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NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 61 May 1998

LOGO WANTED

THE BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

SOUTH ESSEX PCW CLUB and its excellent logo suited the club all the time it was a club localised to South Essex.

This was bound to change when, because of the concern we had for the future of National PCW users at the demise of the magazines PCW User and PCW Plus, it was decided to modify the club's constitution and introduce Postal Membership. This move resulted in the membership growing from 40/50 to 190/200; this year it will probably reach 300.

At an Extra Ordinary Meeting held before the commencement of our normal club night on the 2nd of April the attending membership voted for a change in the constitution to call the club, The British Amstrad PCW Club. As a result of the changes to the club's make-up it was agreed the name was too parochial and should be changed to one that was more appropriate to the revised club. This change has the formal approval of the legal department of Amstrad plc, as long as the following proviso is included: "We do not act as an agent for nor represent or are associated to Amstrad plc or its associated companies"

The company's solicitor, Mr Richard Hastings, also points out Amstrad owns the rights and trade marks in the name Amstrad and PCW. Any use of these names MUST be with the company's prior permission.

As a result of this change, we will, of course, need an alternative for the logo. It has been decided to hold a competition to find this replacement. The competition will be run for the period April 13th to May 28th. Your entries should be sent as a hard copy or Micro-Design format (MDA), discs preferred to the secretary (Discs will be returned where requested). The design must of course be capable of being reproduced by Photo-Copying or Risograph. (If they Photo-Copy they will Risograph) The shape is not important but the area should be no greater than 30mm as a diameter or a square or 25mm x 50mm as a rectangle. The membership will decide on the winner through the pages of a future newsletter.

David Lalieu.

Chairmans Chatterings

As you will have gathered, last month's chatterings were written before we managed to get Dave the Disc Doctor to come along to give the talk for the April meeting. There is another change due for the May meeting as well: because of the local council elections the next meeting will be at 7.30 on Thursday *14th* May (the *second* Thursday in the month) at the Basildon Centre and is on the general subject of LocoScript. Please bring along any queries you may have on using any version of LocoScript and we will try and answer them for you.

Talking of LocoScript, I recently sent off a proof of an article to the author and, because the time and date appeared in the header, he automatically assumed that it had been produced on a PC! Now I find that if I am working on a paper over a number of weeks and there are several drafts of this document lying around it helps enormously to put the time and date at the top of the document so that I know straightaway which is the latest version to work from.

It's a lot easier than you think. Simply set up your Template.Std so that it has at least one line in the header with the [+RA] right align code to the right of any text on the *top* line, eg [+CE]Chapter.One [+RA]. Then when you first create or edit that document simply press f1=Actions, [Enter] on Document Setup and press [EOL] to jump to the right hand end of the first line of the header that is presented to you. Type in or amend the date and/or time in a convenient shorthand form, eg 7 May 19:30 and press [EXIT] to return to edit. The whole exercise takes less than fifteen seconds (and is even quicker with a Sprinter!) but is so simple.

Well, Yes, you might say, but why bother to type it into the header? You can just as easily type the time and date at the top of the first page of text. Why go through that hassle to put it in the header? The reason is that there are occasions when you may change only a few words on a page halfway through the document. If you haven't affected the layout of the other pages there is no need to print any except the one you have just amended. Press [EXIT], select Save and Print and cursor down to Print part of the Document, select the page number to print and go. Now the date and time of this latest version will appear at the top of each or *any* page, in the header, whereas if you had typed the date and time at the top of the first sheet it will only show up if you happen to reprint that first page, but *not* on any of the others. Put it in the header and it will show on *all* pages. The only caveat is that the document must be set up so that the header is used on *all* pages.

I find it a bit of a nuisance when installing or upgrading LocoScript 4 that you are told to boot up an earlier version (e.g. 4.02) before you can insert the latest installation disc to reboot the machine into the install routine. The old Start of Day disc can take ages to boot especially if you've got File, Spell, Mail, the dictionary and some added fonts. I got fed up with this and experimented; I discovered that you can just as easily start the installation process if you've booted up from CP/M which, provided you don't have a Profile.Sub taking you into SuperCalc or Protext or something else, loads a lot more quickly than LocoScript!

A couple of pointers about the Crossword Maker disc sold by the club. Please note that this is a *pre-installed* version. Simply

make a back-up copy of the master disc using either Diskit or LocoScript. Then put the original disc somewhere safe and start your PCW with your *copy* CP/M Start of Day disc. When you see the A> prompt remove your CP/M disc, insert the copy of the Crossword Maker disc, type CROSS, press [Enter] and start the tutorial on page six of the manual. There is no need to run the Make routine on pages four and five. (The Word Search puzzle generator program is supplied free on the disc, too. Simply type WORDS and press [Enter] to use that instead.)

The Crossword Maker program saves the completed crossword as a text file which you are advised to name Puzzle.TXT. This is because it is meant to be loaded into MicroDesign to print using the MicroDesign Crossword .MDF fonts supplied on the disc. The program skilfully inserts the Across and Down numbers and also the blank squares and the MicroDesign fonts take this into account. If you can only print using LocoScript then you must first create a new document, fl Insert text and select the Puzzle.Txt file to insert. Then you must change font to a fixed pitch font such as Standard or Sans (or Courier or Letter Gothic if available). If you try to use a proportional face like LX Roman the puzzle squares will not align vertically as the characters are of different widths. You can *not* edit the Puzzle.Txt file directly in LocoScript for it is, in essence, an ASCII file. You can handle this directly in Protext if you wish (or WordStar or NewWord).

Elliston.

MAY MEETING 14 TH SUBJECT LOCOSCRIPT

The decision to bring a machine to the next meeting is for you to make, it would be constructive to have a few machines at the meeting but it will not take the format where you are led through key-strokes to achieve a particular detail.

Please Notice

Will all members please check the details on the label of items posted to you. It would appear the club's database has become slightly corrupted and some records are now incorrect. If you find an error please write the details to John Harvey the Membership Secretary at 25, Stuart Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middx. HA3 7RB. This also includes anyone where the post code is given as a series of question marks.

They say one volunteer is worth ten pressed men and our volunteer is Esther Welch who is our contact for anyone with a query on the Amstrad PcW 16. You will find her at: 81b Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1RS Tel: (01273) 480582.

PCW Items for Sale

Amstrad 8512 with LocoScript 2, LocoMail and LocoFile installed. Complete manuals and many other helpful books. "A" Drive needs replacing. £25:00. Large number of 3.0" discs (about 100), including original installation discs, discs of tips, borders, etc. Three games (Head over Heels, Blackstar, Tomahawk.) Desktop Publishing software (Fleet Street Editor and MicroDesign 3). £50:00 Printer Star LC24-20 Multi-Font 24 pin dot matrix giving excellent letter quality output. Complete with manual. Includes some sprocket feed paper and labels. Some ribbons. £50:00

Contact: John Rowan (0181) 5247381

PCW Items for Sale

Amstrad 8512 fitted with Sprinter, 3.5" A drive, 3.0" B drive, built in printer.
Epson Stylus Inkjet printer.
1Mb Sca Rampack.
Creative Technology Scanner.
AMX Mouse,
MicroDesign 3.
LocoScript 2 & 3. & LocoFile.
Flipper 3. & Mini Office on 3.0"
Mini Office on 3.0". Cracker 2 on 3.0"
Masterfile 800 on 3.0"
MasterScan on 3.0"
Spare Drive, ribbons, lots of books, magazines and 3.0" discs.
Lots of clip art.
£300:00 for the lot.

Contact: David Hill (01634) 717693
Rochester Kent.

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.

PCW Items for Sale

Member: John King, 26, Guysfield Drive, South Hornchurch, Rainham, Essex, RM13 7AJ Tel: (01708) 630477
Has a long list of items for sale, far too many to list in our small advertisements. Interested? Send him a stamp addressed envelope and a 20p stamp (to cover the cost of photo-copying)

"Kynance"
5 Nelson Road
Brixham
South Devon
TQ5 8BH UK
Tel/FAX 01803 853144

For your Printer Ribbons and Ink Supplies