NEWSLETTER

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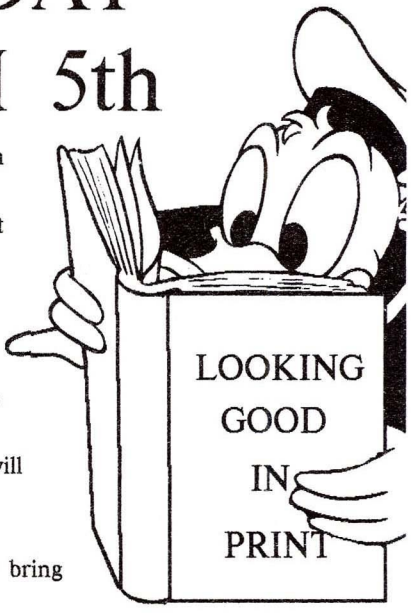
CLUB NIGHT THURSDAY MARCH 5th



The evening is a demonstration of printing given by Mike Elliston and Peter Hathaway. It will give members the opportunity of getting a much better understanding of printing with alternative printers. If you are considering LocoScript 4 and the colour printing feature, this evening will give you the chance to get to know the details and what is available. It is not necessary to bring your own machines.

This is an opportunity to ask all of those questions about printing. The machine that will be demonstrated, the Epson Stylus 600, is of course a very good machine using the latest technology and will be of interest to most of us; but you can ask questions about any printing problems that you may have, after the demonstration!

You will have no doubt noticed the very low price the PcW 16 is being sold for in Dixons. We are getting a few enquires from buyers of these machines about joining the club. It appears Amstrad have put the club's details on a file supplied with the machine. They no doubt recognise a class act when they see one! Once again I must appeal to the members for items for the Disc Drive and Newletter without Steves input your team will fast dry up.

David Lalieu

Chairman's Chatterings

On a number of occasions in the past I have asked members who live locally why they did not attend the club night on the first Thursday of the month. The reply has been that they didn't realise that the new month had started and that the first Thursday had already gone by. In addition, there are some months when we have a demonstration with one or two machines at the front and, invariably, someone brings along their PCW and it sits in its carrier all night. Conversely, when we do have a tutorial night, people forget to bring along their computer and they have to huddle around behind someone else, watching over their shoulder instead of getting the hands-on experience they want.

Because of this we have decided to mail out the *Newsletter* to *all* members before the monthly meeting, rather than hand it out to attendees on the night and send it out to postal members and others during that month as at present. This will remind local members that a meeting is coming up and whether they need to bring along a PCW and/or other equipment. Do remember that when you are recommended to bring along your machine you should bring your CP/M and LocoScript Start-of-Day discs too; the vast majority of programs for the PCW run under CP/M so your CP/M discs are essential to run these.

There is the added advantage that our Membership Secretary will not have to run through the members' database ticking off those who did attend before he can send the *Newsletter* out to the others. I do realise that mailing out the *Newsletter* will cost the club a little more in postage but that should be offset by the extra numbers that turn up on the night. Don't forget that postal members are always welcome to come along to club nights too; we have had visitors in the past from Sussex and Surrey, Berkshire and Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk, so please feel free to pop in and see us if you are in the vicinity. Even if work takes you to London for a few days its only 35 minutes from Fenchurch Street and you can see the Basildon Centre from Basildon Station, less than two minutes away.

The next club night is on Thursday 5th March at 7.30 pm and the talk is called Looking Good in Print, how to improve the output from your printer. There is no need to bring anything along for this meeting except, of course, yourself. If you have any queries on how to use your printer for more effective output this is the time to ask. Peter Hathaway and I will be demonstrating a colour printer among other issues and this is where I should like some feedback from our members *including postal members.*

You all know by now that you can use a colour printer with Locoscript 4 but you have to be careful which one you choose. A large number of modern printers are designed to work almost exclusively with Windows on a PC (or occasionally an Apple Macintosh) and all the fonts and settings are controlled by Windows drivers built into that PC program. There are no dip switches or other means of controlling the hardware mechanically.

LocoScript Software have produced printer drivers for some 600 or 700 printers, an impressive undertaking considering the dwindling market for the PCW. Of these about 27 are listed as being capable of printing in colour from within Locoscript 4. Now I have no shares in either LocoScript or Epson but I can wholeheartedly recommend the Epson Stylus 600 Colour printer. If this is too expensive for you ensure that whatever

you buy has a *separate* black cartridge (or ribbon) from the colour cartridge (or ribbon) otherwise you may find that black is a combination of the colours and (a) comes out as a muddy purple but (b) uses up the expensive coloured ink that more quickly.

I have an old Epson LQ2500 24-pin dot matrix printer fitted with a colour kit, using a multi-striped ribbon and I've managed to get this to print in colour under LocoScript 4 but setting it up as an Epson LQ 150 Colour printer. This works in download mode only (with the LX fonts) but if used in standard mode the Carriage Return doesn't work correctly and lines print one on top of the other. Still I'm perfectly happy with using the LX fonts anyway. Conversely David has a Commodore printer which, according to the manufacturer, is intended to emulated the Hewlett Packard 500C. It may well do so when running under Windows but under LocoScript 4 it only prints in black. This is no fault of LocoScript Software; their printer driver does run the HP 500C in colour. However the Commodore only *emulates* the 500C; it is not identical to the 500C and that is where the problem lies. Do not go for a printer that says it *emulates* one on the LocoScript colour printer drivers list; buy one that *is* on that list.

This is where you all can help. Can you please send me details of *any* printer that you have managed to get to print in colour and what LocoScript printer driver/s you used to get it working. Did it work perfectly in all modes or, as my LQ2500C, only in download (using the LX fonts) or only in standard (using the printer's own built-in fonts? We can then publish a list of matching printers and drivers that others can use in the future. In addition, have you a colour printer that is supposed to emulate a listed printed but simply doesn't? Will it not print in colour or will it not work at all? Share your experiences with all-please.

Mike Elliston

The Clubs Magazine Library Service.

The club has a library of magazines 8000+ and PCW+ spanning the years these were produced (1986/1996).

If there is a subject on the PCW that you are researching you may contact the secretary and he will carry out a search of the index and provide you with a list of articles that may be in the magazines. You are then invited to request copies of these articles and the only cost involved is for the photo-copying and the post.

Many members will of course have their own collection of magazines, you should seriously consider purchasing the magazine index (advertised on the back page) as a tool for easily finding tips and articles. If you are not confident in the use of databases it is available in hardcopy.

The club also has a number of spare magazines if you are missing any from your collection write to the secretary with a list of them and we will see if they are amongst the spares. If you are a local and attend the club nights you could collect them on an arranged occasion, if however you are a postal member you will have to fund the postage or carriage. The initial copies of these magazines are very difficult to obtain in fact almost impossible.

Dot Matrix Printer

IBM Quiet Printer 5202 commercial grade printer without manual hence price. £20:00

2 off new printer ribbons for this machine at £15:00 each, todays price £27:90 ! G.Wilson

(01702) 72183

Amstrad PCW 9512

Standard machine, 3.0" 720k drive, black and white screen, normal keyboard and daisy wheel printer. Complete with manual. Good working order and I will even deliver it within a 10 mile radius of Hadleigh

Price £55:00

Contact David Lalieu Secretary

External Twin 3.5" Drives

For PCW 8256/8512 machines. Update your machine with a pair of external drives. "Pinboard" switchable "A" drive New condition (still under guarantee) and a "B" drive:

Reasonable price offer please.

Len Nichols 0181 527 3551

PcW 16 Owners and Users

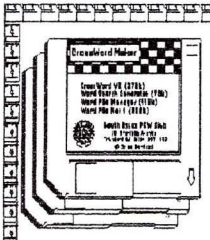
If you need an upgrade (latest 1.12) for the supply of a suitable disc,DSHD, and a stamp addresssed padded envelope. Brain is also your contact for PcW 16 matters.

Brian Watson. *Harrowden*, 39, High St. Sutton-in-the-Isle, ELY, Cambs. CB6 2RA

Tel: 01355 777 006 Fax: 01355 77 77 66

PCW Plus & 8000 Plus Magazines Index

A database that takes all of the hard work out of searching for that elusive article or tip in your magazine library, available in LocoFile. One or three files, LocoScript, ASCII,dBase II or Hardcopy. On 3½"discs @ £8:00. The hardcopy @ £10:00. Cheques payable to:- D.C. Lalieu.
10, Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1RD.



South Essex PCW Club. "Four Winds",10 Sheridan SS7 1RD.

CrossWord Maker

Make your own crosswords the easy way. Available normally only on 3.5" discs, 3.0" you supply formatted disc. Kit contains master disc with CrossWord V2, Word Search Generator, Word File Manager and Word File No.1 and all manuals £25:00 Four other word files available one in German and French @ £5:00 each.

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