

# British Amstrad PCW Club NEWSLETTER

Issue No 83

## British Amstrad PCW Club Committee

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*Please note that not all committee members  
can access their e-mail on a daily basis.*

## Membership Secretary

The Committee would like to remind all readers that Steve Massam is no longer the Membership Secretary and that all enquiries regarding membership matters should be sent to **Peter A Clark**.

## Sales and Wants

**Wanted:** Mike Trueman wants a 24-pin dot matrix printer or a bubblejet printer, preferably a Canon BJ sx or BJ ex, to connect to his Amstrad e-mailer. He also wants a Teqniche PCW 102 keyboard. Phone 01932 864853 after 7.30 pm please.

**For Sale:** Mr W E Johnson has a good clean PCW 9512 in full working order for sale complete with instruction manuals. Phone 01487 812258 or write to:  
7 Helen's Close, Upwood, Ramsey,  
Huntingdon, Cambs PE26 2QN

### For Sale:

*Word Processing with LocoScript 2* book  
plus *LocoScript 3 Supplement*  
both by Dorothy Featherstone £3  
*LocoScript3 User Guide* £3  
*BubbleJet PcW9512 + User Manual* £2  
*LocoFile Master Disc (for v.2.32/2.33)* £2  
**MicroDesign3**. Complete package as new  
including tutorial guide and disc £10  
Post extra: Steve Massam 01702 555398

# Competition Results

The PCW Competition announced in previous issues of the *Newsletter* was judged by those present at the Club Night on 7th December 2000. All the items submitted by the various contributors were laid out alongside each other and the members spent about twenty minutes viewing the entries and comparing notes. Then the prizes were awarded on a simple show of hands around the room – the results were pretty unanimous!

## First Prize

Dareen Bridge of Huddersfield  
£10 book token

Dareen was awarded the First Prize for four Pedigree Certificates prepared for a Kennel Club dog breeder to accompany new puppies for four different owners.

These were A4 in size, thrice-folded to fit DL envelopes, printed on a distinctive heavy parchment paper. Each had various illustrations of collies in half-tone as backgrounds, with the display text and drop initials produced in MicroDesign and most of the text matter in LocoScript 4, all in three colours. The pedigree details were cleverly inserted from a database using LocoMail. The accompanying envelopes for each pedigree had MD3 illustrations, MD3 and Loco4 text, in monochrome.

These were beautifully produced and presented and are an excellent example of what *can* be achieved on a PCW with these two suites of programs. The computer used was a 9512+ and the printer was a Canon bubblejet.

## Second Prize

Harry Saunderson of Hampton, Middx  
£5 book token

Harry submitted two items both produced in MicroDesign 3, again (by coincidence) on a 9512+ output to a bubblejet printer.

The first was an A4 landscape poster for a harvest festival weekend. This depicted a large suspension bridge which was carefully laid out and drawn in MD3 and not by just resorting to a piece of clip art. It was interspersed with lettering in the Bolden font giving details of the event. Some of the lettering was expertly Tweaked to give a pleasing three-dimensional effect.

This was so impressive a presentation that the local parish church had enlarged it photographically and used the resultant artwork for publicity material.

The second entry was a portrait A4 sheet of paper intended to be mounted on light card board and used as a Rally Race game. The sheet included the rally route in a rather circuitous layout, the instructions for players and cutouts for the players' counters and the spinning top die. All that was needed was a matchstick to act as a spindle for the die. This was an ingenious entry yet very easily produced in MicroDesign 3.

His letter mentioned three entries and, indeed, there *was* a third item in Harry's bundle, his accompanying letter itself! This was written in MicroDesign 3 in a lovely font emulating his own handwriting. I am hoping that we can entice Harry to donate this most attractive font to the Club's PD library for it was certainly as good as some of the designs which used to be available commercially.

Runner Up  
Tony Smith of Wootton, Beds  
Crossword Maker Kit

Tony's contribution consisted of nearly a dozen A4 size posters produced in MicroDesign 2 on a standard PCW 8512 with the original 3" drive. I strongly suspect that Tony has a copy of Tweak as well for there is evidence of its use in a number of the posters submitted!

The majority of these posters were to promote radio programs on local radio, particularly Country and Gospel music. There was also a poster for a British Legion poppy appeal and another which featured in a competition in the very last edition of *PCWPlus*. My own favourite was a simple silhouette illustration of two cats in two different shades of half-tone. Extremely simple yet extremely effective too. Another excellent example of what can be produced on the humble PCW.

The only comment I would make to Tony, and to all other members too, is please do not set display or text in Script or Blackletter faces in **ALL CAPITALS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO READ!**

Special Award  
Graham Swepson of Huddersfield  
Crossword Maker Kit

In the announcement of the competition I used the words "something produced on the PCW" and Graham took me literally!

His contribution was a program he has written to catalogue his collection of minidisks. It was accompanied by a collection of explanatory notes and, with Graham's permission, we hope to be able to publish an article based on this program in a future issue of *The Disc Drive*.

Whilst written for the new minidisc format for music storage there would seem to be no reason why the program could not be adapted to catalogue CDs, LPs, EPs, 78s or even, for those old enough to remember them, cylinders!

The Committee decided that this was such an excellent piece of work that it merited a Special Award of its own. Congratulations to Graham.

It is interesting to note that out of all the members who contributed entries to the club's annual competition, two of the prizewinners come from Huddersfield in West Yorkshire. Must be something they put in the water there!

Many thanks, indeed, to all those who submitted items for the competition. It demonstrates to the members who are able to attend on Club nights what the humble PCW can produce and gives them ideas for their own material for the future. We intend to hold yet another competition at the end of 2001 so start putting to one side specimens of work produced on your PCW in the coming months so that you have a portfolio ready to enter next time round.

The rest of the December meeting consisted of a quiz organised by our Treasurer, ten questions in ten categories ranging from the PCW to History to Art and Entertainment, lasting about an hour or just over. This was a light-hearted seasonal change from our usual rather formal workshop or tutorial and proved to be most popular with the members. The winners walked off with boxes of chocolates or similar prizes. The evening ended with party crackers and silly hats, sausage rolls and mince pies, and a little sherry to wash them down, donated by the committee.



# International Paper Sizes

Whilst many of us are able to remember Foolscap and Quarto paper, since about 1971 the standards for paper sizes for domestic use are the I.S.O series. (I say for domestic use for certain other sizes are still used in the printing and advertising industries where, for example, bill boards remain the same size as before.)

These ISO (International Standards Organisation) sizes are based on three series, A, B and C. The A series is the one you are most likely to come across; B is rather specialised in use, for example architect's drawings or similar, and the C series is used for envelopes.

The major advantage of the A series is that each sheet is half the area of the next largest and therefore it weighs half as much also, given the same grammage or weight of paper in use. Grammage is the substance of the paper in grammes per square metre of a paper, the larger the number, the heavier and thicker the paper. The usual grammage for office quality paper would be 80 gsm, a good book paper might be 120 gsm and a thin bible paper perhaps 40 gsm. The grammage is important because the A sizes are based on the area of the sheet of paper.

The largest sizes (generally available) is A0. This has two properties; the area is one square metre (*not* one metre square) and the sides have the relationship of  $1:\sqrt{2}$ , or 1:1.414. This may, at first, seem a strange ratio but if you fold this sheet in half on its longer side it has exactly the same ratio of sides when folded. It is also half the area therefore, when cut in half, it weighs half the original sheet size.

## ISO Paper sizes:

	millimetres	inches *
A0	1189 x 841	48.8 x 33.1
A1	841 x 594	33.1 x 23.4
A2	594 x 420	23.4 x 16.5
A3	420 x 297	16.5 x 11.7
<b>A4</b>	<b>297 x 210</b>	<b>11.7 x 8.3</b>
A5	210 x 149	8.3 x 5.8

\* Note that dimensions shown in inches are approximate only.

The C series is used for envelopes to take the smaller ISO paper sizes:

C4	229 x 324	takes A4 or A3 folded;
C5	162 x 229	takes A5 or A4 folded;
C6	114 x 162	takes A6, or A5 folded once or A4 folded twice.

There is one special envelope in general use: **DL** is 220 x 110 and this takes the commonly used A4 folded in three.

Note that for both papers and envelopes the vertical measurement is always quoted first, ie 297 x 210 is portrait but 210 x 297 is landscape. Envelopes with the opening on the longer side are termed Bankers or Wallet and those with the flap on the short side (or end) are termed Pocket envelopes. Dimensions for both paper and envelopes are always measured in millimetres, *never* centimetres. That way 297 x 210 is always about  $11\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$  inches and not the *much* larger  $117 \times 82\frac{2}{3}$ " with which it could mistakenly be confused!

The Newsletter is published by  
the British Amstrad PCW Club and  
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