AMDATA

CPC EDITION

THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB NEWSLETTER – JULY 1989

CLUB GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

June 1st saw the opening of the User Club's first retail outlet here in Sunderland with the champagne launch of our Amstrad Professional User Club Advanced Systems Centre.

For those members in the Tyne Tees TV area, you'll have seen our Chairman, Mr. Michael Appleby together with Technical leader Mr. Owen Toase interviewed on Northern Life. For those unfortunate enough to have missed our resident TV celebrities (Owen now has a star above his desk), we gained extensive press coverage in addition.

Our showroom within the PRE Complex on Pallion Industrial Estate is equipped with the complete range of PC2000 series computers, plus the PC and PCW range. We have a comprehensive library of software available which is used for demonstrations, together with a display of laser, letter quality and dot matrix printers and peripherals. Our technical staff will demonstrate the equipment, and our sales executives will recommend the system for your business, or alternatively visit your premises to personally assess your requirements. So why not make a trip to our showroom and see our new development for yourself?

A COMPUTER EDGE FOR THE COMPANY
Modern systems and full back-up are answers to high-tech minefield

COMPUTER FIRM HOPES TO DOUBLE WORKFORCE

Advice for the computer user

PANDORA

There are a number of assemblers on the market for budding games designers to try out their ideas on but it takes time to learn the language and then there are standard routines to be written for sprite generation and movement and so on. But why make things more complicated when you could use Pandora, a new games generator from Swift Software. It includes an easy to use sprites generator and its own language with simple commands for sound generation and sprite movement which any basic programmer will understand. There are several simple games for you to try, but you can make your games as complicated as you wish with up to 48 standard or animated sprites. Writing your own games on the CPC has never been easier. We are sole distributors of this software and have negotiated a special price for our members also. See Amstrad Action p7 for full review.

CODE: PANDOR001   **Members Price £24.95**
CODE: PANDOR0001   **Members Price £29.95**

I have received ten copies of Pandora to give away to the first ten out of the hat with the correct answers to the questions below. Competition entries by the 12th of July please and envelopes should be marked PANDORA COMPETITION. Please state whether you require tape or disc.

The following five words all begin with the letters PAN — but what are they?

1. Universal Remedy
2. Chinese Bear
3. Black Cat
4. Larder
5. Christmas Play

SPECIAL PANDORA COMPETITION

Members Speak Out

Calling all budding programmers and games freaks out there! Would you like to share the secrets or ideas of successful programming with other members of the club?
If you can pass on original recommendations or comparisons so much the better! We will begin printing the articles in next month's edition and we'll happily consider any photographs of yourself you'd like published alongside your contribution. If the thought of putting pen to paper in any literary fashion horrifies you, send in your details and we'll arrange for one of our editorial staff to talk to you over the phone. So find the ink and blotting paper and spread the word!

CHOICE CHEATS 1 and 2

These programs help players around difficult areas of games by giving them extra lives and extra ammunition etc. and isn't available from any other distributor yet. Choice Cheats 1 contains cheats for 'By Fair Means or Foul', 'Cybernoid', 'Operation Wolf', 'Karrow', 'Flying Shark', 'Radius', 'Tanium', 'Advance, Pinball Simulator', 'Joe Blade 2', 'Star Trooper', 'Reflex' and 'Shanghai Karate'. Choice Cheats 2 contains cheats for 'BBvs Dragonnia', 'Hooper Cooper', 'Arkonoid', 'Arkonoid 2', 'Dynamite Dan', 'Solomon's Key', 'Dizzy 2', 'AT-Simulator', 'Empire Strikes Back', 'Pro Ski Simulator', 'Batman' and 'Head over Heels'.

CODE	RRP	Members
CHEATS0001	RRP £4.99	Members £4.24
CHEATS0002	RRP £4.99	Members £4.24
CHEATS001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
CHEATS002	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54

Amstrad Switch Production to UK

Alan Sugar, Amstrad's Chairman, has arranged a deal with GEC Plessey Telecommunications whereby computer production can be moved into the UK.

The manufacture of nearly 20 per cent of Amstrad's PC2286 and PC2386 machines is being moved from the Far East to GPT's Kirkcaldy plant.

Shipment of the PC2386 units has already commenced and the response from the corporate customer base has been very strong. It has long been Alan Sugar's wish to bring computer production to the UK but Amstrad wished to continue to offer highly competitive products whilst retaining their margins. They are pleased that GTP are able to deliver volume supply of a high quality and at a satisfactory price. GPT will supply the system units and keyboards but the monitors will continue to be produced, for the meantime, in the Far East.

10,000 units a month will be produced at GPT and shipped to Amstrad's international distribution centre in Shoeburyness.

International sales accounted for over 57 per cent of Amstrad's sales turnover last year and, according to the latest figures from the independent market research company ROMTEC, held a 52 per cent share of the 2086 sector of the UK market in December last year.

G·O·O·D I·D·E·A·S

Have you got a brilliant invention but simply haven't got the money needed to go about turning your ideas into a profitable enterprise? Well a new seedcorn fund has been set up to specifically to help people with good technical ideas get their products onto the market.

Greater London Enterprise has put together Kickstart, a program that can provide finance from £5,000 to £25,000. The scheme is aimed at individual inventors and young technology firms.

Applicants have to be able to display technical competence as well as product potential. Also the ideas have to be realistic enough to be marketable.

£750,000 has been put aside for the scheme in London and it is hoped that the idea will take on in other parts of the country and throughout Europe.

COMPUTERISED END TO ANIMAL HARM

Manchester University have developed a BioEngine computer system that could replace testing drugs on animals thus saving thousands of lives. It can mathematically predict the behaviour of molecules when exposed to various drugs.

Many chemical manufacturers are searching for ways of designing drugs on computers rather than testing them on animals. The BioEngine has been developed and is to be marketed bearing these companies in mind.

★ HACKERS BEWARE ★

A top computer cop has pledged to track down every computer hacker as soon as hacking is made illegal.

Detective Inspector John Austin, the head of Scotland Yard's computer fraud squad claims that even the hobbyist won't be spared. They have access to very powerful equipment coupled with people who know what they are doing.

Hacking, as yet, is not illegal but given international trends and public opinion John Austin believes that it is only a matter of time. Anybody who illegally obtains information will end up in court!

It is believed that there is only three in Austin's team. However he has access to many technicians both inside and outside the police force who are willing to help. Austin also has experience in computing having worked in the industry prior to joining the men in blue.

There is a pool of qualified men ready to testify in court as PC experts can't be involved in cases involving mainframes. These technicians are able to go through a computer system and see if it has been broken into.

It is believed, however, that if the anti-hacking bill takes effect 90% of hacking will stop.

COMPUTER VIRUSES — AGAIN!

Recently there has been an increase in the reporting of computer viruses. Unfortunately although some occurances are nothing to do with a virus, some viruses do pose a real threat to computer users and is not something that just keeps journalists busy. (Remember the ITN News at Ten Broadcast on February the Twelfth this year which implied that all PC's would self destruct on the following morning — the thirteenth).

A computer virus is a program which has been designed to do anything from print a message on a screen to destroying the contents of a disc. The program has to be introduced into the system usually in the form of data transmission over a tele-communications network. Once the virus is in the system it can make copies of itself and write parts of itself into other programs causing discs to wipe themselves clean and the computer to bomb amongst other effects. These disruptions are not always intended to be malicious but do prove to be a nuisance to users.

Viruses have been around for some time now though but have been called various names in the past including logic bomb, worm, hacking and time bomb. All, with the exception of hacking, were designed to cause damage or disruption to a system.

Educational establishments appear to be a breeding ground for viral attacks. Juveniles who believe that it is smart to make a computer wipe its own disc clean or print a humorous message amongst other functions are often at the root of the virus.

It is relatively easy to make a computer destruct data. I personally have heard about accountants writing accounts packages so that when their name is taken off the payroll the package cannot be used. This can be avoided by having another pro-grammer or systems manager check the codes before it is installed.

Programmes that have been bought are usually safe. If your programmes are pirated from a third parties computer which has in turn been taken from a friends computer, then you are taking a risk. Finding the guilty party with this virus type programme isn't as easy. However, the people who find it fun to write these sort of programmes usually tell somebody about it. A student in America who hacked his way into NASA's computer was discovered in this way last year.

Hacking is different. Most 'hobby hackers' are content with having a look around your system. Others derive pleasure by moving files around the system.

So if you always use legitimate software, don't leave your computer connected to a modem unless supervised and don't employ your own programmers then you should be pretty safe.

☆ GREAT NEW PRODUCTS ☆

SIGNWRITER

Signwriter is a family of programs that use low cost equipment to print large characters of near typesetting quality.

There are four programs in Signwriter:

1) A Typographic word-processor
2) A character printer for putting data on paper
3) A CAD program for creating and
4) Some number crunching to prepare fonts for printing.

Signwriter can be used for special offer notices, price tickets, signs for letterheads and drafts for advertisements etc.

Whatever you may need instant display lettering at work or for leisure, it can probably be produced using SignWriter. Extras can be bought to enable SignWriter to cut out vinyl letters, drive plotters and produce image files. The basic package comes with one standard font and prices are:

CODE: SIGN0001   **RRP £29.95**   **Members Price £27.70**
for the CPC6128 only

Gadzooks !! 'tis Oldefont ➤

ELEFONT
bold, clear, and distinctive

Examples of fonts available with SignWriter

COPIREADER

Copireader is the latest design enabling you to keep your papers tidy whilst you type. It is a similar idea to the very popular 'Thingi' copyholder. Copireader features a unique copyholding clip. It can be positioned on either side of the monitor and may be swivelled into position for easy reading or to the side when not in use.

CODE: COPIREADER   **RRP £8.61**   **Members £7.31**

New Tape-Based Products for under £3.00

Saboteur II CODE: SABOT2001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Deepstrike CODE: DEEPSTRIKE001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Postman Pat CODE: POSTMAN001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Up for Grabs CODE: FORGRABS001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Choice Cheats 1 CODE: CHEATS001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Choice Cheats 2 CODE: CHEATS002	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Rugby Boss CODE: RUGBY001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Mig-Z9 Soviet Fighter CODE: SOVIET001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Who Dares Wins CODE: DARES001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Storm Warrior CODE: WARRIOR001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Turf Form CODE: TURF001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Steve Davis Snooker CODE: SNOOKER001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Wizards Lair CODE: LAIR001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
Deathsville CODE: DEATHS001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Pool CODE: POOL001	RRP £1.99	Members £1.70
EuroRacer CODE: RACER001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Daley Thompson's Decathlon CODE: DECATH001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Rambo CODE: RAMBO001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Game Over CODE: GAMEB001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54
Academy CODE: ACADEMY001	RRP £2.99	Members £2.54

The Insider

This is a unique Z80 programming aid designed exclusively for use with the Multiface 2. It can look inside any program and disassemble it. You can run a program as usual, interrupt it with the multiface stop button and examine its operation in minute detail.

CODE: INSIDE0001
RRP £14.95   **Members £13.45**

Forgotten Worlds

Emperor Blos, the God of Destruction has begotten eight evil gods who were destroying all known civilisation. Destroyed cities turned into ruins and became known as 'Forgotten Worlds'. But, the spirit of people's angry minds created two super warriors to fight back against the evil demons and get the world back from Blos. Their task is awesome; Emperor Blos is protected by three of his Demi-Gods; The Golden Dragon, The God of Destruction and The Paramedum. The Awards so far:

C + VG-	92%
The Games Machine	94% +
The One	86%

CODE: FORGOT001
RRP £9.99   **Members £8.49**

CODE: FORGOT0001
RRP £14.99   **Members £12.74**

Take 3

Three favourite pub sports:

Steve Davis Snooker, Darts and **Pool**

CODE: TAKE3001
RRP £9.99   **Members £8.49**

Stormlord

Free the imprisoned fairy folk before they are obliterated by an evil queen.
CODE: SLORD001
RRP £9.99   **Members £8.49**
CODE: SLORD0001
RRP £14.99   **Members £12.74**

Skweek!

Skweek is a humorous fast-moving arcade game like a modern version of Pacman. The hero is Skweek himself —a furry orange bundle of fun! His mission is to clean up his planet by painting it all pink instead of blue but there are plenty of baddies who don't want him to succeed. The aim is to collect all the bonuses including loveable teddy bears!
CODE: SKWEEK001
RRP £9.99   **Members £8.49**
CODE: SKWEEK0001
RRP £14.99   **Members £12.74**

Super Scramble Simulation

Take on the ultimate challenge of motorbike scrambling. This real life simulator takes you through the thrills and spills of scrambling against the clock. You start on the beginner's course to acustom yourself to the powerful scrambler. Take your bike over 1:2 gradient hills, over loose rocks, through streams, through skips full of water, over slippery logs, cars and lorries as you race against the clock. Beat the clock and you're onto the next level. It is divided into five levels of increasing difficulty and each level has three courses.
CODE: SCRAMBLE001
RRP £9.99   **Members £8.49**
CODE: SCRAMBLE0001
RRP £14.99   **Members £12.74**

KNOCKDOWNS

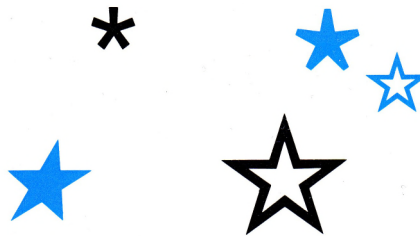|			
WORDHANG (Age 5-Adults)			
CODE: SOFT101 (T)	RRP £9.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £6.95 — SAVE £3!	
CODE: SOFT1101 (D)	RRP £14.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £10.95 — SAVE £4!	
MAP RALLY (Age 7-13)			
CODE: SOFT148 (T)	RRP £9.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £6.95 — SAVE £3!	
CODE: SOFT1148 (D)	RRP £14.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £10.95 — SAVE £4!	
GAME SET & MATCH (VOL. 2)			
CODE: MATCH200 (T)	RRP £12.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £9.50 — SAVE OVER £3!	
CODE: MATCH2000 (D)	RRP £17.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £13.20 — SAVE OVER £4!	
DESERT RATS			
CODE: DESERT001 (T)	RRP £9.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £6.95 — SAVE £3!	
EVERY SECOND COUNTS			
CODE: EVERY001 (T)	RRP £7.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £5.50 — SAVE OVER £2!	
CODE: EVERY0001 (D)	RRP £12.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £9.50 — SAVE OVER £3!	
FISTS AND THROTTLES			
CODE: FISTS001 (T)	RRP £12.99	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £9.50 — SAVE OVER £3!	
CODE: FISTS0001 (D)	RRP £14.99	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £10.70 — SAVE OVER £4!	
SPITTING IMAGE			
CODE: SPITT001 (T)	RRP £9.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £6.95 — SAVE £3!	
SCREEN DESIGNER			
CODE: SOFT197 (T)	RRP £14.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £6.35 — LESS THAN 1/2 PRICE!	
PROTEXT			
CODE: TEXT001 (T)	RRP £19.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £13.50 — SAVE OVER £6!	
CODE: TEXT0001 (D)	RRP £26.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £18.90 — SAVE OVER £8!	
MASTERCALC			
CODE: SOFT905 (T)	RRP £24.95	KNOCKDOWN PRICE £17.00 — SAVE OVER £7!	

LAMPOST

LAST MONTH'S WINNER

Congratulations go to **MR. F.R. TWEDDLE** of **DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM** for his competition entry.
The solution was of course:

9	1		6	7	6
	7	2	9	0	0
4	2		8	3	8
7		2	8		4
6	9		9	7	
1	9		6	5	2

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION

JOHN GIMBER from **SWANSEA** has sent us this competition suggestion, and wins himself a £10 voucher into the bargain!
So get your doms out folks and start solving.
A set of 28 dominoes (0,0) to (6,6) have been arranged to give the following pattern:

```
            1  2  1  3
            5  2  2  6
      4  0  5  1  1  5  3  0  6  5
      6  2  4  0  1  5  0  0  2  3
      2  6  3  1  2  0  6  6  3  5
      0  3  3  4  3  6  5  6  1  4
            2  1  4  4
            5  0  4  4
```

The problem is, how are the dominoes laid out?
(Answers by 12th of July please).
Have you any puzzles etc. that you feel may make a good competition for the CPC Newsletter or have you any programming puzzles? If so send them in. A £10.00 voucher is up for grabs if any are printed.

AMS Chat

Customers have been enquiring about machine code programming, and have been wondering what software is needed to start. Well, machine code programming is quite complicated but there are tools available that make life easier. For example there is a dis-cassembler program that accepts machine code listings. This is an essential facility for debugging stored machine code programs. So you can actually have a look at how a commercial machine code program is written and learn from there. Other programs that can help are Compilers and Assemblers. Compilers are programs designed to translate a high level language source code (e.g. BASIC) into a corresponding machine code program. The compiler checks for, and reports, any syntax errors in the source program. If the source program is error free then a complete object code program is produced.

With the CPC machines the BASIC is actually interpreted line by line as soon as you type it in.

An assembler is a program that translates a source program written in a low level language (i.e. Forth) into machine code.

So any or all of these would be a great help to anyone entering the field of programming.

Would all you users of MasterFile III please note that Siren Software have confirmed that RAMDOS is not compatible with their product, but that the popular ROMDOS is.

Digital Music Diploma

Unemployed youngsters are now being offered grants for a diploma course in digital music technology.

An increasing number of music packages that are PC based lead Keele University to offer this new course which is being funded by the European Social Fund.

Applicants must be familiar with a major computer utility, have musical experience as either a performer or a composer and must have experience in a recording studio or with musical software.

The course runs for four years and bursaries of £2,340 are available for unemployed applicants under the age of 25.

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

Mrs. Irene Dawson requires any astronomy disc, but 'Starwatcher' in particular, to run on her CPC6128.

If you can help, Mrs. Dawson can be contacted on 0621 859313, days and evenings.

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

Members please note product codes with 00 in them are for tape versions and those with 000 are for disc versions.