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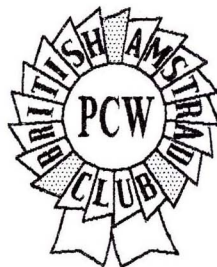
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# NEWSLETTER



Issue No: 65

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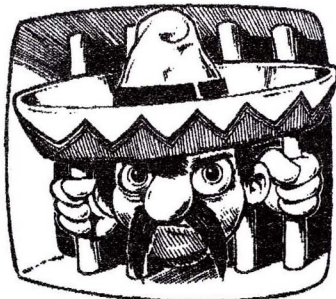
## AGM September 3rd followed by The PCW Entertains Free Night

### From the Secretary's Desk

The AGM usually takes about 45 minutes to complete, but we NEED YOUR SUPPORT. This is followed by a light hearted demonstration by Nick Chaundy on subject of PCWing games etc. Most of these have fallen by the wayside, probably because of the advent of Commodore and Sony Playstations, but it is interesting to see some of the original software being deftly demonstrated by the PD librarian. Bring along a formatted disc: you never know, there may be some thing that appeals to you and you could obtain a copy.

We have reached the end of another successful year as the biggest PCW club in the country. We have not conducted any recruitment drives this year but our membership has stabilised at about 200 members. The sales of the PcW 16 during the year with Amstrad using our club as a help line, has produced several new members. To them we say welcome; we are sure you will benefit from your membership. The Sixteen starter package is about to be launched and you will all be receiving it shortly. The club is still looking for members who are prepared to help other members through the help line. Please contact me with your details.

David Lallieu, Secretary



## Chairman's Chatterings

The discussion about the value of the PcW16 in the July Newsletter bought a number of letters with comments of how good or bad the 16 really was and with queries on how to do this, that and the other on the newer machine by readers who were obviously used to LocoScript. What did disappoint me was that the vast majority of these queries were already covered in the manual or in the FAQ file that comes on the latest Rescue disc. For those who do not like acronyms, FAQ stands for Frequently Asked Questions.

The latest version of the Rescue Disc is v1.12 and Amstrad is putting a copy into every box sold by Dixons. If you did not get a copy with your machine then Amstrad/Betacom will supply you with one: ask at the shop where you bought the machine. Incidentally, be aware that there are a number of early release or returned-damaged machines being offered on the market at ridiculous prices. Unless you know precisely what you are doing or get a cast iron guarantee please be careful what you buy if it is less than about £130, or £200 with a printer.

In Folder01 on the Rescue Disc is a file named *Questions and Answers*. In this file are full instructions on how to use the **Word Match** program and the **Data List** program for making up your own shopping list. Both these programs are accessed with the Run External Program option under Tasks. In addition there are dozens of questions, Frequently Asked Questions, complete with answers. Load this into the Word Processor to read it. A number of members seem to be having difficulty in loading this rather large file, probably because their cabinet is full of their own data files that should, in reality, be stored on discs instead. This file has been

printed out into a 24-page booklet the same shape and size as the *Disc Drive* and will be sent to registered PcW 16 members soon. Anyone else who wants a copy, it will cost you 5 first class or 6 second class stamps.

As explained in the Database article in the latest issue of the *Disc Drive*, probably the best way of controlling the format of printed spreadsheets is to copy them into the Word Processor via the scratchpad. Other members would like to take files that they have prepared on the 16 back into LocoScript to print out with better control over headers and footers. Now, the manual implies that you can only *import* from LocoScript but not export to it. That is not strictly true but you do need a copy of 2in1 (on the PCW) and a 3½" drive to do it.

Format a 3½" **Double Density** (720k) disc with 2in1 to **MS-DOS** format (713k) on the PCW. Now load your document up on the PcW16 and, while its is still on the screen, press Task+Shift+Blue, all together. Up will come a message that Compression is Off. Click OK. Now put your Double Density MS-DOS disc in the drive. Click Document, Export Document, select ASCII and enter a filename like Document.ASC in the DOS and CP/M compatible filename type of (a maximum of) eight letters, a dot, and a three letter extension. It cannot be more than 8.3.

If you are prepared to experiment you can export as RTF and you will find that of your Bold On ([+]B) codes have come over as /b, Bold Off as /b0, Italic On as /i, Italic Off as /i0 etc., but that is up to you; I find it better because the codes are shown. The £ character appears /A3, a ½ as comes over as /BD in RTF (which stands for Rich Text Format, i.e. it has more of the text enhancements than simple ASCII).

Now load up 2in1 on the PCW and copy

the PcW16 document from the MS-DOS format disc onto a PCW disc; you can also use PCWDOS, a similar but less well known program, on the PCW instead. Once the PcW16 document is on a PCW disc you can load LocoScript or Protext or whatever your favourite CP/M word processor is, and edit the document to your heart's content. I do, however, recommend that you play about with a *copy* of it, rather than the original.

For those of you who have a PC, there is an excellent suite of programs from Creative Technology (who make the Network, MicroDesign, etc.) Make sure you specify the version for the PCW for this has a very useful program called PCW.EXE. This works just like 2in1 but on the PC and it means that you can copy from DOS format to PCW format in

a PC disc drive. It also has **View** which converts PCW MDA and CUT files to PC picture formats such as PCX, TIF and BMP, etc., and *vice versa*. Why is this so useful? Because if you press Shift+PrintScreen on the PcW16 it sends whatever is on the screen to a BMP (BitMaPped) file on a DOS disc in the disc drive (of the 16). View can then convert this to an MDA for you to play about with in MicroDesign on the PCW! Now isn't that fun?

This complete article, apart from this very last sentence, was written on a PcW16, exported to CP/M as described above, imported into LocoScript 3.06 on an 8000 (and David will probably print it out in MicroDesign).

Mike Elliston

#### Erratum:

The gremlins got into the works again during the production of the *Disc Drive*. For all those who are avidly following Daniel's BASIC tutorial the third block of BASIC on page 8 of the latest issue should have read as follows:

```
PRINT "Your initials are ";LEFT$(FIRSTNAME$,1);";LEFT$(SECONDNAME$,2)
```

I am also advised that the details given for ALLADINK in PCW DIR are no longer correct.

## WANTED



We are calling for help for articles for The Disc Drive. These can be in the form of tips or expert advice or an experience that you would like to share with your fellow club members. The truth of the matter is there are only so many items the present team can write about and many are finding it difficult to continue; we need fresh talent. There are many members who we are sure have an article that we would all like to hear about, so come on you budding authors, let's be having you. Send them preferably on disc, to Mike Elliston who will return the disc to you. We are not fussed about the format: they can be written in Protext, LocoScript or just about anything; we will be able to translate it.

David Lalieu

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- C Programme your PCW Ian Sinclair £5:00
- C Picture Processing on the Amstrad PCW  
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Contact the Secretary David Lalieu.

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