 (no change there!) for 45 minutes right up to junction 10. The last stretch I had to put my foot down! We finally arrived at Edwards at 7pm.

I met numerous members of the UHAS, Dave Owen and Pete Wharton. My son was asked if he wasn't too young? He stated he wasn't and when asked if he knew any Heep songs he said his favourites were July Morning and Golden Palace. I was told the band were going to come across to Edwards, I can hardly wait and am cursing the fact that I had forgotten my camera! Sure enough Mick, Phil and Lee appear, I am so excited. I got them to sign their respective photo's on my Sea of Light CD, and Lee gave Matt some advice as one drummer to another.

It was time to go down to the Wulfrun. We listened to the support band "Deadline", It wasn't really my cup of tea, however there was one surprise, my son had attended a drum clinic with Russell Gilbrook the Deadline drummer in Doncaster and he decided he wanted to meet Russell again.

Time for the change around and I am starting to feel 20 years younger and think back to the time I should have seen Heep at the Halle Muensterland in the early 70's only to fall ill and miss the show I had to listen to my friends for weeks, no months, telling me how brilliant they were. I had to wait till Autumn 1973 to hear them at The Hardrock, Manchester. On this dull March evening in Wolverhampton I had the same feeling I had all those years ago. I knew this time they wouldn't open with Seven Stars, but I didn't let that worry me.

The lights went down, this is the moment I'd been waiting for, the feeling of excitement is immense. They start off with two tracks from Sonic Origami "Between two Worlds" and "I Hear Voices" everything is very slick and professional, better than I had anticipated. Mick and Trevor seem to have got better, Lee is just the same as I remember him and this is the first time I've seen Phil and I'm very impressed. The most pleasant surprise though is Bernie Shaw, his voice and technique suit the new Uriah Heep songs perfectly. I am hooked from start to finish and, for the life of me, cannot understand his critics. Mat says that Deadline could have done with a vocalist like Bernie! I put my hands in my pockets and sing as loud as I can, yes, this is definitely it.

The next two songs are from Sea of Light, this is the album I was re-introduced to Heep with, I rate it up there in my Top 5 Heep albums. (I don't think that'll go down too well with the dinosaurs out there). "Universal Wheels" and "Time of Revelation", the wheels are certainly going around in me showing me the way things are meant to be! Then it's back to

Sonic for the catchy "Only the Young" the kid inside my head saying only the young stay up, but I'm not young and I'll be staying up, so who cares how late a night it'll be. By the time the band got to "Feels Like" I was at the point of no return! The band hadn't put a foot, sorry sound, wrong.

We were then taken back in time, the intro by Phil for what triggered for me, the highlight of the evening "Sunrise", it was as if this line-up had written the song. It had everything, emotion, power, feeling and to complete it, it rocked! Yes, a truly great performance.

Back to Sonic for "Heartless Land" and "Shelter from the rain". Despite "Sunrise" still ringing in my head and loving "Heartless Land", I really do understand why the band feature so many songs from the last two albums. They need to show they are still creative, write good songs and are as vibrant as ever. Chronologically Sonic is the latest album and must be played. Back in 73 at the Hardrock many songs were off "Sweet Freedom". It's quite normal for bands to play their latest offerings, why should we want Heep to be different? It would be madness not to, no doubt these songs will go into the Heep archives and become classics, for me some already are. The slower segment of the set is completed with "Love in Silence". The words of this beautiful song say it all "The world is busy talking, what do they know?" The answer is nothing, otherwise they would all be at the Wulfrun and Heep would be back at the top where they belong.

We now reach the part of the show that should keep all those living in the past and the cynics happy! "Bird of Prey" and "Gypsy". Personally, although it rocked, I felt "Bird of Prey" was the low point of the show. It was as if the band were going through the motions. This was made up for by a superb rendition of "Gypsy". Phil, don't hide away at the back, your talent is lost visually, maybe the lighting could have been better?

Everything in life followed, on first listening when it was released, for some reason I wasn't impressed. On that Thursday evening in Wolverhampton, was I glad it was in the set! And the band played it so well. Things were reaching a climax, I certainly has the power and was enjoying every minute of it.

"Easy Livin" was Easy Livin, since the Wulfrun gig I felt like I have had an easy livin! Why? Because I have been on cloud nine, the only problem being, I have no-one to share this with except my family. Then all of a sudden it was over. The band went off, surely this was not the end? No way, back they all came on to at least on ecstatic soul.

Question, was for me the second best moment of the evening. I couldn't have imagined this would sound so good live. Can I ask the question? Do we all agree this is a classic song? Look at yourself was next. What was Mr. Box on? He was in blistering form. All those there must have been impressed by his solo. I now understand that if this is the same set as in Riga why the Latvian papers devoted a whole page to UH and described it as a "Hot Concert!")

Off the band went and again back on they came, Lady in Black followed. Do I really need to say more? I was ah-ah-ahhhing all the 125 miles home despite the non-stop rain. I was deliciously happy and arrived back home at 1.30a.m.

I have been on a high ever since the concert, why? Well, yes, the gig was good. But more than that all the fears have gone. The band is as good as it has ever been. Mick is still brilliant and has that friendly presence about him. Trevor is such a brilliant bass player, he can play so melodically, so subtly and yet at the same time he can be such a driving force when a good thumping rhythm is required. Lee, as my son stated, is a good solid rock drummer who can sing! The excellent Mr. Lanzon, what can I say? But, the guy who stole

the show for me, was Bernie Shaw. This was the first time I have seen him and I was duly impressed, I hope it is not the last time. He might not be the showman some would like , but I could not imagine another vocalist doing the current Heep songs like he does. Bernie , if you read this , stuff your critics , you were ace !

Many will moan that this or that song were not played, many of my favourites were not played, but it would be impossible to play everything. You can please some of the people some of the time , but not all. Anyway it adds to the excitement , you the band will play their latest album, then it's a guessing game as to which of the old classics get played, some you win , some you lose. The main thing is to get behind the band and support them.

The following morning 6a m, time to get up. My son is off on his paper round. Had I dreamt the previous evenings events? No ,my wife tells me Mat was suitably impressed with Heep, they were definitely better than he had hoped or imagined. He was not bothered that he had gone to bed late, It had been a good night. So even young kids can enjoy a band like Heep. Me, I just can't wait to see them again .

Raymond Dale.

Dear Dave and Alan,

Nearly one week on, and I'm still in a bit of a daze. Let's get the moaning out of the way first. 11th March 1999 URIAH HEEP The Wulfrun Hall ,Wolverhampton. WHERE WAS THE ADVERTISING ? 3 mentions in our local paper and 1 in a Shropshire paper was the sum total. This next sentence will take some believing , but here goes, there wasn't even a poster or announcement outside the venue !!! So what have we got here? A superb new album to promote, and 3 British dates to do it in, Great. The major obstacle to this is that other than the London date, nobody, except for Die-hard fans, knows about it . Here comes me being controversial again, I don't do this for the sake of controversy. I do it because I care, passionately about this band. In nearly every Issue of the UHAS magazine I have read, the band talk about Britain not being interested in them. With this tour, and the one that took in Stoke and Dudley 2 years ago, it seems to me that the band might not be that interested in Britain. I hope and fervently believe that this is not true. With this belief in mind, is there any chance of answers on the following few questions.

- 1) Are the band aware how poor the advertising is ?
- 2) Why is it OK to advertise the Forum date in Kerrang, Classic Rock etc, and not the other two dates? Does it really cost that much more to include them ?
- 3) Can we get posters printed when we know British dates and get fans in the relevant areas to stick them up? (I'm sure you won't be short of volunteers.)

You don't know how much effect advertising has, you do know that if you don't advertise people don't show up. You want proof, get the audience figures for the last two tours , nuff said !

On the back of all this, the actual turn-out at the Wulfrun was astonishing, yes, astonishing . I'll let other people review the gig for you, since I've said enough already. Suffice it to say, the band played brilliantly, went down a storm, with no discernible bias by the audience to the old material over the new.

Finally, a big thanks to you two, David and Alan, for sorting out the meeting at Edwards. I got there at ten to four and spent over four hours making new, and lasting friendships (Hi Perri and Linda, Rich, Barry and everyone else) talking about my favourite subject. I hope you print this letter-- it is written from the heart, and , I think, needs saying. Cheers ,
Rikki Fox , West Midlands.

John Wetton - My Top 12

All of these pieces of music are placed in terms of Impact of first listening - FOR ME !

All helped shape my concept, melodic sense, and form of music, as far as consciousness and imagination could run.

1	She Loves you	The Beatles	Meet the Beatles
1	God Only Knows	The Beach Boys	Pet Sounds
3	Air "on a G string"	J.S. Bach	
4	Blue	Joni Mitchell	Blue
5	Eleanor Rigby	The Beatles	Revolver
6	Pavane	Faure	
7	What's Going On	Marvin Gaye	What's Going On
8	Surf's Up	The Beach Boys	Surf's Up
9	Unfaithful Servant	The Band	Big Pink
10	Hotel California	The Eagles	Hotel California
10	Badge	Cream	Disraeli Gears
12	No Face, No Name, No Number,	Traffic	Mr. Fantasy

When I heard the Beatles, I HAD to buy the single. When I heard God Only Knows , It was under the covers of my bed in Bournmouth, and it truly changed my life, I tried to explain that many years later when I met Brian Wilson, but at least Van Dyke Parks understood !

I included two Classical pieces which were favourites a long time before Rock Music.

Joni Mitchell is for me a heroine, she had the courage to publish her own private thoughts, and I had the privilege of meeting her in 1983 in Detroit , she did not disappoint.

I chose the Band over Bob Dylan, because this is the best song from the Robertson era, and they are reasonably interchangeable .

The Joint 10's are both fabulous songs, but most importantly, have the two best guitar solo's of all time.

We all remember where we were when we heard our favourites, the songs that affected our lives , mine are very clear. There are hundreds of people that have influenced me from Mozart to Family, but these are the ones that changed my thinking pattern. Bach got me into music, The Beatles got me into melodic rock, and from the Beach Boys came the symphonic stuff. From there I was sold on the emotional concept and I was on my own .

Best Wishes
John Wetton.

Prog-Rockin' Barry Winton's My Top 12

Barry Winton, for anyone out there who doesn't know of him, is possibly Uriah Heep's number one fan. He has followed them from the early, early days and has seen more shows than possibly the rest of us put together. Barry is a well known writer who amongst other things specialises in the Vertigo and Harvest record labels and often writes the notes for releases on these labels as well as being a contributor to Record Collector magazine, where his article on Uriah Heep formed the basis of many of our fan club members record collections.

1) Manfred Mann's Earth Band – Solar Fire

My undisputed favourite album of all time, tremendous musicianship, lashings of Mini-moog and hypnotic guitar riffs from start to finish. A space roc extravaganza that should scintillate the sporrans of every Pink Floyd and Hawkwind fan on the planet. Forget "Do Wah Diddy" this will 5,4321 lift you off into orbit and beyond.

2) Various – You Can All Join In

OK, so it's an early compilation LP which I don't frequently play, but still bears happy memories, as this was the very first vinyl album I ever brought for 14/6, (73p for us youngsters) which opened up a whole new avenue into the world of Progressive Rock. Discovering bands like Tramline, Free and Spooky Tooth was a real inspiration "Oh, and I still dig Nirvana's "Rainbow Chaser" what amazing phasing, man"

3) Focus - Moving Waves

The first time I discovered these Dutch Muso's was at a one day open air gig at the Oval cricket ground in 1972. I was a mere stripling of a lad of 14. Wishbone Ash, ELP, Jack Bruce, Genesis and Argent were also on the bill. Somebody very kindly assisted me with a leg up to hoist over the 12 foot high wall, upon my descent I sprained my ankle, even worse was getting turfed out of the grounds by several irate stewards, and having to queue for ages to get back in! None the less, upon hearing "Hocus Pocus" and "Sylvia" I was immediately spellbound.

4) Uriah Heep - Salisbury

An astonishing progression in such a short space of time from the previous years "Very Eavy, Very Umble". High pitched operatic vocal harmonies, churchy organ effects and hard biting guitar riffs, metamorphosing into a highly creative production. A difficult choice perhaps but Salisbury's very special, a real "tour de force", great cover too.

5) Deep Purple - In Rock

There's always been a favourable comparison between Heep and Purple in my opinion. "In Rock" captures the purps at their absolute powers and heaviest, e.g. "Living Wreck" and the regal "Speed King" what more can I say, rock on brother !!!

6) Clear Blue Sky - Journey to the Inside of the Sun.

Perhaps a little unfamiliar to most as Clear Blue Sky were a little known act who emerged at the turn of the 70's, recording a compelling and now highly collectable lone album on the famous Vertigo label, who were all a mere 18 years of age— this didn't prevent them from coming up trumps with an album which ranks up alongside the likes of The Pink Fairies, Stray and Budgie at their best (guitar riffs abounding).

7) **T.2 - It'll all Work Out In Boomland**

Another obscure band from the distant past who like the aforementioned Clear Blue Sky were another semi-pro band who received the distinguished honour to record a lone album for the Decca label in 1970, also during that year they supported Deep Purple on tour. Musically T.2 were very adventurous and ahead of their time, thoughtfully crafted arrangements, constructed with orchestral overtones weaves a tapestry of delightful sound.

8) **Atomic Rooster - Death Walks Behind You.**

I will always be greatly honoured to have shared a close friendship with the late Vincent Crane and Paul Hammond. "Death Walks" reached No. 12 on the LP chart in January 1972, a month later the single lifted from the album, "Tomorrows Night" did one better, a terrible shame this line-up was short lived as they surely could have well excelled to the top of the Premier league.

9) **Gentle Giant - Octopus.**

Another of my all time favourite bands who started life in the 60's as "Simon Dupree and the Big Sound", Incredible diversity and truly masterful arrangements from 6 highly talented multi-instrumentalists (3 of them brothers) who lasted a decade. Turning in a dozen studio albums, many of which remained largely unnoticed by the record buying public.

10) **Van Der Graff Generator - Pawn Hearts.**

This was VDGG's fourth album, an outfit that played in the dark and never had a guitarist, remaining in high esteem with the prog rock brigade. The epic "A plague of Lighthouse Keepers" was spectacular and could well have inspired contemporaries, Genesis, into recording "Suppers Ready" from their "Foxtrot" album, a year after the release of Pawn Hearts.

11) **King Crimson - In the Court of the Crimson King.**

I avidly remember first setting eyes on this album when I was 11 and being totally mesmerised by the artwork. 30 years on in my opinion, this remains one of the most captivating debut offerings of all time. Upon hearing "21st Century Schizoid Man" the impact blew me away into oblivion and nearly never came back.

12) **Jethro Tull - Aqualung.**

Tull were the first band I ever saw live, so it really was an event for me to see them at their absolute peak (supported by Steeleye Span). Tull really excelled themselves with Aqualung, a highly innovative and influential set which I still regularly groove to as enthusiastically as I did the first time around, not on one leg of course !

Barry , due to his line of work , receives many CDs from record companies and sends many CDs to Mick . On return from a trip to Australia for the winter break, Mick found he was unable to open the door ! His hallway was jammed solid with mail and CDs from Barry , The door had to be removed from it's hinges in order for Mick to get In !

Sorry I missed out Argent, Jeff Beck and Arthur Brown's Kingdom Come but a top 12 just isn't enough !

CLASSIC CONCERT 1973

The Classic Concert is Heep's appearance at the London Music Festival 1973 which was held at the Alexandra Palace.

I'm not sure of the exact date except that it was the last night of a week long festival during August. I'm sure Dave if you look in your records you'll be able to come up with the date. I've attached a picture that I cut out of the Melody Maker as part of the gig review. Sadly I never kept the review itself.

This was a concert I'd been looking forward to for sometime. I'd seen Heep in January on the "Live 73" tour and was eagerly awaiting the release of the new album. This was the 1st concert Heep after finishing the recording. The album of course was Sweet Freedom and it was billed that they would preview some of the songs.

I'd arranged to meet my friend James at Waterloo station at 10am as I'd travelled from Andover and he from Maidstone. We hoped to get to the Alexandra Palace early so as to get a good position near the front. We exited the underground at Wood Green (if I remember correctly) and made the short walk to the Palace which was on a bit of a hill. It looked massive and when we got there we found that the doors had been opened early apparently a number of French fans had made the trip across the channel and were making a nuisance of themselves outside and to avoid trouble the Ally Pally people had let them in early.

Inside the place was huge. It was obviously not a normal concert venue as it had a very high roof with sheets strung across in an effort to improve the acoustics. There were no seats just a stage at the far end and a flat wooden floor to the exit/entrance doors. The stage was pretty big and the width of the hall was not much wider than the stage. There were rooms off the side and these housed trade stalls. In another hall to the side the band Fumble were playing. To try and put the size of the venue into perspective the size of the crowd to see Heep that day exceeded 10,000.

There were more than just a few French fans that had come over as they were about 5 deep for the complete width of the stage but nevertheless we were able to take up a good position not too far from the stage just to the left as you look at it.

At about noon The Heavy Metal Kids came on. This was their 1st major concert and was the start of good relationship with Heep. Gary Holton had a few plaster casts as he had recently been involved in a car crash. A great set that prompted me to buy their debut album later as it was yet to be released.

Next on was The Gary Moore band. I don't remember much of Gary except the great guitar work, and there were plenty of solo's.

Manfred Mann's Earthband were next. This was a fantastic set. The highlight for me was a magic version of Dylan's "Father of Day, Father of Night". They came back for one encore which was "Mighty Quin" but could of done more.

The Sensational Alex Harvey Band came on next or should I say N.E.X.T.

The SAHB was one of my favourite bands and I had been looking forward to this one but we started to feel a little discontent coming from the rows in front. It appeared that after a great rocking set from Manfred Mann the French wanted something more from Alex and during "Tomorrow Belongs To Me" their patience broke and they started throwing cans and bottles at the stage. This got so bad the SAHB had to leave the stage early. This was a great disappointment to me and a lot of others who had come to enjoy Alex. A number of people started throwing cans at the French at the front and a can fight ensued. This lasted for some time and luckily nobody seemed to get hurt. While this was happening Heep's roadies were setting up and before long there was an announcement that unless the can fight stopped Heep were not going to appear. Needless to say the can fight stopped immediately.

The lights dimmed and as Ken's opening chords to Sunrise started Heep were announced as the lights rose to a huge roar from the crowd. This was quite the biggest Heep concert I'd been to and to see the reaction from the massive crowd was amazing. This was an important concert and the band were on their very best form. They all were enjoying themselves. David was wearing his usual Pink/silver suit, Mick was playing what looked like to me a Les Paul junior guitar and Lee's bass drum had the Cover of the Live album reproduced on it. David announced that they were going to do some new songs from the soon to be released Album which he said was going to be called "Sweet Freedom" and this was the 1st time they'd been played live. I can clearly remember David announcing Stealin' to polite applause but at the end of it the noise almost brought the roof down. I think Heep knew then that they had just performed a winner. Also from the new album they did Dreamer, One Day, Sweet Freedom, Seven Stars and Pilgrim. I can't remember the complete set list but it included all the greats. Much of the rest of the concert was a blur because I was overcome with the whole thing.

The noise at the end to bring Heep back on for an encore was deafening. I can still hear the noise of 10,000 people stamping on the wooden floor. I could feel it moving and wondered if it would last out. The encore included Look at Yourself, Love Machine and Bird of Prey before finishing with The rock 'n roll Medley.

An absolutely amazing concert. Easily the best I have attended.

Sadly due to the crowds leaving the Ally Pally James and I were unable to find any buses or tube trains to take us back to Waterloo station. Eventually we made it but too late to catch my train back to Andover. An interesting night was spent with the drunks at the station.

As I said this was the last night of a week long music festival that had featured bands such as Black Sabbath and according to the press Heep's night was the best by a long way.

On an interest note not long after the gig the Alexandra Palace burnt down in a massive fire which all but destroyed the place.

UHAS Replies :- I asked Mick and Ken about their recollections of the gig , both remember very little. Barry Winton however was there and recalls that he was the first one in through the door , AND , the last one to leave ! Unfortunately Barry ran straight down to the front of the hall and wedged himself against the stage ! He remembers everything up until about 6 songs into the Uriah Heep set , then with the massive crush behind him , he blanked out and the next thing he knew , he was in the St. Johns Ambulance room . And everyone

else had gone home !! He does however remember that Mick threw his guitar into the audience and that David was acting more like Rod Stewart than any other time he has seen him. He also remembers what a blinding set Manfred Mann played too! Tickets for the day were £1.00 including a show souvenir.

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NEW URIAH HEEP PHOTO BOOK

A photobook on Uriah Heep was something I always desired. No thought of getting involved in something like it came to my mind when my friend Alex Krispin showed me some pictures of Heep on Rodrigo Werneck's website. I only thought, I need these! They were taken in '74, '75 by Danish photographer Jørgen Angel. I had seen some of them in old articles, some were taken shortly before or after pictures I had seen. Those pictures always stood out of the familiar pictures of old Heep for me. Now that I knew who took them I decided to call that person in Copenhagen. Normally I'm not too quick on the phone. I just wanted to buy a print or two. There is a close up of Gary Thain, partly hidden by a seemingly giant wine-cooler, saying something to the photographer, I really liked to have that, (also I liked to know what he said ... which turned out to be a "Why is it that you're taking a picture of me?" ...better than nothing I thought). But Jørgen Angel, who immediately seemed like a true gentleman, had taken pictures of all the greats of the seventies, Led Zeppelin, The Who, Roxy Music, Alice Cooper, Deep Purple, ELP – name them and he has photographed them! Finding the wanted sheets of negatives proved not to be too easy. A little time passed. I thought we have to get him to tell some stories about the old Heep for our German fanzine "Times". Of course some exciting pictures for it as well. My friend Alex, who is a computer expert, dropped the idea of a Heep poster book! It sounded like a joke but obviously he had thought of doing a high-class printing matter for quite some time. After playing around with the idea it all didn't sound so crazy anymore. What about a photobook? Large format, colour and black and white. A small but noble edition? And getting a hold of original negatives and slides would provide the best possible quality. Is it feasible to print only as many as we can definitely sell? A photobook! Jørgen Angel too was quite interested.



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Anyway, just before New Year '98 I visited Jørgen Angel in his beautiful apartment in Copenhagen and the two of us selected the nicest pictures out of his huge collection. That took some time! He, a professional, helped myself, an amateur, to make the right choices. In the evening his wife cooked a nice meal and then we continued choosing pictures for our photobook. In his extremely well spoken manner he told me some memories of Heep, of his visits

to Ken Hensley's big house near Henley, of the experience of being chauffeured by him, of him decanting port – also of Heep live in '74 where he was given serious ear protection by the road manager, of David Byron coming by Ken Hensley's house with his new Rolls Royce to show him, only to be instructed by Ken of how you see that the motor of a Rolls Royce is adjusted correctly – he brought a glass of whisky and put it on the hood of David's Rolls: When the motor is running you must not see the slightest movement in the whisky at all. That and more ended up in an interview text that will preface the book.

Just as I am writing this I have to think that right now Uriah Heep are on stage playing at the Wuhlheide here in Berlin, it's a few minutes past 9 pm, and I am probably missing something, and also right now Ken Hensley might be on the airplane on his way to Japan, today's the 5th of June, and perhaps just on the point of writing the foreword for our book, which is called "Golden Years", named after a term he used in his notes to the "King Biscuit Flower Hour"-CD.

Stefan Eickhoff, Berlin.

The Book can be ordered from Krispen & Eickhoff Verlag, Lietzenseeufur 9, 14057 Berlin, Germany.



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An Exclusive Interview With Lee Kerlake.

Tell me about the early years.

I joined the Gods when a talent scout saw me playing with a group called the Trackmarks in Bournemouth. I was off seeing my girlfriend when he came around and he saw my Dad.

When I got back he said , This man is Mr Newton and he wants to know if you want to join a band from London called the Gods and they're rehearsing. I said yeah , I want to , but I want to know how much money I'm getting first , I don't want to go there for a pittance as I was doing alright for the moment and he offered me £25 a week and £25 in those days was millions ! So I took it , went over to Andover for the audition , got it , and that was it I was in the Gods !

You were singing at that point too ?

Yeah, cause prior to that I was in the Trackmarks and that was a spin off of Zoot Moneys Big Roll Band which was called the Nightimers and it was prior to that, that I was doing the lead singing for the band , until we got a singer or a lead guitarist that we really liked.

Why don't you do any lead singing with Heep?

Cause I don't have too and I don't really want to , it's not my thing. I do second lead with Bernie that's my quality , my vocation here , but I do lead singing and jazz with bands in Lanzarote, when I go over there to where I live.

I heard a rumour that you're going to retire?

In five years tops , well I'm going to have to , I have such bad arthritis now in my right knee and right elbow, It hurts like hell and it's painful and there is no cure for it as you know. I went to the Chinese alternative medicine doctor and she said you have it bad , you have to take things easy. I said I can't , I've got to have a few more years with Uriah Heep . 5 more years and that'll be it for me , I cant go on any longer, I physically would not be able to. I want to go out with a bang with the band , you know , next year hit it big time and have three or four years then I'll be happy . They can continue and get another drummer, they'll have the chance to get good drummers as well, cause they're out there, but I'm being forced into that. My arthritis is getting so bad , in another five years , if you don't give up you could end up a cripple . They say they could take all the kneecap out and put new a new one in , I'm not into that , I don't want that crap.

Have you ever tried electronic drums?

Yes, the other day , they were great , really, really good. I love em , I played a set up in Lanzarote , D-Drum , they had over 500 different processes for the sounds and they were superb , really really good. The best thing is you have a small club with a small stage you can set the D-Drums up and get a really good sound and you can carry it under you arm ! Not all of them are good only about 3 out of 10 are good sets that I've found reasonable to play.

During your time with Ozzy Osbourne how much did you contribute to the songwriting and

arrangements?

Tons ! I wrote seven tracks on the albums , I co-wrote , did the production , arrangements and words, so yeah , I did a hell of a lot of work . More so on the second album , on the first album I just did one song cause we were short of one , they'd already written it .But for the second one I did Diary of a Madman, Over the Mountain, Flyin High lots of the ideas I put forward were from the Uriah Heep days. They didn't see it and Randy saw it in a different way and they went through the roof , that's why I have to pick up about four double Platinum CD's , when that bitch pays me Ha Ha. The Cow! She's not paying me , she refuses to pay me money that I've earned her and the band. She has blatantly said she is not going to pay me what she owes me , it's millions ,millions and she still holds the discs and she doesn't want to know but unfortunately for her I'm taking her to court (mock American accent) I'm suing the bitch !

Did Bob Daisley get his discs ?

Yes cause he left Uriah Heep and went back to them , didn't he , for a couple .

Ozzy recorded Fire in the Sky and the beginning of it is Identical to Valley of the Kings?

It is , it was taken from there because of John Sinclair , that start bit was John's but we wrote the other parts the chorus was mine , but he took his bit out and gave it to Ozzy.

What do you remember of Randy Rhodes?

He was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful guy , lovely fella , he used to have a really high voice when he was sober , then he used to drink "Golden Cadillac's" when we'd finished a track and he used to come over to me and say(high pitched voice) "ye gotta hear this Lee , ye gotta , ye gotta hear this" Then as he'd drink more of these golden Cadillac's his voice would drop why down low and he'd start to sound like an American footballer (deep voice) " yo really" He was a wonderful , wonderful fell , I loved him very ,very much.

How do you think your drum technique has changed over the years ?

My drumming ? It's improved , I've learnt more . I learnt from other great drummers and I've learnt how to keep in time Ha Ha . I learnt how to use breaks more, put rather than put technical breaks in , leave stuff out and make it sound heavier, yeah I'm pleased with my playing.

You have your own style , playing the way you feel and not following the rules.

Yeah , I don't follow the rules as to what should be put in anymore than when we were trying to get in the Guinness Book of Records for the triplets Drrrrrr Drrrrrrrr Drrrrrrrr (excuse my trying to spell like a drum sounds !) As on Over the Mountain , wen I did that I said lets try it and it became a cult thing for all drummers to do. I never follow rules , I follow what I feel in my heart , I always have done , That's why I'm still here with Uriah Heep, Other drummers may have left , but I follow what I feel in my heart.

Did you ever take lessons?

No , I taught myself.

Playing the drums is a very physically demanding activity , do you do any special warm up? Not really, not now , I'm physically minded anyway I go game fishing , snorkelling and scuba diving , I play Fronton not so much now because of the arthritis kicking in , but Fronton is like playing racket ball, that's very demanding , so I was always fit , never a problem no.

Which Singers have you most enjoyed backing?

Which have I liked ? Oh , I loved David , loved him to death, he was a good friend and he was fabulous. He was on his own , there was no one else like him , If I have to leave in four years because of illness there will be no other drummer like me , but there will be a drummer who may be better, in some shape or form, than me. Bernie's great to be with but David , for me , is the number one . I enjoy John Lawton , I like his voice and I liked to sing with him Pete Goalby was OK , a bit to lazy for me , he didn't get off his arse on stage. Bernie , David and John Lawton they used to get of their arses and walk aggressive , not effeminate , I shouldn't say that really , but I though he was a little bit too effeminate for me . The band Blind Ambition, which you formed between leaving Heep and Joining Ozzy can you tell me a little about that ?

Yes, The line-up was Pete Cox on vocals, Karla Patterden on Bass and me on drums and we were still looking for guitars and keyboards then. Blind Ambition was going to be the album and once we had a record deal we were going to do things like they did in those days having the bass player , guitarist ,singer and drummer in four different bands and doing sessions , and they'd be on one tour we'd be on another and doing like Genesis did and Phil Collins. But I got asked if I'd join Ozzy.

With the tour of the States approaching, what bands would you like to tour with?

I'd love to tour with Kansas , I'd love to tour with Bad Company and us , cause that would be 2 original bands, I'm looking forward to the thing with Entwistle cause they're supposed to be good. Foreigner , I'd love to do it with the bands that mattered to me , bands that have got that inner quality. So that I feel it's not a competition we're just going out there , two or three of us , to have a good fucking party , a rock show and everyone's going to enjoy it. I hate these Americans and these new English bands who are frightened of you coming along and "taking their scene man" or their limelight , that's bollocks you know . I'm looking forward to conquering the States again . I know that if we are given the chance and the record company get off their fat arses and back us up, if they put their money where their mouth is , we have a chance of doing it again. .I'm not saying as big as the amphitheatres 30-40,000 but I still say we could get to the 10,000 capacity again , cause we're a great act, we hold it in Germany , we hold it in Russia 17-18,000 . America doesn't see this cause no one knows we're alive , i.e. the record company !

Which is your favourite Heep album ?

Oh, the one I have just done each time. It's always the way . I didn't ever like Conquest , I never played on it , and that's not sour grapes , I just thought that Hensley was going right off the rails and I thought the songs were atrocious .I loved Abominog cause the band was back together again , I thought that was a great album. I loved Sea of Light , I love the Wizard , I love em all . Sonic Origami at the moment though is the closest thing we have got to me saying WOW ! You know , everything is right , it's quality, it's good. My favourite song on Sonic is Golden Palace , Across the Miles and Only the Young. I love Golden Palace , well I love so many of them , I love a good 7 or 8 of them . At the moment Golden Palace and Across the Mile but then I like others as well.

Have you come into contact with Gerry Bron at all in recent years ?

No , I never want to , I hate the old son of a bitch .Arsehole , I'll never forgive that piece of garbage.

Interview by Dave Owen with thanks to the Heepsters on the web for the Questions.

A close encounter to Uriah Heep.
Lillehammer, Norway, Feb 25. 99

I jumped on the plane from Stavanger and drove to Lillehammer straight from the airport after landing. The 1994 Olympic Village was covered with snow and Christmas decorations when I arrived. Yes, you don't have to read it over again. It was Christmas decorations!! I thought that this must be some crazy after-effect from the games in 94 but actually it was a German TV crew making a Xmas show meant for next Christmas.

The lads were lined up for a signing session which was due to take place inside a mall so I teamed up with about 10 other Heepsters and had my copy of Sonic Origami signed in gold together with Uwe Reuters fabulous book "You can't keep a good band down". BTW for those of you who haven't ordered this book yet....This book is a must for every Heepster around. I had a little chat with Mick and Co at the mall and they were all in a good mood and felt that the Scandinavian tour had been good so far.

I went back to the hotel and finally got the chance to meet the "Uriah Heep Tabmaster", Per Rannug. Me and Per have been e-mailing a lot since the "Hell Blues Festival" with Heep and Quo and it was nice to meet the man himself. Per and a bunch of Heepsters were lined up in the hotel lobby with a beer or five in their hands so I just joined in. We shared some good stories and cracked some jokes while waiting for things to happen.

Both Per and me were on Heep's guestlist so when we came to the venue, which was a big night-club, we went straight inside the club and grabbed some more beer. After a little while Mick came out and wished us welcome, while Per used the opportunity to take the picture showing the three of us together.

I've seen Uriah Heep on big stages, on bigger stages but never on a stage that would normally fit the seven dwarfs, without Snow-white. It was so small that when Bernie entered the stage, sidekicks and axemen Trevor and Mick were playing more or less shoulder to shoulder with Bernie in the middle. I was standing in row three and when I stretched out my hand, Bernie "gave me five" without any problems. No bouncers or any kind of fences could keep the audience from being more or less on stage. Only a 10 inch step stopped them. The Venue could hold up to a 1000 spectators but the crowd counted around 500. The show kicked off with "Between Two Worlds" and went straight into "I Hear Voices". A wonderful start in my opinion. But by this time we could all hear that something was terribly wrong with the PA. Loud noise, and I mean painfully LOUD, came from the right speakers so after playing through "Universal Wheels", "Feels Like" and "Only The Young", Bernie asked the crowd if they should take a five minutes break in order to solve the problem. The response was a unisonant "YES".

Well, that gave me and Per the chance to grab yet a beer and within those 5 minutes Heep were back starting with "Heartless Land". The sound problem was solved and after that little break, Mick & Co surfed through a blend of new material and old classics like "Sunrise", (a version worth dying for. I can't see how David Byron could do this song any better than Bernie does it nowadays) "Time Of Revelation", "Gypsy", "Bird Of Prey", "Love In Silence" and "Shelter From The Rain" (a damn good song that works even better live than on the album). The encores started with "Look At Yourself", "Question" and ended with a splendid

version of "Lady In Black". This simple two chord song can turn a good crowd into ecstasy, something it did at Lillehammer.

A very good concert I think. I've seen the lads about 20 times and this gig comes as a number 3 or 4 in my opinion. (My number 1 : Rockefeller, Oslo 95. See UHAS mag 18). After the show me and Per waited outside the backstage area for a while, But unfortunately Per had to leave due to his companions work situation. They had a 2,5 hours drive ahead and it was already 02:00 in the morning. I went backstage but only for 5 minutes because I could see that Mick was dying for his bed.

The next morning, after just two hours sleep, Lee, Phil and Trev joined me for breakfast before leaving for the airport. We said goodbye but when I came to the airport, the band came as well. It was foggy outside so I spent the next hour chatting to Lee while waiting for my plane. Mick and Co went up north from Oslo for two gigs before going to Denmark/Sweden but that is another story.

Per Rannug and Egil Bokn

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