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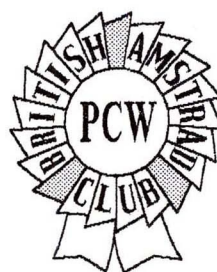
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**BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB**

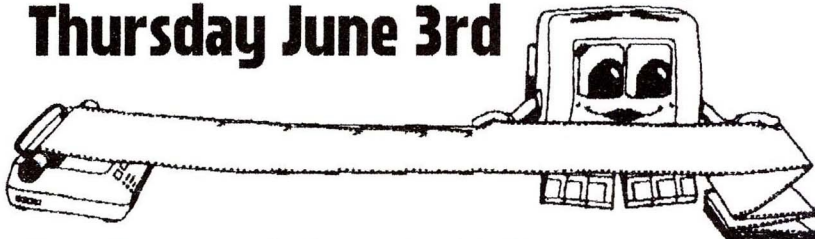
# NEWSLETTER



Issue No: 73

June 1999

## Thursday June 3rd



## Its Spreadsheet night

Tonight, Mike will be demonstrating spreadsheets, probably concentrating on Supercalc which is claimed to have many advantages over others. There is no need to bring your machines unless you absolutely want to. Please come prepared to ask questions about your problems with spreadsheets although it need not be specifically Supercalc, Mike can probably deal with any of the others.

We will be attempting to use our recently acquired Rombo/Vidi whatsit. This is a system where the demonstration machine is linked to monitors that can be strategically placed around the room so that the audience can closely observe the demonstration. We have been looking for one of these for years anyway since we saw it being used for Creative Technology demonstrated Micro Design 3. This set up now belongs to the club.

I will not labour the point but I felt I had to say a big thank you to the members who attended the Crawley meeting and to my fellow members who helped with the preparation for our stand including Steve's super display that knocked the visitors for six. From my own point of view it was certainly a worthwhile meeting; it allowed us to put faces to many people who are usually only voices on the other end of a telephone or a letter. I am sure many will agree we did the club proud!

I understand it is normal for the Crawley club to put on a well organised event and I must say this was not an exception everything seemed to go very well. I got the impression most prizes seemed to be won by members of the British Amstrad Club!

Many people seemed to be interested in our activity and we should see a number of new members as a result.

David Lalieu.

## Chairman's Chatterings

Those of you who live in the South East and didn't attend the Crawley PCW Day on May 15th missed out on a treat. It was good to meet again old faces from the MicroDesign Day held by Crawley in 1994 and to meet for the first time new faces who have appeared on the PCW scene more recently.

Your own club had one of the largest stands and it was represented by more than a dozen members who attended that day. Steve had reprogrammed a version of his PCW Workout as a special introduction to the club for the day. Visitors could press various letters on the keyboard to enquire about the club, the subscriptions, the PD library, etc, and an animated display appeared giving suitable responses. The three machines running both this and the Workout program attracted a lot of interest and we gained a number of new members to the club on the day.

Unfortunately Nick Chaundy, our club Public Domain Librarian, was unavoidably detained by his employer and was unable to attend at the last minute. In addition, the 3½" drive on Steve's machine was playing up so we were unable to make PD copies for our visitors. However, they will be being supplied with their PD requests post free, in compensation, upon Nick's return.

Other welcome faces included (in no particular order!) John Elliot, who has produced both the CP/M emulator that allows you to run many of the classic PCW programs on the PcW16, and the brilliant PCW emulator for the PC [Yes, MicroDesign and LocoScript running on a PC!]; Adrian Braddy, publisher of the excellent *PCWToday* who came all the way down from Middlesbrough for the day; Steve Denson

who is marketing a wide range of software to expand the range of programs for the PcW16 (running under John Elliot's emulator), proving that there is still life in the 16 yet; Doug Cox and Pip Orchard from the MicroDesign International User Group; and Howard Fisher with his team from LocoScript Software with a new catalogue of products for the PCW. (Call free on 08000 267088 for your copy).

Dorothy Featherstone was demonstrating the finer points of LocoScript and selling copies of her latest tutorial book on LocoScript 4; John Craggs displayed his Writers Desk program for budding authors and the room occupied by Ian Studley was so full of new and secondhand PCW equipment that it was almost impossible to get more than a few visitors into the room at a time! Brian Watson was on hand for much of the day giving advice on Protex, the major alternative word processor for the PCW. Unfortunately, Nic Holmes from Creative Technology, producers of MicroDesign, Tweak, MicroDisplay, the Network, etc, etc, who had hoped to attend was not able to be present - sorely missed.

For those whose primary interest is the PcW16, the PcW16 Appreciation Society has produced the first issue of an occasional newsletter called *16 Storm* devoted exclusively to the 16 and programs from SD Microsystems which can be run on the 16 under the CP/M emulator. It is now even possible to print *in colour* from the PcW16 provided that you own a colour printer which is *fully* Epson LQ compatible, such as the Epson LQ2500C or the more recent Canon 4300, the Citizen ABC-24 and others. Don't believe what the lad in Dixons said about the 16 - it is far more versatile than



## PCW Machines

<u>8256 Standard Machine (drive overhauled)</u>	<u>£35:00</u>
<u>8256 Modified Machine (new alternative drive fitted)</u>	<u>£45:00</u>
<u>8512 Standard Machine (drive overhauled)</u>	<u>£40:00</u>
<u>9512 Standard Machine (drive overhauled)</u>	<u>£50:00</u>
<u>9512 Modified Machine (fitted with 3½" drive)</u>	<u>£75:00</u>
<u>9512+ Standard Machine (drive overhauled)</u>	<u>£80:00</u>

A small number of alternative 3.0" new drives for 8000 machines. These new drives will give your machine a new lease of life. The connections are different to the standard but a conversion lead is supplied with each drive. With a small change to the casing of your machine they can be fitted internally and do not detract from the machines appearance. They are a bargain at £30:00 each plus post and packing.

All machines are with standard printers and keyboards:



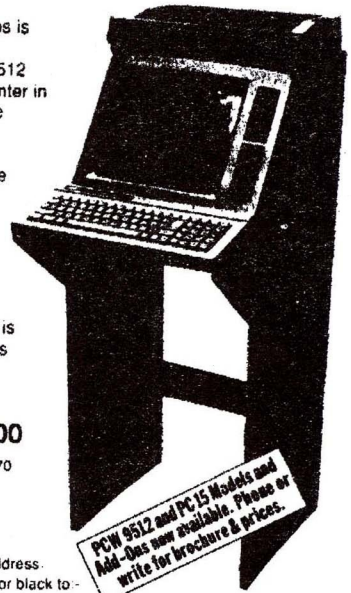
Two only of these unique pieces of PCW furniture. No longer available from the manufacturer. They provide a very compact unit for 8000 PCW machines. One is in white the other in black at £10:00 each they are a bargain. Packed flat (they will need assemble but this is very simple) Post and packing extra.

# Com-Stax

## THE ULTIMATE SPACE SAVER

*"Interesting solution ..... thoughtfully designed" says 8000 Plus*

The new Com-Stax 8 Series is a unique stand that will stack your PCW 8256 or 8512 plus your keyboard and printer in under a quarter of a square metre of floor space. Its reclining monitor position and angled keyboard make the PCW even more user friendly. The Com-Stax is 98 cm high, 41 cm wide and beautifully finished in durable red, white or black lacquer, the unit comes to you as a flat pack kit which is easily assembled in minutes with the allen key provided



### THE PRICE: £35.00

PLUS VAT £5.25 and P&P £4.70  
TOTAL £44.95

#### TO ORDER:

Post your cheque for £44.95 together with your name and address, and choice of colour, red white or black to:-

**COM-STAX LTD, FREEPOST, LONDON, SW5 0BR**  
Tel: 01.244 8292

Please allow 28 days for delivery. The Com-Stax is a Copyright design. Patent applied for

please quote 8

PCW Items at bargain prices from:-  
10, Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1RD

David Lalieu,  
Telephone (01702) 551618.

## Books And Manuals

<u>Amstrad Book 1 CP/M Logo &amp; Word Processing manual</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Amstrad Book 2 Basic Manual</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Amstrad LQ 5000di 24pin dot matrix printer manual</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Amstrad PCW 9512 manual</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Mallard Basic manual</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Users Guide MicoSoft Wndows 3.1</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>The Working Amstrad D. Lawrence &amp; S.Lane.</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Program Your PCW I.Sinclair</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>All in one Business Consulting J.Hughes</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Users Guide to the Amstrad 8256/8512 D.Thomason</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Mastering the Amstrad PCW 8256/8512 J.Hughes</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Hitch Hikers Guide to Artificial Intelligence R.Forsythe &amp; C.Naylor</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>Amstrad Word Processing on PCW 8256 I.Sinclair</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>A Guide to Playing The Hobbit D.Elkan</u>	<u>£4:00</u>
<u>Getting Started with Basic &amp; Logo on Amstrad's PCW's F.Wilson</u>	<u>£4:00</u>
<u>A Practical Reference to W/P on the Amstrad PCW 8256/8512 F.Wilson</u>	<u>£4:00</u>
<u>Your First Amstrad Program R.Zaks</u>	<u>£5:00</u>
<u>8000 Plus Tips with 3.0" disc</u>	<u>£7:50</u>

## Specials

<u>Amstrad CP/M Plus D.Powys-Lybbe A.Clarke</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>CP/M Plus Handbook Digital Research</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>Program the Z80 R.Zaks</u>	<u>£10:00</u>

## Software

<u>LocoScript 2 upgrade (3.0"disc)</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>LocoFile (3.0" disc)</u>	<u>£8:00</u>
<u>LocoScript 3 (3½" disc)</u>	<u>£12:00</u>
<u>Sage Accounts (3.0" disc)</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>Desktop Publishing (3.0" disc)</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>Tempdisc 9(Templates for LocoScript 2 3.0" disc)</u>	<u>£8:00</u>
<u>Masterfile 8000 Database</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>Protex Wordprocessor (3.0" discs)</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>Cracker Spreadsheet (3.0" disc)</u>	<u>£10:00</u>
<u>Gentree (geneology software)</u>	<u>£8:00</u>

## Hardware

<u>Joycestick (8256)</u>	<u>£8:00</u>
<u>C.T KeyMouse</u>	<u>£20:00</u>
<u>C.T.Hand Scanner</u>	<u>£50:00</u>
<u>C.T Ramport ½Meg memory pack</u>	<u>£20:00</u>
<u>9512+ Replacement Floppy Disc Drive</u>	<u>£35:00</u>
<u>8256 Internal 3½" Floppy Disc Drive Microform Abba Drive</u>	<u>£35:00</u>
<u>9512 Daisywheel Printer Sheet Feeder</u>	<u>£10:00</u>

Post And Packing Extra on all items

you are told and a lot cheaper than a Pentium PC! Just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to PO Box 99, Thetford IP24 1NA for a free copy of this or future issues.

Congratulations and *many* thanks go to the team at Crawley PCW Club who took on the responsibilities of organising such an entertaining and successful event. Thank you

And finally, a piece of good news for those who are able to attend our monthly tutorial meetings in Basildon: the club has

acquired a Rombo Vidi system together with four or five remote monitors. This system allows a large number of people to watch a demonstration of a program being run on *one* PCW on the remote monitors spaced around the room in comfort, rather than having everybody crowded round the one machine, peering over each others' shoulders. We hope to have this up and running in time for the next meeting in June (but no promises as I've still got to read the manual once or twice more yet!)

Mike Elliston.

### Subscription Increase

Many members will be aware of the problems the management committee have encountered to maintain the very high quality service we offer our members with the current subscription funding. Despite tight budgeting, the increased costs of room hire and production of our publications, realistically means the subscription rates have to be increased.

We have for several years achieved the highest level of membership within the U.K of similar groups; we have also managed to keep our subscriptions lower than most other organisations. Reluctantly we are now faced with a situation where this must change.

With immediate effect (June/1999) the subscriptions will change as follows:

On the door charges £2:50

Annual membership subscription £12:00

Junior membership £6:00

Overseas membership £14:50

We are sure you will agree, even at these rates (less than 25p per week) the club offers very good value for money.

David Lalieu (Secretary) & Martin Blackman (Treasurer)



# SMALL ADS.

## PCW Items for Sale

PcW 9256 system with printer & keyboard	£18:00
PCW 8256 system with printer & keyboard	£12:00
PcW 10 system with printer & keyboard	£25: 00
PCW 9512 system with printer & keyboard	£18:00
PCW 9512 system only	£15:00
PcW 10 system only	£15:00
3" 180K reconditioned drives	£10:00
3" discs reformatted [720K] & relabelled @	
80pence each or £60 per 100	
All in GWO, postage extra	
Call John King on 01708 630477	

## PCW Items for Sale

RS 232 Interface	£10:00
3" 180k Disc Drive	£10:00
3" Master Discs for 8256 & 9512	£1:00 each
Two Epson Printers	£10:00 each
Amstrad 8256	£6:00
All items plus postage	
Mr D.Phelps	Tele. (01708) 477071

## Advertisements

You can advertise your unwanted PCW items on this page for the small sum of £1:00. Why not contact the editor for the next issue.

## Ideal Value Items

(Ideal Value is an anagram of Dave Lalieu)

Appear on the separate page, Software, Hardware and Machines.

## Future Club Night Program.

July 99	Beginners MicroDesign	Nov. 99	Other W/P Software
Aug. 99	Colour & Loco 4	Dec. 99	Competition & Quiz
Sept. 99	AGM & Nicks Spot	Jan. 00	Competition Results
Oct. 99	Brains Trust		& PD Entertains

## Notice

The committee would like to get a better understanding of the subjects the membership would like not only on club nights but as subjects for The Disc Drive. Please contact the secretary with your preferences and we will do our best to accommodate you.

David Lalieu.