CHAIRMAN
Mike Elliston
96 Sparrows Herne
Basildon
Essex
SS16 5EX

SECRETARY
LIBRARIAN
&
NEWSLETTER
EDITOR
David Lalieu
10, Sheridan Avenue
Thundersley
Essex
SS7 1RD
Tel:(01702)551618

TREASURER
Martin Blackman
13, Fulcher Avenue
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 6QN
Tel:(01245)280781

MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY
&
TEAM LEADER
Disc Drive Group
Steve Massam
27, St.Marks Road
Hadleigh
BENFLEET
Essex
SS7 2PY
Tel.(01702) 555398

PD LIBRARIAN
Nick Chaundy
2, Clickett Hill
Basildon
Essex
SS14 1NP
Tel:(01268)454917

ORDINARY
MEMBER
Peter Hathaway
52, Woodbrooke Way
Corringham
Stanford-Le-Hope
Essex
SS17 9DP
(01375) 672759

BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

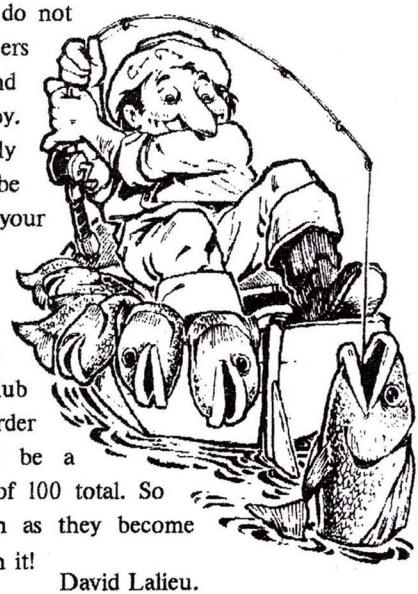
NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 71 April 1999

TWEAK

The 1st April meeting is dedicated to Tweak 3. The last two meetings have given members interested in Word Processing plenty to think about. Now it is the turn of members who want to learn more about Desk Top Publishing. You will be amazed how this program manipulates bit-image files. Bring along your machines and have a go, you never know you may get bitten by the MicroDesign bug, for my part its one of the programs that make PCWing very interesting.

The lack of response we have had from my appeal for members to participate in the production of the Disc Drive is very concerning. Without help the Disc Drive will become thinner and thinner and eventually disappear. I repeat you do not have to be expert we need members who can use the keyboard and transfer hard-copy into soft-copy. We also need writers of preferablly PCW subjects. These subjects can be in the form of tutorials, tips or your own experiences.



Again I am reminding our members of the PCW meeting being arranged by the Crawley Club for May 15th. Make sure you order your tickets in time there will be a restriction on the numbers issue of 100 total. So don't miss out get yours as soon as they become available. Be in the swim and catch it!

David Lalieu.

Chairman's Chatterings

You have just upgraded to LocoScript 4, or MD3 and the Network, on an 8512 or 9512; it might not be a bad idea if you added some more memory (essential for the Network). There's that advert for that second-hand memory pack, 512k or, if you are lucky, 1.5 Mb. That'll make either Loco4 or MD3 purr along. Quite a reasonable price and guaranteed all OK.

Put the cheque in the post and next day it arrives. Make sure that the PCW is disconnected from the mains and that the expansion port at the back is nice and clean. Just a bit of meths on a Q-tip or a gentle rub with an ink rubber, but not hard enough to damage the metal terminals. *Squeeze* the memory pack onto the back of the port, making sure that it's the right way up, and hold it in place with the two small screws. (They were supplied weren't they?)

Power up and load MD3. It gets as far as the "Loading program" screen and then hangs; nothing more happens. It could be my start of day disc; maybe I need to remake it for this? I'll load up Loco 4 instead – *that* should load alright. Yes, up comes the Disc Manager. Must be OK.

Let's create a new document. Press C for create and, after a moment or so, in the middle of the screen appears this rather unusual message box which I've never seen before:

```
Error in: Reading SETTINGS
Not a suitable document
```

I'm not trying to do anything with a file called Settings. I've not even named my file yet. What does it mean? It means that you've been done and the memory pack is useless. If you want to check it out, reboot the machine with CP/M. When the A> prompt appears remove the CP/M disc, insert your Loco4 disc, type `RAMTEST` and press [Enter]. It will tell you how much memory it recognises and ask if you want to continue the tests. *Yes!* After a while you will be told that a certain block is faulty. Do you wish to continue? Yes.

Eventually it will tell you how many faults there are. If you are at all doubtful, switch off the machine, *remove* the pack, and then run RamTest on the machine with no add-ons. If that runs OK then you know the fault lies in the additional memory pack – it's duff.

The moral is that you don't buy any second-hand add-on memory packs unless you get a guarantee that it will survive RamTest or you get your money back. RamTest.Com, written by LocoScript Software, comes with Loco4 and is in the PD Library. There is another version of the program with the same name but written by Cirtech instead; both are excellent tests.

In *my* experience be suspicious of memory packs from CSA. Those supplied by Creative Technology (made by Cirtech) are the best. The "end-on" PowerPacks from LocoScript (limited to 512k) seem to vary in quality. (Were some made by CSA?) No matter who the maker, *never* plug in or remove a memory pack whilst your PCW is switched on. It's certain death to the pack and possibly the PCW too!

Mike Elliston

If you would like a

DAY TICKET

for the

CRAWLEY PCW DAY

on Saturday 15th May 1999

then telephone John Moon on 01403 253819 *after Easter*

and send him an A5 SAE with a cheque for

£5

10 am – 4 pm

Club Helpline

CARDIFF 6:00pm/10:30pm
Anthony Hill. Tele. 01222 618012
General PCW advice, CP/M, PD.

MOTHERWELL 9-10am/5-7pm
David Williams. Tele.01698 732403
Analysing faults/suggesting repairs, Mini office (spreadsheet/database), CP/M, LocoScript, Gem hard disc, PD.

BATH After 6:00pm
Adrian Hooper Tele: 01761 43627
Fax by arrangement
E-mail py7amL@bath.ac.uk
9256, 9512, 8512, Inkjet printers, LocoScript 1-4, Microdesign, Scanning, LocoFile, PCW - PC conversion.

FARNBOROUGH After 6:00pm
Dorothy Featherstone Tele. 01689 858105
Fax 01689 855302
Emergency Mobile 0802 601984
LocoScript 2-4, Rocket, Supercalc 2, LocoFile with LocoMail, Desktop Publisher.

HUDDERSFIELD 8:30am - 9:30pm
Graham Swepson Tele. 01484 682988
Mallard Basic, LocoScript 2 pre v 2.50, Fitting Silicon City internal drives. Epson/P Reference printer language codes

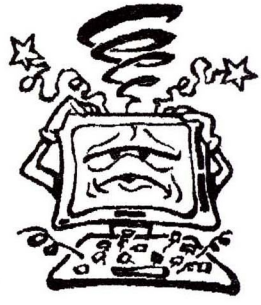
HARROW
Mike Ray Answer Phone 0181 863 5010
Mallard Basic, PSION organiser connection, RS232 COMMS interface.

HEREFORD After 6:00pm
Maurice Knight Tele. 01981 250886
Most PCW matters.

NOTTINGHAM 6:30 - 9:30pm
Tom Wright Tele. 01773 713613
8512, LocoScript 3, LocoSpell, Protext, MD2 & MD3, Network, Tweak 3, Roots (family history software), Brainstorm.

PLYMOUTH 09:00-21:00
Roy Martin Tele. 01752 839430
8256/8512, LocoScript 1, 2 &3 Rocket, MD3 scanning, colour printing, Tweak, PrintMaster and numerous games

We still have area's without a helpline representative we are sure there are members who could assist fellow members. So why not send the secretary your details and your expertise details for the next issue of HelpLine



Roots Geneology PCW Program

Mr. W.P.Ford the author of this very successful program has recently died. As he used to operate a helpline for users, we must request members do not distress his widow by telephoning the former helpline.

As this service is no longer available, if any member feels competent enough to assist other users, we would be more than happy to publish their details in our helpline. Please do not call the previous number.

SMALL ADS.

PCW Machines

8256 Standard Machine	Drive overhauled	£40:00
9512 Modified Machines	These machines have been overhauled and fitted with new 3.5" drives.	£90:00
9512+ Standard Machine	New drive fitted	£95:00
NEW 3.0" A drives for 8000 machines with cable and fitting instructions		£30:00

Compare these prices! Post and Packing Extra

Contact David Lalieu 10, Sheridan Avenue Thundersley Essex Tele: (01702) 551618

FOR SALE

Books and Manuals:

Amstrad Original 8256/8512 Manual	£8:00
LocoScript 2 Manual	£6:00
MicroDesign 3 Manual	£6:00
Mastering the PCW 8256/8512 J.Hughes	£5:00
LocoFile Manual	£5:00
Gentree II Manual	£5:00
LocoScript 1 & 2 PCW Plus	£5:00
Mallard BASIC Manual	£6:00
The PCW Loco Manual	£6:00
Step by Step C/PM Plus	£5:00
Super Calc II with 3.0" discs	£6:50

All items post and packing extra

Contact David Lalieu 01702 551618

FOR SALE

Locolink (Cable, 3" disc & Manual) PCW - PC LocoScript	£10:00
PCW 10 with Printer & Keyboard	£25:00
PCW 8512 with Printer & Keyboard	£22:00
PCW 8256 with Printer & Keyboard	£17:00
8000 Plus Tips Collection (3.0" disc & manual)	£5:00

Add a little colour to your computing with an Amstrad CPC6128 3.0" drive machine with colour monitor and system discs £22:00

Note:

All PCW's are (G.W.O.)

Postage extra on all items

Contact John King 01708 630477

Rainham Essex

Club members can advertise their unwanted items on this page at £1:00 per small box.

NOTICE:

Anyone interested in a collection of PCW Plus magazines free should contact Jackson Bonner . 89, Severn Drive, Upminster, Essex Tele: (01708) 226566.

Ttouble with your PcW 16 ?

Why not purchase an 8000 or 9000 secondhand machine, they have an excellent pedigree.

See top advert for details.