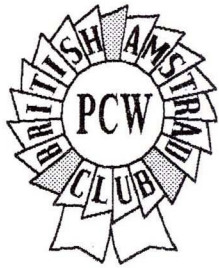


BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Issue No: 76



Seasons Greetings

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As many of you will have noticed, the Newsletter is not appearing every month. In an endeavour to reduce our costs the committee has decided to limit the number of newsletters we produce.

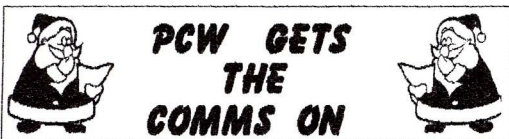
We were very disappointed to find a lack of support when we asked for a new treasurer at the AGM. As there was no volunteer the situation was eventually resolved by committee restructuring. Nick Chaundy agreed to take on the Treasurer's position and we had to find someone to run the PD library. It was obviously far more important to fill the Treasurer's job and we sincerely thank Nick for resolving this problem. As I have said before your committee needs your support or we may find ourselves in the sad situation that resulted in the demise of Hastings and Eastbournes club during the last year. For those of you who are not aware of this event, they were forced to discontinue the club because they were unable to fill committee positions. Peter Clark has been co-opted as a committee member and the committee welcome him, I am personally sure he will be a valued member.

We have now filled the position for PD Librarian, Mr. Daniel French his details are given in the block to the left. Daniel is our official librarian but not a committee member.

The library will be available from January 2000 and the following rules apply: You will furnish 3½" discs and 3.0" discs formatted, verified and identified. The charge per disc is; £1:50 each for members and £3:00 for non-members. You will also supply a stamp addressed padded envelope for the return.

It has been agreed by the committee to change the club's financial year to coincide with the club's AGM. In other words the financial year will run to the end of August and all subscriptions will become due in September. New members will be given the option to pay at a pro-rata rate of £1:00 per month to the end of August, but the minimum subscription accepted is £6:00. If you have any doubts about this change please speak to the Treasurer.

David Lalieu.



This is a follow up to the first article on communications which appeared in the last Disc Drive (No. 22.)

Some readers of our fantastic magazine have been in contact with various Committee members, with enquiries about my article. Apparently, I didn't make one or two aspects as clear as I could have. If this is the case, I apologise.

To answer the first query, Lentil Computer (to give it the proper, full name) is FREE. Access to the Email facility, fax facility, file download area, etc, costs nothing at all. Be assured that there are no hidden charges that will come out to haunt you after a few weeks! Of course, you still have to pay for the phone call - if you live in Guildford, this can be as little as one penny per minute on a weekend. Otherwise, you'll pay National Rates - these are in the tune of 8 p/m peak time (weekdays), 4 p/m off peak (weekdays), or 3 p/m on weekends. (These figures are from BT - if they're wrong or inaccurate, please blame them!)

Obviously it's best to call during offpeak of weekend rates. BUT, strictly speaking, you read all your messages offline (I suspect that most of you have figured this out already, but in any case it'll be in Part 3.) You could, working in this manner, require only five minutes per day on the phone - that's only forty pence. Remember how much a stamp costs! (NOTE: These figures are based around the above BT call charges. If your phone line is not operated by BT, you'll have to find out the details from *your* company.)

Also, it was suggested that somehow the computer "knew" when a message had been received, and it told you so. This is not true - it is necessary for you to dial up Lentil to check your messages - they don't simply appear on your monitor when you turn the machine on! 'Twould be nice, however!

Finally, you don't need the PCW switched on to receive messages - they are stored at Lentil until you dial in and retrieve them.

Thanks, everybody, for your support and interest in my article. And remember, no you DON'T need a PC for Internet access!

Daniel French

PcW16 Battery.

I read with great interest the article penned by Gareth Morris (The Disc Drive, issue 22, pages 3-4) regarding the replacing of the PcW16 internal battery with a non-rechargeable substitute and I thought I would offered my penny's worth on this subject. Like Mr. Morris I feel that it is foolhardy to leave any electrical apparatus plugged-in and in part switched on for any length of time especially over a holiday period although in saying this it would appear to be a requisite of my satellite system with no get out option other than to keep pulling out the mains plug.

Having had time to digest this article it has

occurred to me that in theory it is wrong to replace a rechargeable battery with a non-rechargeable battery without the necessary circuit changes (we have ail seen what happens to a double A non-rechargeable battery when placed into a battery charger despite the warnings given by the battery charger makers not to do this). I would seem though in practice, judging by the evidence offered by Mr. Morris that no problems have yet shown up.

We all know how touchy the PcW16 is -- so although nothing may happen -- you have been warned.

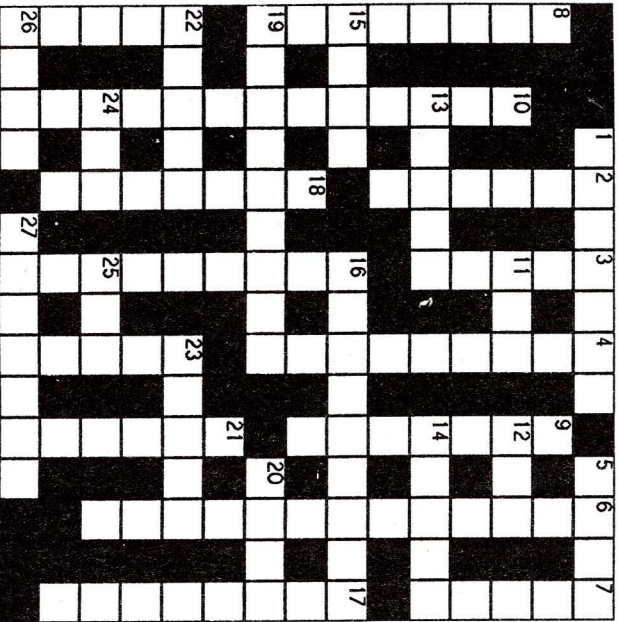
John King.

Name:

Address:

.....
.....
.....

Post Code:



ACROSS

- 1 The name on all PCW computers. (7).
- 5 Elevate (4).
- 11 Short Monday back for French name. (3).
- 12 BASIC logic operator and word connector. (3).
- 13 This could be held regularly or just occasionally. (5).
- 14 You'd need Zoom (or a lens) to see this! (5).
- 15 Sleep slope where money is stored. (4).
- 16 Definitely not landscapes! (9).
- 19 Out and out removals. (9).
- 20 Measured in years for a long time. (4).
- 22 Cambridgeshire town where masho is all mixed up. (5).
- 23 Now hear this announcer. (5).
- 24 She's got the habit! (3).
- 25 This could be a routine or a profile but usually its under water. (3).
- 26 Emanations from computers, wide winged fishes and the sun. (4).
- 27 Hard copy producer. (7).

DOWN

- 2 A place to buy or sell or even haggle! (6).
- 3 The fifth letter of belief or doctrine under canvass. (5).
- 4 Those noisy things in 9000 daisywheel printers. (9).
- 6 Definitely not thumb down! (5, 6, 2).
- 7 It all adds up! (5).
- 8 Gather together after compiling? (8).
- 9 Male sheep harbours computer add-on. (7).
- 10 Jealous over PCW 8000 screen display. (5, 4, 4).
- 16 Learned educator. (9).
- 17 These might be the ones whodunnit! (8).
- 18 Staying power of endurance. (7).
- 21 Fidget whilst playing the violin. (6).
- 22 Sweet founder of I across. (5).
- 23 Compartment on board ship. (5).

British Amstrad PCW Club

CROSSWORD COMPETITION

This could be your chance to win
Brian Doricotts outstanding suite of programs!

CROSSWORD MAKER, WORDSEARCH MAKER
_____ and _____
WORDFILE MANAGER

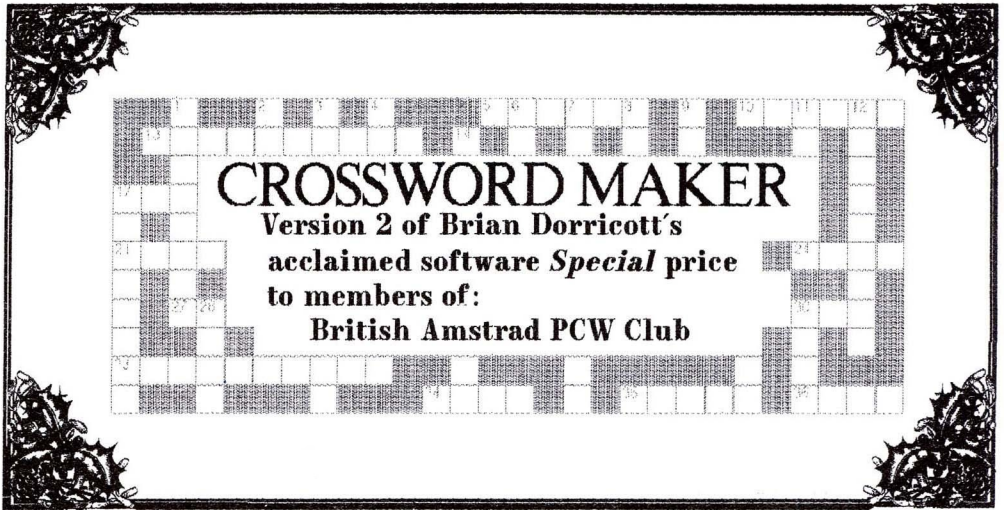
*An opportunity
NOT
to be missed*

*Worth
£25*

All you have to do, is complete the Crossword overleaf, fill in your details and send this leaflet, together with **FIVE** second class stamps to the address below. Entries must be received before the 31st of January 2000. Draw to take place on Thursday the 1st February 2000. First correct entry drawn out of the hat wins!

Return to: Steve Massam, *Membership Secretary* 27 St Marks Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2PY

Note: Only available on 3½" disc. All moneys raised go towards British Amstrad PCW Club funds.



The current issue of the Disc Drive includes one of our fund raising competitions. This one is in the form of a crossword. The prize to the first opened correct reply is a copy of Brian Dorricott's Crossword Maker software.

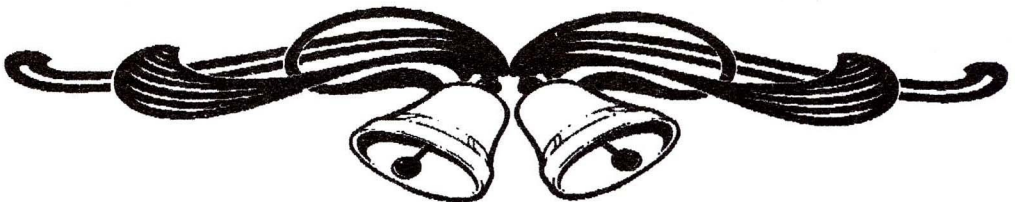
A few of you will be aware of this software, it first became available in 1992 and was then upgraded in 1994. The original version was criticized as being a bit difficult in finding your way around. The verdict given when reviewed by PCW Plus was; A very sophisticated program for crossword addicts, but be prepared to spend some time mastering it. Rating 18/20.

During 1994, Brian Dorricott's Crossword Maker 2 became available. A considerable improvement on the original version reported PCW Plus. This version allows you to make templates (blank crossword shapes) You can also get symetric placement of squares. On the word front there is anagram facility and an automatic

warning if you attempt to use the same word twice. The program also displays the current size of the crossword and the number of words used. Word files are compressed to about 80k of memory not bad for 20,000 word files. This version can be interfaced with the Network and produces very professional results when used in conjunction with either MicroDesign 2 or 3. The review verdict was a considerable improvement over version 1. The British Amstrad PCW club was given the rights to produce and sell this software by Brian Dorricott. The proceeds to be for the club's funds.

The entrance fee for the competition is five 2nd class stamps. Much of our funds is spent in postage so you will appreciate the reasoning behind this novel way of of fund raising. Why not have ago even if you don't win its a bit of fun and will help with your club's funds.

David Lalieu





Small Advertisements



A Very Merry Christmas to all of our Members

Advertising in these boxes only costs £1.50. Send yours to the Editor.

PCW Machines

8256 (Drive Overhauled)	£35
8256 (New Alternative Drive)	£45
8512 (Drives Overhauled)	£40
9512 (Drive Overhauled)	£40
9512 (3½" Drive Fitted)	£65
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A small number of alternative 3.0" drives for 8000 'A' drives (can be fitted inside with a small mod to the machines case.

With lead and instructions £30

All machines are with keyboards and standard printers, carriage and packing extra.

Call David Lalieu (01702) 551618

Books And Manuals

Amstrad Manual Bk.1	£5
Amstrad Manual Bk 2	£5
Amstrad LQ500 Printer Manual	£5
Amstrad 9512 Manual	£5
User's Guide to MicroSoft Windows 3.1	£5
Programming the Z80 (Zacs)	£8
The Amstrad CP/M (Powys-Lybbe)	£8
Programme your PCW (Sinclair)	£5
All in one Business Computing (Hughes)	£5
User's Guide to the Amstrad 8256/8512 (Thompson)	£5
Amstrad Word Processing (Sinclair)	£5
Hitch Hikers Guide to Artificial Intelligence Post and Packing Extra	£5

Call David Lalieu (01702)551618

Software

LocoScript 2 3.0" Disc And Manual	£10
Locoscript 3 UpGrade 3.0" Disc	£15
LocoScript 3 3.0" Disc And Manual	£20
MicroDesign 3 3.0" discs and Manuals	£28
Printer Support Pack LocoScript 3	£15
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LocoFile Manual and 3.0" Disc	£12
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GenTree II (3½" Disc)	£10
Tas Sign 3.0" Disc	£6
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Contact David Lalieu (01702) 551618

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All are complete with printer and keyboard and in good working order and priced to clear.

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Reconditioned 180k 3" Disc Drive	£10
Dust Covers for 9512 (Set of Three)	£2
Post and Packing Extra	

Call John King for details (01708) 630477

Future Programme

January.....LocoScript Part 1

February.....LocoScript Part 2