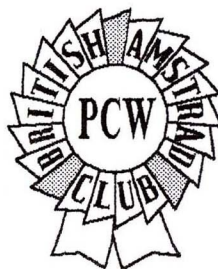


NEWSLETTER



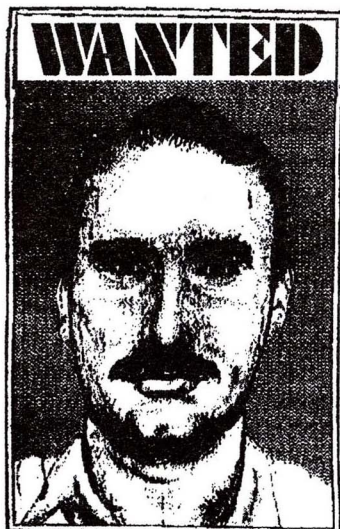
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February 1999

FEBRUARY 4th Fundamentals of LocoScript Part 1

This month we return to getting a better understanding of the most popular word processing software, Locomotives, LocoScript. When Amstrad first produced the PCW it was Locomotive who created the software to support it. In those days it was LocoScript 1 today the latest is LocoScript 4 and it really does take some beating. Many members may say "not that old chestnut again" and I cannot say how many times I have sat through tutorials on this subject but I can say each time I have discovered something new. So if there are details of the program that confuse you come along prepared to ask your questions and we will see if we can resolve them for you. It has always been the most popular evening and I am sure you will enjoy it.

If you usually use an alternative word processor such as Protext it is still worth you attending so that you are able to make a comparison. We are not attempting to sell the package but only to keep our members aware of the finer details and capabilities of this the most used of all of the software available for our classic machines.



Yes, Wanted and Needed. Welcome back to Steve having completed his stretch in the daunting climes of Scotland. Many thanks to the Harvey household for holding the membership fort in his absence, but like myself I am sure they are glad to see Steve back. If you want to contact Steve with any queries particularly about your membership please contact him between 6pm and 9pm weekdays but any time over the weekend. Steve is expert on most PCW subjects and friendly with it, so don't be shy.

David Lalieu.

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Chairman's Chatterings

A number of the PCW clubs around the country produce a monthly newsletter; these are frequently exchanged with our own on a regular basis (and are available on club nights for members to browse). The recently formed Costa del Sol PCW Users Club publishes its own 'Newsletter' and this is of a very high standard for a publication which has only reached issue number three. It has a four page A5 layout, prepared in MicroDesign3, and its content is primarily on LocoScript and MicroDesign although other hardware and software topics are covered too. Ken Tether should be congratulated for so professional a publication for I am sure that the quality and content of a club's newsletter goes a long way to holding the club together.

Besides these monthly club newsletters there is the quarterly 'PCW Today' produced by Adrian Hooper and his team at Strad Publishing. This is essential reading for anyone who is at all interested in the Amstrad PCW range of machines. The cover price is £2.10 but there is an annual subscription rate of £8.00, or £12.50 including a disc of public domain and shareware software (little more than the cost of a four blank 3.5" discs nowadays).

Most of these newsletters are produced on PCWs but some are originated on a PC or a Mac. I see nothing wrong with that; this is being written on a Z88 on my lap; it will be sent down the cable to a PCW and sucked into LocoScript. David will probably import that into MD3. Do you really believe that Future produced *PCWPlus* totally on PCWs - of course not.

It is, however, disturbing to find more of

these publications having pages devoted to PC and Windows matters. My own view is that that is the thin edge of the wedge and the beginning of the end!

What is much more disappointing is the number of errors which occur. Most people buy a PCW to use as a writing tool and, maybe, to help themselves become a writer. I would expect this to mean that they had a minimal understanding of English grammar. There is a grammar checker for CP/M but I will admit that it's a bit limited; spelling is another matter.

All the major word processing packages on the PCW, be it LocoScript, Protext, NewWord, WordStar or whatever, have a spell checker and it doesn't take very long to check your text once it has been written. It's also a good idea to read it again the next day to detect and edit out the 'Paris in the the Spring' examples that occasionally occur.

Even if you are using the MicroDesign Editor to set text where, unfortunately, the spell checker was never finished, it doesn't take more than a few minutes to load your copy into either Protext or LocoScript and check it through there, before porting it back into MD3 to flow into the typesetting page.

Remember that your readers are joining your club or buying your magazine to learn as much as they can from it. If they find it to be full of glaring errors which, in the case of spelling mistakes they know to be readily correctable, they are far less likely to renew their subscription at the end of the year. If you can't demonstrate your skills in this department why should they believe that the technical content of your article is correct either?

Oh, by the way: they do have spelling checkers on PCs too!

Mike Elliston

December 1998 Competition

Congratulations to Daren Bridge of Huddersfield who came first *and fifth* in the club's recent competition. The first prize was for her Literatus Christmas Greetings for 1997 ("for visual impact and technical excellence"). Daniel French came second with an A4 french-folded New Year greeting card for "visual impact, technical excellence and an imaginative combination of Printmaster and MicroDesign". Steve Massam took third and fourth places with a christening invitation ("for creative novelty") and a work schedule sheet ("for technical excellence"). Daren's Eden Examine pedigree sheet earned her fifth

prize ("for an excellent compact design").

The judge was Norman Bannister, aided by Nick Chaundy who produced the Prize Certificates. All pieces entered were individually numbered and Norman had no idea who produced what. There were 42 entries, ranging from single cards to 48 page books, from nine members and the quality of all items was pretty high.

Each winner was awarded a Prize Certificate. In addition there was a £10 Gift Token for the First Prize, a £5 voucher for the second prize, a Disc Box for the Third, three free discs from the PD library for the Fourth and a PD disc for the Fifth Prize.

Congratulations to all of our winners.

Membership Secretary's Report

Hello Everyone,

In many ways I am glad to be back from the experience of working on the contract we had to produce the ground work for a diorama in Edinborough's museum. I must say it was a very interesting experience. Many of you know I am a taxidermist by trade. This contract required only one facet of taxidermy and that is the preparation of the area surrounding the sample, usually known as the ground work.

In most instances this is usually only the immediate area surrounding the sample. Here we were looking at a very large area by comparison to normal standards. It was 15m long by 5m deep and 3m high. This area

had to feature not only all of the seasons but the flora and fauna back to the ice age. We were able to use the museum to research the latter of these requirements.

The job certainly required a high degree of imagination and ingenuity; for instance how do you produce a bank of bluebells? This is to include all of the leaves and the flowers. How do you produce a variety of mosses? All of the larger fauna were prepared by the museum taxidermists, but we had to produce the smaller items such as snails and worms etc.

As I have said a very interesting experience, if you happen to be in Scotland the Edinborough museum is worth a visit.

Steve Massam

Needed

We are in dire need of articles, tips, readers letters etc. for the Disc Drive. After a very long time of producing the majority of these journals the existing team could do with some much needed help. I know we have asked for this before but please help if you can. It may

be that the main use for your PCW is different to others and this in itself could make an interesting article so warm up the machine and let us hear from you. It would considerably help if these items are sent in on disc to eliminate the need for re-typing

David Lalieu

SMALL ADS.

PCW Machines

8256 Standard Machine	Drive overhauled	£40:00
8512 Modified Machine	'B' Drive 3.5"	£50:00
9512 Modified Machines	These machines have been overhauled and fitted with new 3.5" drives.	£90:00
9512+ Standard Machine	New drive fitted	£95:00

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Complete machine with Printer and Tractor, original master discs. also a set of Dust Covers.

A box of continous paper (plain)
11 off 3.0" used discs
3.0" Disc cleaning kit (no fluid)

Genny
Geneological Database with manual
Clock Chess 88 with instructions.

£50:00 ono Contact:

Mrs J. Manning (01865) 863917
Oxford

Various PCW Items

Expansion Port adapter for German/
USA to UK 8000 machines £5:00
8256/8512 keyboard £5:00
8256/8512 tractor drive £5:00
8256 'A' drive adapter to allow it
to work as a 'B' drive £5:00

Buyers to collect or pay P & P.

Contact: Roy Martin

Rockmoor Shaugh Prior

Plymouth Devon PL7 5HB

Tele. (01752) 839430

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

Can anyone diagnose and repair a faulty Margolis/SCA FAXLINK for me?
Tony Dimond Tele: (0181) 534 7483 or email adimond@dircon.co.uk

Club members can advertise their unwanted items on this page at £1:00 per small box.

CRAWLEY AMSTRAD PCW DAY
Saturday May 15th 1999
An excellent opportunity for all
PCWers to meet, more news later