

## The B&C Discography: 1968 to 1975

### **Mooncrest**

From the start, Mooncrest seemed suspiciously similar to the old B&C label. Much like the old B&C label, Mooncrest suffered from an identity crisis with releases evincing a mix of styles from commercial reggae to hard rock, taking in folk and out-and-out pop along the way. Mooncrest also acquired a subsidiary label, Dragon, from Island in August 1973. What with Dragon showcasing Jamaican music from Byron Lee productions, why the label was licensed to Mooncrest and not to Trojan remains a mystery, though perhaps Mooncrest's account books looked rather more healthy than Trojan's at this point?

At least three releases were lost during B&C's liquidation – these were Decameron's *Beyond the Days* LP (despite adverts showing the sleeve appearing in the music press) an EP by their surf/doo-wop alter-egos, The Magnificent Mercury Brothers, and a single by The Fortunes. The listings are not concerned with later Mooncrest releases following the label's resurrection as part of the reconstituted B&C Recordings Ltd.

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#### **MOON 50**

#### **MAGNIFICENT MERCURY BROTHERS: *New Girl In School / What About Us / Why Do Fools Fall In Love / (I'm Not A) Juvenile Delinquent (NOT RELEASED)***

**Rel:** 27 Jun 1975<sup>3</sup>

Scheduled for release in late June 1975 but caught up in B&C's liquidation and not issued. The Magnificent Mercury Brothers were really Decameron. Al Fenn explains: "... the Magnificent Mercury Brothers songs were destined for an EP on Mooncrest – the whole thing came from the fact that we would slip a Beach Boys/doo wop song into our normal set (light relief from some of the rest of our songs). These would go down a storm with folk club audiences ... [Mooncrest label manager] Jim Flynn saw this reaction more than once, and said we had to record them. They were recorded at the same time as *Beyond the Days* ... but never got to the artwork stage ... Transatlantic took them on, and cautiously released *New Girl In School* which got onto the Radio One playlist ..."

Transatlantic released the four tracks as two singles, *New Girl In School / What About Us* (BIG 532) and *Why Do Fools Fall In Love / (I'm Not A) Juvenile Delinquent* (BIG 536). *New Girl In School* got a reissue on Transatlantic's new Logo imprint in 1978 (GO 107).

Moon 50 was subsequently used by the resurrected Mooncrest label in 1976 for *Rave On/The King/False Knight On The Road* by Steeleye Span.