

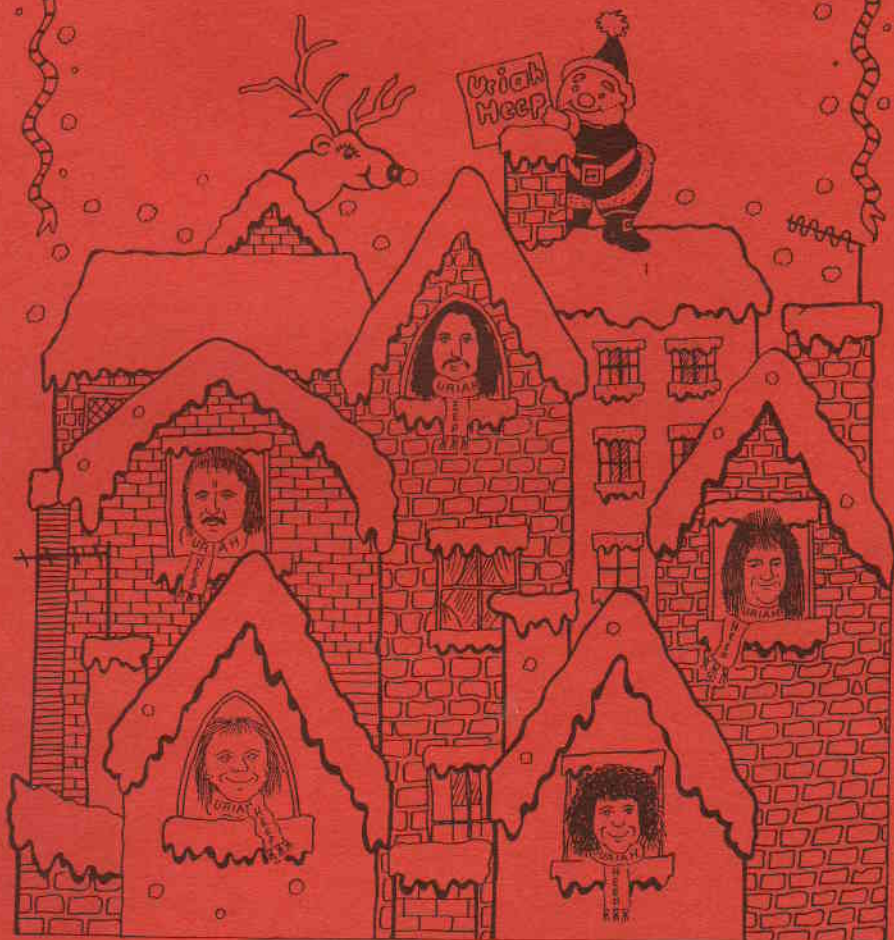
URIAH

THE OFFICIAL

HEEP

Uriah Heep

APPRECIATION SOCIETY



Drawing by Steve Whitworth

ISSUE 14

THE OFFICIAL

**URIAH
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URIAH HEEP'S OFFICIAL WORLD WIDE FAN CLUB — ADMINISTERED BY DAVID OWEN & ALAN HARTLEY

Hi again and welcome to issue 14,

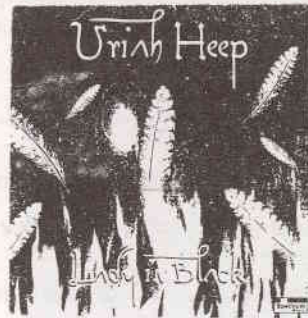
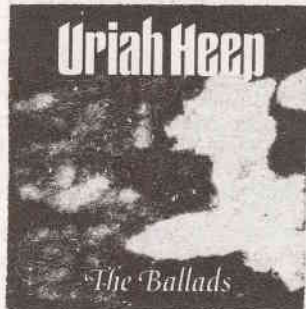
Here is the Christmas present you've all been waiting for and it's all been happening as we go to print. On November 25th Heep signed a recording deal with the German based company SVP/CBH. This deal covers most of Europe including the UK and Japan, the band will negotiate deals for other territories so watch this space for further news. Mick seems very happy with the deal and to quote him directly:- "things are looking up for 95". Heep have been in full rehearsals and are spending some time before Christmas in the recording studio. After a break for the festive season they'll be back in the studio to finish off the new album which they hope will be ready for release before next summer. Mick tells us that the material is a good mixture of all the styles the band are known for and he'll give you all the latest news in an exclusive interview in the next issue.

The North American tour reported in the last issue was quite eventful for many reasons, a mix up with visas before the band left meant Mick had to be at the American Embassy at the crack of dawn on the day they left to get everything sorted out. As all the dates were not fully confirmed there were some changes to the schedule listed in the last issue. This obviously meant that promotion for some of the gigs left a lot to be desired and consequently the crowds weren't as large as they could have been, to cap it all off they had thousands of US dollars stolen from one of the hotels. On the brighter side there were many great gigs and they still found time to record a radio session for "Bob Rivers" for his "Bob's Garage" radio spot on KISW in Seattle. The tracks laid down were "Easy Livin'", "Stealin'" and "Mr Majestic". Old Bob was amazed at how quick the band recorded the songs as many of his guests take an age to get it right!

On the live dates front, Heep hope to be in South Africa with "Deep Purple" from late March 1995, no dates are confirmed yet but we'll keep you posted. Unfortunately, the date in New Zealand for April 1995 never reached the contract signing stage and as far as Mick is concerned is now off, even though it was never really on as such. This is another case where local promoters have advertised a concert before it has been signed and sealed. If you want to keep in touch with any concert news as it is confirmed between issues of the magazine, use our concert dates service. Just send us a SAE if you are a UK member or a self addressed envelope and a international reply coupon available from any post office if you are an overseas member. Please write in the bottom left hand corner of your envelope the countries you require dates for.

There are a few new releases to look out for, the "Lucifer's Friend" CD "Sumo Grip", (Castle CSC 7148-2) is now out it is an excellent album featuring John Lawton on vocals and it includes a version of 'Free Me', it's well worth a listen and it is reviewed in this issue.

Castle Germany have released another compilation called "Uriah Heep - The Ballads", (Castle CSC 7153-2). It's a nice departure from the usual compilations and is good value with 13 Heep tracks and 4 Ken Hensley solo tracks as a bonus. Track listing:- Lady in black, Free me, What should be done, Come back to me, Why did you go, Come away Melinda, July morning, The wizard, Wonderworld, If I had the time, Circle of hands, The park, Wise man, From time to time, A king without a throne, Rain, The last time. Another German compilation, this time from "Spectrum Music" titled "Lady In Black", (Spectrum 5507302), has the following track listing:- Lady in black, Traveller in time, Easy livin, Shady lady, Gypsy, Lonely nights, Spider woman, Fallen angel, Sympathy, Come back to me, Carry on, Love stealer, Think it over, Stay on top. The 25th anniversary box set which was intended to be ready for release towards the end of 1994 isn't going to be ready until sometime during 1995. As soon as there is some definite news as to when it will be released and what it will include, we'll let you know.



One topic that has constantly come up in your letters to us is that of a society convention. We've thought about this a lot and with the 25th anniversary coming up next year the time now seems right. Mick wants us to do it later rather than earlier in the year to allow the band to see how their year will map out and hopefully enable at least some of them to attend, as Mick said, "I wouldn't want to be on the other side of the world when there's a party like that going on". That is the spirit of what the convention will be about, a chance for us all to get together, having said that, we will want to provide some entertainment and we've already had an agreement in principal from 2 ex Heep members to provide some live music, it's just a matter of trying to organise a date that will suit everybody. There will be a charge for tickets as there will be costs that need covering, we can't say at this point how much, or where the convention will take place as that will depend on several factors. With all this in mind, all we want at this stage is some idea of how many of you may be interested in attending so please write in and let us know. There will be more details in future issues.

Once again our thanks go out to the following people for their help and support, Bernie, Trev, Phil, Mick and Lee, John Lawton, John Wetton, Tina Hartley, Cathie Gutjahr, Barry Lombardo, Scott Cokeley, Dick Dunn, Steve Whitworth and Jurgen Scholz. The band and the Society want to thank you for all your support over the past 12 months and we collectively wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEEPLY NEW YEAR.

Enjoy the mag,
Keep on rockin'
and we'll see you in about 3 months.

Alan & David

December 1994.

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JOHN LAWTON

With a new "Lucifer's Friend" album and "Gun Hill" fast emerging as a well respected act taking pubs and clubs by storm in the South of England, John gives us the very latest information on his current plans and his work over the last year or so.

UHAS: Can you tell us a bit about the new "Lucifer's Friend" album?

John: It's called "Sumo Grip", we prepared the tracks about two years ago, then all of a sudden a record company came along and liked what we played, and went for it.

UHAS: Who is the record company?

John: It's Castle, the company who have all Uriah Heep's back catalogue. It's alright, I'm happy to be with them and it's due out on the 31st October 1994.

UHAS: Is it just a German release?

John: No, it's coming out in the UK, Japan and hopefully in the States in about two or three months time.

UHAS: Will you be doing any promotion work on it?

John: Yeah, I'll be going over, they want to do a few live gigs round Europe which will be no problem.

UHAS: And...there's a version of "Free Me" on it, who's idea was that?

John: Yes, there is a version of "Free Me" on it, it was the record company's idea, I had nothing against that because it was a good song and if it's a good song, why not do it, I had no arguments about that at all. I wasn't going to turn round and say I'm not doing that because it's a Heep song, the company thought it was a good idea so we did it and it's worked out well.

UHAS: How did you get involved with "Gun Hill"?

John: Neil, our bass player has a studio and he had recorded two or three tracks with our drummer and guitarist under the name of "Knightfyre" and they were looking for a singer. I was in Neil's studio with Mike, our keyboard player, doing some radio commercials, Neil played me the Knightfyre tracks, I liked it, we put down some vocals and we decided that we would put a band together, Mike and I have known each other for a long time and it's good fun.

UHAS: Are you looking for a recording deal with "Gun Hill"?

John: We are trying to establish ourselves as a band that people like and consequently we are going to produce some live tapes in the near future with a couple of original songs and if people like what they hear and a record company is interested, then "Gun Hill" is interested in putting some stuff out.

UHAS: Is the main reason for doing the tapes to get record company interest?

John: No, principally we're doing the tapes because people say to us, "we like what you've played, it's a good set, can we buy it anywhere"? If people want to buy it after our gig's, then great.