OMG it’s the teen issue

band on the run

They entered last year’s X Factor as five solo artists and finished it as potentially the biggest boy band in Britain. Meet One Direction, the nation’s newest teen idols.

by Beth Neil and Karen Edwards

photography by Derrick Santini

The studio is brimming with hairspray, hormones and five topless One Directioners as they get ready for our shoot. Grown women swoon while trying to remember they’re probably (er, definitely in some cases) old enough to be the boys’ mothers.

Liam (the wise one), Louis (the class clown), Zayn (mean and mysterious), Niall (cute and cheeky) and Harry (that hair) lark around like typical teens, perfecting dance moves, swigging Diet Coke and charming the knickers off everyone.

They’re properly lovely. And they’re on course to become Britain’s biggest boy band with their debut single What Makes You Beautiful, which has “No 1? Easy!” written all over it. They’ve also just signed a lucrative advertising deal with Nintendo which will line the pockets of their skinny jeans.

They might have only come third on last year’s X Factor, but the odds are on One Direction turning out to be the biggest success story of the series. Five teenage lads are set to steamroller their way into a million girls’ hearts…