

ROCKER REVEALS ALL (WELL, NEARLY)

Genesis snubbed me ... but I can Hackett!

IF I were Steve Hackett I think I might feel a bit miffed.

Steve played guitar with the legendary Genesis for much of their prog-rock heyday, from 1971 to 1977, but when Phil Collins and the others decided to reform the band 30-odd years later, he found his services weren't required.

"I've always said I'd be open to it," he tells me. "But they decided to do it as a three-piece."

Not that he sounds all that bitter, to be fair. Steve's own band, under the banner of Genesis Revisited, still plays tracks from 70s classics such

THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW



STEVE HACKETT
MUSICIAN

as Selling England By The Pound ("I feel that was the most creative, interesting time for the band"), while the others celebrate their 80s hit-single era ("when the focus was on pleasing MTV, when the music was like an add-on to the videos").

So everyone's happy now, right? "I still get to honour the music but it's politics-free," says Steve. "When I play Genesis stuff, it's my own choices, my own take on it."

Of course, if you're a veteran rock star (Steve turned 70 in February) and you do bear a grudge or three, where better to get things off your chest than in an autobiography?

Steve's book *A Genesis In My Bed* is out on Friday. But while he talks of the band being "a very established gentlemen's club" when he joined (the others met at top Surrey private school Charterhouse) and recalls the pressures that convinced him to quit, he's carefully avoided a hatchet job.

"My wife Jo has been a good sounding board," he says, "advising me on what I should and shouldn't put in print."

Pasting

It must have been tempting, mind you, to let rip. Steve assures me things are "all very civil" now between him and the rest (Tony Banks, Mike Rutherford and Peter Gabriel having made up the remainder of the best-known version of the five piece). But when he refers to the "pasting" he got when Rutherford wrote a book, you can see why biting his tongue might have been a challenge.

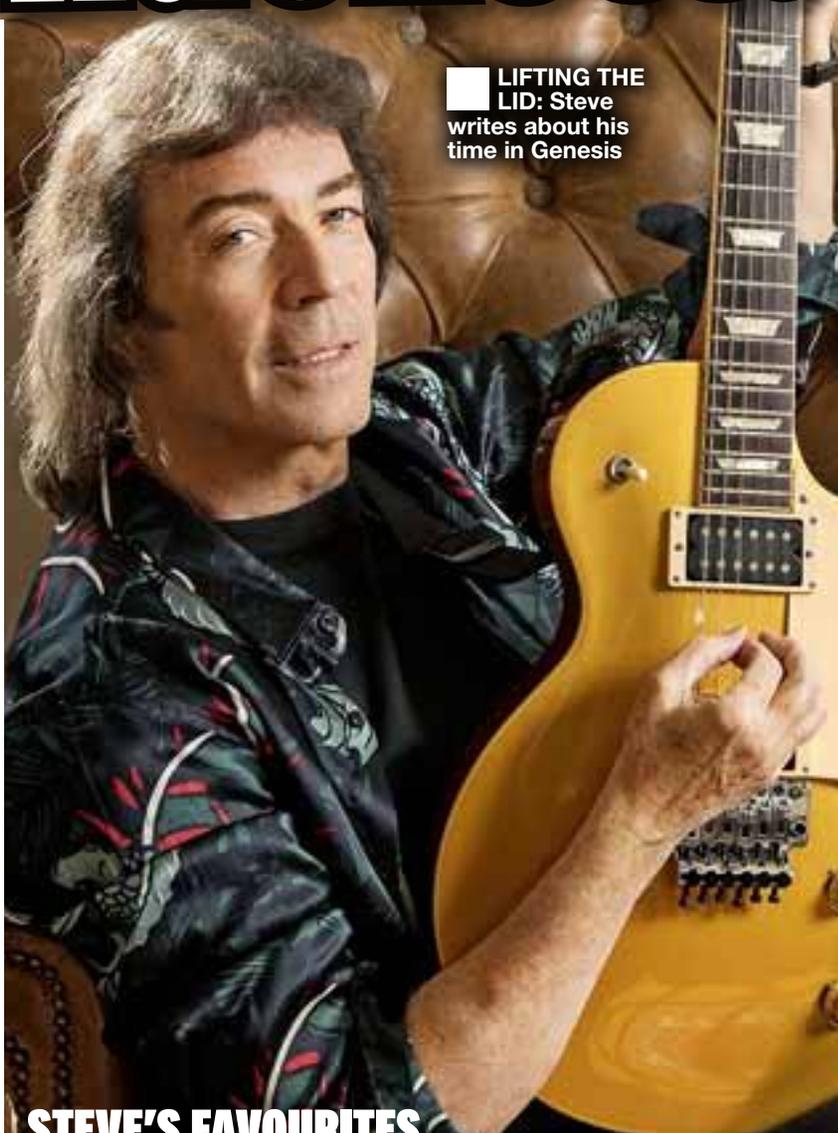
"I like to think my book is balanced," Steve says.

"I'll have the odd joke about somebody, but I think that's fair game. We shouldn't take ourselves too seriously."

Playing those 70s Genesis songs in 2020, Steve knows some will accuse him of living on past glories. "I do accept the criticism," he says, "but for decades I only did solo stuff."

"I finally came to realise I no longer needed to distance myself from that music. I worked very hard on those early Genesis albums. The music has always been in my heart."

● *A Genesis In My Bed* by Steve Hackett (Wymer Publishing, £19.99) is out on Friday. Steve's *Seconds Out* tour, originally planned for November, has now been rescheduled for September and October 2021.



LIFTING THE LID: Steve writes about his time in Genesis

STEVE'S FAVOURITES

- FILM:** Kind Hearts and Coronets
- TV SHOW:** Doc Martin
- BOOK:** Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts
- PLAY:** Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- ACTOR:** Tom Hanks
- COMEDIAN:** Steve Martin
- SPORTSPERSON:** Marcus Rashford
- SPORTS TEAM:** Chelsea
- SPORTING EVENT:** Gymnastics
- SONG:** All Along The Watchtower
- SINGER:** Richie Havens

- BAND:** The Beatles
- FOOD:** Cheese on toast
- COLOUR:** Purple
- DRINK:** Tea
- CITY:** Rome
- HOLIDAY DESTINATION:** Egypt
- BUILDING:** St Paul's Cathedral
- GADGET:** Guitar
- APP:** Twitter
- SCHOOL SUBJECT:** Spanish
- FIGURE FROM HISTORY:** Florence Nightingale
- ANIMAL:** Wolf

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★ STEVE Hackett's long-awaited autobiography, *A Genesis In My Bed*, is out on Friday. And we have five copies to give away. For your chance to win one, just complete the name of this legendary Genesis on which Steve played in 1974: The Lamb Lies Down On...
(A) Broad Street

(B) Broadway
(C) Bridlington Beach
Email your answer (subject: "Genesis"), plus your name, address and mobile number, to starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk. Entries close at midnight this Friday, July 24. Normal Daily Star rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.