The PCW Club NEWSLETTER

New Constitution, New Name

At the Annual General Meeting of the Club held on 6th September the members present voted unanimously to accept the revised constitution put forward by the Committee.

The principle change which will affect all members is that the name of the club has changed from the British Amstrad PCW Club to **The PCW Club** with immediate effect.

This change was proposed because the club has no connection with Amstrad and because the club has a number of members outside the UK. In addition, the previous quite formal title had led to the club being considered by some to be a trading concern rather than a social club and free advertising of forthcoming meetings had been refused on this basis.

The other major changes were a tightening of the financial controls of the running of the Club, the establishment of voting rights for *all* members of the club (not just local members) and with proxy voting being permitted at all future General Meetings.

Needless to say, there were no volunteers to stand on the Committee and so the Committee membership is as follows:

The PCW Club Committee

Chairman, Mike Elliston,
96 Sparrows Herne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5EX
mike@thepcwclub.org.uk
Phone 01268 522484 *Strictly office hours only*

Treasurer, Nick Chaundy,
2 Clickett Hill, Basildon, Essex SS14 1NP
nick@thepcwclub.org.uk
Telephone 01268 454917

Disc Drive editor, Steve Massam,
27 St Marks Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2PY
steve@thepcwclub.org.uk
Telephone 01702 555398.

Ordinary Member, Peter Hathaway,
52 Woodbrooke Way, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex
    SS17 9DP
peter@thepcwclub.org.uk
Telephone 01375 672759.

You will note that the posts of *Secretary* and *Membership Secretary* are currently vacant. The Public Domain Library is in limbo whilst the recovered discs are being assessed for damage and possible recovery.

Please note that not all Committee members can access their e-mail on a daily basis.

An Apology and Explanation

This *Newsletter* should have come out over two months ago, announcing the outcome of the AGM. Shortly after the AGM Steve departed for the Falklands again where he remains at the moment. I had said that in his absence I would attempt to produce a *Disc Drive* after the next *Newsletter*.

Nick, our Treasurer, was lucky enough to find himself a new job but found it to be so involved that he has not had time to breathe. I had been collecting subscriptions and keeping the database up to date since there had been no volunteer to act as Membership Secretary and hold a pile of uncashed cheques which should have been paid into the bank.

Unfortunately, in the meantime, two close members of my family have fallen seriously ill and I have simply not had time to do much in the way of producing either a *Newsletter*, let alone a *Disc Drive*.

This is not acceptable and a number of members have written to see if their cheque has gone astray. I have contacted them all and told them that they are still members and am now producing this belated *Newsletter* but the outcome is that the loyal members who have renewed have not had much for their money.

By way of appeasement we have decided that all long term members who have renewed this year should get one year's free membership. This applies to all with a membership number below 414, i.e. those who joined before April 1999. If you find your cheque in with this *Newsletter* it does not mean that you are no longer a member or that the Club has folded; it is a **refund.**

This edition of the *Newsletter* will be thicker than usual with both news items and technical articles in lieu of the Club's failure to produce a *Disc Drive*. It is possible that future *Newsletter*s will be in a similar fashion until the system recovers.

In a conversation with a prospective member recently he enquired: "What do you have in your magazines?" and my reply was "Whatever our members request". We have had appeals for more on the PCW 9512 and you will find an article dedicated to that machine on page 4. You will also find a commentary on the various printers which run under LocoScript (with or without the LX fonts) on page 11.

The response to our request for information on the printers used by various members with their setup on the membership renewal form was rather disappointing but a short summary of the results appears on the back page. It is interesting to note how many people have upgraded to Loco-Script 4, nearly half the replies, and yet we still have members using LocoScript 1 on an 8256. Well, you don't get a virus on a PCW. *Happy Holidays!*

Future Meetings

Demonstrations and tutorials of PCW software and other products will *continue* to be held at the Basildon Centre on the first Thursday of the month.

● It would be nice if similar local meetings could take place in other parts of the country also. Jane Reynolds has recently moved to Barnsley and would like to make contact with other PCW users nearby.

We will not pass on details without a member's prior permission but if you are interested in meeting near that locality please let a committee member know.

MicroDesign family now in Public Domain

A Press Release from Creative Technology

It will probably come as a surprise to PCW users that Creative Technology are still in business. Although we have not sold any PCW software or peripherals for several years, we are still here, and working happily in other areas. These include software and hardware design, Internet and World Wide Web design and development, and educational software – for more information, have a look at our website at www.cict.co.uk. For old time's sake, we're also providing the PCW Club with it's own website, coming soon at www.thepcwclub.org.uk.

But the days of working with the PCW itself are long gone for us, and we now feel that the time has come to put our PCW programs and products into the public domain. MicroDesign and its relatives have always been copyrighted software, and we have always controlled the duplication and distribution of the software closely. But since PCW users no longer buy it, there's little point in trying to sell it, so we're now giving it away.

What does this mean in practice? Quite simply, by revoking the licence restrictions on the MicroDesign program, we make it legal for you to make copies of the software, and to give them to your friends or fellow club-members. For material such as our Fonts discs, which can be copied easily, this is simple and straightforward.

For the programs (MicroDesign2 and 3, Tweak, the Network, and the Font & Shade Designer) copying is a little more difficult, since both master discs and working copies are copy-protected. We do not intend to make it any easier by producing non-copy-protected versions of these programs! But the change in the licence means that from now on, it will be legal to make working copies from your master discs, and to distribute them freely.

And for the techies out there, it also becomes legal to reverse-engineer the copy-protection to produce your own un-protected version, or to distribute a "snap-shot" of a running MD3 environment (CP/M licence permitting).

If you have not been able to use our software before, because of costs or licence restrictions, we hope that you will enjoy the opportunity to use it in the future.

Nik Holmes, Creative Technology

Club PD Library

When the PCW Club's Public Domain Library is up and running again we will be holding copies of all the MicroDesign fonts which were formerly available from Messrs. Creative Technology. There are already a number of fonts which have been being distributed in the public domain and these will be available for copying as far as possible. The Club will not be able to supply copies of fonts which were on sale by other companies such as the Clearface range as these have not been released into the public domain.

Ernie Mansfield has recently given us copies of his large collection of PD clip art and this too will be being made available from the Club's library before too long. Sorry for the interruption to this service.

Fitting a Hammer Armature to a 9512 or 9512+ printer

by John King

If your daisy-wheel printer gives you poor quality or weak text then there is a good chance that the Hammer Armature is cracked and about to fail.

Switch off your machine, unplug the printer and take it to a flat surface (a table or the like) in an area with plenty of light. Remove the two plastic flaps (or the Sheet-feeder and plastic flap), the printer ribbon and the knob on the side of the printer – it just pulls off. Turn the printer onto the end from where you removed the knob and let the print head run down to the bottom; you will now be able to see the grey plastic Hammer Armature which looks like this:

Using a small screw-driver remove the tiny circlip located at the end of the Armature ensuring that when it flicks off that you find it, and put it in a safe place. You can try covering the circlip and the local surrounding area with Vaseline or any type of Petroleum jelly as this has been found, in most cases, to stop the circlip flying off.

If you look very carefully you will see a thin spring metal arm at the rear of the Hammer Armature; this is where it must go when you refit or replace the Armature. Pull off the Armature and use a strong magnifying glass to look for cracks in the plastic. Alternatively, try and gently bend it; if it cracks in half then you know you have found the fault.

Apply a little grease (Petroleum jelly will do fine) to the hole in the end of the replacement Armature and refit it, remembering where the spring arm went. When happy with that part of the process refit the circlip and reassemble the printer. All being well your printed text will be back to normal.

It is a good idea, whilst you have the covers off your printer, to remove all the fluff that has gathered on the either side of the Daisywheel Carriage Assembly, around the circular chrome shaft that it runs on, and also to apply a little light lubricating oil, using the finger, to this and its other runner. Do not let the oil drip onto the large rubber drive band but do apply the oil even if there is no fluff. Push the Daisy-wheel Carriage Assembly backwards and forwards a few times along the chrome shaft, then wipe away any surplus oil from the ends of the shaft. This will stop any future text drift (where the text starts off with its margins aligned but it ends up printing on the roller).

Should you wish to take your overhaul to its limits then remove all the pieces of paper, paperclips, hairs, fluff, etc. from inside the printer casing using a vacuum cleaner or a duster. You can also remove the Daisywheel and check for build-up of ink on the petals; if found, remove it using meths or similar cleaner. Refitting the daisywheel does cause some problems; if so refer to the help page on my website at **www.pcwking.freeserve.co.uk.**●

Fitting a hammer armature (addendum)

Members asked for more features on the PCW 9512 and John's article on replacing the daisy-wheel printer hammer armature goes some way to fulfilling that demand. I followed his instructions and would add the following comments.

Removing the two plastic cover flaps took more that simply lifting them off on a machine that had not been maintained in years! The *top* flap lifts up from the left hand end first with the cover *down*. I had to prise it upwards with a soft plastic rod (a toothbrush handle!) before it begrudgingly came away because the slot was filled with gunge. The right hand end is just a pivot. The *lower* flap also lifts from the left hand end but with the flap in the *raised* position. Again, the right hand is just a pivot. Use the tooth brush to clean the slots and pins before replacing the flaps when done.

It is possible to gain better access to the armature by removing the printer mechanism from the casing by undoing the three screws beneath the top flap and the two screws inside under the lower cover flap. However this is not recommended as it then involves unhooking several cables and clips from inside the casing and these can be trapped and damaged during reassembly unless you are very careful. If you do try this don't forget to remove the roller knob from outside the casing first!

The circlip is very small and you may find it useful to have a small pair of pliers or a watchmakers' tweezers to hand to manipulate it. Stick it to the new armature in the correct position with Vaseline so you don't lose it.

Incidentally, you are strongly advised not to commence this repair unless you *do* have a replacement to hand. If you have felt the need to undertake this procedure because the print quality is poor it's quite likely the armature *is* damaged. If it does come to pieces when you test it you will not be able to use the printer again without replacing it.

I agree that inserting or changing the print-wheel can be rather frustrating but there are instructions in Chapter 2 of the PCW 9512 User Guide, on page 19 in my copy. When the wheel has been locked in place properly it can be rotated freely.

While you are at it, inspect the petals on the print-wheel for damage too. The most frequently used letters, such as "e" can be cracked and broken off with time. If one or more petals are too flexible take this opportunity to replace the wheel now.

There are a number of ways to reduce damage to your printer mechanism. Ensure that the Options menu under the Printer Control State ([f8], [PTR], [f8]) is set up correctly for the Ribbon type you are using and the Impression strength. Continually using a high level of impression will give blacker printing but will put a strain on the mechanism. Reduce it to an acceptable level. Don't keep it high because you really need a new ribbon!

The mechanism is designed to accept 80 gsm paper with the occasional use of up to 120 gsm. Again, continued use of a heavier paper than recommended will damage the armature. Remember that envelopes are not only twice as thick as regular paper but are often a heavier weight of stock too. And leave the covers down when not in use to keep out dust and dirt!

Armatures are available from John King (01708 630477) and other suppliers also.

LocoScript the Professional Way

by Stephen Denson F.I.A.P

Many PCW users have graduated through four different versions of Loco-Script ending up with the superb LS4. On the PC front there are two versions in current use; *PC Easy* and *LocoScript Professional 2/Plus* (LSPro). PC Easy is competent enough and very much like Loco-Script 2, although generally slicker since it is likely to be running on faster hardware. Yet PC Easy is limited in its choice of typefaces and does not have the benefit of the scalable LX fonts which sets Loco-Script apart from lesser rivals such as Protext.

LSPro is the No.1 choice for PCW owners moving to a PC especially if they are used to LocoScript 3 or 4. LSPro has LX fonts, of course, as well as most other features a user would expect of an advanced program. This combination of word processor, database (LocoFile), programming language and mail merge (LocoMail), spell checker (LocoSpell) and a brilliant thesaurus all built into the system is simply unbeatable even today.

Economical package

LSPro does all this in less than one megabyte of memory, taking up only a few Mb of hard drive space, which is peanuts by today's standards. Compare its performance to even the latest Windows "bloatware" which requires acres of RAM and hard drive and you will find it even more remarkable. This compactness has the great advantage of allowing LSPro to run under MSDOS and/or Windows on virtually any PC from older 386s or 486s, which are now available very cheaply or are often passed on free by an upgrading relative or friend, right up to the latest Pentiums.

LSPro will install quite happily under any version of Windows including 95, 98, ME or 2000 although you do need an MS-DOS compatible printer. If you are already using an "external" printer such as an inkjet on your PCW then this will almost certainly qualify and there are still some new models such as the HP Deskjets which will also work with LocoScript. The program is supplied either on a fast-loading CD or a set of 3½" floppy discs together with an excellent *Getting Started* manual.

Program familiarity

Once installed on a PC, LSPro is very familiar to former PCW owners, who are obviously the main market for the package. The Disc Manager looks similar although you can use it to control a whole hard disc instead of just one or two floppy drives. The power of the PC is harnessed in a way which was never possible on the PCW so that, for example, you can select multiple documents for copying or deletion instead of dealing with just one file at a time. Another delight is the Page Preview option, enabling you to see exactly what a document will look like, fonts, columns, graphics and all, before you commit to paper.

The PCW Club PROSPECTUS

The PCW Club is for all users of the Amstrad PCW range of Personal Computer/Word Processors from the original PCW8256 to the most recent PcW16. It actively promotes awareness and appreciation of the use of Amstrad PCWs and communications between all PCW users.

Members automatically receive regular free copies of the Club magazine *The Disc Drive* and the *Newsletter* by post with news, articles, reviews and program listings. Send one second class stamp and one first class stamp to The PCW Club, 96 Sparrows Herne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5EX for free samples of recent publications.

Small advertisements for PCW Sales and Wants are accepted for the *Newsletter* free of charge as a service to members. Small Ads must include a telephone number and locality *or* a full postal address. Include an SAE with your advertisement for a free copy of the *Newsletter* in which it was published. Send your advertisement by post to the address given above or by e-mail to `info@thepcwclub.org.uk`.

We hold regular club night meetings with tutorials and demonstrations of PCW hardware and software, both LocoScript and CP/M. Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month in Basildon, Essex but members throughout the country are encouraged to hold their own self-help group meetings where possible. The PCW is a reliable machine and we help members to keep their machines in good working order with advice on where to obtain the available hardware or software.

The Club has exclusive rights to sell Brian Dorricott's Crossword Maker Kit for the PCW and distributes the latest version 1.13 of the Rescue Disc for the PcW16. It can supply *Joyce*, John Elliott's emulator for the PC and his CP/M emulator for the PcW16. It has an extensive Public Domain Library for its members for which a revised catalogue is under production. Send a 3½" 720k CF2DD disc with a pound coin, in a padded envelope, to the above address for a copy of the Keith Simmons *Welcome to the PCW* introduction disc. (Sorry but no postal orders can be accepted.)

The PCW Club
Membership Application Form

The Club is dedicated to supporting Amstrad PCWs
through its postal membership and Club night evenings.

Membership is annually from September 1st to August 31st
(There is a discount in the second year for members joining after April 1st)
Subscriptions must be paid by a cheque drawn on a UK bank in Sterling
and made payable to *The PCW Club*. (Sorry, *no* Postal Orders.)

Please provide the following information and return it to
Mike Elliston, The PCW Club,
96 Sparrows Herne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5EX, UK

Title: ....   Initials: ....   Forename: ....

Surname: ....

Postal Address: ....

....

....

Post Code: ....   Telephone (optional): ....

E-mail (optional): ....

I apply to join The PCW Club and agree to abide by the Club's Constitution.

Signed: .... Date ....

Please circle the machines listed below that you regularly use:

PCW 8256,   PCW 8512,   PCW 9512,   PCW 9512+,   PCW9256,   PCW10,   PcW16

and write below any *external* printers you use with your PCW (or Amstrad e-mailer),
together with the version of LocoScript that you usually use. Thank you.

Constitution

The Club shall be known as 'The PCW Club' and hereinafter shall be referred to as 'the Club'.

1 Objects
The objects of the Club shall be:
1 To endeavour to arrange meetings of interest to Club members;
2 To promote awareness and appreciation of the use of Amstrad PCWs for Club members;
3 To obtain discounts for Club members where possible;
4 To promote good communications with all Amstrad PCW users.

2 Membership
Membership of the Club is open to all Amstrad PCW users. Members are entitled to receive by post copies of the Club magazine The Disc Drive and the Club's *Newsletter* and may attend the monthly meetings if they wish. The membership year runs from the first meeting in September to August the following year. Rates of subscription for membership and the fees for attending meetings will be determined by the Committee and changes will be announced in the *Newsletter*.

3 Meetings
Meetings will be *usually* held on the evening of the first Thursday of the month. Changes of date or venue will be announced in the preceding *Newsletter* whenever possible. At each meeting each member and guest shall pay the meeting attendance fee as currently set by the Committee. Prospective members are invited to attend their *first* meeting free of charge. Members may not attend a meeting (or receive Club publications) if their current subscription has not been paid. The Club will not be liable for any personal injury, loss of earnings, damage of equipment, etc., occurring at meetings or while travelling to and from meetings nor advice given at meetings or printed in any of the club publications.

4 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
The AGM will be held at the September meeting of the Club each year. Six members of the Club will constitute a quorum. There will be no charge to attend an AGM but a meetings fee may apply to a Club meeting following the AGM. Only those members present can vote or act as proxies for other members. Proxies must be in writing and lodged with the current Chairman prior to the start of the Meeting.

5 Committee
The Committee Members will be proposed, seconded and elected by a simple majority of those members present at the Annual General Meeting. If more than one candidate is proposed for a particular position on the Committee a ballot will be necessary and this will be by a show of hands or a ballot paper as decided by the current Chairman. The standing Committee will remain in office until the end of the AGM.
The Committee will consist of the following:
Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, *Disc Drive* Editor, *Newsletter* Editor, Public Domain Librarian and one Ordinary member.

A Committee Member may hold more than one of the above posts. The Committee shall be allowed to co-opt any member who may be able to assist it. All Committee Members *and* co-opted members will have one vote at Committee meetings and the Chairman will have a casting vote if necessary. The Committee may appoint and disband sub-committees of club members as and when required.

6 Finance

Fully audited accounts are to be presented each year at the AGM. A bank or building society account is to be opened, with the Treasurer and one other elected member as the single signatories. Payments for running expenses and small sums for hardware, software, etc., may be authorised by the Committee, but any expenditure larger than £50.00 (excluding room hire charges and the printing of Club publications) needs the consent of a simple majority of the Club members at any ordinary meeting. All remaining monies, excluding postage stamps, must be paid into the Club's account.

A record of all Club property, the responsible member and its location is to be maintained by the Treasurer in an up-to-date inventory and the record is to be made available for inspection on request.

No member of the Club or any Officer of the Club shall derive any pecuniary benefit or advantage from the assets or possessions of the Club including any financial gain.

7 Minutes

Minutes of the AGM and all other Club or Committee meetings are to be recorded in the Minutes Book by the Secretary within seven days of the meeting and are to be available for inspection by any member at meetings and at any other time by appointment.

8 Honorary Members

Honorary memberships can be conferred in recognition of meritorious work for the club.

9 Changes in Constitution

Changes in the Constitution of the Club may only be made by a simple majority vote at a General or Extraordinary Meeting of the Club, all members having been duly notified. Any member wishing a change in the Constitution must submit the proposal in writing to the Secretary at least six weeks before any General Meeting can be called. A General Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Committee if six Club members request it.

10   Closure of the Club

The Club may be wound up if the Club members so desire and provided that there is a simple majority of the replies received by the specified date, all members having been notified of the proposal in advance. Voting must be by postal ballot with the closing date for votes stated clearly on the voting slip. If such a vote is carried, the assets of the Club, after all expenses and outstanding accounts where possible have been settled, should be sold and money thus obtained be given to a charitable organisation to be determined by the full Committee. If any remaining property is held by the Club and it could be of use to such organisation, then it may be given to that body rather than sold to release capital. The disposal of the assets should be the responsibility of the full Committee.

This version of the Constitution was adopted by the Annual General Meeting on 6th Sept. 2001.

The high resolution LX fonts, in the opinion of many (including myself), are superior to Windows Truetype fonts and give a very smooth finish. The full range of LX Business, Decorative and Display fonts are available as optional extras and are well worth installing. Essentially, if you liked LocoScript on a PCW then you will love LSPro on a PC which has all the same features and many more besides, plus greater speed and power.

About the only thing missing is direct support for colour printing such as that in LocoScript 4. In fact, LS4 was developed later than LSPro and thus the latter did not catch up with this feature. The situation has been redressed to some extent with the introduction of an LSPro Colour Pack. This add-on allows colour printing from suitable *fully* Epson LQ compatible models such as the Canon 4000 series, the Stylus 600 and some 24-pin Star and Citizens. Unfortunately, HP Deskjets do not come into this category.

Most powerful version yet

Colour support aside, LSPro is by far the most powerful and versatile version of LocoScript available and it still sells well enough to require a recent reprint of the user manual.

Advanced LSPro features include a timed screen saver, footnotes, mouse support, on-line help menu and split-screen editing which allows you to edit two documents at once.

The multiple "cut and paste" board where you can store phrases and blocks is always at hand, of course. Try finding that in most Windows applications where you normally get just one "clipboard" for everything! Likewise the template system.

PCW file compatibility is very high; LSPro can directly read any LS1/2/3 documents once they have been copied over onto a PC format disc. As soon as a file is edited it is automatically converted into LSPro format, usually with minimal adjustment such as the new printer type having to be be notified in document setup. A special program called *CP/M Copier* is available for those with 3½" PCW discs enabling them to be read on a PC so that the documents can be copied down to the hard drive for processing by LSPro. This can also be supplied with a new utility *Loco4to3* which is a Windows program which converts LS4 documents into LS3 format so that LSPro can edit them. This can also be achieved by resaving files in LS3 export format directly from LS4. The advantage of Loco4to3 is that it can convert whole directories (groups) in one go. Either way, you will lose unique LS4 features such as columns and graphics but these can generally be reinstated in LSPro.

Uses your PCW datafiles, too

LocoFile data files (once "squashed" at the PC end) will work just as well when transferred over to LSPro, as indeed will LocoMail routines, and you just need to get used to the different PC keyboard layout which lacks special keys such as [Cut] and [Paste]. LSPro uses other combinations such as [Alt] and [+] instead although you still have the pull-down command menu as well as the familiar function keys, e.g. [f3]=Style and so on. You can even use a mouse if you wish to but, unlike with Windows programs, not if you don't. With LSPro you do things in your *own* style and not the way some American mega corporation prescribes for you.

Many emigrating PCW users start off by using a Windows word processor which may already be installed on their new (or second-hand) PC. After a very short time they generally yearn for the certainties of LocoScript and order a copy of LSPro

This is not just because of frustration with Windows and its mania for mouse-clicking, which often feels illogical and inefficient compared to function keys and menus. Nor is it a concession to PCW file compatibility although this is often important when people need to take years of work across to a PC. If this was the case then you could purchase LOCOLink for Windows to convert LocoScript documents into Word or whatever.

The simple fact is that for around £50, LSPro still provides the best value and most comprehensive word processing package available on any computer which is why it remains the No.1 choice for thousands of home and professional users.

● What Steve omits to mention is that you can convert your pictures from Micro-Design into PCX files and then include these in your LSPro documents in exactly the same way as you can in LS4. The added advantage is that the illustrations can be rescaled to almost any size without the LS4 limitations of 2x, 4x, 8x or half, quarter or eighth original scale only.

In addition, the advantage of having instant access to ten blocks of text and twenty-six phrases (plus the current time and date) when using LSPro, compared to the *single* item stored in the Windows solitary "clipboard" cannot be stressed enough! (Incidentally, LSPro will run quite well on an Amstrad 1640.)   *Mike E.*

Filenames matter

A small firm of credit brokers recently filed for bankruptcy after discovering that, over a critical six month period, a newly appointed typist had been naming every file she had typed on the company computer, whether it be a letter, spreadsheet or database, as `Sandras.Doc`. She had been too scared to ask anyone where all the earlier files had disappeared to!

PCWs in the media

● A PCW appeared in the TV sitcom *Neighbours* a few weeks ago on the counter of *Staff*, a new place of work.

● Ronnie Biggs was using one when shown on the news recently.

● The naval author, John Winton, was seated at a PCW 8256 when shown in his obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* on 3rd of May this year.

Ian Studley, Crawley Computer Club.

---

pcwexpert

A new magazine named *pcwexpert* dated Autumn 2001 has appeared on the news stands at a cover price of £3.99.

Before you dash out and buy a copy be warned that the letters **pcw** stand for *Personal Computer World*, a long standing PC publication from VNU, and that the new magazine has nothing to do with Amstrad PCWs. Sorry about that!

One Hundred, Not Out!

Congratulations to Crawley Computer Club, formerly the Crawley PCW Club, on reaching the one-hundredth edition of their regular newsletter. The original club was founded in 1992 and was a strong force in the PCW world having arranged a number of excellent MicroDesign days at the Church Hall in Worth Park Avenue.

Even though the Club allowed PC users to join in 1999 the *Newsletter* continued to be produced in MicroDesign, on a PCW, until November, the 99th issue.

Dare I say that it was a pity that that method of production wasn't allowed to continue through until No.100?

PCW16 rebirth

One method which sometimes works when a PcW16 seems to have died is as follows: Switch the PcW16 on while holding down the four [Task], [Shift], [Ctrl] and [Red] keys (the four in vertical alignment beneath the [Red] key) and keep them held down for about ten seconds or more. The bootstrap or protected flash should kick in, wipe the entire flash memory and invite you to insert the operating system Rescue Disc to write a fresh copy of the operating system into the machine. This does mean that all files in the cabinet will be lost but you may get the machine to come to life again. See also the *Newsletter* No.84 for more information on running a PcW16.

Easter.Bas

We have not featured a Basic program for some time now. This one, supplied by Tony Dimond from Stratford enables you to calculate the date of Easter for any year. Note that this is not accurate for any year before 1753 when the Georgian calendar replaced the Julian calendar in England (and everybody "lost" eleven days during September 1752).

Start up your PCW with the CP/M disc in the A: drive, type BASIC and press [Return]. When you get the Ok Basic prompt type in the following lines exactly as printed, pressing [Return] at the end of each line. *Line 10 must be entered as one complete line; do not press [Return] after the word* Sunday.

When completed take out your CP/M disc, insert a blank disc and type SAVE "EASTER.BAS" and press [Return]; it will be saved to the new disc. Then type RUN, press [Return] and enter a year as required. To get out of Basic back to CP/M type SYSTEM and press [Return].

```
 10 PRINT CHR$(27)+"E"+CHR$(27)+"H"+"This program calculates Easter Sunday
for any year"
 20 y=1986:WHILE y>0
 30 PRINT: INPUT "Year";y
 40 i=INT(y/100)-INT(y/400)
 50 a=y MOD 4
 60 b=y MOD 7
 70 c=y MOD 19
 80 d=(19*c+15+i-INT(y/300)) MOD 30
 90 e=(2*a+4*b+6*d+4+i) MOD 7
100 IF d=29 AND e=6 AND c>10 THEN e=-1
110 IF d=28 AND e=6 AND c>10 THEN e=-1
120 es=d+e+1
130 PRINT:PRINT "Easter Sunday in";y;"falls on ";
140 IF es<11 THEN PRINT "March";es+21 ELSE PRINT "April";es-10
150 PRINT: INPUT "Copy required? y/n";a$: IF LOWER$(a$) <>"y" THEN GOTO 155
151 LPRINT "Easter Sunday in";y;"falls on ";
152 IF es<11 THEN LPRINT "March";es+21 ELSE LPRINT "April";es-10
155 PRINT:INPUT "Another year? y/n ";b$:IF LOWER$(b$)="y" THEN GOTO 180
156 NEW:RUN "list
170 IF es<11 THEN LPRINT "March";es+21 ELSE LPRINT "April";es-10
180 WEND
190 IF es<11 THEN LPRINT "March";es+21 ELSE LPRINT "April";es-10
```

Printer classes for use with LocoScript

by Mike Elliston

If you wish to use another printer on your PCW besides or instead of the one that comes with it there are some points you should consider before commencing installation. To use the LocoScript LX fonts printers are divided into a number of categories as follows and you will need to specify these when setting up LocoScript for your new printer:

● **B** Class printers are those with a resolution of 180 x 180 dpi (dots per inch) and the only one I am aware of in this class is the (elderly) Epson LQ-1500. There may be one or two other older 8-bit printers which would work under this emulation but I doubt it. (By emulation I mean that you tell LocoScript that you are installing another printer which is similar but not quite the one you have but which will work in the same way. For example a Canon BJC 4560 will work with LocoScript if you tell it you are using a Canon BJC800.)

● **C** class printers have a resolution of 240 (horizontal) x 144 (vertical) dpi. This is for the Epson FX80 and similar earlier 9-pin dot matrix printers but *not* those built-in.

● **D** class is (strangely) 288 x 144 dpi and is exclusively the built-in dot matrix on the 8000s, the 9256 and the 10 series. (Note that these internal printers act as an Epson FX80 when used under CP/M.)

● **E** class is 360 x 180 dpi and covers the Epson or Canon 24-pin type printers, including some of the Stylus range.

● **F** class is 300 x 300 dpi used mainly by the Hewlett Packard range of printers, both lasers and deskjets.

● **G** class is 360 x 360 dpi which is the Canon or Epson bubblejet range. (The HP deskjets are only F.)

● A recent addition from Locomotive is **H** for the Windows-only Stylus 400/440/640 range.

There are two font styles provided with all copies of the LX fonts, namely Roman and Sans. (Also known as Times or Dutch and Helvetica or Swiss). You can also in most cases install the Standard and Sans fonts which came with the built-in dot matrix printers (see D above), subject to the limit of four fonts, the amount of M: memory and the size of the SoD disc.

The extra discs available are Display, Decorative and Business fonts, generally from 10-18 point, but these can be multiplied up as required.

There are also **Symbols** (Greek, mathematical and similar); **Style** (which give true *Italics* and **Bold**, not just sloped or doubled Roman) and **Size** which gives intermediate sizes like 7pt, 11pt or 16pt for example. (There were some Bonus packs with four selected sizes of fonts as a tester for your printer type.) Unfortunately the **Style** pack is not available for D, the built-in dot matrix printers.

You will notice that MicroDesign uses a similar range of printers during installation to those above. (As far as I can find out class A was never used!)

PCW Club Survey

Not everybody gave information about their PCW equipment on the renewal form but here is a summary of the responses:

8256	21%	8512	27%
9512	24%	9512+	12%
9256	3%	10	4%
16	10%		
Loco 1	6%	Loco 2	19%
Loco 3	14%	3.06/07	14%
Loco 4	19%	4.10/11	27%

The most popular external printer used was the Canon BJC250 with the Canon BJ10sx and the Olivetti JP170 close behind. Other popular models are, from Canon, BJ10e and ex, BJ30, BJC4300; the Epson Stylus 600c, 800 and 820; the HP DJ500c, the Olivetti JP370 and the Star SJ48. Mr D Perry is prepared to give information on his use of the popular JP170 – send me your letter for him with stamped envelope for onward posting.

Special comments noted were that the Oki 182 works with the 8512 as well as the 16 and the BJ30 works with the 16 as does the BJC250. One person states that the BJC1000 works with the 16 only but another sets it up as the BJ30 to use with LocoScript.

Another user set the BJ4000 up as the Inkjet to run it in LocoScript (presumably on a PCW9512+). Other emulations to note are calling the BJC4560 a BJC800; both the DJ640c and the DJ870c a DJ500 (mono only); the Star LC10 an FX80 and the Stylus 740c and 800 as an LQ2500.

The HP DJ640c works with the new Amstrad e-mailer also. The Canon BJC 1000 and 2000 printers will work with the PcW 16 with a little experimentation with the correct driver to use.

To summarise, the following printers are used by one or more members with LocoScript on a PCW:

Amstrad: The various DMP series;
Brother: M1109;
Canon:

BJ10e	BJ10ex	BJ10sx
BJ30	BJ300	BJ320
BJC200	BJC240	BJC250
BJC4000	BJC4300	BJC4560
BJC70;		

Citizen: 200c;
Epson:

LQ100	LQ100+	LQ2500
Stylus 400c	Stylus 440c	Stylus 600
Stylus 600c	Stylus 740c	Stylus 800
Stylus 800+	Stylus 820	Stylus 820c

Hewlett Packard:

DJ500	DJ500c	DJ520
DJ640c	DJ660	DJ694
DJ870c	LJIII	LJIIIp;

Oki: 182;
Olivetti: JP170 JP370;
Star:

LC10	LC100	LC24
LC24-10	and the SJ48.	

The Citizen 24ABC is noted as working with MD3 but not LocoScript. A number complained about lines being printed onto the next page. Always check that the printer is set for A4 and not the (often default) American *Letter*, 11" x 8½"!