

So – strangely enough – says **Rick Astley**, the 21-year-old singer who's just bounded up into the charts with his debut single "Gonna Give You Up". He seems to be quite a serious sort of chap, not particularly enamoured with the idea of being a famous pop star all of a sudden, which amazes Blitz somewhat. Doesn't he want loads of fans camping out on his doorstep?

"Well," he ruminates, "I suppose it would make a change. I'm not really into that side of it though. My ambitions are more to improve my songwriting and my singing," answers Rick. "I'm a closet muso (i.e. an obsessive musician) – I'm not a real muso yet because I'm not proficient enough playing-wise," he says joshingly.

Rick hails from the quaintly named town of Newton-Le-Willows outside Manchester and was playing in a local group after he left school when he was

"spotted" by one Pete Waterman, of Stock/Aitken Waterman fame (the chappies who write and produce songs for just about every pop star ever invented) who noticed what an extraordinary voice Rick had.

"You think I sound like Billy Ocean???" Well, I can think of nicer comparisons than that. But quite a few people have been talking about me and saying 'he looks white and he sounds black'," comments Rick.

And so, even if he doesn't particularly want to be a pop star, Stock, Aitken and Waterman have nevertheless launched him into that dizzy orbit. But what does Rick do these days apart from be a muso?

"Actually I'm getting into sports. I'm really keen on ski-ing and I had a go at golf the other day. At first I thought 'What a boring game, really natl,' but then I had a go and it's really good. It gets you into the countryside and keeps your mind off being a pop star."