



"Groucutt's Giggle!"

Kelly, always the joker! agreed to contribute his favourite joke of the minute to the newsletter. Well here is the first and sadly the last – but I know he'd want to leave us giggling:
 What do you call something that goes along the bottom of a pond on 4 wheels?
 A "motor-carp"
 What do you call something that goes along the bottom of a pond on 2 wheels?
 A "motor-pike"
 You now have the idea so
 What do you call something that goes along the bottom of ponds with 3 wheels?



Mik Kaminski's Inheritance Tracks (Click on the links to hear the tracks while you read!)



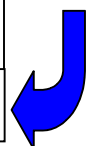
When I was young I lived in Knaresborough with my mum, sister, granddad and grandma (Ethel), who just happened to be a singing and piano teacher, so I guess I was soaked in music from an early age. Whenever I hear the beginning of Fur Elise (<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=TWP6UoyQ--s>) it always reminds me of being at home and listening to her pupils in the back room having one last go before making a break for freedom. My Granny had a close friend called Cecil who was a violin teacher and when I was five, a violin appeared at home and fate started to take a strange interest in my future. I remember being taken to see Okalahoma with Cecil leading the Orchestra, and apart from a very loud gunshot halfway through the production (more than a test for short trousers), my curiosity as to how you could make a living from playing music was set in motion. (I am still working on that one).

During my childhood I had several violin teachers but the most memorable was a viola player from Ripon, who had earlier played for the Halle Orchestra in Manchester. His name was Gilbert Shufflebottom, but he always pronounced it as 'Shufflebotham' to save his or our blushes. I used to be driven to his house and he was always running late. After sitting around waiting, I would go into his front room, which was pretty much filled by a large grand piano. He always had a fire of atomic proportions burning just behind you, and he was also rather partial to a large cigar! By the time I left the lesson I was half-roasted and resembled a Christmas Turkey who had just got back from Havana.

The track that I would like to leave to my daughter Danielle is Clare de Lune (<http://ilike.com/artist/Claude+Debussy/track/Clair+De+Lune>) by Claude Debussy. Danielle started piano lessons quite late, but took to the instrument like a duck to water. I will always remember a concert at her school in Rawdon near Leeds where the instrument she had to try and give an artistic interpretation on, was a well worn electric piano Nevertheless she played magnificently and didn't make a single mistake. She brought the house down and we thought the audience would never stop clapping. Whenever I hear that piece of music now, it reminds me of that night and just how nervous and proud a parent can be!

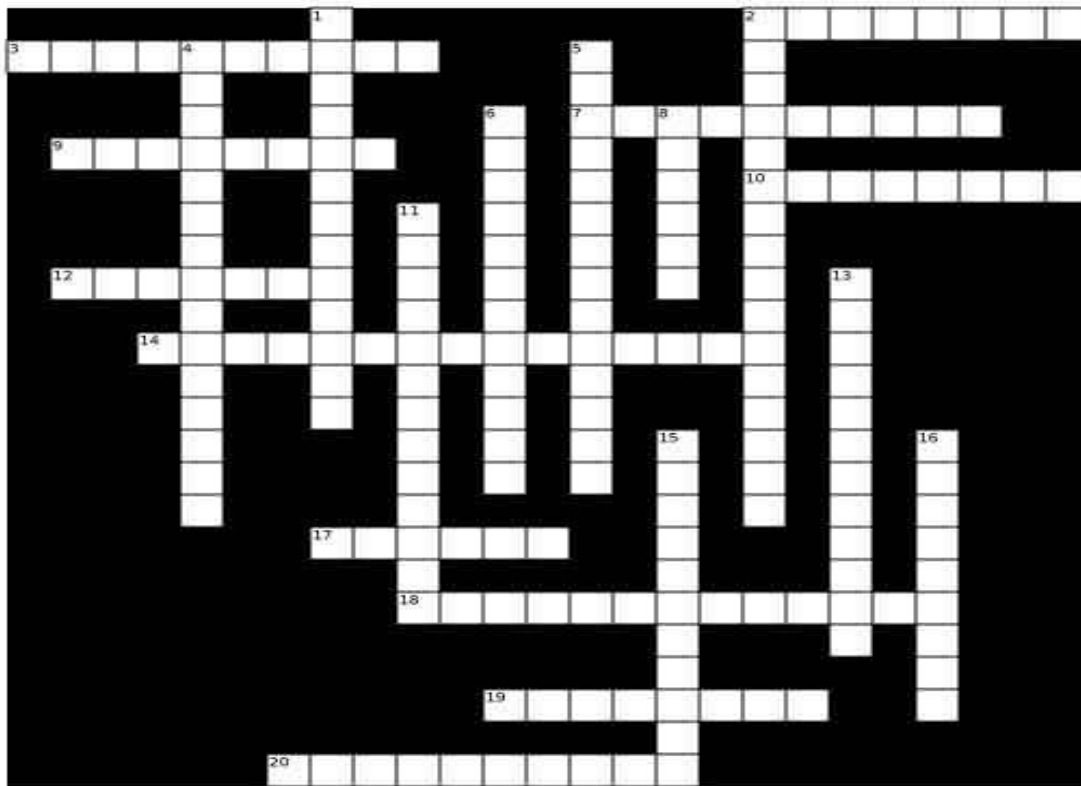
Mik

Punch line – A motor-pike and side carp – of course!





Orchestra and ELO Track Title Anagram Crossword



- | Across | Down |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 Downs Who? (8) | 1 Sheerest Whine (4,2,3,4) |
| 3 Bow Free Ego (6,2,2) | 2 A Manlike West Town (5,6,5) |
| 7 At Red Elm, Me? (3,2,5) | 4 Corking Sir Knoll (4,1,4,2,4) |
| 9 Croak Air (8) | 5 Acclaiming Earl (7,7) |
| 10 Twig Hilt (8) | 6 Withered Owls (4,4,4) |
| 12 Evil Aim (2,5) | 8 Heft Ox (3,3) |
| 14 Took Ethnic Totem (6,2,3,4) | 11 Toads with Nuts? (5,3,5) |
| 17 Fly? I? No! (2,4) | 13 Craggiest Man (7, 5) |
| 18 Hello Tepee Inn (9,4) | 15 Rotten Snout(4,2,5) |
| 19 Poor Glue (8) | 16 Beryl Musk (2,4,3) |
| 20 Easy Boy Day (3,7) | |

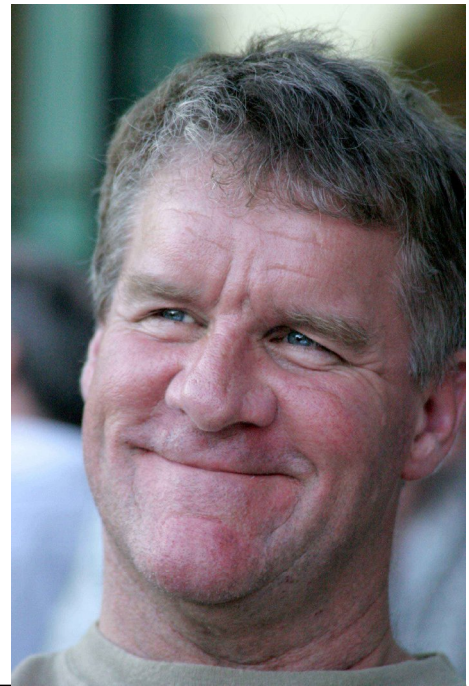
So How Can You Help Promote the Band????

Idea from Rod Frost – “Why not request orchestra tracks on Chris Evans Drive-time show on a Friday’s @ 5pm on Radio 2” . . . or request Orchestra tracks on your local Radio Station.

Join the new Facebook site that Geff Carson has started - “Fans of The Orchestra, former members of ELO and ELO Part 2” and meet other fans of the band.

When people say about ELO – tell them that The Orchestra is the new reincarnation of the band.

Lastly - if you have any more ideas – Let me know via elo@rockfans.co.uk and I will try to include them in the next newsletter!



On the Road – An Article Each Edition by a Member (or Former Member) of the Crew

It all happened on a Monday morning. I turned up to work, trying to forget the last “Motorhead” tour and just hoping for something better. My manager was waiting for me with some paperwork. “We’d like you to go on tour with ELO Pt 2” – magic to my ears! This was the beginning of three years work, 92 - 95 driving the band around England and Europe. These were actually happiest tours of my career, although I have driven the likes of Kylie Minogue, Bob Geldof, Gangrene, and The Mission to name a few. Our first venue was at the Circus Krone in Munich. When I first met the band I just couldn’t get over how welcoming and down to earth they were. Mik always with a smile on his face; Kelly always joking; Eric, kind and generous, and Louis, the enigmatic one!

An average day was getting up about 2 pm and watching the sound check and then the show, sometimes assisting Greg Sazbo with the lights, which were always amazing. About 10 pm the crew loaded up the lorry and climbed onto the crew coach, the band going to a hotel for the night. My drive was now beginning, I would crawl along at about 20 mph while the roadies relaxed, ate sandwiches and got ready for bed in the bunks on the back of the coach. After half an hour or so, serenaded by the gentle snorts and grunts of the crew, I could get up to speed, driving them to the next venue. However, it was not always that smooth. One night, as I drove slowly along, a car braked sharply ahead. I had no choice but to follow suit. It was not until an irate tour manager turned up, covered in red wine that I realised the havoc that had occurred in the lounge at the back of the coach!

I would drive through the night arriving at the next venue between 6am and 8am, climb into my bunk and listen to the crew getting ready for the day. The band would follow in daylight, arriving about 4 o’clock in the afternoon for the sound and light check, and then off for dinner before the show began.

There were protocols however, I always remember going to pick the band up from their hotel in Bristol, before a gig in Minehead, Somerset, UK. I was charged first with picking up supplies, but was told to put them in the lockers in the side of the coach. It wasn’t long before the cry went up - “Hey ‘Old Woman!’ (My nickname) Where have you stashed the red wine then?” A particular favourite of the band!

Although all the shows were fantastic, the last night was always the best, when I liked to desert the spotlights and go down to the front of the arena. The crew knew that I particularly liked Eric’s rendition of ‘Telephone Line’. On the last night in York I was convinced to take him a phone screwed on to a piece of wood mid song. Eric, the consummate professional, took it in his stride, taking the phone and singing into it as if we did that every show. Those were definitely the days before mobile phones!

I had a hard life cleaning the coach. It wasn’t just the inside, making the beds changing the sheets and replenishing beer / wine supplies, but also the outside, wiping away the messages to the band, written in lipstick. “Kelly will you marry me” etc. which was not unusual as a new logo on the side of the coach.

Well I am so grateful for the memories I have from touring all round Europe driving the band and crew and in particular good memories of Bev and Phil, who were also in the band at that time. Every day was good fun, with down to earth and kind companions. What’s more they still welcome me - even Gordon who wasn’t in the band at the time! ...And despite the fact my pass says 1995 - surprisingly it still works! Very happy memories...

By John Wilkinson
Coach Driver for ELO Part II - 1992-95