

AMDATA

JUNE 1987.

THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB NEWSLETTER

ON WITH THE SHOW

Yes, here it is - the Amstrad Show is on July 10-12 at the Alexandra Pavilion Muswell Hill, North London. Its easily accessible by Tube, overground, and bus; and it has acres of car parking, its own slip roads and all other amenities, making it an ideal venue for this sort of exhibition. A mini map of the local roads is shown in this newsletter.

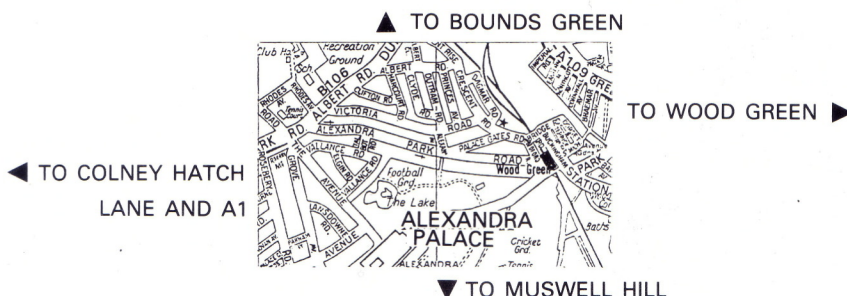
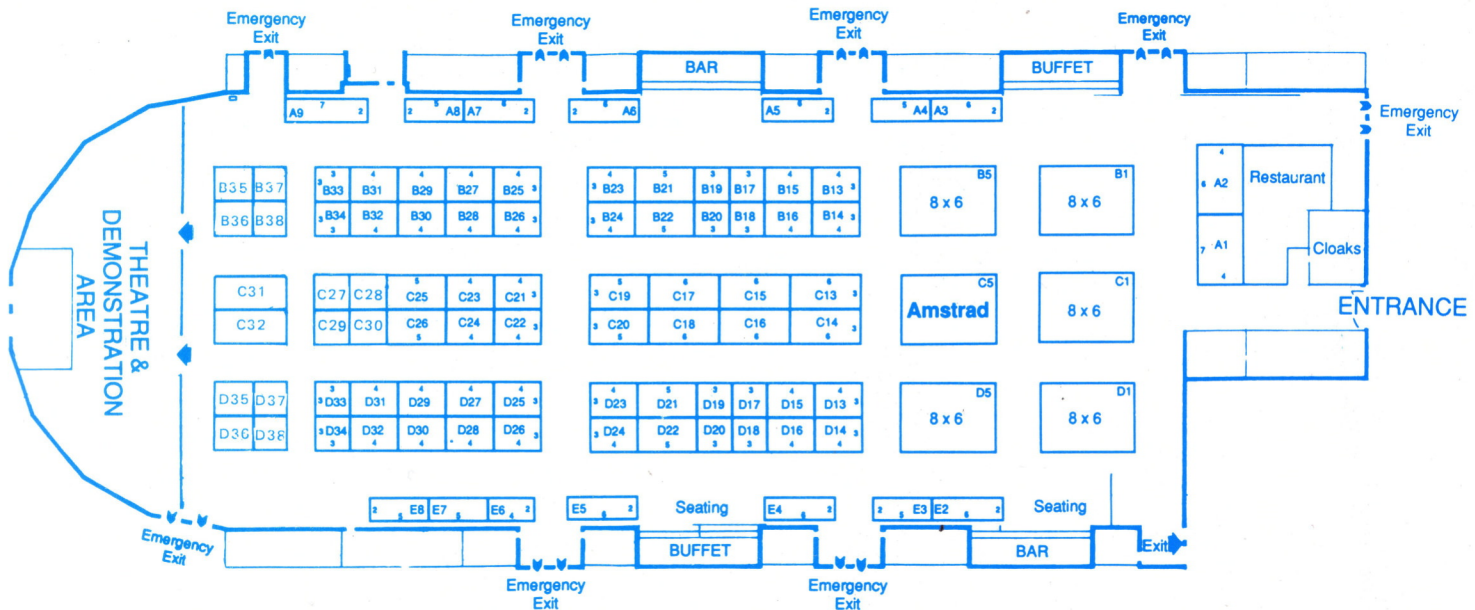
Anyone who's anyone in the AMSTRAD world will be there, and we understand that there will be dozens of new exhibitors, with some innovative products, and exciting new developments.

The Club will be on stand C31 and C32 (see layout below) and our stand will be in two parts:- The main area is for stocking the products you want - (and there will be dozens of show bargains); and the side areas are for technical queries, training courses and demonstrations. We'll have every AMSTRAD computer up and running, plus a vast range of products to demonstrate, so don't miss it!

In addition, we'll also have a slot in the theatre on both Friday, and Saturday afternoon, where Senior Club Staff will be giving a short talk. This will be followed by a talk on training, plus a series of product demonstrations from top manufacturers. The actual time of our theatre demonstration hasn't yet been decided by the show organisers, but we'll have a large poster on the stand giving you details on the day. You can also meet, and talk to us every day, we'll always find time for you (its' why we're there).

HALF PRICE ENTRY

Club members have traditionally received reduced entry to the shows; but this time we've gone one better - at the back of the Newsletter is a voucher giving HALF PRICE ENTRY to the show. All you have to do is cut it out, and hand it to the girl at the door; then rush straight to stands C31 and C32. It'll only cost you **£1.00** for the day. You'll meet plenty of other Amstrad Users; and you'll have a lot of fun. Don't forget to bring your member card, OR at least you member number - Club members will get priority treatment.



A BAKER'S DOZEN OF

We've been running a clearance over the past couple of months, with the avowed intention of clearing old stock, and bringing in fresh new games. As a result, we're now in a position to start bringing in new items, hot from the manufacturers production lines. Some of them are so new that magazines **haven't even had time to review them**; but we're stealing a march on everyone, **and are taking orders for them, NOW**. Read the reviews - they're all great value; and the overriding theme is FUN.

HYDROFALL

This is the follow up to "Sweevo's World" - a strange aquatic land, which has been transformed into a monstrous aquarium. Its in 3D, with great colour and excellent graphic effects; and in the game you have to solve a cryptic mystery, with clues dotted around all over the place; but you're on a time scale: solve it quickly or the demon that dropped you in there is likely to pull the plug out.

TAPE **members £7.75** non-members £8.95 CODE: HYDR 001
CPC DISK **members £12.13** non-members £13.95 CODE: HYDR 0001

METRO CROSS

This is nothing to do with car rallying - its PEOPLE rallying. What? Well, quite simply you have to cross the screen as quickly as you can; but in your way are pot-holes, coca-cola cans, no-go areas, and dozens of other obstacles. Its very hard to make it across - you'll need all your skill and co-ordination; and you'll also need to take full advantage of any help (such as springboards) that you come across. Great fun, and a winner all the way.

TAPE **members £8.65** non-members £9.99 CODE: METR 001
CPC DISK **members £12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: METR 0001

RAMARAMA

In the dictionary, a frog comes under the Latin name of "RANUS". Whats that got to do with computing you ask? Easy, because in this excellent game, you are a sorcerer's apprentice, in the pay of MERVIN. Unfortunately, a band of WARLOCKS have transformed the likeable Mervin into a Frog. You have to fend off the Warlocks, and move up the various levels, then form the word RAMARAMA, before poor Mervin can be re-constituted. The Warlocks of course, will have none of this; so beware, or you could be following Mervin into the pond. MAGIC.

TAPE **members £7.75** non-members £8.95 CODE: RAMA 001
CPC DISK **members £12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: RAMA 0001

SENTINEL

Although no-one here managed to battle their way though, this game is absolutely superb. The packaging on the box explains that its all "pure energy", and you'll need it to keep pace with the action. Basically, you have to get past a sentinel who guards the entrance to 10,000 lands. He's full of tricks, and has an impressive array of weaponry. No-one here managed to see what lay beyond him: perhaps you can.

TAPE **members £8.65** non-members £9.95 CODE: SENT 001
CPC DISK **members £12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: SENT 0001

ENDURO RACER

Based on the popular arcade coin-op, this was a smash on Sinclair; and its lost nothing in its conversion to Amstrad. Its superb in mono or colour, and provides non-stop excitement. As an endurance motor-bike ACE you battle weith the Terrain - from TARMAC to DESERT; and fend off nasty opponents, who leave "WACKY RACES" absolutely nowhere. Great fun; but watch out for a leg that might push you off, or the deliberate wheel tangling. Brilliant effects as you cartwheel through the air and crash down through the trees. Lucky its only a game!

TAPE **members £8.65** non-members £9.99 CODE: ENDU 001
CPC DISK **members £12.95** non-members £14.99 CODE: ENDU 0001

FABULOUS NEW GAMES



PROHIBITION

The face shown opposite is that of Vincent "The Schemer" Drucci, one of the main factors behind Al Capone's rise to power. His murder by one of the O'Bannions led indirectly to the St. Valentines day massacre. A handsome fellow, I'm sure; but don't wait until next February to buy this one, because you'll really enjoy it.

In the game you are a mercenary, stalking the New York Streets on behalf of the Police. Your job is to polish off the gangster gunmen before they hit you. However, its not all easy - you stand a fair chance of scything down innocent bystanders; or worse, slaying a Police Hostage. An offer you can't refuse - its just

TAPE members **£8.65** non-members £9.95 CODE: PROH 001
(JOYSTICK REQUIRED)

CPC DISK members **£12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: PROH 0001

MAG MAX

Nothing to do with the film, or Mel Gibson; MAX is in fact a fighting robot, but when the game starts he's all over the place:- literally. You have to assemble him from the bits that are scattered around the planet. Once assembled, he's an awesome fighting machine, ready to flatten the Sundry Dragons and baddies that are foraging all over the landscape.

TAPE members **£7.75** non-members £8.95 CODE:MMAX 001
CPC DISK members **£12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: MMAX 0001

ELITE: THE SIX PACK

One or two members moaned (honestly - you should have seen the letters) that we never got some of these games in the first place (i.e. Last Christmas) - **BUT** the Club suspected all along that they were going to be compiled on one tape. How would you feel if you coughed up with roughly £70 to get 6 games that were then on one tape for just **£8.65**. However, ours not to reason why - its great value nonetheless, and here it is comprising:

- Scooby Doo
- Fighting Warrior
- 1942
- Sacred Arm of Antiriad
- Jet Set Willy II
- Split Personalities
- and a free bonus game making seven bonus on this great "Six" pack!!!
- Duet

A bargain at TAPE members **£8.65** non-members £9.95 CODE: ELIT 600
CPC DISK members **£12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: ELIT 6000

5-STAR GAMES II

Another Hit Pack! Two in one issue? Well, why not - we're not in the habit of stocking them, because too often, they're a method of getting revenue for old, tired games by packaging them up with one or two that have sold well. **However, everyone on this pack has been a sizzler** - four of them topped the charts last year - and even if you've bought one of them, then the others still add up to fantastic value! -

- DANDY
- CAULDRON II
- ALIEN HIGHWAY
- DOOMSDAY BLUES
- FROST-BYTE

TAPE members **£8.65** non-members £9.95 CODE: STAR 500
CPC DISK members **£12.95** non-members £14.95 CODE: STAR 5000

ZAXXON

New on Amsoft Gold, this one has long been an Arcade favourite. You have to fly your space shuttle over tanks and rising missiles, all shooting at you; and blow up fuel containers to survive. There are also Radar transmitters that will give you extra points. The next sheet is full of planes shooting at you: these must be **destroyed**. The final sheet has a giant robot that attacks you. Under his arm is a missile which (when hit three times) explodes and the robot dies. Easy? Then just try it. Very few people have even seen the Robot, never mind fired at him; most run out of fuel, by failing to hit fuel tanks. Try your luck at just:

TAPE members **£8.45** non-members £9.95 CODE: 06004
CPC DISK members **£10.25** non-members £11.95 CODE: 07004

FABULOUS NEW GAMES CONT...

SPY HUNTER

After being promised in the Autumn of '86 its only now been released on AMSTRAD format; but its been well worth the wait.

In the game you drive a high speed car up a road shooting and bumping anyone who gets in your way. Watch out for some cars because they can't be nudged off and will kill you. You may meet a van which will give you some extra weapons which you will most certainly need. When you come to the river there may not be any bridges, Never fear! - your car will transform into a speedboat and you will have to shoot enemy boats. Cunning stuff, with plenty of changes, non-stop action, and a need for sharp reflexes.

TAPE **members £8.45** non-members £9.95 CODE: 06008
CPC DISK **members £10.25** non-members £11.95 CODE: 07008

LEADERBOARD II

Topical stuff, as Severiano Ballesteros, Langer, Canizeres, and co, lash their way around Wentworth. Altogether, there are 4 18-hole golf courses, each one more difficult than the last; and all of them more difficult than the one in 'Leaderboard', (the game that raced up the charts last year). Its good fun - you'll need a keen eye, and a good mind for working out angles and the weight of the swing. Realistic and spellbinding, and a bargain at just

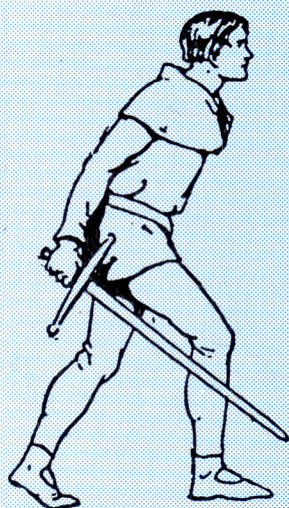
TAPE **members £4.34** non-members £4.99 CODE: LEAD 001
CPC DISK **members £8.65** non-members £9.99 CODE: LEAD 0001
NOTE: This is an add-on to Learderboard only.

AMSOFT TRIPLE GOLD

This one is on the Amsoft Gold Label. It features three highly successful games:- CONGO BONGO, UP AND DOWN and BUCK RODGERS.

They were all smash hits in their time; and members and non-members alike have clamoured for their re-release. We're delighted to be able to offer all three on one tape, so for those of you who are determined to get the AMSOFT 'set' here they are!

TAPE **members £8.45** non-members £9.95 CODE: SOFT 06008
CPC DISK **members £10.25** non-members £11.95 CODE: SOFT 07008



HUNTING FOR A BARGAIN?

The User Club's clearance of tape game is STILL ON - selected Tape Games are just **£1.99 each**. In addition we have an attractive range of DISK BASED GAMES AT ONLY **£4.95** (£13.95 for a set of 3). The list of available games is constantly being updated (especially tape games) but a representative list is:

TAPE

Punchy
3D Boxing
Cubit
Cyrus II Chess
Manic Miner
Astro Attack

DISK

Spannerman
Roland on the Ropes
The Scout Steps Out
Assault on Port Stanley
Alex Higgins Snooker
Centre Court
Catastrophe

Ring now to find the up-to-date position and get your copies while stocks last.

HOWARD AIKEN

Born 1900, and died in 1973, Howard Aiken is commonly regarded as one of the fathers of modern computing. In the mid 1940's while Europe was at war, this American scientist built the first ever automatic computer. It was partly mechanical; and partly electrically operated; made an infernal row, and took up a vast amount of space. Sophisticated modern calculators today can do everything that this machine did - and more; but in its time it was a tremendous breakthrough - even though instructions were fed to it on paper tape!

Next month: Charles Babbage, inventor of the "Difference Engine", a mighty monster that remained unfinished in 1833 after 12 years work!

MORE NEW PRODUCTS

TWO PRINTER STANDS FOR PCWs:

We've recently bought in two printer stands for PCWs. They are simple to assemble, and are very useful indeed.

They both fit either on top of your monitor, or on your work surface. They're very easy to assemble, and require no drilling or glueing. They're ingenious really - and its surprising that no-ones thought of it before.

1) The first is a 'TRAY' stand, which you can assemble in about 4 minutes. You then place your printer on the top, and utilise the space underneath to hide chocolates/paper/pencils - even a modem or second disk drive; or all those things that normally get mislaid.

It's **£12.75 members** £15.00 non-members CODE: PCW 0400

2) However, if you want something a little less sophisticated - although just as effective; we have an alternative. Its fondly known as THE CLUBS FOOT, and is just 4 feet that fit into the bottom of the printer, lifting it about 5" off your work surface. It creates a handy cubby hole, stops paper jams and its a bargain at just

£8.20 members £9.50 non-members CODE: PCW 0401

BCPL from ARNOR

This program is a very good language for writing programs such as operating systems, compilers, and word processors. Its flexible and easy to use; but although its easy to get to know, the handbook and the program were written for people who **already have some knowledge of programming**. When buying BCPL we therefore advise that you also purchase or borrow an excellent book -

"BCPL - the language and its compiler". By Martin Richards and Colin Whitby-Strevens. Richards wrote BCPL in 1967; and the book is issued by the Cambridge University Press. Its just **£7.95** in paperback, and you can order it from any good bookshop, or direct from Cambridge University Press on 0223-312393.

PAINTING WITH LIGHT

Some of you may have seen a programme on BBC 2 called 'Painting with Light', where top artists (David Hockney etc.) paint directly onto a T.V. screen, with what seems to be a lightpen. They're actually using a machine called the Quantel paint box, which allows them to apply colour, directly onto the screen. The effect gives an incredible depth and richness of colour, which is only matched by old stained glass, on a brilliantly sunny day. Among others, David Hockney raved about it: it gives artists access to thousands of vibrant colours in a split second, and offers precise, high quality images - in fact to full animation and broadcast standards.

You probably don't know it, but you've seen it in action dozens of times. Weather-maps, Channel 4's logo, and the displays on the 9 O'clock news are all done with the paintbox. It's also ideal for animation, graphic artists; airbrushing effects and much, much more.

The drawback is that it costs **£100,000** to buy - and it's the second best. There's another version costing **£200,000!!** Running down the scale, there's a **£50,000** one called CUBICOMP, a **£20,000** called SUPERNOVA, and an **£11,000** one called PLUTO. At the bottom end there's MACPAINT from Applemac, and of course GEM-PAINT; but these just aren't a **patch** on the real thing.

However, if you fancy a go on one don't despair, and don't go remortgaging or hocking the silver - just ring 0222-460671 - They'll hire it (the **£100,000** version) out to you for a mere **£95** an hour. If that sounds frivolous - it's not meant to be. In that hour, a commercial artist could compress a days work.

THE NEW PCW MAGAZINE

We have had enquiries from several people about the new PCW magazine.

New members may not know that we asked those members who would prefer a dedicated PCW magazine to the present (mainly CPC) magazine to let us know.

In keeping with our policy of supplying only Official publications we plan to distribute the new 'AMSTRAD PCW' magazine when it is launched with the August Issue this year - so from that time PCW users can look forward to articles and features written specifically for them.

AMSTRAD PCW will be published by the same people as the AMSTRAD COMPUTER USER and so it will be another OFFICIAL AMSTRAD MAGAZINE. Readers will continue to benefit from this as AMSTRAD PCW brings them accurate facts, figures and developments direct from Amstrad themselves.

Other PCW magazines already exist - but we believe that only the Official magazine is right for you, as Club members.

All queries to us on this topic will be covered in due course.

MAGAZINE PUBLICATION DATES

Members (and magazine readers in general!) are often bewildered by the publication dates of magazines. It is publishing practice to distribute, say, the March issue of a magazine in early - mid February. This is intended to give that issue a longer life on the newsagents' shelves.

This practice has sometimes caused confusion with club members. It is our policy to send a member twelve magazines, regardless of the 'Issues Month' quoted on the cover.

WANTED

1200/75 and 300/300 baud modem, interface and software. Must be VGC. Contact **Mr. R. Aldridge, 26 Keynsham Ave., Woodford Green, Essex. IG8 9SZ. Tel: (01) 505-5600**

FOR SALE

LOADS OF TAPE BASED GAMES FOR SALE

TITLES INCLUDE:-

Spindiscy, Starquake, Mindshadow, Aliens Highway, DT'S DECATHLON, Tuba Ruba, Rebel Plant, Combat Lynx, Warlord, Alien 8, Gyroscope, Fighter Pilot, Ghost Busters, Lightforce & many others.

All 1/2 price or less.

Contact **Gavin on (0625) 73532 or at 28, South West Avenue, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire.**

AMSTAT 1 (CPC) £12.50
MASTERFILE III (CPC) £15.00
THE KNIFE (CP/M AMSTRADS) £7.50

PROFORTRAN (CP/M AMSTRADS) £20.00

ELECTRIC STUDIO LIGHTPEN (6128) £12.50

PRINTER LEAD 1.5m (CPC) £5.00

Contact: **Mr. Andrew Amos at 19 Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6EF.**

ALL TAPES £1

SCREENPLAY
SUPERSLEUTH
VOODOO RAGE
LOOPY LAUNDRY
CHICKEN CHASE
SPIKY HAROLD
HARVEY HEADBANGER
5 A SIDE SOCCER

Contact: **Mr. P.L. Ellerby, 42, Brookside Crescent, Blakelaw, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE5 3LY.**

RAM ELECTRONICS MUSIC MACHINE

Contact **Richard Sekula through the User Club if your interested.**

GEMINI HOME ACCOUNTS (DISK) £12.00

HOBBIT (CASS) (INCLUDES PLAYING GUIDE) £9.00

BOULDERDASH (CASS) £4.00
CATALOGUE (HISOFT) (DISK) £7.00

TOMBSTOWNE (CASS) £3.00

Contact: **David Corder, 2 Tindell Place, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, PA88 5LE**

MIKE MORDECAI'S COLUMN



Some of you may have met Mike at Amstrad shows, either on our stand or Amstrad's. He supplies us with our products on Amstrad's behalf and is closely involved in scouring new products for the club.

We're delighted that he's written an article for us; and we're twisting his arm to make it a permanent feature. Whether you agree with his views or not, you can't argue that you're getting information **DIRECT FROM THE BEST SOURCE AROUND**. In this issue Mike covers the clubs background, why it was formed, and how it developed:

The Amsoft User Club was formed in 1984 to offer support to the new range of Home computers launched by Amstrad.

Too many Home computer companies (eg. Oric, Dragon) had disappeared because software houses were unsure of future sales, and refused to commit themselves to long term software support. Amstrad were not going to let this happen; and as the PCW, then the PC were launched, developments proved that software support from the MANUFACTURER was necessary, in order to establish the name, and reputation of the hardware. This way, all software products could reach the desired quality control standards; and continuity of supply was assured. This is precisely why the User Club was formed.

Over the months, it became apparent that the User Club operation was rapidly growing out of office space - and that's when the club moved to Sunderland. In fact membership of the club subsequently increased beyond all expectations, making it possible for the club to offer it's members a larger range of products at more advantageous prices.

There are many good reasons as to why you should be a member of the club -

- ▶ All past and future products are developed with members requirements in mind.
- ▶ The club exists to serve it's members: it is much more than just another software broker.
- ▶ All Amstrad releases are available from Day 1 at discount prices, with full support and back up service.
- ▶ The club has the full backing of the Amstrad company, and will still be around when the other houses have "taken the money and gone". It is the OFFICIAL club, and the only club with the right to use the "Amsoft mail order" slogan.
- ▶ Club benefits include monthly bulletins with technical updates, and a regular review of what's new - both in hardware and software. What the club tells you is **accurate** because they have full official backing - too many other parties are involved in guesswork, conjecture; and as you've no doubt read in the press, malicious rumour.

HALF PRICE ENTRY TO THE AMSTRAD SHOW. JULY 10-11-12

NAME

ADDRESS

MEMBER No.



VALID FOR ONE DAY ONLY

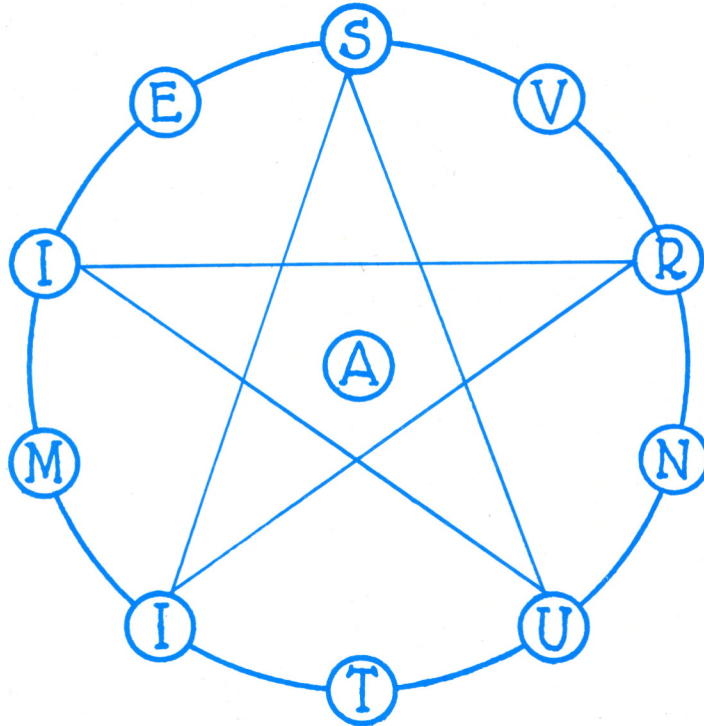
NOT TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER VOUCHER

COMPETITION

LAST MONTHS WINNERS

LAST MONTHS WINNERS

The answer to the sky puzzle was of course SIRIUS, the dog star, and your diagram should have looked like this. Its not strictly a star as some of you pointed out; but there again, the competition page was littered with star symbols so there were ample clues.



Easy? Maybe, but you should have seen some of the gymnastics that came in - with members sending in 'TAURUS', 'SATURN', 'PLUTO' and many other obscurities - some of which we can't even spell. Then we had the 'wags' with the inevitable 'you cannot be Sirius, man'; and a naval commander (who actually won!) from yes - the SIRIUS - who also sent a stylish badge. One or two of you sent in a histroy of the STAR - its called the dog STAR because its the brightest star in our galaxy, apart from the sun. The Romans called very hot days 'Dog Days', and their theory was that the Dog Star, rising with the Sun added to its' heat, and the dog days (about 3-11 July) Coincided with Sirius at its brightest. As Sirius is in the CANIS (Dog) constellation the Romans called it the DOG STAR.

NOTE: The Amstrad Show is during this year's dog-star period, and did anyone ever see that great film 'dog-day Afternoon?' - Yes, thats where they got the title from.

Every entry was checked; - all letters attached will be answered shortly. All the correct entries went into our mighty cut down beer barrel; and the first out of the 'dip' (performed by fabulous Telesales girl LINDA CAIRNS on extension 135) was



Thank you everyone for entering - the ROMBOX is in the post, with the chips but no plug on the end (it wouldn't fit in the package!)

P.S. Can the other three telesales girls also have a badge?

Some useful telephone numbers

Amstrad User Club - 091-567 3395
Amstrad Customer Services
Brentwood - 0277-230 222
Cambridge University Press -
0223-312393

Five Star Software - 0942-826 500
Grey Matter (conversion company: will transfer from 3" disks to 5 1/4" and viceversa) - (0364) 53499

National Computer Centre
Birmingham - 021-356-1008
National Computer Centre
Manchester - 061-228-6333

▶ COMPETITION ◀

THIS MONTHS COMPETITION

Sorry, wordsquare fans, this one is totally, totally different - in fact so different that its round, not square; and for obvious reasons its called a Bullseye puzzle. Don't hesitate to get your entry in - you'd be surprised at how many are wrong; and you stand a very fair chance of winning; much much better than the pools OR the horses! Send your entry to the usual address - VICTORIA HOUSE, 1-6, LOW ROW, SUNDERLAND. SR1 3PY by **June 27th**. **PLEASE DON'T SEND THEM TO BRENTWOOD** because although we'll eventually get them, the competition might be over in the meantime.

BULL'S-EYE PUZZLE

The object is to letter the blank spaces on the target so that you form simple English words, spelled from each letter in the outside ring in turn, in to the bull's-eye at the centre.

The example below is a THREE-RING BULL'S-EYE, and when this puzzle is solved, it must have:

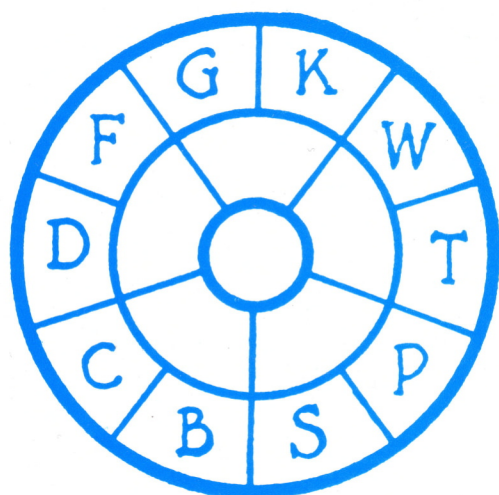
- A SINGLE CONSONANT IN THE BULL'S-EYE.
- FIVE DIFFERENT VOWELS IN ORDER ON THE SECOND RING.
- TEN THREE-LETTER WORDS READING INWARD.

HINT: Try for the centre consonant first, and try to combine it with a vowel in the space below G-K. to make words starting with each of these letters. Then find other vowels to combine with other pairs of letters, seeing whether they make words ending with the same centre consonant. If not, you have the wrong centre consonant, and will have to try another.

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE:

Any 10 games from our **TAPE** clearance list; or any 5 games from our **DISK** clearance list. Alternatively tape or disk winner, choose a new game from the 13 listed in the newsletter.

All entries to be with us by June 27th 1987.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All prices correct at time of going to press (May 31st 1987) - all prices include V.A.T. at the relevant rate unless otherwise indicated. Descriptions are correct to the best of our knowledge, although many manufacturers reserve the right to make changes to specifications.

Illustrations courtesy of
FONTASY, DAILY MAIL, and MARKETING.
**THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD PROFESSIONAL
USER CLUB
VICTORIA HOUSE
P.O. BOX 10
1-6 LOW ROW
SUNDERLAND
TYNE & WEAR
SR1 3PY**

Tel: 091 567 3395
E-Mail: MAG 90320