Review Record 5/1/89

Liverpool scored in the charts too

Every year holds its fair share of surprises and 1988 was no exception.

It was the year when the most successful British football club of all time became the most successful team ever in chart terms also. "Anfield Rap" by Liverpool F.C. reached the deserved position of number three, having been composed in a contemporary Rapping and House style by striker Craig Johnston. The only football songs to perform better in the charts have been those by the England international line-ups.

A taste of the Merseyside magic came to the Bognor Regis Centre in July when Gerry And The Pacemakers made the town one of their stopping points on their Silver Jubilee Tour, and gave a quality performance.

It was a real pleasure to witness a strong musical talent being "exported" from our area to nationwide success in the shape of Julia Fordham from Hayling Island. Her self-titled debut album spent many weeks in the LP chart and its best track "Happy Ever After", the spine-tingling ballad became a Top 40 hit single. Having created so much interest among disc-jockeys and the pop media I am sure that this is just the beginning of a long success story for Ms. Fordham.

Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours" became the first album to spend more than 400 weeks in the LP chart, while their superb "Tango In The Night" enjoyed major success for the second year running, by returning to the top of the chart, having already been there in 1987.

Other 1987 album releases enjoyed continued success last year, most notably "Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby", "Popped In Souled Out" by Wet Wet Wet, "Actually" by the Pet Shop Boys, "Whenever You Need Somebody" by Rick Astley, and one of my favourites "Hearsay" by Alexander O'Neal. Michael Jackson became the first performer to sell two million albums with consecutive releases in Britain – namely "Thriller" and "BAD".

These were the Number One albums of 1988.

November 30, 1987: Now 10 (Various) – six weeks.

January 11, 1988: Popped In Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet) – one week.

January 18: Turn Back The Clock (Johnny Hates Jazz) – one week.

January 25: Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby – eight weeks.

March 21: Viva Hate (Morrissey) – one week.

March 28: Now 11 (Various) – three weeks.

April 18: 7th Son Of A 7th Son (Iron Maiden) – one week.

April 25: The Innocents (Erasure) – one week.

May 3: Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac) – two weeks.

May 16: Lovesexy (Prince) – one week.

May 23: Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac) – one week.

May 31: Nite Flite (Various) – four weeks.

June 27: Tracy Chapman – three weeks.

July 18: Now 12 (Various) – five weeks.

August 22: Kylie (Kylie Minogue) – four weeks.

September 19: Hot City Nights (Various) – one week.

September 26: New Jersey (Bon Jovi) – two weeks.

October 10: Flying Colours (Chris De Burgh) – one week.

October 17: Rattle And Hum (U2) – one week.

October 24: Money For Nothing (Dire Straits) – three weeks.

November 14: Kylie (Kylie Minogue) – two weeks.

November 28: Now 13 (Various).

I shall be taking one final glance back at 1988 with some predictions for 1989 in next week's column. In the meantime I am pleased to report that the best pop television programme makes a return on Saturday at noon on ITV, namely "The Chart Show" which has been "promoted" from Channel 4.

Bob Woodhead