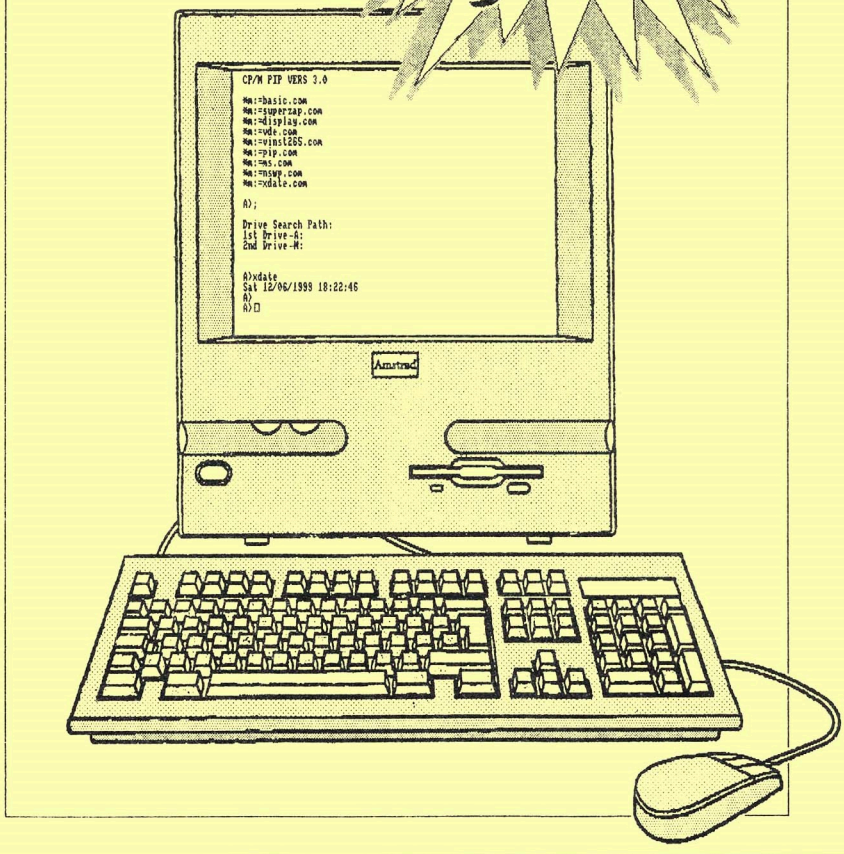
The Disc Drive

ISSUE 22 SUMMER 1999

BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

Comms Special!



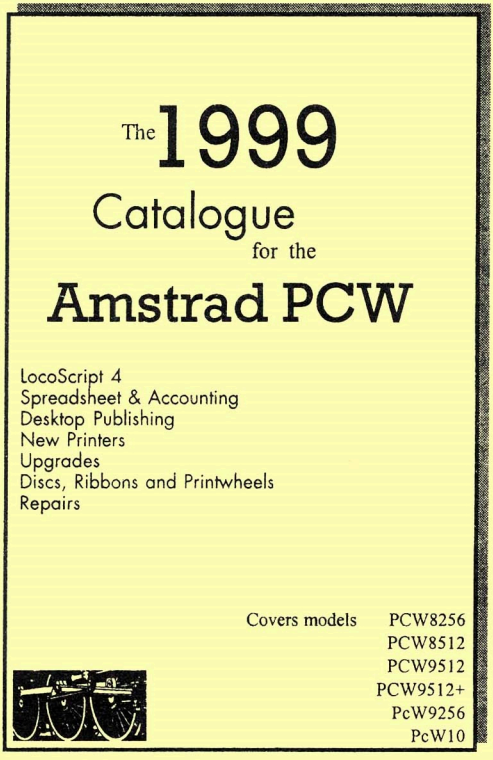
The British Amstrad PCW Club Magazine

for all PCW and PcW users

This page isn't big enough for details of everything we do for the PCW

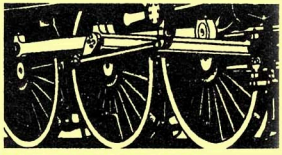
So send or call free for our new free illustrated 1999 catalogue

and details of some great special offers



Write to
LocoScript Software
FREEPOST
Dorking RH4 3BR

or call free
0800 026 7088



LOCOSCRIPT SOFTWARE
10 Vincent Works
Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HJ
Phone: 01306 747757
Fax: 01306 885529
www.locomotive.com

Pinboard Computers

Unit 9, Bondor Business Centre, London Road, Baldock, SG7 6HP
☎ 01462 894410 Fax: 01462 894460
Email :- Pinboardcomputers@btinternet.com
Web Page : - http://www.btinternet.com/~pinboardcomputers

Your PCW requirements at reasonable cost, from our full range of 3.5" disk drives, switchable or non switchable, with or without their own built in power supply (essential if your PCW is using power thirsty items) to our vast repair and spare part service.

3.5" DISK DRIVES for PCW 8256, 8512, 9512, 9512+, 9256 & PCW10

We offer a full range of disk drives from replacement A or B drives at £70.00 to our switchable Twin drives, Cable Remote Controlled, and built in PSU at £185.00. Although this is expensive it is sheer luxury and does everything you could possibly want. No need to change your existing software.

Call us now for more information.

PRINTER RIBBONS for PCW 8256, 8512, 9512, 9512+, 9256 & PCW10

£5.00 each 8256/8512, 9256, PCW10 £12.00 for Qty 3
£4.00 each 9512, 9512+ £15.00 for Qty 5

3.5" DISKS

£6.00 per Box of 10 £20.00 for 4 Boxes

REPAIRS & SPARES

£2.40 3" Drive Belt £7.00 Armature

Our experience in PCWs ensures that a high standard of workmanship is maintained, and a warranty given on any work carried out.

Our supply of spare parts is too numerous to list, if you require any item large or small, please call for current price. Our repair service is available for all PCWs including printers, and PCs.

Disk copying service from £3.50

INK CARTRIDGES We supply cartridges for the following

£8.00 for Epson Stylus 600 Blk £12.00 for Epson Stylus 600 Colour
£5.00 for Canon BJ600 Blk £18.00 for HP 500 Blk

AND MANY MORE. Call for your specific requirements. Best prices available.

NEW PCs

For those wanting to move to more modern PC equipment we offer a range of machines. Built on our premises to the customer's requirements, and up to date software already installed, our machines are giving excellent service. We ensure that add-ons such as scanners, extra memory etc are all available. Why not treat yourself today? Our prices are as low as £499.00 incl of VAT for a reasonably high spec machine. Call for more information.

PAYMENT by MASTERCARD, VISA, CHEQUE
New equipment carries a *12 month RTB warranty*
Second hand/repairs carry a *3 month RTB waranty*

The Disc Drive Advertising rates

Why not advertise your services here?
At these prices can you afford not to?

Full Page	**128 x 182 mm**	**£15.00**
Half Page	**128 x 89 mm**	**£10.00**
Quarter Page	**89 x 62 mm**	**£5.00**

MD3 300dpi Area Files preferred.
Prepared work within the above sizes accepted.

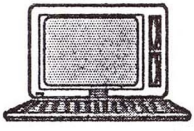
Alternatively

We can prepare art work for you at cost. Proofs will be sent to you prior to going to press.

When replying to advertisers please mention that you read about their products in the

'Disc Drive'.

That way they know that their advertising is working and it keeps your magazine in the public eye. Thanks!



PCW TODAY

Champion of the Amstrad PCW

After ten great years, PCW Plus, the last remaining news-stand PCW magazine, has finally shut up shop. So where does this leave you PCW users? Well there is a solution. PCW Today is now the best selling and the biggest PCW magazine in Britain. Each edition contains 24 jam-packed A4 pages, filled with the latest news, reviews, tips and tutorials. There's a letters page, company directory, regular competitions, problems page and so much more. Now widely acclaimed as the best PCW magazine, why not subscribe today and discover for yourself why PCW Plus called us...

"a worthy successor"

One year basic subscription £8.00 (magazine only) One year premium subscription £12.50 (magazine and CP/M cover discs) To PCW Today, 150 Oxford Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 5EL.

***** Together we can keep the PCW alive! *****

SOUTH ESSEX PCW CLUB

CHAIRMAN — Mike Elliston, 96 Sparrows Herne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5EX

SECRETARY & Magazine Librarian — David Lalieu, 10 Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex SS7 1RD Tel: (01702) 551618

TREASURER — Martin Blackman, 13 Fulcher Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6QN Tel: (01245) 280781

Membership Secretary & Editor (The Disc Drive) — Steve Massam, 27 St.Marks Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2PY Tel: (01702) 555398

P.D. Librarian — Nick Chaundy, 2 Clickett Hill, Basildon, Essex SS14 1NP Tel: (01268) 454917

Ordinary Member — Peter Hathaway 52 Woodbrooke Way Corringham Stanford-le-Hope Essex SS17 9DP Tel: 01375 672759

The opinions expressed in *The Disc Drive* are not necessarily those of the Editor or the British Amstrad PCW Club. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that all articles are accurate no liability can be taken for errors or mistakes.

Advertisements are taken in good faith but the British Amstrad PCW Club can not be held responsible for the quality of service or the goods provided by the advertisers or their agents.

CONTENTS

PAGE

Editorial 2
by Steve

My PcW16 Story 3
by Gareth Morris

The Disappearing Data Mystery 4
from Rod Shinkfield

PCW Gets The Comms On 6
by Daniel French

Better Bowles With Your PCW 15
from Tony Dimond

Working With Four 17
by Esther Welch

A PCW On National Service 18
from Ted Caton

Envelops On The PcW16 20
by Steve Massam

DOS Saves ROSANNE 21
by Steve Massam

Meetings

Are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7.30pm THE BASILDON CENTRE Committee Room Nº 2

Subscriptions

£12.00 per Year + £2.50 per Meeting, payable on the door, First Meeting FREE!

EDITORIAL

Many thanks to Mike for producing the past five issues of *The Disc Drive*, all I believe, accomplished using LocoScript 4. It's now my turn in the driving seat once again (no pun intended) and subsequent issues will be prepared using MicroDesign 3, the program I feel most confident with for this type of work.

David Lalieu, our Secretary, along with others have been relentlessly persuading, you the members, into submitting articles for publication, with considerable success I might add, and although this issue is perhaps a little slimmer than we have become accustom to, it is hoped that you will be inspired by the content. sorry if your submission isn't in this issue, but I can assure you it will almost certainly be used in a future issue.

Daniel French's article *"PCW Get's The COMMS On"* may tempt many into this most modern form of communications and I for one will be giving it serious consideration, especially as Daniel informs me that Dixson's are selling the Modular Technology, Supper Highway 56 Modem for just £59.95. Good news for PcW16 users, as it would seem Gareth Morris has come up with the answer to why a number or PcW16s are giving their owners the run-a-round. Rod Shinkfield reveals all, in the PcW16s spreadsheet. Esther Welch gives Dorothy Featherstones latest tutorial the thumbs up. Ted Caton shares the secrets of getting published and Tony Dimonds shows us how he keeps track of his bowls, thanks to LocoMail.

PcW16 users will undoubtedly be aware of the success of John Elliots CP/M emulator. A real breakthrough in the eyes of many PCW users. I would be grateful if someone could provide me with a substantial unbiassed review for possible publication in a future issue of *The Disc Drive.* SD MicroSystems are retailing a number of compatible programs for use with the emulator, but it just might be worth checking out out our very own PD Library first *(Give Nick a ring!).* I have also heard of the existence of a PcW16 appreciation society, contact SD MicroSystems for that one.

Its Great to be back

Steve

I saw your advert in *'PCW Today'* magazine. At the present time I only own a PcW16 yet hope to find a suitable cheap older model so that I can return to the good old days of LocoScript. I sold my ultra modern PC due to growing more and more frustrated with the way Windows and Word 97 was able to distract me away from my hobby of writing short storyies. I seemed to write better when I had a PcW10; I should never have sold it!

Mr Robinson East Yorkshire

My PcW16 Story

by Gareth Morris

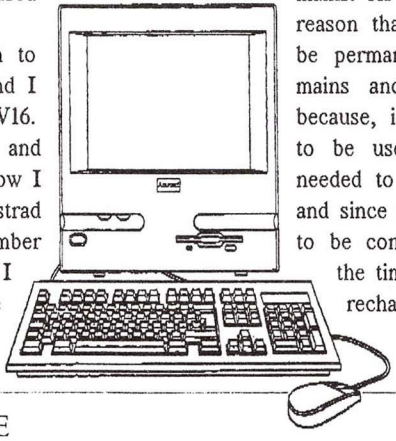
I was with my seventy-year-old Mother, as I have been more often lately since the unexpected death of my Dad in October last year. Mum and I have been sorting out the house and now things have started to settle down. Mum was writing letters on her PCW8512 with LocoScript2 and was complaining that she was finding it difficult to remember the sequence of events to control LocoScript to produce a letter.

I then suggested; Why don't you get a new machine? I knew what machine Mum would now find easy to use without much fuss. You have guessed it, the PcW16. I remember when I got one for my mother-in-law to replace her PcW10, how she said that it was easy to use and at the time it cost £99.99 at Dixons. So, when we had to go into Currys to take in a faulty video, I took the opportunity to check out the price for the PcW16 and to my surprise it was priced at £80, a saving of £20. I knew Mum would say that's a good buy, for when she bought the PCW8512 she paid around £300. So we asked if they had any others in stock. The salesman told us that he had a unit that a customer had brought back, but otherwise it was as good as new; I asked how much it was and he told us £49.99. At that price I asked if there where any more. He called the stock room on his mobile phone and back came the reply, Yes we have one more, so Mum and I purchased a PcW16 each.

We got home, I left Mum to read up on her new PcW and I went home to explore my PcW16. I put in the Rescue Disk and found a FAQ file and that's how I came to find the British Amstrad PCW Club. I rang the number and spoke to a friendly guy I came to know as Steve Massam. The first thing he asked was "Was I happy with the PcW16 as it was?" I said yes, then Steve mentioned that he had been made aware that some PcW16s were dying and that funny things were going on with the machine itself. This intrigued me so asked for more information. By the end of the phone call I realised that there was quite a serious problem with the PcW16 and with the experience I have gained over the years, my first action would have to be to try and stop the PcW16s from dying. I found out that Amstrad was not supporting the PcW16, Dixons/Currys group were only changing the whole unit or replacing the internal printed circuit board and that limited spares were held by a company called CPC.

As I have a CPC account I contacted CPC and after some arm twisting managed to get them to send me a stock listing of all PcW16 spares. Having spoken to the engineers at work (Marconi) about some of my concerns regarding the PcW16's switch mode power supply circuit and control, and the fact that it was the main board that was failing for various reasons, the conclusion was drawn that if the PcW16 was powered up *all* the time some of the components were coming to the end of their life, so anything that could prolong their life was a must.

The first thing was to do away with the need to leave the PcW16 connected to the mains. As far as I am aware, the reason that the PcW16 needed to be permanently connected to the mains and left on standby was because, if the PcW16 was going to be used to receive email, it needed to be online to receive it and since the PcW16 was intended to be connected to the mains all the time it was decided to fit a rechargeable battery.



Since no email

software has been forth coming and may now never materialize, the first thing to do is to replace the rechargeable battery with a standard PC style Lithium battery. The purpose of the battery is to keep the clock running and to retain some of the data in memory. I have replaced the rechargeable battery for a lithium battery in both of our PcW16s, with a battery holder fitted to the cover plate in the base of the PcW16 for easy access, to change the battery when needed. At present I don't know how long it will last but I expect it to last a year or two at least.

The main advantage is that we no longer leave our PcW16s connected to the mains. In turn, this will take the load off the PcW16's power supply and, as far as my Mother is concerned, that's one less item to worry about going up in flames because it's connected to the mains. It should be noted also that television manufacturers always say *"Never leave the television in standby mode for any length of time and when you retire for the night switch off the television"* and, in my opinion, any PcW/PCW is basically a television without a tuner!

To further relieve an excessive surge of current through some of the components, I would also recommend that, before turning off the machine, the contrast control is turned fully anti-clockwise (so the screen goes black). When switching the PcW16 back on from the mains, leave it for a couple of seconds and then turn up the contrast control to the required level.

Having looked inside the PcW16 I discovered that there were vacant areas allocated on the circuit board where additional memory chips could be installed and, after much searching, found a limited supply of the required chips. The PcW16, as it stands, can hold 200k worth of text. Having successfully installed the extra memory in both our machines, each can now hold 1210k of text; great for any budding authors out there.

If you would like more information on either of these modifications please contact me, Gareth Morris, on 01245 496130 between 6pm and 9pm. Gareth

Editors Note:

In my opinion, having had two PcW16s die on me, it would seem imperative that some action is taken to prolong the life of your PcW16. As I see it, if you leave your PcW16 switched on at the mains in standby all the time, some of the components on the main power board will come to the end of their working life and the PcW16 will fail. If, on the other hand, you decide to switch off from the mains the rechargeable battery will eventually fail and you will be unable to switch your PcW16 on.

The memory upgrade is entirely optional. If you think you could make use of the extra cabinet space, now or in the future, then it might be wise to consider upgrading now whilst the chips are still available.

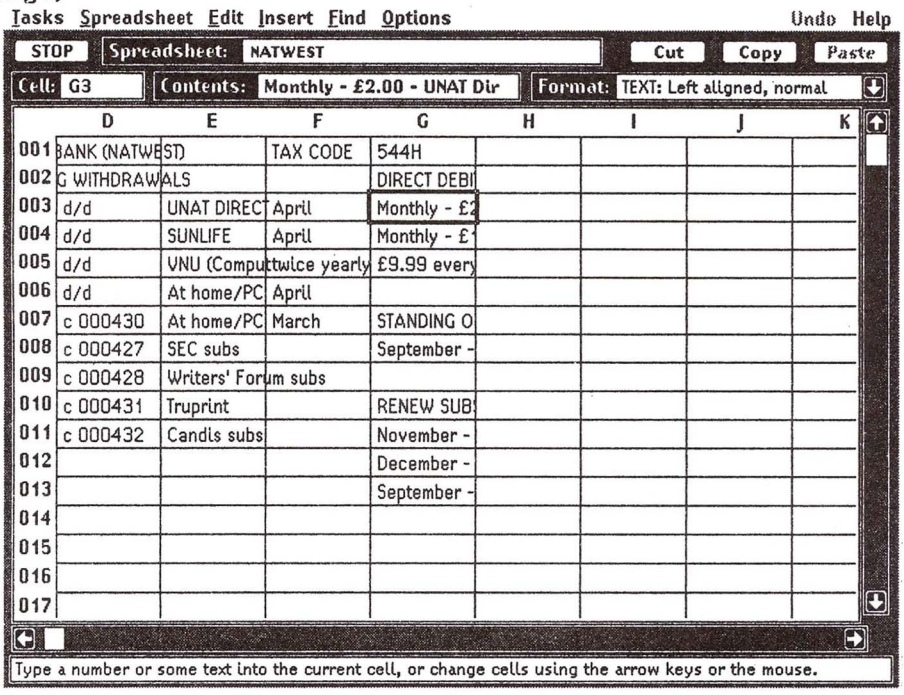
The Disappearing Data Mystery

Whenever my PcW16's Spreadsheet cursor was moved onto the G column of my Personal Accounts file, the H column and beyond appeared blank. Where was the data that should be there?

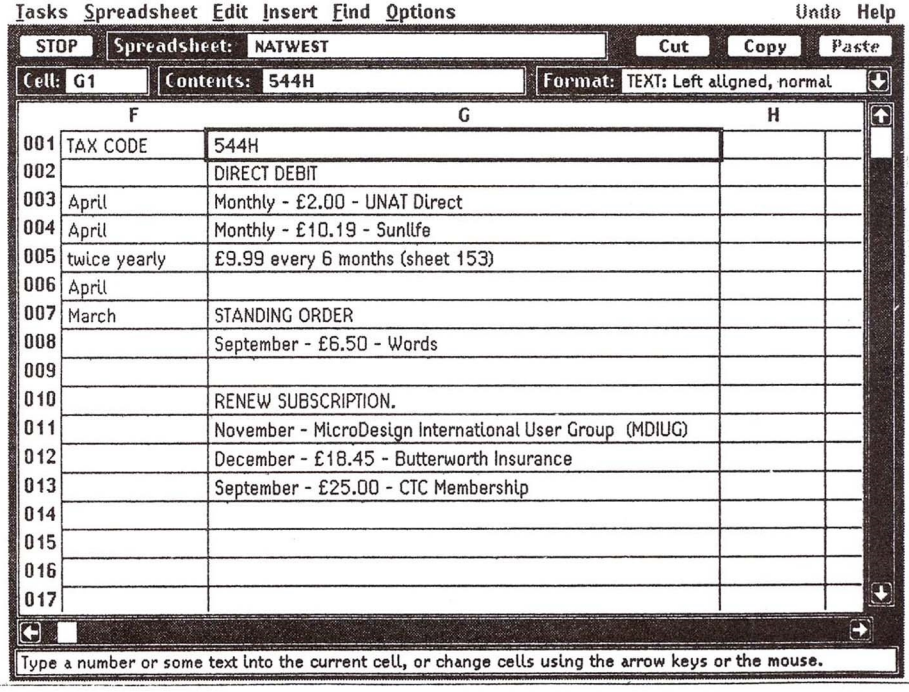
As you can see in the Contents: strip (see figure one) the data was still there, just hidden from view. By clicking the mouse pointer in the Contents: strip, and then clicking on the cell cursor in the G column below, the data miraculously re-appeared.

I soon grew bored of doing this every time the data went missing once again. Once the G column, the problem appeared cured. Now, whenever the cell cursor is moved onto the G column, all the data (as shown in figure two) was still there! Rod Shinkfield

(Fig 1)


Tasks Spreadsheet Edit Insert Find Options
Undo Help
STOP
Spreadsheet: NATWEST
Cut
Copy
Paste
Cell: G3
Contents: Monthly - £2.00 - UNAT Dir
Format: TEXT: Left aligned, normal
D E F G H I J K
001 BANK (NATWEST) TAX CODE 544H
002 G WITHDRAWALS DIRECT DEBI
003 d/d UNAT DIRECT April Monthly - £2
004 d/d SUNLIFE April Monthly - £1
005 d/d VNU (Comput twice yearly £9.99 every
006 d/d At home/PC April
007 c 000430 At home/PC March STANDING O
008 c 000427 SEC subs September -
009 c 000428 Writers' Forum subs
010 c 000431 Truprint RENEW SUB
011 c 000432 Candis subs November -
012 December -
013 September -
014
015
016
017
Type a number or some text into the current cell, or change cells using the arrow keys or the mouse.

(Fig 2)


Tasks Spreadsheet Edit Insert Find Options
Undo Help
STOP
Spreadsheet: NATWEST
Cut
Copy
Paste
Cell: G1
Contents: 544H
Format: TEXT: Left aligned, normal
F G H
001 TAX CODE 544H
002 DIRECT DEBIT
003 April Monthly - £2.00 - UNAT Direct
004 April Monthly - £10.19 - Sunlife
005 twice yearly £9.99 every 6 months (sheet 153)
006 April
007 March STANDING ORDER
008 September - £6.50 - Words
009
010 RENEW SUBSCRIPTION.
011 November - MicroDesign International User Group (MDIUG)
012 December - £18.45 - Butterworth Insurance
013 September - £25.00 - CTC Membership
014
015
016
017
Type a number or some text into the current cell, or change cells using the arrow keys or the mouse.

PCW gets the COMMs on!

By Daniel French

Electronic Mail, and indeed the Internet, is becoming more and more popular by the day. The ability to send and receive messages from the other side of the world in a matter of seconds is most appealing. It saves on time, paper, and money. Think about it - to send a letter electronically takes about 4 seconds. Compare the price of a 4 second phone call to that of a first-class stamp, a sheet of paper, and an envelope.

Using the World Wide Web is fast becoming as common as wordprocessing for most computer users. It gives you, quite literally, everything the world has to offer, right on your desk. Whatever you are interested in, you can be almost certain that there will be buckets of material about it on the Web. (EXAMPLE: A couple of months ago, my grandfather acquired a bow tie, but didn't know how to tie it. I said I'd find out on the Internet, but he was sure there would be nothing like that available. A couple of minutes on-line resulted in about 40 web-pages! He can now tie a bow-tie like a pro!)

But - everybody knows that these great technologies are privy only to users of flash Pentium PCs and Apple Macs - right? WRONG. The PCW is perfect for Email, and is even capable of accessing the World Wide Web - provided you have the right equipment, some idea what you're doing, or failing the latter, a copy of this article. I will attempt to guide you through exactly what equipment and software is required, how much it costs, and where it can be obtained. I will also explain the meaning of all that obscure Comms terminology. I will detail how it connects to your PCW. If you don't know what software to use, or how you access the Net once you've got it connected, don't panic - I'll explain this as well.

MODEMS

Before you can even consider accessing the Net, you need one vital piece of equipment. This is called a Modem. (MOdulator DEModulator) What a Modem does is that it converts the DIGITAL information inside your computer, into a series of ANALOGUE tones, which are suitable for transmission down the phone line. When the tones have reached where they are going, another Modem, attached to the computer on the other end of the phone line, converts the tones back into digital information, suitable for processing. So, as you can appreciate, if you don't have a Modem, you may as well forget it.

But fortunately, good Modems are available widely and cheaply. Almost any Modem will be suitable for use on the PCW, provided it is an EXTERNAL model. (I am using the term "Almost" to prevent myself from winding up standing on one leg - to all intents and purposes, anything will work.) If you see one advertised as INTERNAL, forget it - this is designed to be installed INSIDE an IBM compatible PC - no use for us. Bear in mind, too, that if you get a super-fast Modem, you will not be able to use it to its full potential with the PCW. So, unless you are planning to get a PC some time in the future (take my advice - don't), you can get by with a relatively slow modem.

BAUD RATE

The Modem equivalent of Miles-per-Hour is called BAUD RATE (pronounced Bawd, Bode - choose whichever you wish.) Some Modems (mostly older ones, for reasons brought about by the notoriously poor quality of BT telephone lines,) transmit and receive at different speeds. (If you've got one of these, CHUCK IT!) This will, however, be

explained in due course. The Baud Rate is the number of BITS that the Modem can transmit per second. Bearing in mind that there are eight bits in a single character, you can see that a 2400 baud Modem will transmit/receive 300 characters per second. (Maximum Theoretical Efficiency - likely to be something about 150-200. Feel free to adjust my figures below taking this into account, if you really want to feel ill!)

This may seem superbly fast - but think about it. Let's say that you want to download some software from a Bulletin Board that interests you, and that said program is 120k in size. Now, 120k = (120 x 1024) = 122880 characters. At 300 characters per second, that means that the download would take 410 seconds, or just under seven minutes. This is OK, but then again, you may find 20 programs you want - in that case you are looking at 140 minutes, or just under two and a half hours of time. Assuming that it is a regional phone call, at 8 pence per minute, this works out at a sickening £10.88. Making this call at a weekend at 3 pence per minute is cheaper at £4.08, but you see my point - it's expensive either way. Consider 2400 baud an absolute MINIMUM for anything you buy.

Let's take another speed - the slowest supported speed these days. This is known as 1200/75 baud. This means that you can receive data at 1200 baud (150 characters per second) but you can only send it back at 75 baud (9.375 characters per second). To download the above mentioned 20 programs at a weekend would cost £8.16,or £21.76 on a weekday. If you were UPloading (sending) these programs to the other computer for whatever reason, the call would cost a staggering £131.40 on a weekend, and £350.40 on a weekday! So obviously, a 1200/75 baud Modem is out if you want to download/upload software from a Bulletin Board, but if all you want is Email facilities, it's fine.

At the maximum speed of which the PCW is capable without special equipment, 9600 baud, the above operation would cost £1.02 on a weekend, £2.72 on a weekday. Considering the amount of good software you could download in that time, it is money well spent. But if you want to do this with a 1200/75 Modem, you'd better have a very understanding bank manager, or a very fast getaway car!

So, to summarise, go for the fastest Modem you can find. Make sure it's an EXTERNAL model. If it's not, it's no good. If at ALL possible, go for a brand new one. If you go for a second hand, make sure that it's an INTELLIGENT MODEM, and that it is capable of at least 2400 baud. In both cases, watch for HAYES COMPATIBILITY, and you'll be fine.

Once you've got your shiny new (or yellowed old) modem, you will want to connect it up. One end is easy - plug the phone lead into a spare telephone socket. If you don't have a spare socket, doublers can be obtained for around 5 pounds from Argos. Alternatively, they may be obtained from Dixons.

SERIAL INTERFACE

The other end is not so easy. You will need a SERIAL interface on your PCW in order to connect up the modem. The Margolis faxlink is faster, but no longer available. The CPS8256, which is also no longer available, but should be easier to find second-hand, comes highly recommended, for it is the CPS8256 I use myself. Check though - you may already have a serial interface. If you have added an external printer, look at your Parallel interface. If there is one empty socket, you don't have to worry - you have a CPS8256 compatible interface - lucky you.

Special note for PcW9256/PcW10 users: The PcW9256/10 does have an expansion port, but it has a plastic cover screwed onto it. Remove the cover with a Phillips screwdriver,

and put it, along with the screws, SOMEWHERE SAFE! In order for 9256/10 users to connect the interface, you must get hold of a short extension cable. These are available from Creative Technology, and cost £14.95.

Now, with the power off, run a soft eraser over the protruding expansion port. Even if you have never used your port before now, it will always benefit from a good clean before attaching an interface.

If you have a 9256/10, plug your extension cable into the expansion socket, then the CPS8256 onto the cable. If you have any other PCW, just plug the interface straight onto the port, and screw it tightly into place.

The CPS8256 does not have a through socket - so you can't piggy-back another interface onto the back of it, like most. If you find that you have another interface of this type, you will be unable to connect both simultaneously. Disconnecting and Reconnecting interfaces frequently is NOT recommended, so you are recommended to get hold of an Expansion Port Doubler from Locoscript Software.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE FOR RAMPORT/HARD DISK USERS

The hardware of the CPS8256 appears to clash with that of the Ramport, or Hard Disk interface. The upshot of this is that you can't have both connected at the same time, or at least you can, but it won't work. To get the system to work in this case, you must detach your Ramport or Hard Disk before attaching the CPS8256. THIS means that you can't screw the Interfaces to the computer; furthermore it means you must be VERY careful whilst the machine is on. As I know from experience, if an interface is attached or detached whilst the machine is on, the results can be VERY nasty. Also, be careful when attaching and removing the interfaces anyway - the connector is quite fragile and will not last long if treated harshly. So long as you treat it with LOVE and RESPECT, you should have no trouble.

THE SOFTWARE

Amstrad have very kindly supplied sufficient software with the PCW8000 series. Users will find it on their Locoscript 1 disk, 9000 series users will find it on their CP/M disk. The program is called MAIL232.COM, and although it has received a severe beating from reviewers over the years, the fact is that it is very good. It is certainly sufficient for our needs, which at the moment are nothing more than Electronic Mail facilities.

MAIL232 is not suitable for what is called "Downloading", ie, copying software for your own use off a Bulletin Board. However, it can be used to obtain software capable of this... But more about that next time - I'm too worn out for that now, and besides, I doubt there would be many pages left in the Disk Drive!

To get MAIL232 up and running, boot up CP/M by placing the disk into drive A: and turning on the computer. When the A> prompt appears...

9000/10 series: Type **MAIL232 [return]**

8000 series: Flip the disk round, then type **MAIL232 [return]**

After a brief period of disk-flashing, you ought to see a short message about MAIL232. This does not remain on the screen long enough to read it, but fortunately that's not important. What IS important is what comes up next. You will be presented with a white menu bar, very similar to that in the Locoscript Disc Management screen.

Before actually USING the program for actual communications, you must first set up the program so that the data is transmitted correctly, and at the right speed. The first and most important of these settings is on the **F1-Framing** menu. Press F1 now, and you will see a Locoscript style pull-down menu appear, full of incomprehensible gibberish. Don't panic,

it will all become crystal clear in due course.

The first option on the menu, labelled **"Tx rate"** simply means how fast your modem can TRANSMIT information. Press the [+] key (aside the spacebar) until the baud rate shown is equal to the capability of your modem. ie, if you have a 1200/75 modem, set this to **75**.

The second option, labelled **"Rx rate"** controls how fast your modem can RECEIVE information. Set this, using the [+] key, to the speed of your modem. ie, for a 1200/75 modem, set this to **1200**. Note; Mail232 won't work at speeds above 2400.

Fortunately, due to standardisation in the setup of Comms systems, the other options will very rarely need to be looked at. They are certainly set correctly for 99% of services; furthermore they are correct for the service we are about to dial.

Get rid of the **F1-Framing** menu by pressing EXIT. Now we are ready to begin. Assuming that your modem is correctly connected, you may now dial up the service you require.

Almost ALL modems (newer ones, certainly) will allow you to dial from the keyboard. It depends - read your modem manual. To test which your modem is, try dialling it from the keyboard.

Type **AT [return]**. This stands for ATtention, and if your modem is suitable (and it almost certainly will be), it will respond with **OK**. If you did not get the OK message, turn off the computer, check the interfaces and the modem connections, re-boot MAIL232, re-set the baud rates, and try again. If it still won't work, then you have a so-called "Dumb Modem" - which will be dealt with later.

IF IT WORKED

Assuming that the **AT** did have the desired affect, we can now call the service. Type the following:

ATD 01483-834-626 [return]

And this should be sufficient to set your modem in action. If your modem has an inbuilt speaker, you will hear the familiar melodic dialling tones. After a short period of time, and frenzied beeping and whistling from the modem, you will be connected. Connection is indicated by a message onscreen, consisting of either the word **"CONNECT"** or the word **"CARRIER"**, followed by the baudrate you are using; ie, **"CONNECT 9600"**.

IF IT DIDN'T

If the **AT** test above produced nothing, you have a dumb modem. My first suggestion in this case, is chuck it and buy a new one. However, if you really MUST use the dumb modem, this is how you do it. This type of modem must be dialled from the telephone handset. There will be a socket in the modem into which a telephone should be plugged. Plug one in, and lift the receiver. Dial the number **01483-834-626** (on the telephone receiver, not the keyboard), and wait. When you hear the characteristic squealing noise, press the button labelled **"ON-LINE"** on your modem. This will connect the modem to the computer. Note that you will see no message like **"CONNECT"** with a dumb modem - they really are stupid devices!!

ONCE YOU ARE CONNECTED

Now you've connected to the system, LENTIL Computer in this case, you must set yourself up an account. Doing this provides you with an Email address, and also access to the other services of Lentil. The process is simplicity in itself, you simply answer the questions asked of you, to the best of your ability. A sample "Log On" session is illustrated below, in which Mr Fake User of Somewhereshire logs in to the system. Please note that for reasons of space, certain passages of "non-relevant to this demonstration" text have been edited from this otherwise verbatim transcription:

```
Welcome to LENTIL Computer    (16/03/99   9:22 pm)
- If you are having difficulties logging in, call Rob (VOICE) on: 0973-815198
  or send a message via my pager, 0941-114538

NEW USERS: please login as NEW to create your username.
For direct access to off-line mail services, PREFIX username with "PCELM:"

Username:NEW

New user registration...

*** DO NOT include initials, middle names or dots.
Enter your FULL REAL name, as you want it to appear.
 Note, please enter your FULL NAME, not "F. SMITH, F SMITH", etc.:Fake User
If you would rather use a handle, please contact the sysop later.)
Please wait, Checking user database...

Ok.

Please only use Letters and Numbers, -NO SPACES-
The following characters CANNOT Be used:
* ( ) " $ # @ / / ? & !  (If you use any of these characters you will NOT be very popular!)

 Password to use (8 characters max): nothing

Please Choose A Protocol to use:-
 [X] Xmodem
 [Y] Ymodem
 [G] Ymodem-G
 [Z] Zmodem Protocol:
x
What town are you calling from?Somewhereshire
Saving user information....

** You will have internet e-mail only when your account is verified **

*******) Welcome!  - Now log in as Fake User to verify  (*******

Welcome to LENTIL Computer    (16/03/99   9:24 pm)
- If you are having difficulties logging in, call Rob (VOICE) on: 0973-815198
  or send a message via my pager, 0941-114538

NEW USERS: please login as NEW to create your username.
For direct access to off-line mail services, PREFIX username with "PCELM:"

Username:Fake User
Password:*******

Caller number: 10266
```

```
Welcome to Lentil Computer.
Your last interactive login was:  9:23 pm on 16/03/99
Its  9:24 pm now.

The last user was: Daniel Peter French
Select terminal type:
C - Colour ANSI Codes        [IBM ANSI/VT320/Win'95 HyperAccess,MS-DOS]
P - Plain Text with graphics [Simple Graphics/VT220/Windows 3.x Terminal]
T - Text Only (TTY) Menus    [TEXT-ONLY/Amstrad PCW/Unknown Terminals/C64
H - HELP!!

Selection, or press [return] to accept ANSI: t
Loading, please wait...


Lentil User Database
====================
Your Full Name, or type # if it is: Fake User
(---------------------------------------------)
#
I Have your name as: Fake User.

 Your Date of birth:
Please type *EXACTLY* as follows: dd/mm/yy  (eg 01/11/51) 10/10/34

 Current Postage address (3 lines)
(--------------------------------)
1:10 Acacia Avenue
2:Somewhereshire
3:

 VOICE telephone number
(--------------------)
>01234-567-8910

 DATA/FAX number
(--------------------)
>n/a

What type/make of COMPUTER are you using? 1 line
(-------------------------------------------------------------)
>Amstrad PCW

What type/make of MODEM are you using? 1 line
(-------------------------------------------------------------)
>Anykind Fax Modem
```

```
About when did you use a modem for the first time? 1 line
(----------------------------------------------------------)
>10/10/98

Who provides your telephone line? (BT/MERCURY/CABLE) 1 line
(----------------------------------------------------------)
>BT

Do you use a modem:
1 - Just at home
2 - Just at work
3 - Both home and work
>1

 Do you run your own Bulletin Board? (sysop)  Y-Yes N-No n

What do you think is most important in a BBS?
1 - Mail Facilities
2 - File Areas
3 - Helpful/Chatty Sysop
4 - Reliability
3

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please wait a moment while your answers are saved...

Continuing Login...

   Loading, one moment...
```

Now, select the LO (Log Off) option from the main menu which will appear after the above "Loading, one moment..." message, and wait about 10 seconds for the modem to disconnect (or turn the modem offline manually if you have a Dumb Modem). There is nothing more you can do now for at least a day.

After three days (give it a week if you're a patient sort - I'm not!), your mailbox should be set up. Log on to the system again as described above, providing your username and password when requested, then type EM at the main menu. Here is your road into electronic mail. When you type EM for the first time, you will be informed that you've not a mailbox - and then you will be informed that one is being set up for you. This will only happen once. You will then find that you have been allocated 300000 bytes of space on Lentil's hard disk for your messages. This equates to 293k, and is more than PLENTY of space. NB: Since producing the sample session for this article, Lentil Computer has upgraded its hard disk access from 200000 to 300000 bytes. This is why, in the following illustrations, the figures won't quite match up!

You are now presented with the Email message menu, which looks like this:

```
User: Daniel Peter French    (Daniel@lentil.org)
Disk quota: 200000  Used: 4997   Remaining: 195003
Last internet mail poll: 21/03/99, at  3:11 am

<SM>   Send Message (Local/Net)
<FX>   Send a fax via tpc
<RM>   Read your mail
<RS>   Read Stored mail
<DM>   Download Mail
<DR>   Delete stored mail
<VP>   View Personal Address List     <DI>  Distribution list manager
<AD>   Add Entry to Address List      <NC>  Network Control (restricted)
<DE>   Delete Entry from Address List <GM>  Remote POP3 Mailbox Options
<OF>   PCElm off-line mail
<AF>   Automatic Forwarding
<HM>   Help/Information menu
<EX>   Exit to main menu
<LO>   Log Out

 => :  *** There is mail in your Inbox ***  (21/03/99,  3:21 am)
```

This, as you can see, is the menu I am presented with when I select Email from the menu. Notice that I have only used 4997 bytes out of 200000 - plenty of space. I have another mailbox at a Bulletin Board called Chaos Cottage. They have a brilliant file area where PD software for the PCW can be downloaded for free, and this will be featured later in the series. But, for now, let's say I want to send a message to myself at Chaos Cottage - I would follow this procedure.

First, I enter SM for Send Message, from the message menu. I am then asked to whom I wish the message to be sent:

```
.....................................................................
Lentil Computer : Send an E-Mail Message.    21/03/99,  9:50 pm
Valid addresses are:
- Any Lentil User, for example 'Robert Lister'
for Lentil users, just type their name, not the full e-mail address
  (if you know part of the user's name, ie 'Lister', type it in.)
- Any internet e-mail address, for example 'fred@cix.compulink.co.uk'
- Anyone who you have put on your personal address list, for example 'fred'

If you have an e-mail address which is longer than the input field, then you should enter
the address in your personal address list first.

                (-------------------------------------------------)
 Send message to:   daniel.french@chaos.camelot.co.uk
```

So, I have entered my other Email address, and am now given some information on my message, and am asked for a subject, which is shown when the message is read by the recipient (me, in this case).

```
Date: Sun, 21 Mar 99 21:50:59 GMT
From: Daniel Peter French (Daniel@lentil.org) To: daniel.french@chaos.camelot.co.uk
Subject: Nuffink
```

Usually, I would want to Upload pre-prepared message text, but Mail232 is incapable of this, so we'll say no. Instead, I'll type my message on line. The above information is now repeated (but not in this text for space reasons), and I am allowed to type in my message:

```
**** To end your message, type *, £ or / on a blank line and hit return ****

Hello, Daniel. I am Emailing myself to check that my other mailbox
is working. Thankyou.

Daniel French
*
```

The * sign tells Lentil that I've finished entering my message. I am now told that the message is being formatted (prepared for transmission). I am given the opportunity to send it, abandon it, display it, retype it, or attach a file to it. I choose S for send message:

```
Command:s
Allocated message number: <32320>....
```

I am now asked if I would like to send the message by recorded delivery. This facility is useful, but often unnecessary, as Email is very reliable. I answer NO, and the message is sent. I am told how large the message is.

```
-- Saved 464 bytes in message 32320.

Message 32320 done!.
```

At this point, I am offered the opportunity to send the message to someone else. This is a very useful facility, but again unnecessary in this case. When I answer N for NO, I am returned to the main menu, from which I can log OFF in the normal manner.

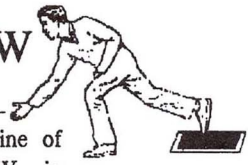
If you want to test your Email account, mail me! Please send a message to daniel@lentil.org, with anything you like in the subject line. I'll try and reply, and let you know everything is OK.

That's it for now. Next time, we get to the really start stuff. Next time, we'll access the World Wide Web via nothing but an Email account, get a better comms program, and find out how you can get bucket-loads of PD software for nothing! Sounds good? One more thing to dip in lemon juice, then jab in the eye of some smug Windows 98 junkie! Have FUN.... And try to keep the phone bill down!!

Editors Note: Following Daniels advice given in this article, I purchased a 56K modem from CPC for £45. I was one of the fortunate ones that already had a CPS8256 and within half an hour of receiving the modem, was in touch with Lentil. Thanks to Daniel, I can now be contacted on **Steve@Lentil.org**

Proof that there really is no need to purchase a PC if you need an e-mail facility. (can't wait for the next instalment!)

BETTER BOWLS WITH YOUR PCW



by Tony Dimond

Are you involved with, or perhaps you play for, a team (bowls, cricket, take your pick) competing in a league-type championship? Yes? Then you might be interested in using a LocoMail listing, a database with mailmerge, or a spreadsheet, to produce fixture lists for the season, to record results for such teams and output league tables. My own interest lies with a league of bowling teams, but I think the same methods and results could be applied to a variety of sporting activities in any league competition with, perhaps, minor changes, and using the relevant team names.

I use a LocoMail listing to set up league fixtures showing the week number and the pairings of the teams playing each week. I have used LocoFile with LocoMail to produce league tables, but it seems easier to use a spreadsheet to record match results - scores for and against together with points awarded for won, drawn and lost matches. I use Rocket, but SuperCalc2 or Mini Office Professional, or any other PCW spreadsheet, would do the job.

Finally I output the spreadsheet results to LocoScript3 (any LocoScript version would do) and, with a bit of editing produce league tables which are of huge interest to our own bowls club members and great envy to members of other bowling clubs, who first assume we are being given preferential treatment by some superior authority responsible for organising the tournaments, and then beg for copies so they can keep up-to-date with their own team's progress!

Along the way there are other chores, such as keeping a database (LocoFile, but any database would suffice) of club member's address and telephone details and sending fixture letters to our team members, using the database and LocoMail to make copies for each player.

This is a brief outline of usage of our PCW in connection with a sporting activity. (I just do the computer donkey-work to assist my wife, Eileen, who is the Bowling Club Secretary)

For starters in this submission to *The Disc Drive*, where better than BEFORE the sporting season begins? How can you use your PCW (providing you have LocoMail) to draw up a list of fixtures including all the teams playing against all the other teams on set dates, perhaps with 'Home' and 'Away' matches?

Two documents are required: one is a **data pattern file** followed by a list of the teams, and the other document is a LocoMail **listing** which extracts the teams in weekly lists.

For the purpose of this article I am dealing with a league of just six teams, but I have other listings for fewer and more teams. If members who require them send me a formatted disc with return postage and a suitable envelope to return the disc I will try to compile a suitable listing. I will require team name details and how many teams are competing. However, apart from being dreadfully tedious, the routine is very simple and you could learn a lot by making your own adaptations to the version I have submitted so as to meet your own requirements for a different number of teams. I'd be prepared to help if problems arose.

Here is my datafile: Page One is the record pattern and Page Two has the team names. Any resemblance to real-life locations is, of course, purely coincidental. This datafile must be saved to disc with a suitable name. Mine is DATA6.DAT, which tells me it is a datafile with six teams listed. In the .MER file the SECOND HALF refers to AWAY matches if these are required.

Continues... ⇒

```
a↵
b↵
c↵
d↵
e↵
f↵
```

```
BASILDON↵
BENFLEET↵
LAINDON↵
STANFORD↵
VANGE↵
NO MATCH
```

For your own use you must replace those names with your own team names. Team names are limited to no more than twelve characters in length. (You must abbreviate long names) Note that, I have been talking about six teams but, to allow for the situation where there is an odd number of teams, the simple solution is to include a team named NO MATCH. If you **have** six teams just list them; that's great. If you have other than five or six teams the LocoMail listing which follows below won't work: it's written for **six** teams. (I have listings for other numbers of teams in a league).

Here is the six-team .MER listing. I save it as FIXTURE6.MER. This tells me it will draw up fixtures for six teams when it is merged with the appropriate datafile.

```
FIXTURE LIST(+Mail)wk="Week":nr=0:tab="→":z="v":cr="↵
":pj="↓
```

```
"↵
(-Mail)↵
FIRST HALF↵
(+Mail)cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:a:tab:z:tab:b:cr:c:tab:z:tab:d:cr:e:tab:z:tab:f:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:a:tab:z:tab:c:cr:b:tab:z:tab:e:cr:d:tab:z:tab:f:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:a:tab:z:tab:d:cr:b:tab:z:tab:f:cr:c:tab:z:tab:e:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:a:tab:z:tab:e:cr:b:tab:z:tab:d:cr:c:tab:z:tab:f:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:a:tab:z:tab:f:cr:c:tab:z:tab:b:cr:d:tab:z:tab:e:cr(-Mail)↓
```

```
SECOND HALF↵
(+Mail)cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:b:tab:z:tab:a:cr:d:tab:z:tab:c:cr:f:tab:z:tab:e:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:c:tab:z:tab:a:cr:e:tab:z:tab:b:cr:f:tab:z:tab:d:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:d:tab:z:tab:a:cr:f:tab:z:tab:b:cr:e:tab:z:tab:c:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:e:tab:z:tab:a:cr:d:tab:z:tab:b:cr:f:tab:z:tab:c:cr↵
       cr:wk:tab:+nr:cr:f:tab:z:tab:a:cr:b:tab:z:tab:c:cr:e:tab:z:tab:d(-Mail)
```

Some explanations which may remove much of the mystery: To get a meaningful printout I have cheated several times in the above material. For example, I typed **(+Mail)**, to represent the plus Mail code. This is the code which starts LocoMail working. YOU MUST HOLD DOWN THE SPECIAL [+] KEY NEAR THE SPACE BAR ON YOUR KEYBOARD AND THEN PRESS [M]. The m does not have to be upper case. **(-Mail)** switches LocoMail off. I cheated to get that **(-Mail)** to print. YOU MUST HOLD DOWN THE SPECIAL [-] KEY NEAR THE SPACE BAR ON YOUR KEYBOARD AND PRESS [M].

Be warned, the returns are necessary, they're not there for decoration. Likewise you must include the double quotation marks to enclose items such as Week in **wk="Week"**. This enables LocoMail to know that every time it finds wk in the program it must print Week. In the same way nr (for number) is

followed by "0"; that's a zero from your numerical keys. These are not cheats. You must type :nr="0": so that LocoMail knows that every time it finds nr a number will follow. +nr has the effect of incrementing the value of nr by one each time it turns up, so it starts with a value of zero, then is increased to 1 (that's a number 1) for Week 1, then it becomes Week 2, and so on.

Here is some gold-plated advice. When you are typing in LocoMail listings TURN ON CODES, SPACES, RETURNS and TABS. Use F8 (F1 in LocoScript 1) and tick these codes. It will help you to avoid missing them out or accidentally erasing them.

The colons (:) separate one item from another. If you don't include them exactly as shown in my listing LocoMail will get confused and won't work. It will throw up error messages which are likely to confuse you if you are venturing into unknown waters. Please persevere, success can be very rewarding.

In future issues of *The Disc Drive* I hope to cover things like a database of team members, fixture letters to be sent to them at the beginning of the season, setting up a spreadsheet to record match results, and outputting calculations from those results in the form of a League Table, with matches played, won, drawn and lost, league points, shots for and against, and shot difference. Bowlers will know what I am talking about.

I nearly forgot! To use the program place your cursor on the FIXTURE6.MER file, press m for Merge (that's shown on the second line of your opening Disc Management screen, if you have LocoMail), then move your cursor to the DATA6.DAT datafile and press [ENTER]. Sit back and (if everything works correctly) enjoy! Don't forget to save and print your fixtures document, perhaps under a name showing the year(s) in which the matches will be played, FIX99-00.DOC, might do for 1999-2000? You will need to supply some guidance about the dates for each of the Weeks.

Future articles will cover using a spreadsheet to record match results and produce league tables, and using a database with LocoMail to send correspondence to team members.

Tony Dimond

Working With Four

"LocoScript4 Basic Course with assignments and workshop activities". £12 + £3 p&p

Help is at hand for anyone who is having difficulty working with the latest version of LocoScript. Dorothy Featherstone has followed her previous texts on earlier versions with LocoScript4 Course Work Book which will encourage everyone to explore the range of fonts, ability to add clip art, type in columns and print in colour.

This is a practical work book, with a strong spiral binding enabling the pages to be opened flat for frequent consultation. A useful introduction is followed by 18 assignments designed to demonstrate the program's capabilities. Each one tackles a specific task and the step-by-step instructions are clearly laid out and easy to read. A range of suggested workshop activities follows, designed to exploit your newly acquired skills.

To get the best from the book you will need the course disc. Both are available from: Dorothy Featherstone, Unit One Word Processing, 5 St Giles Close, Farnborough, Kent BR6 7DT. Telephone: 01689 858105/818464

Esther Welch

A PCW ON NATIONAL SERVICE

by Ted Caton (2576583 SAC Caton E)

My PCW has a lot to answer for. If I hadn't been the proud owner of an 8256 in late 1993 it's highly unlikely that I'd have embarked on my *magnum opus*, the story of my two years' National Service in the Royal Air Force. My handwriting is allegedly appalling and I've never been able to understand how anyone can produce a manuscript on a steam-powered typewriter. I certainly couldn't, when even the slightest re-think or amendment necessitated by new information is likely to lead to re-typed pages.

Very little has been written about National Service in the RAF and my original intention was simply to compile a record of what happened to me all those years ago (1952-54), basically to be passed down through my family. However, one thing led to another and I ended up with a full-blown book, published by myself, which will be duly plugged at the end of this article.

When I started, my 8256 was already six years old and had been up-dated only by the addition of a Locomotive LPP512 Power Pack. I had graduated by then to LocoScript 2 but didn't replace the matrix printer by a JP-170 inkjet until after completing the project. The inkjet is doing valiant work now helping me try to sell the book, but that's another story. Half-way through I thought I was taking my life into my hands by embarking on the replacement of my 180K 3" Drive A by a Locomotive Software 3½" drive and transferring the 3" to the lower slot to become a Drive B, but it wasn't as difficult as I expected and everything worked perfectly. LocoScript 3 followed LocoScript 2 and version 4 arrived after I had finished writing the book.

Sadly, I've never been one to keep a diary but a search of my home to unearth everything relevant to the two years in question (e.g. the death of Joseph Stalin on 5 March 1953!) resulted in six pages of "diary" easily compiled using LocoScript. An author friend (who, amazingly, has produced his books apparently without too much difficulty on a pretty ancient typewriter) had advised me that a synopsis - a brief chapter-by-chapter summary of the book's contents - was an essential requirement. Moreover, publishers would only look at a synopsis confined to one sheet of A4, although it was acceptable to use both sides of the paper. Needless to say, however hard I tried, my synopsis ran into a third page but, again, good old LocoScript came to the rescue. Fiddle around a bit with fonts and point sizes and, hey presto, it's down to two sides.

Then came the good bit, the actual writing, which I enjoy. When writing anything I commit my thoughts directly into the machine, the only handwritten or drafted section of this book being the few pages written while on holiday on Ibiza. I broke all the rules by using one file for each chapter - and some chapters were very long, the longest a massive 80k. I didn't want to end up with bits of chapters and, when printed out, bits of pages. Following the advice given in the Writers' and Artists' Yearbook, I used double-spacing, single-sided on A4 paper with good margins: 1½"-2" on the left-hand side is advisable. For my own convenience when handling the mass of paper eventually generated, I used Document Setup to produce headers (with consecutive page numbers) and footers looking like those following:

----TEXT----

AN ERK'S-EYE VIEW Chapter 5

It was perhaps not surprising that, as time went on, there was a good deal of copying and pasting, not only within files (i.e. chapters) but also between files. Try doing that with a typewriter. A little over half-way through the writing, in chapter 8, I suffered a heart attack while on a cycle ride, the purpose of which was to help me keep fit! This naturally delayed things somewhat and was not something to be recommended to budding authors.

I printed out in 10pt LX Roman, which I felt resulted in a very easily readable script, and used *italics* for foreign words (of which there are many, as I was stationed in France for more than half of my Service). I had been advised that underlining should not be used in books so, where tempted to do this, I employed **bold** characters instead.

Comprising thirteen chapters, preface, foreword, postscript, list of abbreviations and bibliography, I ended up with 308 pages. The foreword was contributed by a retired air vice-marshal with whom I had worked when he was a very junior officer in France. The fact that he read through the whole of the script and suggested a few minor changes gave me much-needed confidence to press on and try to get the book published.

One wasted year later I gave up trying and decided to look into the financial and other implications of publishing it myself. If I may venture to offer a few words of advice: when approaching publishers, **always** send a synopsis, **never** send your script or any part of it unless requested to do so (I know of one author who spent nine months trying to retrieve her script from a publisher at the other end of the country) and never **expect** to receive a reply, certainly not a helpful one, unless your name is Maeve Binchy or Jeffrey Archer.

After some negotiation I eventually entered into an assisted publishing arrangement with a firm in Devon who, as part of the deal, agreed among other things to seek an ISBN (International Standard Book Number), send the required copies of the book to the British Library and certain university libraries, notify local booksellers and send copies to publications for review. In other words, they relieved me of responsibility for some of the essential steps which I might otherwise not have even realised needed to be taken.

I was able to save several hundred pounds by supplying the script on disc, thereby avoiding the necessity for someone in Devon to retype it. LocoScript on a DD disc wasn't suitable but it was a simple and inexpensive matter for me to have this converted to the required Word Perfect 6.0 on a HD disc. This also meant that I was completely in control of what was eventually to appear in print: it was just as I had typed it on the PCW. I also designed the all-important front cover (the first thing people see when looking at the book) and selected and planned the positioning of the 52 black and white photographs, many taken by myself all those years ago, included in the central 24 page photo section.

In other words, the book is wholly *mine* and it was quite something to unwrap the parcels when the first instalment of books arrived at my home. Doubtless I could just as

easily have used one of today's £1,500 all-singing and all-dancing PCs but, somehow, having produced *my* book on *my* humble PCW seemed to add to the sense of achievement. So, all you budding authors, it **can** be done, your PCW won't let you down, so why not give it a go? It is said that everyone has at least one book in them; perhaps it's time you got yours out!

Oh yes, the plug. With 176 pages, plus 24 of photos, and in paperback, "An Erk's-Eye View" (ISBN 0 9533030 0 4) is available from 108 Moulsham Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9PZ. Cheques for £7.50, payable to E Caton please, and the usual post and packing charge of £1.00 will be waived for persons mentioning this article.

Ted Caton

Envelopes on the PcW16

Unfortunately *(Without the CP/M emulator)* it would appear that it is not possible to print labels on the PcW16; unless, that is you know different!.

However, if you have a printer that is capable of printing on envelopes all is not lost. If you are unsure consult your printer manual to find out. My PcW16 is connected up to a Canon BJ10ex and, by standing the printer up on end and adjusting the paper thickness dial accordingly, it takes envelopes via a slot underneath.

To automate things, it is best to set up a template and call it something like *Envelope DL*; there follows a description of just how to do this.

Files used as templates start out as ordinary document files, so from the Word Processor opening screen select New Document and name it Envelope DL. Choose the Blank Template when offered and this will take you to the start of the editing screen. Click on Document and select Set Paper Size from the menu. The menu now on screen shows four available paper types: A4, Letter, Legal, and Custom. We need Custom, so click on this with your mouse, move your cursor over to Paper Height and by clicking repeatedly on the down arrow reduce this figure to 110mm. The Paper Width at 210mm can be left as it is so click on OK and this will take you back to the editing screen.

Click on Document again. This time we need to alter the Margins so click on Set Margins. I found for DL envelopes it is best to altar the Top Margin to 35mm and the Bottom Margin to 10mm, the Left Margin to 60mm and the Right Margin can be left as it is at 12mm. Having set these new dimensions, click on OK and this will again take you back to the editing screen. Note: other printers may need different settings.

This is your new envelope DL template completed. It might be a good idea to test it at this point. To save it as a Template you must click on Document and select Make New Template from the menu, type in the name *Envelope DL* and click on OK. Having done this you can abandon the current document via Document and, after confirming this is what you want to do, this will take you back to the Word Processing opening screen.

If you have made use of the Address Book you could automate addressing envelopes one step further by introducing Mail Merge codes and this is very easyily accomplished.

From the Word processor opening screen select New Document, type in a name like *Envelope DL-MM* (MM=Mail Merge), click on OK and select your new Envelope DL template. Click on OK and this takes you to the editing screen. On the first line we need to insert the Mail Merge codes to put up on screen the Title, Initials and Surname of the

addressee; what code you select will be determined by how you have set out your Address Book. Typically you may have stored Title under Name 3, Initials under Name 2 and Surname under Name 1. Click on Insert and select Mail Merge Code from the drop down menu, click on Name 3 and click on OK this is your first Mail Merge Code. Press the space bar once and click on Insert again, select Mail Merge Code as before, and this time, select Name 2 for the initials; click on OK and you will see your second Mail Merge Code. Press the space bar and use Insert to enter the Mail Merge Code for Name 1 as Surname. When you come back you should see something like (Name3) (Name2) (Name1). Press Return and Insert the codes for Address1 to Address5. Out of interest, I have found it better to type the post code into one of the Address fields, otherwise on shorter addresses there will be a gap between the last line of the address and the Post Code *(not that it's of any great concern).* If you would prefer to use the Post Code field then Insert this code after the last Address code.

Save this document as a Template File *(you could overwrite the previous one if you wish)* and then abandon the document.

Having done this the next time you wish to address an envelope simply select New Document, call the file E and select your new envelope template. Because this document holds Mail Merge codes, when you go to print you will automatically be presented with a menu containing the names of the people you have stored in your Address Book. Simply click on those you wish to address and click on OK. From here on all you have to do is keep inserting envelopes into the printer. Once finished you can abandon the document and the template will be stored ready for next time.

Have Fun! Steve

DOS saves ROSANNE

Because of the problems some members are experiencing with the PcW16 it would seem a sensible precaution to save any important documents or files, not only to disc, but also as an ASCII file on a DOS disc so that, should your PcW16 incur a serious malfunction, at least you will be able to retrieve your work via a PC or PCW.

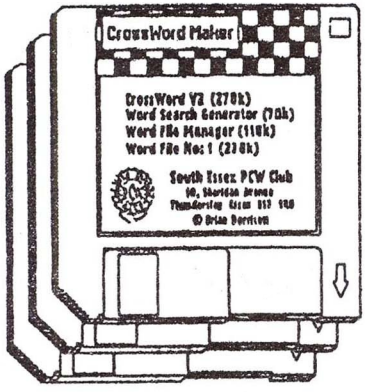
To do this you will first need a DOS format disc. Unfortunately this can not be done on the PcW16 *(unless there is a suitable program that will run under the new CP/M Emulator?).* A disc formatted on a PC should be acceptable or a disc which has been formatted to DOS via 2in1 or other similar program on a PCW. Failing that, you may still be able to purchase discs already formatted for DOS?

Having prepared your document, put the formatted DOS disc into the drive and click on Document, select Export Document and click on ASCII from the menu that follows. Having entered an appropriate filename for your document and clicked on OK your work will be safely stored on the disc.

This DOS disc can, of course be read by most PC's, or a PcW16 via Import Document *(or a Macintosh via Apple File Exchange).* To read it on one of the earlier PCWs however, you will need to use 2in1 *(or a similar program)* to transfer the file to a CP/M format disc. Then from within LocoScript create a new document and use the Inset Text facility under [f1] Actions to import the ASCII file. This may all sound very time consuming but it's really quite simple and, as the saying goes, *"It's better to be safe than sorry!"*

Steve.

CROSSWORD MAKER



The much acclaimed program from Brian Dorricott now available at a new low price. Buy Crossword Maker v2 and get Word Search Generator, Word File Manager & Word File #1 *free*, supplied on 3½" disc. (For 3" send in your own formatted and identified disc.) Price £25 inc. manuals. Four other word files are available; two in English, one each French and German, at £5 each. Please make cheques payable to *British Amstrad PCW Club*, 10 Sheridan Avenue, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1RD or telephone David Lalieu on 01702 551618.

Magazine Article Index 1986-1996 8000 Plus & PCW Plus

Revised to cover all of the articles printed in the magazines 8000 Plus and PCW Plus 1986-1996.

Available in the following formats:

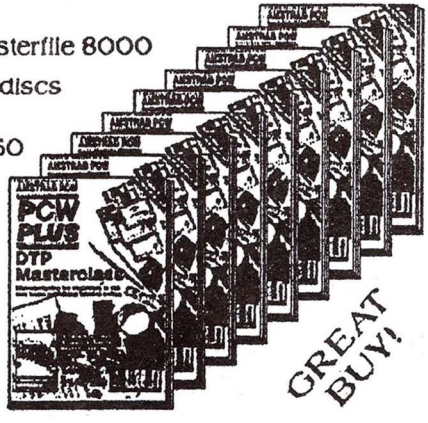
LocoFile (one file 674k) LocoScript 3 & 2 (one file 370k)

LocoFile (three files 1986-1989 160k 1990-1992 240k & 1993-1996 252k

ASCII Simple 380k dBase II 380k Masterfile 8000

All on 3.5" DSDD discs, £8:00 each 3.0" discs you supply the formatted disc.

Hard Copy (72 A4 pages ringbound) £9:50



IDEAL VALUE PRODUCTS
10, Sheridan Avenue' Thundersley
Essex SS7 1RD
Tele/Fax (by arrangement) 01702 551618
please make cheques payable to:
D.C. Lalieu

SD MICROSYSTEMS
(Dept 16)
PO BOX 99, THETFORD,
IP24 1NA. Tel:07000 736427
Email: sdmicro@aol.com Web Site: come.to/sdmicro

VISA

MasterCard

PcW 16 Software

Available on 3.5" disc to run under CP/M on the PcW16, complete with A5 manuals.
Please Note: all programs require the CP/M Loader Disc set available from us @£14.95.

SMALL TRADER.....£49.95
Integrated accounts, stock and invoicing package designed for efficient small business management.

BUSINESS LEDGER.....£29.95
Handles VAT, Profit/Loss analysis "cash-book" style.

PERSONAL LEDGER.....£24.95
Comprehensive home finance package. Maintains bank, cash, credit card accounts, standing orders.

MICRO-BASE.....£14.95
Flexible filing system with power features such as search, sort, totalise. Ideal for collections etc.

MAILING MANAGER.....£14.95
Simplified Address File Manager and Label Printer.

SUPER LABELLER.....£14.95
Label and letterhead maker for any Epson-compatible such as the Canon BJCs. Mix text and pictures in your own customised designs.

FANCY BORDERS.....£12.50
Prints an attractive border around any page using a range of built-in patterns and pictures.

AUTO-DISCAT.....£12.50
Insert a CP/M format disc and this program reads the DIR, prints neat labels, saves the file and more.

BUDGET SOFTWARE

selection @ £5.00 per disc
or *special offer* any four @ £15.00.

PD GAMES DISC *Alien Attack, Pacman, Tennis etc*
STD DECODER *Enter a code, this shows the town.*
BASIC TUTOR *Excellent on-disc programming aid*
MORSE CODE TUTOR *Learn via the PCW beeper!*
CROSS-WORD SOLVER *30,000 word dictionary.*
HANDY DATABASE *Simple but useful filing system.*
PCW ADVENTURES *Challenging text-based games*
CP/M UTILITIES *A toolkit of useful CP/M routines.*
BUSINESS LETTERS *100 pre-typed business texts*
PICTURE DISCS *Extra graphics for Super Labeller and Fancy Borders.* 1. Variety 2. Signs/Symbols 3. Business 4. Sports 5. Fun/Xmas 6. Myths/Magic

ENTERTAINMENT

TOP GAMES DISC £14.95
A superb selection of challenging pastimes and amusements suitable for all age groups. Specially modified to run on the PcW 16 with loading from an easy to use main menu.
The games include -
3D-Oxo, Dominoes, One Jump Ahead, Word Shuffle, Yahtzee, The Pyramid Game, Box Clever, Five's Alive, Nine Up and Cendos.

EDUCATION

CHILD'S PLAY £9.95
A fun pack of thoughtful software for ages 5-8 years including **Drawing Pad, Snake in the Grass, Junior Shooting Gallery, Dotty, Guess the Number.**

PcW 16 SUPPLIES

INK REFILLS £9.95(blackx2) £14.95 (colx3)
Includes all you need to refill your used ink cartridges easily and economically.
INK CARTRIDGES: BC-01 or BC-02 £14.95
ABC-24 RIBBONS :-
Black@.....£4.95 Four-colour@.....£12.50
Disc Storage Boxes :-
(50x3.5").....£5.95 (100x3.5").....£8.95
3.5" Diskettes per pack of 10:-
DSHD (1.44mb) for Rosanne.....£5.95
DSDD DISCS (720K) for CP/M.....£5.50
3.5" DRIVE HEAD CLEANER.....£5.00

ORDERING INFORMATION:-

Please add £1 per item or maximum £2.00 post/packing per order. Confirm PcW type and disc size when ordering. Send an SAE for a copy of our complete A5-sized PcW 16 catalogue. We also offer product catalogues for the Classic PCWs, Amstrad CPCs and IBM compatible PCs, available on request.

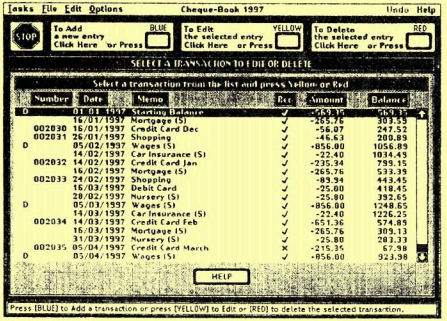
PcW16 Software from Creative Technology

"Account Manager" Home Finance Program

Account Manager is a simple but comprehensive program for monitoring your bank account and finances. You can enter all your bank account transactions into it, and it will then give you an up-to-date statement of both cleared and uncleared funds, in a simple "bank-statement" format. So the program is ideal for keeping a check on your bank! You can display the statement on the screen, or print it out on your PcW16's printer. And you can use the program for as many different bank accounts as you wish, by storing information in different account files.

"User-Friendly" and Simple

Account Manager has been designed to look and work just like your other PcW16 programs. This is the main program screen, showing how the program displays a typical bank account statement:



The statement shows the amount and date of each deposit and withdrawal you have entered, together with the transaction type and the cheque number if applicable. The "Rec" (or "Received") column shows which transactions have cleared, using ticks and crosses. You can click on the large buttons at the top of the screen to add and delete transactions from the account, and the program has other commands and features for entering information and analysing your account.

Standing Transactions

Transactions which happen regularly by Standing Order or Direct Debit need only be entered once. From then on, every time you use *Account Manager*, the program checks the current date and automatically enters any new instances of regular transactions.

Categories

You can also define categories for both income and outgoings, and display and print separate totals for any category or combination of categories, so it's easy to keep track of separate areas of earnings and expenditure. So if you have to fill in your own tax returns under the new self-assessment system, Account Manager's categories system makes the job much easier.

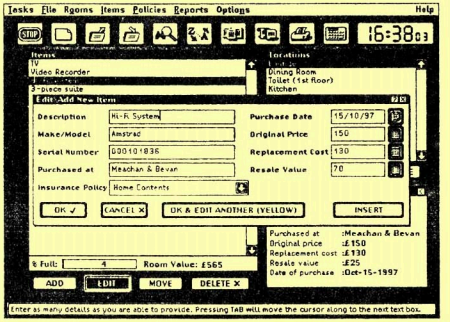
"Inventory Master" Home Inventory Program

Inventory Master is designed to help with the chore of home contents valuation, by letting you create and maintain a room-by-room list of all your possessions, together with their cost, replacement cost and resale value. The program automatically creates sub-totals for each room, and allows you to move items between rooms at the click of a button. So if you do suffer a mishap or act of God, all the information you need for your insurance claim is at your fingertips.

Setting Up Your Home Inventory

Yyou can place up to 250 different items in each room. For each item, you can enter the original cost of the item and the date and place where you bought it, together with a figure for its replacement cost. The program then adds up these figures to tell you the full value of your house contents, and advises you on the total sum which you should insure.

The program also allows you to maintain three different insurance policies, and to specify which items appear on which policies. The screen below shows how you enter information about each new item, or change the information you have already entered:



The program can also store details of the policies themselves, including the insurance company, the policy number, and the total value of coverage. Once you have entered this information, you can print out a simple report containing all the details you might need to make an insurance claim - after all, it may be your PcW16 which suffers the mishap!

Prices and Ordering

Account Manager	£24.99
Inventory Master	£29.99

Prices include VAT and postage

Mastercard / Visa accepted

More PcW16 programs now available - please call for details.

Park House, Park St
Uttoxeter, Staffs ST14 7AG
Email: ctsales@net-shopper.co.uk
WWW: www.cict.co.uk/PcW16
Tel: 01889 567160 **Fax:** 01889 563548

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY (MicroDesign) Ltd