

THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS SINGLES

27 MARCH 1999

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

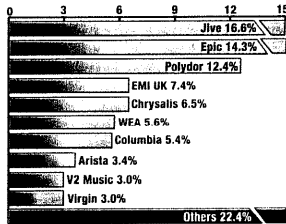


After trailing Boyzone's When The Going Gets Tough for the whole week, B*Witched's Blame It On The Weatherman finally squeezed ahead at the death to become the Irish girls' fourth consecutive number one. The first act ever to debut at number one with their first four singles, B*Witched are also only the second act to open their chart career with more than three consecutive number ones, the others being the Spice Girls, who topped the chart with their first seven releases. Blame It On The Weatherman sold only 90,000 copies last week, 3,000 more than When The Going Gets Tough and 6,000 more than Britney Spears' Baby One More Time but earns the Lynch family the unique distinction of becoming the first in chart history to replace itself at number one - Shane Lynch is a member of Boyzone, while his sisters Keavy and Edele are in B*Witched.

Robbie Williams registers his ninth solo

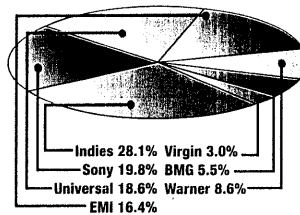
MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 75; and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75

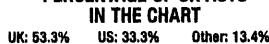
TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



SALES UPDATE



PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART



hit with Strong, which debuts at number four. It's Robbie's eighth Top 10 hit and his fifth hit in a row to reach the top five including all

three lifted from his latest album I've Been Expecting You. With Andy Williams at number nine, it's worth noting that there

SINGLE FACTFILE

Veteran crooner Andy Williams returns to the Top 10 for the first time since 1973, debuting at number nine with Music To Watch Girls By. The 70-year old cut the song, which was originally conceived as an instrumental for a Diet Pepsi advert, in 1967, when it reached number 33 in the UK and number 34 in America. The song is currently used for the Fiat Punto advert, graphics from which adorn the

single's sleeve. Only two artists have returned to the Top 10 after a lengthier absence than Williams - Prez Prado and Louis Armstrong - and, like him, they also returned via the use of an oldie in a TV advert, though, unlike him, they died before their comeback hit. Andy, on the other hand, has appeared on a number of TV shows here in the past couple of weeks, including TFI Friday and Good Morning.

have been 21 solo chart stars with the surname Williams, making it by far the most successful name for hitmakers. The Jones' are runners-up, with 17 different hitmakers of that name. Incidentally, the Robbie Williams/Gary Barlow feud is set to continue, with Gary's upcoming comeback single apparently titled Stronger. It's a cute card to play, though it does leave the way open for Robbie to retort with a track called Strongest.

When Frenchman Bob Sinclar refused to release his popular album track Gym Tonic as a single, UK duo Spacedust quickly rushed out their re-titled cover Gym And Tonic, and were rewarded with a number one hit. They return to the chart this week with their follow-up Let's Get Down, which debuts at number 20. It's based on Chic's classic I Want Your Love, which was the subject of a full-blown cover version by Roger Sanchez and Twilight, reaching number 31 last month.

INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	2	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 0522752 (P)
2	1	BETTER BEST FORGOTTEN	Steps	Ebul/Jive 0519242 (P)
3	NEW	PUSH UPSTAIRS	Underworld	JBO/V2 JBO5005443 (3MV/P)
4	NEW	KILLIN' TIME	Tina Cousins	Jive/Eastern Bloc 0519232 (P)
5	NEW	SEE THE STAR	Delerious?	Furious? CDFURYS (V)
6	4	CHANGES	2Pac	Jive0522832 (P)
7	3	JUST LOOKING	Stereophonics	V2 VVR5005303 (3MV/P)
8	NEW	SLIDE	Goo Goo Dolls	Hollywood 0102035HWR (P)
9	5	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Steps	Ebul/Jive 0519142 (P)
10	NEW	SING IT BACK	Moloko	Echo EC5CD71 (P)
11	NEW	NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD	Take 5	Edel 0039355ERE (P)
12	6	SAY YOU'LL BE MINE	Q.F.X.	Quality Recordings QUAL005CD (P)
13	NEW	I BELIEVE	Jamestown feat. Joceyn Brown	Playola 0091705PLA (P)
14	12	BE THERE	UNKLE feat. Ian Brown	Mo Wax MW108CD1 (V)
15	NEW	WORLD 99	Pulp Victim	Neo NEO12010 (Amato Disco)
16	8	PLAYING WITH KNIVES	Bizarre Inc	Vinyl Solution VC01CD1 (V)
17	NEW	SAY	Creatures	Sioux SIOUX6CD (3MV/P)
18	NEW	COMMUNITY OF THE SPIRIT	Danny Rampling	Distance D113212 (P)
19	NEW	TO LOSE LA TREK	Campag Velocet	PIAS Recordings PIASX001CD (V)
20	7	HOW WILL I KNOW (WHO YOU ARE)	Jessica	Jive 0522412 (P)

PEPSI Chart

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label	This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	NEW	BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN	B*Witched	Glow Warm/Epic	21	14	NOTHING REALLY MATTERS	Madonna	Maverick
2	1	WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH	Boyzone	Polydor	22	11	HOW LONG'S A TEAR TAKE TO DRY?	The Brandt New	GoldDisc
3	2	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive	23	11	ONE WEEK	Barenaked Ladies	Reprise
4	15	STRONG	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	24	17	WISH I COULD FLY	Roxette	Roxette Recordings/EMI
5	4	WE LIKE TO PARTY (THE VENGABUS)	Vengaboys	Positiva	25	11	YOU DON'T KNOW ME	Armand Van Helden	ffrr
6	4	BETTER BEST FORGOTTEN	Steps	Ebul/Jive	26	11	DEAD FROM THE WAIST DOWN	Catacrina	Bianco Y Negro
7	5	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston	Arista	27	11	PRAISE YOU	Fatboy Slim	Skin!
8	NEW	MY LOVE	Kate Le Roc	Wild Card	28	11	EX-FACTOR	Lauren Hill	Ruffhouse/Columbia
9	NEW	MUSIC TO WATCH GIRLS BY	Andy Williams	Columbia	29	11	SLIDE	Goo Goo Dolls	Edel
10	1	TENDER	Blur	Food/Parlophone	30	11	JUST LOOKING	Stereophonics	V2
11	1	AS George Michael/Mary J. Blige		Epic	31	NEW	PUSH UPSTAIRS	Underworld	JBO/V2
12	11	RUNAWAY	the Corrs	Atlantic	32	NEW	KILLIN' TIME	Tina Cousins	Jive
13	5	YOU STOLE THE SUN...	Manic Street Preachers	Epic	33	11	CHANGES	2Pac	Jive
14	13	FLY AWAY	Lenny Kravitz	Virgin	34	11	WRITING TO REACH YOU	Travis	Independiente
15	4	STRONG ENOUGH	Cher	WEA	35	11	MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU	Stardust	Virgin
16	12	MARIA	Bonnie	Beyond/RCA	36	11	CAN'T GET ENOUGH	Soulsearcher	Defected
17	14	LULLABY	St Jawn Mullins	Columbia	37	NEW	LET'S GET DOWN	Spacedust	East West Dance
18	20	ERASE/REWIND	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor	38	11	AT MY MOST BEAUTIFUL	R.E.M.	Warner Bros
19	22	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE	New Radicals	MCA	39	11	MY FAVOURITE GAME	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor
20	15	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Bryan Adams feat. Mel C.	ABM/Mercury	40	11	ANYTHING BUT DOWN	Sheryl Crow	ABM/Polydor

All charts © CIN

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To hear the chart hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0891 505290. Calls cost 50p/min

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THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS ALBUMS

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CHART COMMENTARY

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ALBUM FACTFILE

Blur register their fourth consecutive number one album this week, debuting in pole position with 13, which sold nearly 92,000 copies last week. Give or take a couple of hundred, that equals the first week sales of their self-titled 1997 album. The Great Escape opened with a massive 188,000 in 1995, while Parklife opened their sequence of number ones with a paltry 43,000 in 1994. Blur are only the

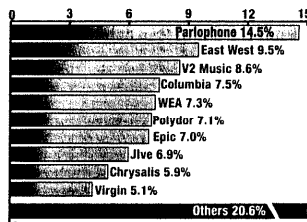
third act to have four number one albums in the nineties, equalling the mark set by Simply Red and REM. The success of the introductory single Tender is one of the main reasons for the success of 13. Tender remains in the Top 10 for the fourth straight week, having sold a total of 320,000 copies. The only previous Blur single to spend four weeks in the Top 10 was 1995's Country House.

Blur debut at number one for the fourth time in their career this week with 13 – but it's lucky they chose not to clash head-to-head with The Stereophonics' Performance And Cocktails, which they replace at number one. The Stereophonics album sold 45,000 copies last week, just under half as many as 13. But the 92,000 sale of Blur's album pale compared to the 120,000 tally racked up by the Stereophonics last week.

It's a fine week for Beth Orton, who makes her first ever US album chart appearance this week, with Central Reservation debuting at number 110 there while making its opening UK chart appearance at number 17. It's Beth's second album, and its current chart position marks a major improvement over the number 68 peak of her first album, Trailer Park, which peaked at number 68 but was widely acclaimed and went on to win her a Brits nomination as Best Female Solo Artist. Central Reservation is certain to achieve a

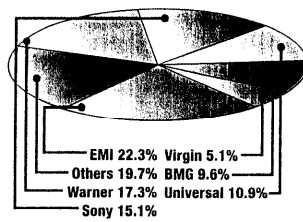
MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales, and corporate group shares by % of total sales, of the Top 75 artist albums

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



SALES UPDATE



similar feat next year – not least because so few British female artists ever venture into the Top 20 of the album chart.

PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART



Having initially returned to the chart as a direct result of her death, Dusty Springfield's The Best Of Dusty Springfield is now being TV

advertised, precipitating a further improvement in its chart performance. It jumps 27-20 this week, becoming her fourth Top 20 hits compilation, following Golden Hits (number two, 1966), The Silver Collection (number 14, 1988) and Goin' Back – The Very Best Of Dusty Springfield (number five, 1994). The Best Of Dusty Springfield has sold 40,000 copies so far.

Meanwhile, Cher loses her Top 10 placings on both the singles and albums charts, slipping 8-11 with Strong Enough, the second single from the album Believe, which itself slumps to number 16, having achieved its best-yet position of number seven last week.

Catalogue discount campaigns have a significant effect on the album chart this week, with the biggest impressions being made by Tracy Chapman's self-titled debut (up 90-24), Lou Reed's Transformer (re-entry at number 41) and Primal Scream's Screamadelica (174-45).

COMPILATIONS

The compilation market continues to falter. Sales plummeted over 27% last week, with multi-artist releases accounting for only 21.8% of overall album sales – their lowest figure of the year. Only one compilation topped 20,000 sales, with two more notching up sales of over 10,000.

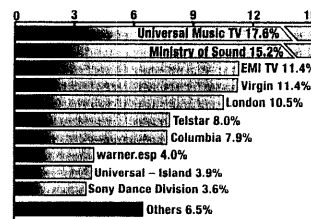
Debuting at number one, Dance Nation Six is the latest release from one of the sector's brightest current stars, the Ministry Of Sound label. Dance Nation Six contains mixes from Brandon Block and Tall Paul and hits by the likes of Armand Van Helden, Soulesearcher and – on CD for the first time ahead of its Pepper/Jive release as a single – Shanks & Bigfoot's Sweet Like Chocolate. Dance Nation Six sold more than 22,000 copies last week, 10,000

more than Resident – Two Years Of Oakenfold At Cream, the anniversary set which features primarily records that he either mixed or released on his own Perfecto label. With Euphoria in third place (11,700 sales) and Pete Tong's Essential Selection – Spring 1999 fourth with 9,800 sales, the top four compilations are all dance-themed.

One of the biggest successes of the Dino label, which closed down last year, was the Blues Brother Soul Sister series, which has now been revived by Universal TV. The renamed PolyGram TV division used generic artwork and cherry-picked favourite tracks from the Dino series for Blues Brother Soul Sister Classics, which debuts at number eight this week, with sales of a little over 6,000.

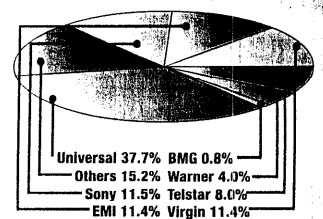
MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 20, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 20

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



SALES UPDATE



COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 78.2%
Compilations: 21.8%

INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	NEW	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 1004492 (3MV/P)
2	2	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	Skint BRASSIC11CD (3MV/P)
3	3	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 0522172 (P)
4	5	STEP ONE	Steps	Ebul/Jive 0519112 (P)
5	4	BEAU COUP FISH	Underworld	JBO/V2 JBO1005438 (3MV/P)
6	21	SCREAMADELICA	Primal Scream	Creation CRECD076 (3MV/V)
7	8	GREATEST HITS	2Pac	Jive 0522662 (P)
8	6	VERSION 2.0	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH29CD (3MV/P)
9	7	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VVR1000432 (3MV/P)
10	9	BIG CALM	Morcheeba	Indochina ZEN017CD (P)
11	19	GARBAGE	Garbage	Mushroom D31450 (3MV/P)
12	10	FIN DE SIECLE	Divine Comedy	Setanta SETCD057 (V)
13	11	THE COMPLETE	Stone Roses	Silvertone CRECD535 (P)
14	12	THE BOY WITH THE ARAB STRAP	Belle and Sebastian	Jeepster JPRCD003 (3MV/P)
15	15	WHITEY FORD SINGS THE BLUES	Everlast	Tommy Boy TBDC1236 (P)
16	20	MELTING POT	Charlatans	Beggars Banquet BBQCD198 (V)
17	NEW	DEFINITELY MAYBE	Oasis	Creation CRECD169 (3MV/V)
18	14	SONGBIRD	Eva Cassidy	Blix Street G210045 (HOT)
19	13	DESERTER'S SONGS	Mercury Rev	V2 VVR1002772(3MV/P)
20	16	STONE ROSES	Stone Roses	Silvertone CRECD502(P)

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THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 ALBUMS

This	Last	Album	Artist	Label
1	2	TALK ON CORNERS	THE CORRS	143/LAVA/ATLANTIC
2	3	I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
3	1	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	FATBOY SLIM	SKINT
4	6	THE MISEDUCATION OF	LAURYN HILL	RUFFHOUSE/COLUMBIA
5	4	STEP ONE	STEPS	EBUL/JIVE
6	5	LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF	GEORGE MICHAEL	EPIC
7	7	FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN	THE CORRS	143/LAVA/ATLANTIC
8	8	WHERE WE BELONG	BOYZONE	POLYDOR
9	11	THIS IS MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS	MANIC STREET PREACHERS	EPIC
10	10	RAY OF LIGHT	MADONNA	MAVERICK
11	NEW	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	STEREOPHONICS	V2
12	9	LIFE THRU A LENS	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
13	17	GRAN TURISMO	CARDIGANS	STOCKHOLM/POLYDOR
14	20	BELIEVE	CHER	WEA
15	12	BIG WILLIE STYLE	WILL SMITH	COLUMBIA
16	13	THE BEST OF	M PEOPLE	M PEOPLE
17	14	THE BEST OF 1980-1990	U2	ISLAND
18	NEW	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	WHITNEY HOUSTON	ARISTA
19	NEW	NO EXIT	BLONDIE	RCA/BYOND
20	15	VERSION 2.0	GARBAGE	MUSHROOM

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