

AMDATA

MARCH '87.

THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT: NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE USER CLUB

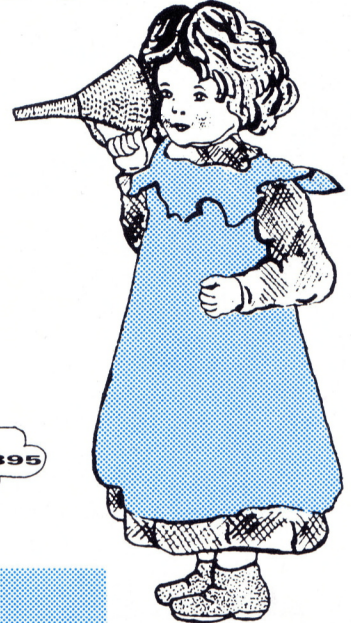
British Telecom have decided to rationalise all of the local phone codes and numbers; and in a HIGHLY DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT have informed us that as from

8 a.m. on Wednesday March 4th 1987 our number will become 091-5673395

We were given just 10 days notice to implement this, (it wreaks havoc with your Letterheadings, Compliment Slips, and of course the Ansaphone); and we apologise to anyone who's had trouble getting through.

However, on the positive side, calls will be connected much more quickly; you'll get through more easily, and it should also be cheaper; so, make a note of the new number, which will connect you with all User Club services.

Those of you who are E-Mail users (and if not why aren't you!) don't worry, our number is not affected and is still MAG 90320



EXIT

Remember - always ring **091-5673395** for orders and technical queries



THIS MONTHS OFFER

Those of you who've bought a tape-based program over the past couple of weeks, will already know about this months offer. We haven't done anything like it for a while, and this one is probably the best yet.

Special offer to User Club Members who own

CPC464/664/6128 Microcomputers

Quite simply, you can choose any three games from category **A**; for just **£12.90**; or any three games from category **B**; for just **£9.90**. Don't mix the categories up - it's either A or B.

All of these games are top sellers, - and the packages have been specially compiled to cover ARCADE-SIMULATION-SKILL and MENTAL AGILITY. It's a great chance to build up your library - these prices can't last, so why not choose more than one set?

To order, either send in this form to the usual address:

Victoria House, P.O. Box 10, Low Row, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. SR1 3PY.

Or ring on - (091) 5673395 but hurry there's limited stock at these prices.

Please Select A Second Choice As First May Not Be Available.

OFFER A:

Choose any three for just **£12.90**, from the following list:-

	1st	2nd		1st	2nd
OFFR977	Dragons	() ()	OFFR110	Grand Prix Driver	() ()
OFFR964	Alex Higgins Snooker	() ()	OFFR06026	Cyrus II Chess	() ()
OFFR961	3D Grand Prix	() ()	OFFR06025	3D Boxing	() ()
OFFR928	Classic Racing	() ()	OFFR126	Laserwarp	() ()
OFFR927	Roland in Space	() ()	OFFR175	Astro Attack	() ()

Please Select A Second Choice As First May Not Be Available.

OFFER B:

Choose any three games from the list below for just **£9.90**:

	1st	2nd		1st	2nd
OFFR129	Codename Mat	() ()	OFFR144	Electro Freddy	() ()
OFFR146	Admiral Graf Spee	() ()	OFFR166	Cubit	() ()
OFFR192	Roland Ahoy	() ()	OFFR199	Roland On The Run	() ()
OFFR128	Haunted Hedges	() ()	OFFR172	Jet Boot Jack	() ()
OFFR937	Roland Goes Sq. Bashing	() ()	OFFR909	Splat	() ()

***** IMPORTANT *** OFFR146 Admiral Graf Spee is not compatible with 664/6128**



24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE ...RING 091 5673395 ...24 HOUR ...

INDOOR SPORTS

Its a smash: we can't enthuse about it enough, and the press agree too, with comments like "excellent value", "great fun and not too strenuous" and "Mega-Game of the month".

The program features Darts, Air Hockey (Brilliant) and 10-pin Bowling. All of the games have magnificent views, good clear graphics and on-screen scoring.

In 'Darts' you control the player (side view) and aim his hand at the board - (full view) in a tense game of 501. Its uncannily accurate, and great fun - and the computer does all that awkward maths.

Air Hockey is our favourite - it centres on a tussle between two players trying to force a puck into the net. With us, it developed into an ankle-jarring type of "ping-pong" and some very close games - deadly, and absolutely rivetting.

For the more genteel, **Indoor Bowls** provides all the atmosphere of the "real thing", with the Editor picking up the high score by delivering a cunning grasscutter, and wiping out the lot!

We're all now trying to perfect the "bouncer" and the "spinner" by applying cricketing rules to what was (until now) a gentlemen's sport. The greens and bowling alleys will never be the same.

Indoor Sports TAPE **£8.45** members CODE INDO 001
£9.95 non-members

CPC DISK **£12.71** members CODE INDO 0001
£14.95 non-members

CARBON RIBBONS

We said that 1987 was going to be a great year for AMSTRAD owners, and already, the innovations have started to come in.

For those of you who use a printer on a regular basis, we're now carrying Carbon Ribbons: yes, the club got them first. They offer much better definition than the normal product, in particular for graphics, charts, dumping data, or complicated pieces of text.

Standard ribbons, are of course ideal for everyday work, and quite a few people prefer them anyway; so those of you who are devotees of the standard ribbon, don't worry - the club will carry both types in stock.

We're also keeping prices standard, so either Carbon, or Normal ribbons will still cost a mere

£4.25 members Carbon: SOFT 06441
£4.95 non-members Standard: SOFT 06041

AUTODIAL MODEM

We will shortly be introducing a new **V21/V23 Modem**, which will be released in mid-March. It's a deluxe top-end model, which answers all the criticisms of previous modems that have been on offer - its specification is very impressive and includes Autodial, memory, and unattended operation. In "Your Letters" section we've reprinted a letter which was sent to us on electronic mail; and at the risk of becoming E-mail bores, we just can't recommend it enough: we use it all the time to contact suppliers, magazines, and a few club members who "dial in" regularly. Its quick, efficient, and precise, and we're absolutely convinced that this is where the future lies: one day every household will have one. Ring 091-5673395 for a leaflet.

V21/V23 Modem: **members £118.95 + VAT** Software and Interface Extra.
non-members £139.95 + VAT

PREVIEW: EAGLES' NEST

The User Club daily receives all types of games from all types of manufacturers - all of them instead that their product is the best. We check every one of them - and unfortunately a lot go back. We only keep the absolute CREAM to offer our members.

The manufacturers of EAGLES' NEST just wouldn't leave us alone. "It had a 9 out of 10 rating from a top magazine", they said; so wearily, we ran it one evening after work - and never got home until near midnight!

Its a really dramatic, aggressive strategy/action game combining all of those moody films like "Guns of Navarone", "Where Eagles Dare" and "Day of the Jackal" (remember Edward Fox in the white Alfa Romeo Sprint?).

You'll need a clear mind, a good memory, and quick reactions - you have to infiltrate a fortress known as EAGLES' NEST; rescue your three compatriots who are undergoing torture (!) Then demolish the fortress with explosives, and get out in the meantime. While doing all this, its incumbent upon you to filch as many Art Treasures and Jewels as possible, from the enemys private collection. A simple enough brief; so to make it a little trickier the enemy are armed with a nasty array of guns; and there's all sorts of other vicious pitfalls even before you get there!

Anyone who fancies himself as a Saboteur or professional havoc-wrecker will love this one - the graphics are excellent and the drama never-ending.

EAGLES' NEST -
TAPE - **members £7.60**
non-members £8.95
CODE EAGL001

CPC DISK - **members £11.00**
non-members £12.95
CODE EAGL0001

EXIT

FOR SALE & WANTED

For sale at less than half price:

Mr. R.C. Rooney of 10 Pool Rd., Hartley Witney, Basingstoke, Hants., RG27 8RD,

Gemini Datagem **£15.00**
Tasword 8000 **£10.00**
Tasprint 8000 **£5.00**
Camsort Integrated accounts, Stock, Invoice, Sales, Purchase and Nominal Ledgers ... **£50.00**
Sagesoft Popular Accounts together with Invoicing/Stock **£50.00**
Brainstorm **£20.00**
lankey Keyboard Tutor **£10.00**
Write Hand Man **£10.00**
Gemini Intergem second disk interface complete with cased BBC 5 1/4" double density drive **£100.00**

Contact him on 0256 469941 (office) or 025126 4638 (evenings).

Masterfile 464 (disk) **£14.95**
Hypersport (disk) **£6.45**
Forest at World End (tape) **£2.00**
Computer Hit 10 (twin tape) **£4.00**
Alligator - Triple pack games (disk) **£6.45**
The Rocky Horror Show (disk) **£8.45**
Rembrant Utility (disk) **£8.45**
AMX mouse with tape (hardware) **£30.45**
All in one price is **£81.20** or buy separately write to **Miss L.J. Williams, 22, Badsley Street South, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 2PW.**

Dragon 32 computer, all leads, power pack, £50.00 of magazines and books £40 of Software **£30**

write to M. Colinese, 26, Westhall Road, Mickleover, Derby

Hunter Killer by Protec (Soft 135) (WW2 submarine simulation) **£2.00**
Star Commando by Terminal (Soft 147) (Space shoot-em-up) **£2.00**
Both in perfect condition.

Contact Steve Leak on 0272-324825, or write to Woodcroft, Willsbridge, Bristol, BS15 6EJ.

AMX MOUSE for all CPC's (software tape and disk) unwanted gift. VGC. Boxed **£50**

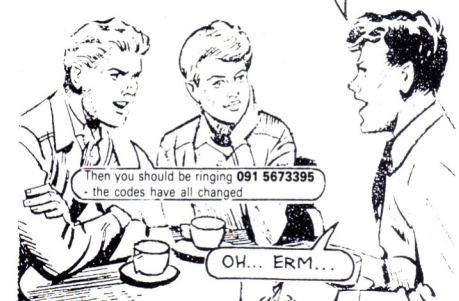
Tel. Bill Evans on 01-462-1327 (evenings) or write to 79, Hayes Hill, Bromley, Kent, BR2 7HN

...WANTED

Colour Monitor for CPC 464 - cash or exchange
Green Monitor plus cash adjustment - **Telephone Crowthorne 777307 or write to Mr B.R. Davies, 7, Hornbeam Close, Owlsmoor, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4UE.**

EXIT

I can't seem to get through to the Official AMSTRAD User Club nowadays - I'm starting to feel as though I don't exist



COMPETITION

LAST MONTH'S COMPETITION

It appears that a lot of club members are secretly a nasty and villainous crew, who delight in slaughtering captives by the dozen! Yes indeed - if the entries are anything to go by, the population would have been decimated long ago; particularly by the club member who meticulously coloured in every pill; added a few more and coloured those in too!

Although it would doubtless have been fun to dispense justice in such a whimsical fashion, the answers actually were:

- Question 1: Captive No. 8**
- Question 2: Colour in pills 1,5 and 9**
- Question 3: Colour in pills 1,2 and 5. Easy wasn't it?**

The first correct answer picked out of the tub was M. Ainley of YEADON, LEEDS, Member No. 024731. Thank you for entering - your prize of a "SPEECH" disk and a LIGHT PEN - is on it's way.

This month's competition is somewhat more relaxing, so read on...

MAGIC WORD SQUARE

A while ago we ran a competition based on a wordsquare - and you responded magnificently: we've still got a fixation with wordsquares (Editor has a phobia about symmetry), but this month's is slightly different.

The concept is ancient - archaeologists at Pompeii discovered this one:

S A T O R
A R E P O
T E N E T
O P E R A
R O T A S

To save you time,
it was based on

P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R

1	2	3	4	5
-	I	I		-
6	7	8	9	10
I	I	II	-	II
11	12	13	14	15
I	II	-	R	I
16	17	18	19	20
	-	R	S	-
21	22	23	24	25
-	II	I	-	R

Which was of course a symbol, denoting that the relevant household belonged to a Christian.

Our's is somewhat more simple: its got no definitions, no clues, and bits of letters left in. Each row and each column contains an English word; and when correctly completed the 5 horizontal words are identical to the 5 vertical words.

TIME TAKEN: 10 minutes: below average. 7 minutes: average. 5 minutes: good. 3 minutes: excellent. under 3 minutes: Ring Mensa.

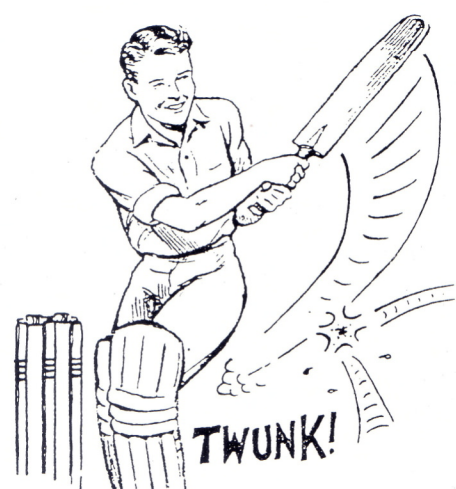
First out of the hat will receive: a copy of TOMAHAWK - the new arcade simulation game that's topping the charts; plus two more games of your choice from a list which we'll supply to the winner.

Send your entry in to the usual address - before March 25th

P.O. Box 10, Victoria House, 1-6 Low Row, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. SR1 3PY.

EXIT

Another Batman



Everyone scores with
the Official User Club



BATMAN

Anyone who lived through the 1960's will harbour a soft-spot for the 'Caped Crusader' and his Boy Wonder partner in justice, ROBIN. The pair policed Gotham City in a particularly efficient manner; despite being faced by such colourful villains as CATWOMAN, THE JOKER, and the RIDDLER. Great stuff - but wait 'til you use the BATMOBILE (BMW produced their own version in the 70's), or retire to the BATCAVE - the dynamic duo's Hi-Tech retreat.

Magnificent fun - almost as nostalgic as Space Invaders, and an absolute must for anyone who remembers the "great" cartoon films, and its in glorious 3-D.

In 1987 the "dynamic duo" are back: new magazines have made them cult figures, and perhaps this game won't be far behind. Just for the record,(HOLY SNAKES!) a 'BMW Batmobile' would cost you roughly the average price of a small house.

Batman PCW only: **Members £12.70**
non-members £14.95



If you've got any technical hints, tips, or advice don't keep it to yourself. Ring us on **091-5673395**, and we'll be more than pleased to publish them.

APPLICATION NOTES

Way back in January 1986 ACU ran a competition for "one-liners" - i.e.: original, short programs that were a type of 'exercise' for handy programmes.

We've taken the liberty of reprinting three of the best ones below:

1 ► SNAP - from J.A. Morris of Mansfield, Notts.

Test your reflexes by pressing S when the numbers match. To quicken the game decrease 400 to a smaller number.

```
10 CLS:n=INT(RND*9):g=INT(RND*9):LOCATE
18,12:PRINT n;g:FOR a=1 TO 400:NEXT:a
S=INKEY$:IF a$<>"s"THEN 10 ELSE IF a$
="s" AND n=g THEN PRINT"snap":FOR a=5
00 TO 5 STEP-2:SOUND 1,a+100,1,7:NEXT
:ELSE PRINT"what":SOUND 1,400,20,7:FO
R a=1 TO 500:NEXT:GOTO 10
```

2 ► PSYCHEDELIA - from Conrad Brown, Enfield.

This program generated the picture of a planet. It runs to several lines and has important variables:

r is the radius of planet in pixels.

x and y give the centre point of the planet on the screen.

a is a constant relating to the shading.

This gives interesting effects if experimented with.

```
10 DEFINT r,y,x,k:MODE 2:INK 0,0:INK 1,2
6
20 r=60+RND(1)*30:x1=RND(1)*530+r:y1=r+r
ND(1)*320
30 FOR t=0 TO 100:PLOT RND*640,RND*400,1
:NEXT
40 r1=r/2:FOR y=-r TO r STEP 2
50 MOVE x1-SQR(r1-y/2),y1+y:DRAW x1+SQR(
r1-y/2),y1+y,0
60 si=SQR(r1-y/2):FOR x=-si TO si
70 a=RND*2:IF a<ABS(x/(ABS(si)+1)+1)THEN
PLOT x1+x,y1+y,1
80 NEXT:NEXT
90 a$=INKEY$:IF a$=""THEN 90 ELSE RUN
```

3

► "RUDE MESSAGE" - from G.J. Edwards, Leeds

A cunning program that tells unauthorised users exactly what you think of them.

```
10 ON BREAK GOSUB 60
20 WINDOW #0,1,40,9,25:CLS#0
30 CALL &BB03:CALL &BB18
40 LOCATE 7,9:PRINT"Go away and leave me
alone."
50 now=TIME:WHILE TIME-now<600:WEND
60 RUN
```

Can you follow the instructions? Easy, isn't it, Well, if you've got any of your own, send them in by the end of March - first out of our tub (actually a cut-down beer barrel) wins 5 games.

AMSCAT - COMING SOON:

- **IN THE PIPELINE** is a new version of LocoScript which will work with virtually all printers - including Daisywheel.

Probably available from mid-April, its rumoured that this presages the launch of the new AMSTRAD printers. Six printers are in the offing - including a cheap Daisywheel, and possibly a Laser printer. Details and a preview will be in this Newsletter FIRST.

- **ANYONE INVOLVED WITH E-MAIL**, or other forms of Computer Communication will know this; but newcomers note: AMSTRADS PCW baud rate setting is 7352.94, which means that AMSTRADS will talk to other AMSTRADS, but rarely to other computers, where the baud rate is just 7200.

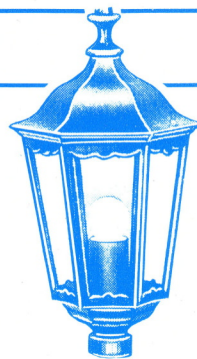
- **STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO LOCOSCRIPT** has been on our order form for a while - we regard it as an essential way of getting into what must be one of the most popular printing programs ever. Its just **£4.25 members**, £4.95 non-members. To quote 8000 plus "this book is a gem", and is "a gentle path to enlightenment". (Isn't that Bhuddism?)

- **STARGLIDER FOR CPC AND PCW** is now available from stock - its one of the hottest shoot-em-up games around, great value, great fun just **£12.70 members** or £14.95 non-members (PCW)

- **CARBON RIBBONS** have aroused everyone's interest - even some dealers are ringing the club. Get yours in now!

- **THE USER CLUB** has produced two new catalogues one for CPC, and another for PCW. Available in mid-March - ring us for details.

EXIT



LAMPOST YOUR LETTERS:

Dear Users Club,

I have just received today my copy of ACU and must write to say that the Newsletter - AM-DATA - gets better each and every time. The Application Notes are of especial interest but there are often little snippets that would get lost anywhere else.

A couple of questions:

Why isn't your MAG address (90320) ever printed?

Do you accept members via MicroLink?

Best Regards,

Tony Wise

Editor Answers:

Thank you for your comments Tony - we're pleased you like the Newsletter, and we'll carry on trying to bring you a better product.

Yes we DO take orders on E-Mail, quite a few members already use the service, so anyone who wants to contact us take note - our MICROLINK number is MAG 90320. There's a preview of a new V21/V23 Modem in this Newsletter: we recommend it whole heartedly, because we believe that MICROLINK is the way that everyone should be going; and this new version in one of the best available.

EXIT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All prices are shown including VAT at the relevant rate unless otherwise stated. All prices, and descriptions are correct at time of going to press. The User Club cannot be held responsible for product changes or developments which subsequently affect these descriptions.

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24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE ...RING 091 5673395 ...24