WACCI

THE UK'S ONLY SERIOUS CPC MAGAZINE
AND PREMIER CPC CLUB

ISSUE 87   £1.50
MARCH   1995

TO THE PARK

I BET SHE'S HIDDEN HIS

WACCI MAGAZINE AGAIN

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THE BENEFITS OF WACCI MEMBERSHIP

* The best magazine for serious CPC users.
* An INDEX of the above from issue 1 - 81.
* Telephone HELPLINE (indispensable).
* Bargain buys/wanted lists from the MARKET STALL.
* Discount off goods from advertisers.
* List of PD discs, tapes, library books, services.
* Above all the advice, assistance and friendship
  from other WACCI members.

BENEFIT list by Ernie Ruddick, December 1994

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PRODUCTION METHOD

WACCI is typeset, produced, edited and laid out
using, Protext, Promerge, Prospell, MicroDesign
Plus on the CPC 6128 and printed using an Epson
Stylus 800 InkJet Printer.

WACCI is printed and collated by: ProntaPrint!
134 Foregate Street, Chester CH1 1HB (0244 313222)

WACCI is distributed by the Dwerryhouse family in
their spare time. (It's label stickingly good!)

WACCI: The club for Amstrad CPC computer owners.

FRONT COVER: by Ron Izett

THE TELEPHONE HELP-LINE

BOB MOFFATT, (0994) 453509, Pendine, Carmarthen.
Masterfile III, Mastercalc, Qualitas & Protext.

STEWART PEPPIATT, (0245) 353903, Chelmsford, Basic
M/Code, DMP2000, VDE, Scrivener & general problems

PETER CAMPBELL, (041) 554 4735, Glasgow, OCP Art
Studio, Vidi, Basic, MicroDesign & Art Programs,
ProPrint, CPC plus m/cs and VideoMaster.

FRANK FROST, (0983) 882197, Isle of Wight
4pm to 10pm, VDE, CP/M and Protext.

IAN NEILL, 01926 337708, 6pm to 10pm, Warwickshire
Eprom blowing, Hardware, Electronics and more.

MARK STEWART, (0773) 822599, Belper, 8pm to 10pm,
PAW Adventure Creator, Basic and general help.

LAURENCE SAUNDERS, Herts, (Work) 061 480 4900
Maplins & technical help. Now at Stockport.

NIGEL MELLS, (0784) 250763, Ashford, Tape to disc
problems, Basic programming and a general natter.

MIKE LYONS, (0942) 59942, Wigan, Basic, Stop Press
Dk,tronics Speech Synth, Rodos and general help.

STUART GASCOIGNE, (0272) 831361, Bristol, Basic,
Machine code, PD Discs 19 to 36.

JOHN HUDSON, (01484) 423252, Huddersfield. MOII,
CP/M, Wordstar/Newword, dBASE, CP/M PD, CPC-PCW-PC

JOHN BOWLEY, (0733) 260616, Peterborough.
Help and advice about the Book Library.

CLIVE JACKSON, Cobol, Basic, Bankman, Sorting,
File Handling and Applications programming.
37 Essex Road, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 1LG

NIGEL CALLCUTT, (0664) 68738, Melton Mowbray.
Technical advice, hardware and CPC repairs.

RICHARD AVERY, Tasword 464, GPaint, Another World.
35 Marlborough View, Cove, Farnborough, GU14 9YA

VACANT HELP-LINE PLACES

Two spaces are currently available on the list so
write with your details to WACCI HQ if you feel
you could help your fellow club members.

*This help-line is provided on a voluntary basis by
club members to assist other members. Please call
between 7pm and 9pm (unless stated otherwise.)*

THANX & STUFF

The Warmer Editor

Boy, what a month this has been. It must rank as one of the busiest I've ever had in terms of WACCI. Fortunately it is a one off. Two really good things have happened to WACCI and both made me proud to be associated with it and happy for those members involved. Let's start with the good news followed by the good news.

THE CONVENTION

It's on! Yep, there will be no more wondering if we would get it off the ground, as two members have made it into an event.

The first is *Angie* by all the hard work she has put in organising it. The second is ...... but I can't tell you as he wishes to remain anonymous. I can tell you what he has done however. He has simply paid the £200 for the cost of hiring the halls for the day. All the worry about finance has disappeared completely. Now we can get down to organising the fine details.

I was well gob-smacked, if you pardon the phase, on receiving the offer. Angie was over the moon and I don't think she's come down yet. All I can do, and it seems so little, is to say a really big thank you to Mr X. Now you can see why I'm so proud to be associated with this event.

As well as making the event happen, the other effect is that the cost of tickets to members is free. You have no excuse, whatsoever, now for not turning up.

A few details might be useful at this point. WACCI has booked, and the booking has been accepted, two halls at The Bescot Stadium, Bescot Cresent, Walsall (the home of Walsall football club) on Sunday, 24 September from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The venue is just off the motorway so access is very easy and car parking is ample.

I will keep you all informed as developments occur but let's just say that I'm very a very happy editor just now. It makes all the hard work really justified. I'm looking forward to the day already - I know it will fly by but we can always do it again!

I know many members have already told Angie that they are coming, I don't know the tally so far, but there is one message I must bang home to all members. Because of health and safety reasons, we must not exceed the maximum of visitors to the convention. To this end I shall be printing tickets to ensure we can control the numbers. What you must do is to request a ticket for every member of your family that is coming. If every member coming obtains one ticket and brings, say, his wife, then the number of visitors would double and boy would we be in trouble.

The venue does offer considerable flexibility so if capacity is exceeded we can expand as necessary.

I shall try and get something detailed laid out in the magazine in a month or so.

NUMBER TWO

The second item of good news involves membership numbers. Following on from the good reviews that David Crookes has achieved for the club in Amstrad Action over the last few months I decided to give AA readers a special offer of a *33%* reduction on subscription for three months.

I know that many AA readers, whilst they know about WACCI, don't realise that the club can be of real use to them. Okay not all will remain as members as different folk like different things but a growth in membership is always a good thing.

I welcome new members to the club and I hope you both enjoy your stay with us and that it is a long one.

The number of new subscriptions has caused me a lot of work but it is worth it for the club. I ran out of the February edition, so was the demand, so to many new members this will be their first issue, I hope you like it.

WACCI BINDERS

Master *(PD Librarian)* John Bowley has been looking at obtaining a customised supply of binders to hold your copies of WACCI. Each binder will hold 24 issues and carry the club's logo. We will be able to sell them at £5.00 each inc p&p but we must order a minimum of 100 to achieve this price.
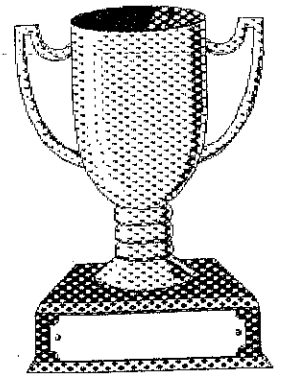
If you feel you would benefit from these binders then please let John know by what ever method pleases you.

I've had a look at a sample binder and I'll certainly buy them if enough support is found. Well, that's it for this month, seeya next month. *-Paul.*

COMPETITION SPOT

WITH JOHN BOWLEY

Here we go again - but first a big THANK YOU to Roy Everett who as been helping me out on a few matters, I won't say anymore for now, but hopefully all will be revealed next month. Now on with this months competition. 《John》

UNRECEIVED PRIZES
By now you all should have received your prizes (I hope). If not give me a call or drop me a line and I'll sort it out as quickly as possible.

RESULTS
No results this month, cos I have to get this months compo off to Paul. Full update next month. 《Okay》

STORY TIME
Thank you for your stories and please keep them coming and you could be awarded a prize.

Please please send me your stories on disc if at all possible, this will save my poor fingers from wearing out.

I will of course return your disc as soon as I can.

3" DISC SHORTAGE
I'm pleased to say (write) many of you are now choosing to have their PD prizes on 3.5 discs which is great news and don't forget you can also have your Homegrown and PD software from all of our PD Librarians on 3.5 discs, but please remember to inform us of your set up, for example:

Do you have a side switch fitted *yes* or *no?* At present we are only dealing with Amsdos formats.

HELP WANTED
Do you have the Advanced Music System program that I could borrow for a short while. The reason why I'm trying to get my hands on this program is that I have a collection of Classical and other Popular tunes and I want to make sure they work before I put them into our Public Domain Library.

SPECIAL THANKS
I would like to thank those kind members who sent me some books and other items over the last month or so.

They are: *Archie Fulton, Ian Parker, Ernie Ruddick, Ken Stone, Simon Swift,* and *David Newton.* Stand up and take a bow lads.

MARCHS COMPETITION
What have I got for you this month you ask? This month I'm giving someone the chance of winning the *"Alternative Firmware Guide."* Please note that, this is NOT the Soft (968) Manual.

This Firmware Guide was kindly donated to me by me so a big thank you to errm me. If however you don't want this manual than please choose any three discs full of Homegrown or PD software that takes your fancy. Please see 3" Disc Shortage. Don't forget to include your choice of PD software even if you want the prize on offer.

EXTRA BONUS
Brian Watson has kindly offered to include six months free subscription to 8 BIT for this months lucky winner.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO
All you have to do is find the missing word and put it between the brackets.

Have a look at my example it will give you a better idea of what to do.

If you can't answer all the questions still send in your entry cos you'll never know you could still win.

This compo was set by *Ernie Ruddick*, how are you getting on with the 1640? Be in touch soon and Ernie, I'm still trying to do that logo. 〈Okay〉

COMPETITION ENTRY
Your entry needs to reach me by the end of March. Please enter as I look forward to receiving your letters instead of the usual boring ones like household bills.

RUGBY	(	)	HOUSE
PUBLIC	(	)	PARTY
POLL	(tax	)	BILL
TOILET	(	)	CHASE
EXTRA	(	)	LIMIT
TRUE	(	)	BIRD
ICE	(	)	CAKE
BALL	(	)	BLANK
SHARP	(	)	EDGE
EASTER	(	)	CUP
SEA	(	)	LINE
FLOWER	(	)	BALL
WOOL	(	)	BOWLS
MOUNTAIN	(	)	CAT
DINNER	(	)	TABLE
CHRISTMAS	(	)	GAME
FUN	(	)	GROUND
HOT	(	)	BABIES

LANGUAGES
If you're able to translate French or German I would like to hear from you.

We have some text files belonging to many programmes in our software library that I would like to have translated into English.

I think there is nothing worse than having a good program and being unable to use it because the help files are not in English. 《Please help》
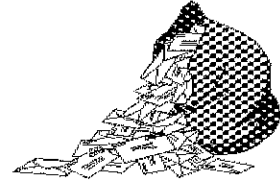
PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE
If you have got any PD that's not in our libraries then I would like to hear from you also, please.

THE MAD HOUSE
John Bowley. 97 Tirrington, Bretton, Peterboro' PE3 9XT. Tele: 0733 260616

Fair Comment

THE LYON KING OF LANCASHIRE

Dear All, It is with great sadness that I find myself writing this letter confirming my resignation as Letters Editor for WACCI after nearly three years. I'm sure Paul will forgive me if I take the time to ramble and reminisce a little (It doesn't matter if he does or not, 'cos I'm going to!) (does this count as my single exclamation mark?)

I've always been a bit of a big-head, and enjoy being able to 'spout off' to all and sundry. Whether right or wrong - if I'm right, I'm being informative, if wrong, controversial - it has always been one of my most enjoyable hobbies.

Why am I giving up? There are quite a few reasons all tied in with my recent ill-health. I haven't made a worthwhile contribution to WACCI for over six months - far too long to be away from one's family! I have been having considerable difficulties with my small motor movements since I was in hospital over the summer - I had been having some problems for a long time anyway, but these worsened considerably after my two spells in hospital over the summer. I went back to work at the end of October and have found the going very tough. Everything seems to take three times as long as it did - and I mean everything. Whereas before, I could mark three sets of books in an hour, it now takes an hour to mark one. Some days I can hardly manage to walk in a straight line without falling over. My left leg often seems to belong to someone else. This means that most things that I do have to be done slowly and carefully. Things have improved slightly since my GP gave me some tablets, but it's still all slow ahead, (or sideways).

Of course, the knock-on effect is that it is ever harder to find the time to devote to WACCI. I keep finding things which I should have done, but didn't, (apologies to Neil Springthorpe amongst others), Another problem I seem to have is sudden

developing memory loss. My memory has always been good, (musicians have to have good memories), but now I find myself wondering what I'm doing half the time. I haven't learned my timetable yet and my classes are still just a sea of ambiguous faces. All of this has contributed to my decision.

Over the last three years I have had encounters with many people, either on the page or in the flesh and found them to be wonderful in the truest sense of' the word. The obvious exception being him, who shall be nameless. When Uncle Clive bit my hand off when I first offered my services, I wondered what I was getting myself into. I had written a few letters and an occasional article for Steve Williams, had a post-pubescent crush on the ineffable Joolz and lost a full subscription in THE CRASH. However, as the last, (I think), person to be contacted by Clive I was only too pleased to be able to offer to help. I hope I've done a good job and made a small mark, upset a few people and helped a lot. As far as I was able, anyone was fair game for a fair comment, (or even a slightly unfair one), if it generated more letters. I developed a fixation for names - this seemed to make people wary of writing for some reason - but after a skit or two I hope I was able to make people feel at home.

Looking through recent issues of WACCI, I can see that the overall style has matured - not that it was ever juvenile or childish. It seems that Paul can still murder spelling and the true stalwarts like dear Alan, (I shall not say 'old'), are still battling along.

I will still keep up my subs to WACCI and probably contribute the odd, (very odd), letter or article, but I'm afraid that editing is too much for me to cope with at the moment.

Paul will have noticed that this letter has been sent in on a PC, (Aaaargh!), disc. This is because my poor old Arnold, (11 this year), is

very poorly. Actually, he keeps dying on me. It's a bit like the operatic star in a Wagner, (I think), opera. This lady had to leap to her death from some battlements. One night, some wag replaced the mattress by a trampoline. She died 15 times that night. This raises another problem. If Arnold is terminally ill, how do I replace him? I have several friends who have PCs and I must admit to being impressed. I also find the ones I've played on easier to use than Arnold and with my present difficulties that's important. Anyway, that's for another day. Arnold isn't dead yet.

Reminisce...reminisce.. One of my best memories is of my first Haydock show. It was before I learned to drive. I got a friend to give me a lift to the Racecourse and there I met Uncle Clive and Paul and Jenny for the first time. Actually, if I remember correctly, I had met Uncle Clive before that, as he had visited me to let me see the WACCI house-style at first hand. He drank, (huge quantities of diet coke), and carried an enormous weight, (of equipment), with him. My living room shrank with his presence to the size of a telephone box. His enthusiasm filled the street. Clive stayed nearly all day and showed me what he wanted in terms of layout, (in spite of the fact that I was a very dense student), with such simple patience and single-minded determination that I was awe-stricken.

Paul struck me instantly as a man of quiet knowledge, overlaid with sincerity and kindness (That's not meant to be a sycophantic and gushy remark.) Paul was made to be the club secretary. Paul is a very likeable chap and he knows how to get things done...

Stamper Metcalfe and Doug Webb are two more wonderful personalities whom I met at Haydock. Always laughing at something, they could have been a double act! (Let's face it, Doug lives in Chorley so he's got to have something to laugh at.)

These are just a few of the delightful family members of WACCI, something that the other computers just don't have. Every Amiga owner's in competition with every other one, Atari ST owners have lost their way, PC owners are too busy comparing the size of their discs, (floppy or hard) and what's a Spectrum?

I hope the WACCI family keeps on going for a long time. I'll be happy to remain a member forever. WACCI is home. I'm just sorry that I have to let everyone down.

By the way, I think I should get to nominate a new Letters Editor. John Hudson seems like a knowledgeable chap to me. I don't know if I've ever met him, but I do know that I managed to upset him once, (or maybe twice). Come on John, how about giving it a go? I think you would do a very good job.

Anyway, that's enough maunderings from me. I look forward to another year of WACCI coming through the door. I've cancelled my AA from the newsagents, I'm afraid. My wallet objected to 24 pages of thin paper for that price. I'm sorry if it offends anybody but the state of AA at the moment is ridiculous. It is so bad that my newsagent told me she was ashamed to sell it to me. I can't make up my mind whether I want it to die gracefully or to keep coming back in worse and worse condition. It reminds me of the opera singer...

Mike Lyons
Lancashire

PS I've now found that the problem with my CPC is in the monitor somewhere. The power keeps clicking on and off until it gets warm. Any Ideas anyone?...

《Aye-up Mike, great to hear from you again. I'm sure members will be saddened by your tale of woe about your continuing ill health. I'm sure too that all will join me in wishing you a speedy journey back to good health. You are most definitely missed by the your WACCI family.

I, for one, feel that the re-birth of WACCI, after the Steve Williams crash, was helped considerably by yourself. Clive was the king of the techy side but you were the letter pages king. I remember very clearly reading your first Fair Comment and

thinking - yep, the style was different than before but it carried on the great tradition of Fair Comment started by Jeff Walker all those years ago. Steve Williams, Joolz and the deeply wonderful Peter Ceresole carried it on and took it to new heights but when you took it over it gathered an extra dimension - the heart and soul of Mike Lyons. For new members who have never read a Fair Comment page edited by Mike, just a read of his letter should give you a good idea of how good he was.

Reminisce time again.... I remember the time I first met Mike at Haydock Park at an all formats show. I was on the stand with Clive and he said "that's Mike Lyons over there." A small man in his thirties slowly sidled over to the WACCI stall. Quietly spoken, well mannered, I thought is this the Mike Lyons that roars so loudly in the Fair Comment pages of WACCI. Mike was a pleasure to meet as one soon came to understand that he was a caring person....

John R Hudson must be quaking in his boots reading your letter Mike. No one ever came forward to take on the role of editing Fair Comment so I'll continue to babble away on these famous pages.

I'll not comment on AA, I feel it might crop up later on in FC. -Paul》

A VIRUS CAN BE FUN

Dear Paul, In WACCI 85 the modified PROTEXT demo is mentioned a number of times, however the program has not actually been modified.

Firstly; the print routine is a completely separate program designed to print out text files so there is legally nothing wrong with this program.

Secondly; when you exit from the Demo you will be returned to BASIC or to whatever program called the demo. What Richard Fairhurst has done is write a program that runs the Protext demo, when you leave the demo it exits back into Richard's program. This program displays a menu giving you the choice of re-running Protext, saving the text as a Protext or ASCII file or exiting. If you select to save the text the SAVE routine just looks at the memory where the demo was storing the text and saves it as file. I can't see anything legally wrong with this

technique. You may have noticed that I have only said there is nothing legally wrong but I suppose it is morally wrong.

I have not yet mentioned the bad points of the demo version. As the SAVE routine is written in BASIC it works very slowly and it is not very convenient, however it does work which is more than can be said for the print routine which seems fairly unreliable. The modified version I have is quite old so maybe the deficiencies have been made less deficient but if I buy Protext and find it works similarly to the demo then I will not be pleased.

Of course the biggest problem is you don't get a manual and from my experiments with the demo I feel a manual is a necessity. For now I think I will stick to my PC for most text typing (oops, I found one useful) and use VDE266 with my Amstrad. I use VDE266 with qtext21 (Amstrad CPC CPM+ Text Speed Increaser v2.1) which makes it markedly faster, in fact it becomes faster at scrolling through a document than the Protext Demo which I suppose also means the mighty Protext.

Shareware is also mentioned in that issue. I realise that most people don't bother to register the shareware they use but that is in most cases actually illegal although proving that you use the shareware or that you realised you are meant to pay for it would be practically impossible. I must admit that I have not been to good about registering although I have recently been making amends, part of the problem with most CPC shareware is that you are having to pay someone in another country and in that countries currency, this is not very convenient.

You say, "I doubt if you will get an upgraded version or any documentation" and I agree with you on these points, but many programmers who wrote a number of shareware programs have left the Amstrad because nobody ever bothered to register their software so if you want these programmers to keep supporting the machines then maybe paying is not such a bad idea.

Running stands at All Formats Computer Fairs have been mentioned a number of times in the last few issues. I assume that WACCI would have to start advertising the fairs again before this could happen as WACCI used to get a free stand because the fair

were given a free advert each issue. Correct me if this was not the case. I would be happy to run / help run a stand at some of the fairs (the ones not too far from my house) and I can persuade my brother to help.

The machines we can provide are a CPC6128 with colour monitor, a CPC664 with green monitor, a 6128+ with colour monitor and a GX400 with 14" colour TV - I reckon this would be enough machines for a stand. If anyone is interested in running stands and want to talk to me about it then phone 0131-339 6644 and ask for Gavin.

Now a tip for the real skin flints. About five minutes, literally, after reading "THE RUBBER BAND MAN" by Brian Watson in WACCI 81 (this was the first drive belt solution letter) the drive in my CPC6128 gave the "disc missing" error message with some old discs that I had dug out from a draw. I opened the drive up to look at the drive belt, on studying it I saw that its surface had been smoothed slightly by the years of use so I flipped it over so the unworn outside was running on the pulleys. I feel this will not be a long term solution but it gives me a stop gap until I get round to buying a new belt. Lifting the disc slightly will also help with problem drives as it reduces the pressure between the disc surface and drive head.

Lastly; I subscribe to Computer Shopper, recently one of the issues was delivered with the cover disk badly bent so I returned it to the duplication firm T.I.B. When they returned a new disk they also sent a price list for the disks they sell. I obtained a few more order forms and have sent some to you as the prices they offer seem very reasonable.

At first I felt that the double density disks that have failed copying twice would not be worth bothering with even though they are only 5p each but then I considered that many of my 3.5" disks are only formatted as single density so these disks may be suitable for this purpose, after all they fail at 600RPM which is far faster than discs are spun at in a disc drive. If I make an order I may purchase a few of the double fails just to experiment.

You would have received this letter earlier but my PC has been ill, it caught a virus. Its better now but I

still have to check a hundred odd discs for occurrences of the virus. Yours sincerely,

Gavin Black
Edinburgh

《《Hello Gavin, some interesting points you have raised in your letter, let's take them in turn.

Turning the Protext Demo into a fully useable word processor must be wrong. However, if the Demo has not been altered in anyway whatsoever then has any copyright been broken? If the Demo leaves the a file in memory when it has been exited in the correct fashion as determined by Arnor, surely the contents of your computers memory are yours to do what you wish with.

I'm no legal expert but I feel that Gavin is ›right, no copyrights have been broken so no problem. HOWEVER, I do agree that it is wrong and as I want Protext to continue to marketed by Arnor WACCI will not stock these "additions" to the Protext Demo in its PD library.

I agree with your points on Shareware. I don't like the concept of the thing. Either make it PD or sell the product. It's a bit like our dear governments laws on gambling. Nobody wants children under 16 to gamble but the law doesn't restrict arcades from letting the under 16's put money in fruit machines. It's just asking for problems to be created. The same with shareware, it is just asking problems.

You are quite right about WACCI getting a free stall at the all format shows if it carried the advert for them every month. Since Clive resigned WACCI haven't been attending any shows so I used the space for other adverts. If we do get back into the fairs then I shall certainly reinstate the advert. Thanks for the offer of help, let's hope you get a call or two.

Drive belts do seem to be a theme of WACCI as it ploughs through the 80's. It was Brian Barton not Brian Watson but let's not let that ruin a good story. Turn the belt over - why not.

The company Tib Plc (Tib House, 11 Edward Street, Bradford BD4 7BH, Telephone 01274 736990) are offering 3.5 D/S D/D discs at 12p for once failed and 5p for twice failed. At those prices you can can't lose, or can you. The product has no warranty so you take the chance. What we all

need is for Gavin to test them out and let us all know.

Thank God you cannot catch a virus on a CPC disc. -Paul》》

EMULATIONS CAN BE FUN
Dear Paul, A query has arisen regards the type of discs that a PC will accept when PD 98 PC Emulator has been run. A member who purchased PD 98 was concerned as to how he could manage to have a number of his existing 3" discs contents copied over onto 3.5" discs as his second drive was also 3". Yes, you're right, I volunteered to do it for him. However from the first four discs he sent me one contained CP/M files on both sides, so all I could do was to copy each side onto a single 3.5" disc, the other three discs were copied comfortably onto a single 3.5" D20 formatted disc. I am now waiting to hear if these copies are suitable.

So the reason for the letter is, can someone specify what formats can be used to transfer material from 3" to 3.5" discs. Currently I can use either DES, Utopia, Parados, Discology or Nirvana to do my copying, but it would certainly be helpful to have some guidance. This member has quite a number of 3" discs he was hopeful of being contained upon fewer 3.5" discs suitable for use upon his PC when set up by PD 98.

To this end it would appear that when members request copies of a disc they will need to be specific upon both size and format required. This is of course recognizing that the librarian concerned can comply.

Doug Webb
Chorley

《《Hello there Doug, thanks for the query of PD98, the CPC Emulator for the P(oor) C(omputer.)

To the best of my knowledge, the emulator expects to find an Amsdos standard formatted disc, ie 180K. I don't think any other standards are allowed but I've not installed it or used it. Perhaps Stuart Gascoigne, who reviewed it for WACCI, could leap into next months FC with a letter telling what we can and can't do.

You are a officer and a gentleman for helping out in this way Doug, it must be above the call of duty of a PD librarian to copy other folks discs for then. -Paul》》

KICK THE HABIT

Dear Paul, please find enclosed a cheque value £18 in payment for 12 issues from number 87 to ensure a continued supply of the GREAT WACCI Magazine.

I really enjoy reading 'our magazine' and especially like the conversation style. My wife now looks forward to the arrival of each issue and when it arrives says "You like that, don't you ?" as this means I will occupy my time in silently reading the magazine thus allowing herself some peace and quiet.

Many thanks to Frank Neatherway for the WACCI information fast access software, I've read the book and am now going for the disc.

I almost sent for one of the CTM644 colour monitors from (was it Ocean?) but was restrained by comments that I had read, when one cold wet day my wife dragged me kicking and screaming to a large cold 'Boot Sale'. Whilst wandering aimlessly about I thought I was day dreaming when as I approached a crowd milling about round a table of what appeared to be rubbish, there standing proudly amongst the heap was a CTM644, on enquiry I was told it was in full working order so tentatively I parted with £40, picked up my purchase to go when the seller called "What about the rest", and duly gave me a CPC6128 which I have now found to be in full working order. When it's Boot Sale time I no longer kick & scream.

Does any member know if information in a Psion 3a can be used by or saved to the CPC6128. Enclosed is a 3.5" disc Ramdos D20 format containing a copy of this letter also SSAE.

Bill Rouse
London

<<Dear Bill, many thanks for the subs and I'm glad, oh so glad, you like the publication. Take a bow all that write in her.

I get many letters praising the work of young Frank Neatherway. Well, I think he keeps himself young by working so hard for the club.

The company who had the monitors was Oasis. They didn't come up with the goods but I did get my money back from them after ordering a monitor.

My wife loves a car boot sale and I'm just like you except that I have not found anything of interest at one.

After your tale though, I must keep attending them.

I've no knowledge of a Psion 3a, can anybody help Bill here? -Paul>>

BOB AID

Dear Angie, Have I offended you? I hope not. I would love to have a Market Stall entry asking for ZORK I and ZORK II, but to date nothing has appeared. As an incentive please tell the world that I have a ROMDOS ROM (Not the XL version) free to any WACCI member who wants it. First caller to 01994 453509 gets it.

John Court, one of our New Zealand members, has had problems exporting Mastercalc programmes on to a PC. I think I have a solution. I've offered an article on this to Paul but if anyone wants help before the article is published (if it ever is) then I will be happy to talk people thro' - the same phone number applies.

Finally Paul passed on to me a tube of sticky 'tarry substance'. I'm not going to use it but if anyone is brave enough to follow Ron Izett's advice then I'm happy to pass it on. Regards,

Bob Moffatt
Pendine

<<Hello Bob, Angie has been such a busy little bee of late that I'd forgive this small oversight. Anyone know of a copy of ZORK anywhere? I bet your telephone gets red hot the day WACCI hits the doormats!

I have received Bob's article and it will certainly appear in a WACCI near you soon. There are only so many pages in WACCI and when I get a flurry of super articles I want to cram them into one issue but, alas, quarts don't go into pint pots. If you have sent me an article then, unless I return it for more work, it will appear in the magazine - please be patience.

Anybody brave enough to follow the advice of 'Tarry Ron' and fix their slipping belt the sticky way? Please let Bob know. -Paul>>

A MART OF GOLD

Dear Angie, Paul and all, thank you for the advert in the latest WACCI; no-one yet has asked for 8BIT Mark by that name, but I am pleased to say it has already produced several requests for sample issues of 8BIT Mart. You may notice the Mart has gone lower

case. In another couple of issues the word may have disappeared completely, partly because the specifically CPC related advertising is being done so well by WACCI and others and I seem to have found my niche dealing with cross-format issues.

My other reason for writing is to let you know I am contacting Bob Miller to offer my support for attendance at some of the "All Formats" Fairs. Although I live in Cambs, I drive long distances as part of my job and nipping around to provide a WACCI presence at some of the shows at weekends should be no problem. I agree with Bob that a small team sharing the staffing and organisation is the way to provide coverage without it being too onerous.

Any questions we can't answer on the spot can be tackled afterwards through the membership and magazine and used as ways to keep in touch after the event. This is not a sneaky way to get my magazine into the act; my offer to help is WACCI-specific.

I am sorry to hear Clive is apparently being dropped off the free subscription list so soon. While a response from him would have been nice, and in former times would have been forthcoming as promptly as time allowed, I feel he has earned his right to be a passive member like many others. I know a lot happens behind the WACCI scenes without credit being given or sought, but part of the strength of the membership is that there are a lot of people who do not feel that they can contribute but take great pleasure and derive great benefit from just being 'consumers.' They may be right or wrong, but that's what they feel and they do help to keep the numbers up.

Am I the only one who still thinks Amstrad Action is good value for money? Not as good as it was in terms of its number of pages, and dropping the news page to put in that Christmas filler was a bit daft, but I still think three quid is fair enough for a monthly national magazine (in colour) on the CPC series, especially when there seems to be a genuine effort being made to use people involved in the CPC scene, rather than just jobbing journalists.

I could live without the covertape, but I don't throw it straight in the

bin. It has had some good stuff among the items which I don't find appealing to me. We should bear in mind it was introduced partly to justify a higher cover price and thereby keep Amstrad Action a sufficiently attractive item for the central buyers of the national news agents chain who have so much influence on what their branches stock, and how prominently each title is displayed. They look at (for example) 10,000 copies at 3.00 and obviously see that as being 10,000 better for their turnover than 10,000 at 2.00. Many of the letters I get are from users who do not have a national 'glossy' to cover their computers. Without a steady drip of the kind of intelligent, non-patronising, coverage the WACCI magazine provides for CPC owners they can feel very isolated now. Sorry if that sounds a bit of a sob story, but there are a lot of single people who use their machine as an interest to keep their grey cells active. And on that appreciation of all things WACCI....

Brian Watson
"Harrowden"
39 High Street
Sutton
ELY Cambs
CB6 2RA
Tel: 01353 777006

<<Dear Brian, thanks for taking the time to write, as one editor to another, I don't know how you manage to find it! Time that it, I know where everything else that I like is but time I can't find.

Sorry that 8BIT MART came out as 8BIT MARK last issue. I can't even claim the "T" and "K" keys are next door on the keyboard. I did, of course, realise my mistook when a few hundred WACCI's had been printed. I don't claim to be perfect and certainly only do this job for the love of WACCI. If you can put up with my mistooks then I'll put up with the long hours.

I'm pleased 8BIT is doing well and I feel the review on page 22 should help convince those who don't take it to do just that. Good luck with it Brian.

For members benefit, Brian gives WACCI a free half page spot in 8BIT and Brian has asked me for a new advert for Club. I haven't the time to do one - could anyone out there give

me a hand with such matters?

I'm very encouraged by your offer of help for All Format shows, keep all of informed of progress please.

Amstrad Action is a magazine that WACCI members should support if they wish to see their favourite computer receiving the support, national and international, that it deserves. Remember that WACCI isn't news stand material and never will be.

Keep up the good work Brian, it's always a pleasure to hear from you. I know our paths will cross during the year and I look forward to meeting you. -Paul>>

BORROWED TIME

Dear Paul, thank you for sending me the sample magazine; as a retired person with no interest in games, it seems to be the ideal magazine for my interest. I enclose a cheque for twelve issues and would be grateful if you could start with the January issue. <<Welcome Michael. -Angie>>

Having just acquired a 3.5" 2nd drive and being quite satisfied with it's performance I am puzzled by the reference in your magazine to a 'side switch'. Do I need to get one and if I do need to, what exactly does it do?

I have borrowed and enjoyed the December and January issues of WACCI, also your excellent index; in David Crookes P.D world there is a reference to the MULTIARC disc archiver, I have been through the index from cover to cover but cannot find it listed anywhere.

With reference to using Endorsing Ink as a ribbon refresh I have used it for many years but every alternate refresh I use WD40 only, this has the effect (I hope) of cleaning and lubricating the head. When using the Endorsing Ink I apply 3 drops ONLY to the pad, then leave 24 hrs before using, this allows the ink to soak into the whole pad and by running a full A4 sheet through the ink evens out very well. My printer is a DMP 2160 and is in daily use.

Finally may I congratulate all of you for a very good and informative magazine. Yours Sincerely,

Michael Gushlow
Essex

<<Dear Michael, as Angie has already said, welcome to the world of WACCI.

We are not a gigantic, enormous club but one of sufficient enough size to cater for all members needs. I'll stop rambling on and address your letter - I do get (and sometimes need to be) carried away.

The question of a 3.5" drive and a side switch is one that keeps coming up. The answer is yes you do but no you don't. Oh dear, that's not too helpful is it. To quickly explain. The 3.5" drive was designed for P(oor) C(omputer)s and they, unlike the CPC 3" drive, are double sided drives. You have to physically turn the 3" disc over in drive but the 3.5" drive has two reading heads and, therefore, needs no turning.

The astute amongst you will now all be crying "yep the 3" drive only has one head" and, of course, they will all be right.

On a CPC you can use a 3.5" drive in two ways, hence the yes/no answer to your question. I assume you use a big DOS system (ROMDOS/PARADOS etc) and find it simply wonderful so what's all the fuss about side switches. Well, as I'm sure you know, you can format a 3.5" disc to the standard 180k AMSDOS format. If you haven't got a side switch then you can only use one side of the disc as AMSDOS thinks you only have one head (not the one on your shoulders silly.)

The upshot of this is blindingly obvious or maybe its not. WACCI will provide (we are getting are act into gear, really) PD on 3.5" discs in AMSDOS format. Not got a side switch? Well you then need two three inch discs instead of one.

Another example, one that fits the way I work, is backing up your work discs. When laying out WACCI I use both my 3" and 3.5" drives. The text files are kept on 3" and the DR (Microdesign+) files are stored on 3.5" discs. To back up I simply DISCCOPY (a Utopia command) from a: to b: and vice versa. When I turn the 3" text disc over, I flip the side switch on drive b: and all works fine. I know you will say I can copy to a 800k 3.5" disc but working in Protext, with Promerge and Utopia to hand, then this is MY preferred way of doing things.

My last example, gosh did I say this would be quick, is backing up the PD library discs. No side switch equals twice the number of discs.

You might not need one but some folk clearly do.

Now to MULTIARC. You are so right to state that it is not in the PD library but that is just about to change. John Bowley, the Master, has obtained a copy and it will be on a PD disc near you soon. It's rather sad that the success of the Index actually shows up weaknesses but I actually rate that as a success.

If you have had some considerably success with endorsing ink and WD40 then why change anything. I'm afraid that on it's own endorsing ink will clog the print head. Obviously the WD40 keeps things going but why take a risk when you buy the real thing in a can called Re-ink. -Paul>>

BACK-ISS

Dear Paul, please find enclosed a cheque for one year's subs.

With regards to the comments made about back dated issues (the rare ones I mean) I am short of quite a few. I do have limited access to a photocopier at times and if anyone would be willing I would send them the postage for originals, photocopy two copies, keep one and return original and one copy. By this method stocks could be slowly built up. Especially if other members could do the same. Keep up the good work, I shall miss not seeing you now that we don't do the All Formats Fairs. Best wishes.

Jim Haves
Manchester

<<Hi Jim, Paul has passed your letter for me to deal with the back-issue aspect whilst he himself deals with membership matters. Your offer to photocopy, as the opportunity arises, selected magazines for the benefit of Wacci funds is a very good one and will certainly lead to the welcome availability of those particular back issues; many thanks. If you would contact me when you are ready we can discuss the arrangements. -Frank>>

<<Hi there Jim, I hope by now the arrangements are in place and you are enjoying some rare back issues.

We are not giving up on the All Format Shows just yet as quite a lot of keen interest has been shown. Fingers crossed all works okay and WACCI is back at the shows. -Paul>>

TATTY-BYE-TIME

Dear Angie, I regret to admit that I too have succumbed to the dreadful PC bug which can give one fearful headaches as well as a severe pain in the region of the rear pocket!! I have been a keen fan of the WACCI club since Issue No 40. Now 69 years old I have been unable to assist in the various 'jobs' which have fallen vacant on the WACCI 'staff' but I have very much appreciated those who did. The quality of WACCI was able to survive the niggardly spelling of Uncle Clive but his meanings were always clear and have been of assistance to us all, as have been the many contributors in whatever capacity over the years.

Unfortunately the time has come to inform you that I shall not be renewing my subscription which is due shortly. As often happens when one changes machinery the old and true remains as faithful and useful as ever, but superfluous, so could you find some space, perhaps in Market Stall, for the accompanying advertisement. <<Consider it done Les and sorry to lose you but hope you enjoy your PC.- Angie.>> I close wishing WACCI and all it's members good luck and a long future yet. Thanks for many a good chortle.

Les Ireland
Taunton

<<Dear Les, there are many names on the members mailing list that never appear in the magazine. As Brian Watson said not long ago (or should I say a few column inches ago) just being a members perfectly okay. It sounds like you enjoyed your stay with WACCI, it's a pity that there is no PC-WACCI, or is there?

Live long and prosper in the P(oor) C(omputer) land and may your Windows always be clean (or v3.1) -Paul>>

DISC DRIVE BELTS AGAIN

Dear Paul, regarding the numerous letters about the disc drive belts, the address we were after, for the belts, was actually in 8Bit Mart.

Mr R Fields of Computer Bits, 95B Cavendish Place, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3TZ Tel: 01232 646660, has commissioned a manufacturing run for drive belts for all CPC drives, because there are different types. If

you get in contact with him to buy any, be ready to say what sort of computer or drive you have. We though this may be of interest to you and members of WACCI. You can print this letter if you like. It would be nice if you recognise the fact that it was in 8BIT Mart first.

I have been speaking to Angie Hardwick and you can count on us to go to the convention, we are bring a 6128 Plus, as requested by Angie. I have also been able to get a bit in AA for you on the convention and about joining WACCI in general. I hope this pleases you. Yours Sincerely,

Angela and Arthur Cook
West Sussex

<<Thanks Angela for your support and I would like to mention to our readers and Angela and Arthur can help with items for the CPC and others that you may need, if you send her a first class stamp she will let you have a list of all those items she has for sale. -Angie>>

<<Hello Angela and Arthur, its a bit strange getting the same letter from two people but is was on the same piece of paper so I suppose it's okay. Thanks for the information on the drive belts, WACCI must have the most comprehensive data on this subject now as over the last six months a steady picture has built up on this common type of drive problem. Thanks also for the plugs you are giving in Amstrad Action for the club, it can only strengthen WACCI's growing membership further. It certainly pleases me greatly. -Paul>>

SIDE SWITCHES

Dear Angie, following my article that appeared in Issue 86 on side switches in the Fair Comment section I forgot, as Paul rightly pointed out, to mention how I mounted the side switch,so here goes. The switch I have fitted into a little box and fixed it to the side of the drive with a couple of self tapping screws, from there I have wired from the switch onto the cable as cable No 31 had to be cut as per the drawing and the wire to cable No.33 is piggy backed by soldering on top of No.33. I have been able to get some Insulating Tape almost the same colour as the cable so that tidied up

the cable. Paul asked about the 'Hard Stuff' series, although most of it was written by than man CRAVEN, they were good series that he did for Amstrad Action and Amstrad Computer User. I think they make interesting reading, so for me it is a YES, dif up the series and re-review them. Regards,

Dave Stitson
Plymouth

<<I will do the typing if you want Paul. -Angie>>

<<Dear Dave, Thanks for the update on the side switch on a Siren Drive.

With regard to the Hard Stuff series I was really looking for dissent against the idea. I wouldn't run the series if it would upset any members. Thanks for the support for it and for offering to help. WACCI has a WACCI REVISITED officer by the name of Richard Duggan. I shall put the matter in hand and I'll also make use of those magic typing skills that Angie possesses.

Dave has asked me to thank Martin Bella for helping him out with a little problem he had. -Paul>>

RUN"DISC
Dear Angie, Martin Bella's letter (WACCI 86) shows how to program a function key to RUN "DISC.

The following runs a disc without any programming of function keys.

1/ Type the Program Name
2/ Press CONTROL & UP ARROW together
3/ Press CONTROL and ENTER together

This works on my 6128 I don't know about other models. Kind Regards,

John Shaw
Walgrave-on-Thames

<<Hi John, I use Control and Enter on my 6128 to get RUN"DISC but I do have a ROMBOX attached and I think it only works if you have a ROMBOX with the Arnor suite of Roms. -Angie>>

ROUTE MASTER
Hello again Angie, Just a line to confirm my interest in the WACCI Convention that you propose holding in Sept 95. *<<Not proposed any more it's definite and on Sunday 24th September 10.am to 4.00pm. -Angie.>>* I will require two tickets at present as my

other half would also like to attend and maybe, just maybe she may enjoy it as a new experience. I have the facilities *<<I think there's a bit missing here Angie? -Paul>>* to Walsall city as per the Automobile Association type but without the latest road works of course. If any member would like a copy from their home town to the outskirts of Walsall I would be happy to offer this service for the cost of one second class stamp and a SAE.

As a mother you will no doubt have used Baby Wipes for the purpose they were intended, but did you know that they are very good for cleaning Computer Keyboards and monitors. I'll not mention the obvious on how the keys feel to the touch after this? Many thanks, hope to see you in September.

Ernie Ruddick
Cleveland

<<Ernie enclosed a copy of AutoRoute V1.2 with this letter and I can understand it so it must be good!! I shall make no comment about the Baby wipes except to say they smell really yummy. -Angie>>

<<Hello Ernie, good the hear we will be seeing you in September. I think what you sent to Angie was a printout from the P(oor) C(omputer) program AutoRoute. It is an exceptional useful program and I can see why Richard Fairhurst wrote Route Planner for the CPC. There will be a review of Route Planner in the next issue.

Thanks for offering the route planning service, perhaps if you sent me a printout I could show members next month what the output is like.

Anyone got any unusual uses for baby wipes? Do tell all. -Paul>>

IDEAS AND THINGS
Dear Angie/Paul, the plea in WACCI 86 was too much for me to ignore!! Please count me in for the Great WACCI Convention of 1995. I was one of the few hardy (foolish?) souls to put their name down at the previous time of asking.

A couple of things I'd like to see covered (as I mentioned that time): hardware - maybe a workshop on what odds and ends can be made at home (Not involving squeezy bottles): and comms (modems, bulletin boards, etc).

I'd be very happy to have lunch organised, but, so long as it's just a Sunday, I'd imagine leaving my family at home and travelling up the M5 in the morning and back at close of play - so accommodation wouldn't be needed. I'm quite willing to pay up to £10.00 for the privilege of being an attendee...

On to other matters. I must thank Angie for returning a call about Fun School programs available in the Market Stall. One day I'll get around to doing something (by which time maybe the kids will be grown up).

I must also thank Lawrence Saunders for getting hold of probably the last Maplin ROMBOX in the country. It arrived ready assembled, so I could (temporarily at least) put my soldering iron away. It had an enormous piece of ribbon cable for some extra expansion of some sort, this I quickly removed in case it was picking up noise. I have fitted a disable switch and fully decoded 3 bits, leading to all ROMs appearing in duplicate (details from me, if anyone's interested); but even that nice Peter Campbell couldn't help get PARADOS working in slot 7. It works fine in slot 6 though!

I am now the proud owner of Protext, etc on ROM (and Microdesign+, although there still seems to be a problem with my innate lack of artistic ability..) HELP! Does anyone know of the availability of various pieces of music as Advanced Music System files? I have a memory that someone was thinking of donating them to the WACCI collection, but I have seen no more (I have AMS, but no innate musical ability, either...!)

Must go now.. but first I ought to thank all the 'new crew' for pulling together. I hope eventually to be able to contribute something to the club in order to put back what I've taken out, but probably not until the kids are a bit older. *<<Don't wait Dave, take it from me they get no better!! -Angie>>* Yours Sincerely,

Dave Teague
Cheltenham

<<Thanks for the support Dave I've taken on board your suggestions: ANY VOLUNTEER'S? and put your tenna away the price of a ticket will be free to all members. -Angie>>

STEAL YOUR THUNDER?

Hello Paul, does the weather affect computers? There was this long football program that I had on tape. I use it weekly to update the teams and I've had no trouble in loading up the tape, until last week, there was thunder in the air and I kept on having flashes across the screen and my program would load up OK.

Then I got a 'Memory Full' error which I couldn't understand, as I've never had this before. I tried several times to load it but I got 'Memory Full' every time. How do you break into a program that's 'Memory Full'? So I thought I'd lost all that work, even my back up tape was the same 'Memory Full'.

Then the other night the weather was fine and warm and I was searching through my tapes for a program, but couldn't find it, then I put on my Football Pools tape and low and behold there were my teams. I hadn't lost it at all - but I am still very puzzled as to how and the only thing that I can come up with is that computers are affected by thunder. Yours Sincerely,
Nora Lees
Birmingham

《Hello Nora, gosh what strange time you have been having. There are certain things you shouldn't do in a thunder storm and it appears computing is on of them.

Electrical matters leave me a bit cold so I throw it open to the learned WACCI readership for the definative answer. I'm sure it will come.

Have you had any luck will the pools utilising the computer? -Paul》

A DICKY DRIVE?

Dear Paul, Angie, I'm having great difficulty in getting ROMDOS to work with my 3.5" drive and therefore I won't be able to offer PD stuff on D20 format for awhile yet. I thought that I would write with the full gory details, and if anybody recognises the symptoms, they might be able to suggest the cure.

First, just to be clear, the setup is - 6128 with internal 3" drive A, and external 3.5" drive B. 3.5" is a YE-DATA 645B1545B-D, with a homemade connector, power supply and side switch.

Well basically, I can use either the RAMDOS formatter or MAXIDOS to format a 2 side x 80 track x 10 sector x 512 byte disk (D20 format). I can also use MAXIDOS to very tediously verify each and every disk block and tell me its okay. So far, so good. When I use MAXIDOS to copy the contents of an ordinary disk to said D20 disk, I get read and write errors on disk B, fairly randomly, as far as I can tell. ROMDOS doesn't seem to have a copy facility, but if I just try and create some files using ROMDOS on drive B, I get the same problem.

What have I tried, I've removed all extraneous hardware, I've physically switched off all roms. I've even removed the disk side switch. All make no difference. Telling MAXIDOS that its a slow drive also makes no difference. The other ROMDOS formats, seem to have the same problem, including the single sided ones. I even tried using it with CP/M, but it didn't improve. On the other hand the drive happily uses several other formats - AMSDOS is okay, MAGIDOS (PD disk 68) is a 1 side x 82 track x 10 sector x 512 byte format and is okay. I can read, write and format 720k double sided PCDOS disks. I can also use MULTIARC to dump both sides of a 3" to one side of an 80 track 3.5", as reviewed in November's WACCI.

I think that I can recommend this as a method of PD distribution. It has the advantage that, since the archive of the first 3" side is accessible to AMSDOS, an auto unarchiver is easily achievable, without the user having to have any other software. So, can anyone out there help? Please write or give me a ring.

I've had a few queries about CPC emulator, saying how do you get it to print things? I think this is a case of RYFM. All printer output is directed to a file PRINTER in the directory specified by TAPE-PATH in the start up file (by default this path is 'TAPE'). This doesn't actually print anything out - to do that you have to back out into DOS and use eg the COPY command to send that the file to the printer e.g.

COPY TAPE\PRINTER /b lpt1

Consult yer DOS manual for details of COPY and yer CPCEMU manual (on disk) for details of how to direct that printer output somewhere else. My sources tell me that the /b option is useful and tells DOS something like - "don't try and be clever, just print the whole file exactly as it is without page breaks and end-of-file characters etc". I've only tried this printing stuff from BASIC and PROTEXT, but can't see why any other prog should have problems. If this still doesn't help with printing from MASTERFILE I'm sure people will let us know. Can I finally say ta very much to Jeff Palmer, who, reading my last begging letter in WACCI, sent me a (legitimate) copy of Microdesign. I can now see what all that clipart actually look like. Thanks Jeff.
Stuart Gascoigne
Bristol

《Hi there Stuart, sounds like this one has certainly been driving you up the wall. Stuart did have a word with me and whilst we may have eliminated some possible candidates we could find a solution.

Since Stuart has tried RAMDOS, as well as ROMDOS, it can't be the ROM. Because MAGIDOS can do it to one side, why can't ROMDOS do it to two?

The only solution I can think of is to hook up another 3.5" drive to Stuart's setup and give that a try. To that end I have purchased a second hand 3.5" drive that can be used by PD librarians should a drive fail. If no other solution is forthcoming then I'll send the drive down to Stuart.

I know John Bowley has a copy of MULTIARC now and he too is impressed with it. I think the club will be putting it to good use soon.

Thanks for sorting out the CPCEMU problem and for those of you who don't know RYFM stands for:

Read Your Flipping Manual》

*or at least that is how I understand
it. They made be other versions.*

*It appears that your begging letters
work so one from me follows. -Paul>>*

A REAL NEEDY CASE
Dear members, I'm desperately short of
articles, features, stories, jokes and
a holiday in the Caribbean.

Paul Dwerryhouse

<<I'm waiting! -Paul>>

A DEFINITE
Dear Paul, the first point in my
writing to you is to tell you of my
slight change of address. This is I
think because some of my neighbours
thought it sounded like a Caravan park
(which it is!) and applied for a
change - personally I couldn't care
less as long as the mail gets here!

Secondly, great to read that there
is a chance of a convention in the
Autumn, please put me down as a
definite. <<Have done. Angie>> I
really would like to put faces to some
of the members who have contributed so
much to my enjoyment of the CPC over
the last few years. In actual fact I
have only met Clive, at a couple of
computer fairs and will look forward
to a chat with some more of the gang.

I also feel that I should add my
thoughts on AA to those of Alan
Tilling. I have been a postal
subscriber since about issue 10 and
have never found it to be particularly
my 'cup of tea' because I am not at
all games minded. Several times I
decided to save my money but I always
renewed because I felt that it was
fast becoming (and now is) the last of
the commercial CPC mags. The actual
content has to my mind improved over
the last months, but to be presented
with a poorish tape of programs with
what it little more than an
accompanying pamphlet at a cover price
of £2.95 seems poor value for money. I
have written to AA along these lines
but have not yet had any reply. It is
obviously difficult to keep a mag
going in view of low membership and
lack of advertising, but I feel that
my loyalty may not survive another
subscription since I too have a
limited amount of 'spare money'.

Lastly, there has been a lot of good
things said about Parados recently,
may I add to them. As yet I cannot

fault it, but of course it will not
run in the ROM 7 position on my
6128. One day I will get a spare
keyboard and have a shot at replacing
the AMSDOS ROM with it, maybe! Again
many thanks for the good work, and I
do hope the convention goes ahead,
maybe we will meet there. Yours.

Roy Nicholls
Petersfields

*<Dear Roy, isn't it comforting to
know that we will have that chance to
all meet up and have a great big
chinwag about all things CPC and maybe
we'll put the world to rights as well.
All four of us from my family will be
coming and we shall stay the
Saturday night over in Walsall for a
fresh start on Sunday morning.*

*Your address has been duly changed
on the members mailing list.*

*Thanks for your views on AA. I feel
there are an awful lot of members
who would loyally support AA if it
gave them half a chance. It would only
need a few more pages. I shall
certainly keep buying it as its days
are numbered no matter what WACCI
members do.*

*Parados seems to have really taken
off, I must dip in and get myself a
copy. At least I'll know what slot to
drop it into and then I can sit back
and wonder at it. -Paul>>*

HELP REQUIRED - MIDI EDITOR
Dear Paul, Where can I find a MIDI
Editor program? Is it available on one
of the PD Circuits, if so, which one?
Alas, not in the WACCI PD Index. The
next question is, will it run on the
6128? I have music on 3.5" discs which
I need to edit NOT play, that is the
reason for the program. Any help
regarding MIDI Editors will be
gratefully received.

Wally Collinson
Gloucester
Tel: 01242 514234

*<<Hello Wally, thanks for the query,
not too sure I can help here. Indeed,
I don't know if you have given enough
details for a member to help you. For
instance, you don't say what format
these music files are in.*

*I hope someone can help, maybe
Stephen Phillips will come speeding to
your rescue. Let's wait and see what
happens. -Paul>>*

PD 3.5" DISCS
Dear Paul, Reading last months issue
of Fair Comment, Mark Stewart, from
Belper mentioned about providing a
small program when run would copy 2 x
3" onto a 3.5" disc, if a member had a
side switch, 4 x 3" disc sides onto a
3.5" disc.

Well there is such a program that
can format in either Data or System,
the 80 tracks, then copy one side of a
3" disc onto a 3.5" disc, you are then
prompted to insert the second 3" side
and it will copy that onto the other
41 - 80 tracks.

The said program was reviewed by
David Crookes in Issue 83 (four into
one will go). I use it myself and find
that using Data/System to transfer PD
onto is the best as then the member
can transfer them back using the
program onto whatever format they
want, the program and the DOC file
takes up 8k, I just thought you may
like to know about this program if
dare, I say it, you didn't read
David's review.

Thanks for your letter on the 15th,
to all PD Librarians, I will leave it
up to Doug Webb as to when he wants to
transfer Homegrown and PD 1-18 disc's,
I am ready to go. Regards,

Dave Stitson
Plymouth

*<<Hello again Dave, you too have seen
the light over MULTIARC. I find it
reassuring to hear the same thing from
many sources, much like Parados.*

*I not only read David's review but
laid it out for the magazine. I'm the
WACCI bod that concentrates on
subscriptions and editing the
magazine, others have resposibilities
for different areas of the club. I may
take on a central coordinating role
for most aspects of club life but I'm
not going to get involved in the
nitty-gritty side of them.*

*If the librarians agree on a way
forward with D20 discs, whether it
includes MULTIARC or not, will not
really be a matter for me. All I'm
going to look at is the service
provided and the costs involved*

*John Bowley is well advanced in
sorting the complete PD and Homegrown
libraries out so expect to hear from
him soon Dave. Soon problems have
risen there ugly heads but John is
sorting them out. -Paul>>*

AS QUIET AS A MOUSE

Dear Mr.Dwerryhouse, I do not think I have seen any article anywhere (including the WACCI index) on the pros and cons of the use of a mouse. If it can be used for other purposes besides "drawing" then I might be interested in buying one secondhand with interface and mat as my computer table has a rough surface.

I have Advanced Art Studio OCL program (brought cheap!) but find it is desperately slow though I have not persevered with it (not even done the worked example in the manual!) as I have never been interested in drawings.

I think you are aware that I cannot type! So the numeric key pad is set up to avoid having to press two keys together as much as possible! I can do it, but avoid if I can by the use of several short programs. Being heavy handed, I prefer the 464 keyboard, there is more space between the numeric keys and the main keyboard, also they all need a "push" instead of a "touch". However my ROM board and printer are attached to the 6128, so use that machine for letters etc., and SPEED KEY if I cannot manage!

All the above brings me back to the beginning - if a mouse can take the place of a keypress (such as the arrow or COPY or other keys) then it might help with the control or entry to my "sea" programs. From the adverts, the DATEL product has two buttons whereas the AMX seems to have three. What is the difference? Can one be used with an unsteady hand? If interested, can it be bought from the Market Stall?

I am useless on the telephone (we have one for the hard of hearing with a flashing light as well as a bell, which is of use only it lights when passing!) An article or comments in due course will be much appreciated. *<<I have noted your question regarding the Market Stall and I have put a wanted note on my records. If I get an advert for a mouse I'll drop you a note. -Angie>>*

On the subject of a convention, at age 85 this year, I would be too old to attend anyway but I agree in principle to a "get together" if the members wish it. Yours sincerely,

D S Anthes
Bridport
Dorset

<<Dear Mr Anthes, I know you like to keep life a little formal, so I will too. Thank you for the letter, it raises a very interesting subject.

I've no little rodent hooked up to my 6128 so I can't comment on the usefulness of a mouse on a CPC. Would some kind soul, who uses a mouse and finds them the meaning of life, write a letter/article on the subject. Whilst I suspect that the chief use of a mouse is for drawing, what else can you use them for. What software supports them, how easy is it to read the input from them into a Basic program? What's the basic different between two and three button models. I'm aware of the usefulness of a mouse when used on a P(oor) C(omputer) and what each button does but I don't know how that translates into the CPC world so I'll say nothing.

I realise that many members will not be able to attend the convention for one reason or another but we shall raise a glass to absent friends and who knows - a second covention? Take care of yourself. -Paul>>

HARD TO WEAR

Dear Mike, can someone explain why ROMs need to be switched off? I have been led to believe it's due to the sign on messages, if this is so can these sign on messages be removed from the ROMs?

For some time I have been thinking of an a upgrade board for the CPC, If you observe the CPC's circuit board near the edge connections you will notice a double line of holes, these will take Centronics connectors as per the CPC plus or ribbon cable connectors. My idea is to use a ribbon connector to connect to an internal PCB fixed to the under side of the keyboard. Such an add on board would start with ROMs, a serial port and a hardware 8th bit for the printer (i.e. no extra software to run it), following this almost anything could be added such as a SCSI interface, an I/C interface etc.

I have already done a lot of work on an I/C interface and to finish it I only need some one to do the software. Obviously it would take a lot of work to realise such a project and I would like to know if any body in WACCI is interested in setting up a group to work on this.

For those that don't know an SCSI interface is an 8 bit interface that can support 7 external devices such as hard drives, tape steamers and CD optical drives, for the sceptical an SCSI interface is already available for the BBC computer. An I/C interface connects to a serial bus of only 3 wires and is capable of networking with many I/C devices (IC's) such as 8 bit bi directional ports, A>D, D>A, telephone dialling, telletext, Led display, serial Ram/ROMs and real time clock chips to mention just a few of the literally hundreds of chips that are available for this bus.

Now on to some general information for fellow Waccites, re. the John Morrison PCB designer cartridge, John Morrison products can be contacted at 4 Rein Gdns, Tingley, West Yorkshire, WF3 1JR. 0532-537507 and I am told they can still supply most of their older products.

As for those looking for a ROM board, the cirkit ROM board is still available, Cirkit tell me that it's out of stock but not discontinued. Cirkit 0992 441306. They also still do a serial and a parallel/ 8 bit printer cards for the CPC.

Lastly Much thanks to all at Wacci for keeping the CPC alive. Yours CPCly Waccily etc.

AJ Howard
Kent

<<Dear Andre, thanks for the letter. Members will note that it starts off Dear Mike. This is one of a batch that Mike has sent down to me to sort out. If you sent a letter to Mike then please be patience with me and I'll get it sorted out for next issue.

Your letter goes straight over my head in the technical side but I fully understand the goal you are aiming for. I also know that WACCI members have a considerable depth of knowledge when it comes to the CPC, so I bet a "working group" is a possibility.

There will be a hardware series starting soon in WACCI written by Paul Collins. It will cover such things as a PD ROM board, an ABBA switch, a disc drive side switch and an internal disc ROM disable switch. Paul might be interested in your letter for one. As the bottom of the page is looming up on me I'll close. -Paul>>

VERY BASIC BASIC

Written by Alan Tilling

You typed in last month's proglets, rushed off to the National Lottery office and what did you find? The numbers were not only random but they were also out of order. ((They also didn't win any money for WACCI members. -Paul))

ALL SORTS

Over the last few issues, Stuart Gascoine has been expounding the whys and wherefores of sorting programs. So have a look at page 19 of issue 81 and there is just what is needed for the Natlot program. A Bubble sort is just the ticket for our porposes. The quantity of numbers to sort is short and the program is easy to explain. I don't intend to explain it much because Stuart did so only a few months back. However I will go through the adaptation to our program.

BUT FIRST

When the machine is "calculating" the random numbers, XX appears in the relevant window. This was done to make it appear as if numbers were flashing by (like a tape counter on a cassette recorder). Unfortunately XX doesn't look like a number. To make it appear so, I wanted to flash up one number then have it replaced by another. Originally 370 just printed XX in the window and that was it over with. Line 370 is within the "effect" loop so this meant there was a counter available. Every time the loop was passed through, the variable "effect" had one added to its value. So by using effect as a number it could be checked to see if it was an odd number or an even number and flash a number as appropriate. But how to check it?

If you divide a number by 2 and there is no remainder, then the number must have been an even number. The command effect MOD 2 means divide (the

---

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Estimated Jackpot
7 Million

A 9 17 32 36 42 44

SAT28 JAN 95
FOR 01 DRAW

010529   £ 1.00

RET NO.   101425
028-03656099-16458

---

value of) effect by 2 and only give the remainder. Now if there is no remainder the number was (is) even, if there is then it's odd hence this line causes one number to be printed then the other then the original etc.

Bye the way, if you want to speed the job up a little, reduce the 100 in line 320. For testing purposes, I made it 10.

Once all six numbers are available they need to be sorted into order so

in between the printing of the numbers and the "Best of Luck" message, the bubble sort routine is inserted. Because I'm keeping to the original line numbers, there isnt enough room to insert the sub-routine in the main listing. Line 425 is a gosub to line 1000. (Gosubs to sub-routines is a preferred way of programming anyway.) When line 1000 is found, it is seen to be the start of the sort routine. Notice that it's an "empty" line. Why? Basic sees the colon (:) and then skips the line allowing the title in 1010 to stand out.

OUT OF SORTS

Have a look at Stuart Gascoigne's article on page 19 of WACCI issue 81. Lines 1030 to 1070 appear as lines 220 to 270 in Stuart's program 2. His article also contains a description of the routine so I will leave this bit at that.

THE FINAL FRONTIER

As soon as the sort is complete control goes back to the main listing and then off to 2000. The first thing to happen is the screen is cleared in 2030 then a message is displayed in the same way as 150 and 160 but note SPACE$(22). This is an easy way of printing multiple spaces. The 22 is literally the number of spaces required. The rest of the routine is similar to 320 to 410 execpt that 370 is no longer required. Once the sorted numbers have been printed, the main listing is rejoined and the computer says "Best of luck". So what can I say but Best of Luck.

((Please see the next page for the full listing. Will you win? -Paul))
See you next month........ Bye..... Alan

THE OFFICAL WACCI NATIONAL LOTTERY PROGRAM

ALL WINNINGS MADE BY USE OF THIS PROGRAM MUST BE

SPLIT 50/50 WITH ALAN TILLING
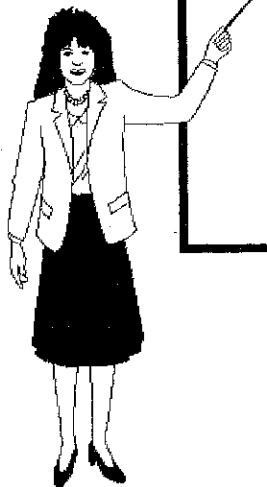
(c) AT & WACCI

```
  1 GOTO 3
  2 SAVE"natlot.",a:STOP
  3 ON BREAK GOSUB 2170
 10 :
 20 REM National Lottery
 30 :
 40 REM Initialisation
 50 :
 60 INK 0,0:INK 1,26:INK 3,0,26:BORDER 0:MODE 0
 70 WHILE d<7
 80   display(d)=80+d
 90   d=d+1
100 WEND
105 flag=0:top=9
110 :
120 REM main loop
130 :
140 RANDOMIZE TIME
150 LOCATE 6,2
160 PRINT"Working..."
170 FOR x=1 TO 6
180   posn=x*3-1
190   number=INT(RND*49+1)
200   display(x)=number
210   :
220   REM  Duplicate check
230   :
240   IF display(1)-display(2)=0 THEN x=x-1:GOTO 410
250   IF display(1)-display(3)=0 OR
      display(2)-display(3)=0 THEN x=x-1:GOTO 410
260   IF display(1)-display(4)=0 OR display(2)-
      display(4)=0 OR display(3)-display(4)=0 THEN
      x=x-1:GOTO 410
270   IF display(1)-display(6)=0 OR display(2)-
      display(6)=0 OR display(3)-display(6)=0 OR
      display(4)-display(6)=0 OR display(5)-display(6)=0
      THEN x=x-1:GOTO 410
280   IF display(1)-display(5)=0 OR
      display(2)-display(5)=0 OR display(3)-display(5)=0
      OR display(4)-display(5)=0 THEN x=x-1:GOTO 410
290   :
300   REM Screen set up
310   :
320   FOR effect=0 TO 100
330     WINDOW #x,posn,posn+2,top,top+2
340     PAPER#x,x+5
350     CLS #x
360     LOCATE #x,2,2
```

```
370     IF effect MOD 2=0 THEN PRINT#x,"37" ELSE
        PRINT#x,"10"
380   NEXT effect
390   PEN#x,3
400   PRINT#x,display(x)
410 NEXT x
420 FOR delay=1 TO 100:NEXT
422 flag=1
425 GOSUB 1000
426 GOSUB 2000
430 LOCATE 3,22
440 PRINT"The Best of Luck"
450 PRINT CHR$(7)
460 CALL &BB18
470 END
1000 :
1010 REM Bubble Sort
1020 :
1030 FOR i=1 TO 6
1040   FOR j=1 TO 5
1050   IF display(j)>display(j+1) THEN
       b=display(j+1):display(j+1)=display(j):display(j)=b
1060   NEXT j
1070 NEXT i
1080 RETURN
2000 :
2010 REM print sorted numbers
2020 :
2030 CLS
2040 LOCATE 6,2
2050 PRINT"One moment please,":PRINT
     SPACE$(22):PRINT"sorting numbers..."
2060 FOR delay=0 TO 1000:NEXT
2070 CLS:PRINT"The winning numbers are..."
2080 FOR x=1 TO 6
2090   posn=x*3-1
2100   WINDOW #x,posn,posn+2,top,top+2
2110   PAPER#x,x+5
2120   CLS #x
2130   LOCATE #x,2,2
2140   PRINT#x,display(x)
2150 NEXT x
2160 RETURN
2170 INK 0,0:INK 1,18:BORDER 0:MODE 2:LIST
```

19 26 29 37 44 46

The Market Stall

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* WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED *

MIKE BROWN WANTS:
RS232 Centronics Printer face and
80 Track 3" Disc Drive also Spell
Checker for 8256 please. Contact
MIKE on Tel No: 0121-522-6061

ANDRE HOWARD 65, Altyre Way,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 3ED WANTS the help
of a WACCI member for MICROTEXT
ADAPTOR AND ROM - ALL EXPENSES
WILL BE PAID.

ERNIE RUDDICK WANTS:
3.5" X 1.44M Internal 720K Disc Drive
for Amstrad PC 1640 suitable XT's and
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and Mounting kit. TEL: 0642 783772.

***** FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE *****

FOR SALE:
MSDOS V3.3 on 3.5" disc complete with
manual and MS WINDOWS v2.0 on 3.5"
disc complete with manual no
reasonable offer refused. PLEASE
CONTACT: DOUG WEBB, 4,Lindsay
Drive, Chorley, Lancs PR7 2QL
Tel: 0257 263866

FOR SALE:

Tasword 464 (disk)	£5.00
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O-Level Physics Revision(Tape)	£4.00
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	£4.00
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all the above includes ring binder &
presentation Case.
GAMES SOFTWARE ON TAPE as follows:

North & South	£5.00
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	£2.00
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COMPILATION ON TAPE as follows:
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720o, Out Run, California Games) £3.00
Supreme Challenge (Elite,Starglider,
Tetris, The Sentinal, Ace II) £3.00
COMPLIATION ON DISC as follows:
The Hollywood Collection (Robocop,
Ghostbuster 2, Batman the Movie,
Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade £5.00
BUDGET SOFTWARE ON TAPE ALL AT 50p
EACH as follows:
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Angleball, Auf Wiedesehen Monty, BMX
Freeatyle, Bridge It, California
Games,Cobra, Combat School, Commando,
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Stalker, Feud, Footballer of the Year,
Fruit Machine, Harrier Attack, Jet Set
Willy, Kobyashi Naru, Megabucks, Oh
Mummy, Pub Trivia, Puzznic, Reckless
Rufus, Roland on the Ropes, Roland in
the Caves, Rugby Manager, Sabre Wulf,
Scalextric, Spitting Image, Sultan's
Maze, Super Trolley, Technocop,
Galactic Plaque, New Zealand Story,
Total Recall, Yes Prime Minister, Zub.
BUDGET GAMES ON TAPE ALL AT 75p as
follows:
Batman, Continental Circus (not 464),
Football Manager, Heroes of the Lance,
Hideous, Klax, Puffy's Saga, Quattro
Sports, Scrabble, W/Class Leaderboard

MAGAZINES:
Amstrad Computer User (July 1990,
August 1990, July 1991 - May 1992)
£1.00 ea or 75p for five or more.
CPC Attack (June 1992-November 1992)
£1.00 each or £5.00 for all of them.
CPC User (1993-April, June, August,
October, December. 1994 - February,
April, June.)
75p each of £4.00 for all of them.
Potential Difference (#2, 3)
40p each or 60p for both.
Artificial Intelligence (#3,4,5,6,
7,8) 50p each of £2.00 for all.
Computer Sales & Wants (#4) 50p
8BIT Mart (#2) 35p
All prices include UK p&p unless
otherwise stated cheques /postal
orders (£ Sterling only) to
Marcus Ruegg, 8 The Horse Park,
Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, Northern
Ireland BT38 7ED

ALSO:
80,000 WORD PROSPELL COMPATIBLE
DICTIONAY FOR AMSTRAD CPC 464, 664,
6128, 464+ 6128+. Send two blank 3"
discs, £1.00 towards copying and a
stampled self addressed padded
enverlope to MARCUS RUEGG at the above
address. Please note you must already
own a copy of prospell to be able to
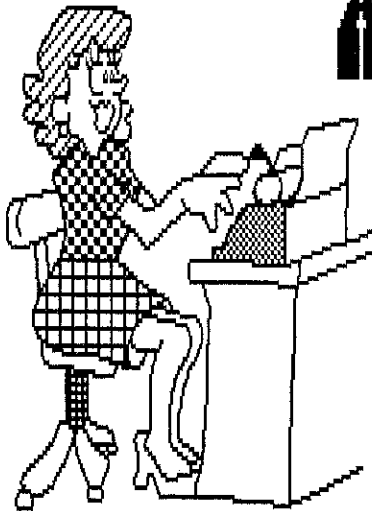use this dictionary.

FOR SALE:
SIREN RS232 Interface £10.00 Please
contact: Chris Grimley 4 Garenden Rd.
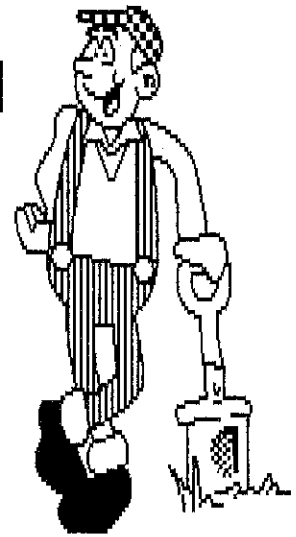Shepshed, Leicestershire LE12 9NX.

FOR SALE:
DD1-1ST DISC DRIVE with an interface
cable for the CPC 464. £50.00
Dave Stitson, Tel: 0752 254404

A Work Experience

Bob Moffatt

tries to review a printer but ends up with

more work than he bargained for.

Bob has been trying to buy a BJ 230 printer and review it for us while taking his son to work each day. The strain has clearly driven him towards sanity, this final article is almost coherent.
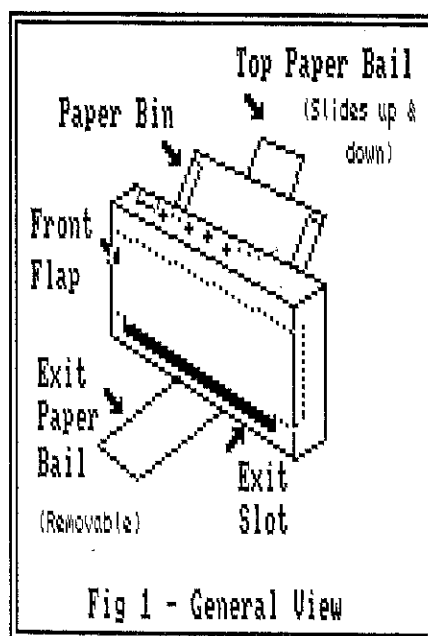
BOXING DAY

《You have used that heading before Bob, please refrain from boring readers by repetition. -Paul》 The box was *huge*. There seemed little chance that the printer would fit on the desk. It's only 1m 20cms wide and 60 cms deep and the computer has to sit in the middle because there are drawers on either side, fixing the place where I can sit. On the right of the computer I keep a 3.5" disc box, a mat for coffee cup and ash tray (I like to keep my discs in a homely environment). On the left hand side was the gap where my old BJ 10ex had been and room for a sheet of A4 to write on. (I am right handed but coffee and cigarettes are more important than writing when I'm sat at the computer.)

BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED

The packing was standard and was easily removed instinctively. The box contained the printer with built-in cut sheet feeder, power lead, a cartridge of ink, guarantee, manual, a paper collecting bail and two 3.5 inch discs - printer drivers for PCs (I presume) and a 'Truetype' font disc for Microsoft Windows v3.1. The latter I squirrelled away for the day when I buy a PC. *《Windows fonts are really wonderful, WACCI use them for article headers. They have been converted to MD+ format of course. -Paul》*

PENNY FARTHING

The printer is the now quite familiar 'sit up and beg' design. Paper (A4 portrait or landscape, or A3 portrait) fits in the sloping cut sheet feeder at the rear. The left hand side of the feeder slides from side to side to adjust for paper width. At the back of the paper bin is a paper bail to keep the paper flat. On the right hand side of the bin is a lever to adjust for normal paper or envelope thickness. Figure 1 shows the general outline of the printer.

Fig 1 - General View

ZIP-EE-DE DOO DAH

The top of the main printer body houses an access flap for the DIP switches (12 of them), the Power On Button and its LED, 3 other control buttons and four more indicator LEDs. There's a flap on the front surface which opens to reveal the ink cartridge and print head (combined - buy a new cartrdige, get a new print head, just like the BJ 10) and a lever to adjust the separation between the print head and the paper (for use with thick paper or envelopes). A quick DIP switch reference guide is embossed on the inside of the flap.
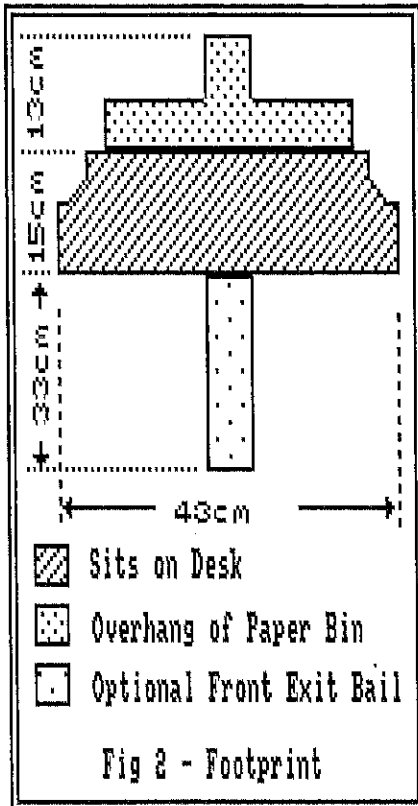
QUE?

The manual is in English only and is almost understandable. There is only one weird inconsistancy which I will touch on later.

BAIL ME OUT, SCOTTY

Now for the moment of truth. Would it fit on the desk? The printer is 43 cms wide. A footprint of the machine is shown in Figure 2. If you ignore the paper rest which slopes up and back from the paper bin (I let this overhang the back of the desk) the base of the printer is 15 cms deep. The result is that it fitted. There is a 33 cms paper exit bail which can be fitted as an optional extra - if you site the printer at the front of the desk and want to stop the paper dropping to the floor, but I've got 30cms of desk in front of the paper exit slot and so I have chosen not to fit the bail.

EASY PEASY JAPONESY

DIP switches are best adjusted with the power off so I chose to do that before wiring up. A glance at the manual told me there were two main modes - Epson LQ and BJ-10 mode. I set it up for BJ-10, after all that was the mode I used with the BJ-10ex. The DIP switches are easy to get at, (Figure 3 shows where they are) easy to see and no more difficult to move than any other DIP switch.

Fig 2 - Footprint

⊠ Sits on Desk

⊡ Overhang of Paper Bin

⊡ Optional Front Exit Bail

A LA MODE

It was then the work of a minute to plug in the printer lead and the mains lead, stuff some paper in the bin and power up. I did a trial print using the standard PROTEXT printer control codes. Consternation! Lots of fonts seemed to be missing, particularly no sans serif and no *italics*. A double check with the manual and with the front flap confirmed that I *had* selected BJ-10 mode. Out of idle curiosity I powered down, changed to Epson LQ mode and switched back up. The same test print gave me all the fonts I expected to see. Most strange. On the BJ-10 you can't get italics and sans serif in the Epson mode, only the BJ mode will print them.

RTFM

I settled down to read the manual. The text confirmed the results of my test print-outs. The so called BJ-10 mode on the 230 is very restricted and does about the same things as the Epson mode on the BJ-10 - which is not a lot. Conversely the BJ-230 in Epson mode will print every type face and style the BJ-10 set to BJ mode can print, using the same print codes. A peculiar anomoly, but one that I can live with.

DWARF STAR

Will the BJ 230 do anything that the BJ-10ex cannot do (apart from printing on A3 paper?) The answer is yes. The new fonts include script, Orator and Orator-S (the latter is lower case Orator). There is also an interesting $2/3$ reduction print mode which allows standard spreadsheet data which would normally be printed on 13.6" wide paper to fit on to a sheet of A4 paper in landscape mode.

THICK AS TWO SHORT PLANKS

Three print densities (called High Speed, High Quality and Super High Quality) are available compared with the two (Normal and Economy) on the BJ-10ex. With a 10 character per inch type face such as Courier selected, the respective print speeds are 248cps, 173 cps and 124 cps.

BIG HOPPER

The sheet feeder holds up to 100 sheets of A4 compared with the 30 sheet of the (optional) sheet feeder of the BJ-10.

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO...

Is there anything the BJ-10ex can do

which the 230 cannot? Well, it will fit on a smaller desk for a start. It can also be used from a battery pack, which the 230 cannot. The only other difference is that the BJ-10 could be configured to have a straight paper path. This allows you to print on very rigid surfaces provided they are not too thick. The BJ-230 has only one feed path and it is curved. I've used it to print on card but I suspect the BJ-10 might be able to cope with slightly thicker card than the 230.
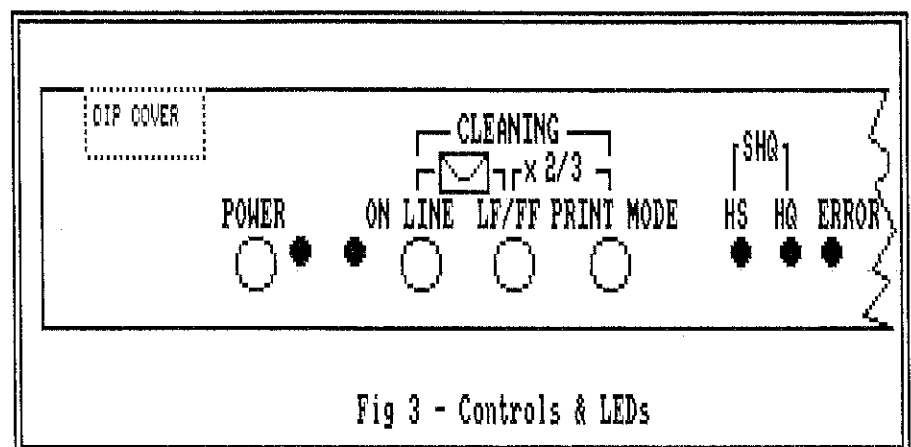
ICON DO BETTER

The manual is a great stride forward from that of the BJ-10. Long standing members may recall a letter from Peter Ceresole giving the address to write to at Canon to get the complete information needed to get the best out of the BJ-10. Well, all the data anyone could reasonably require has now been included in the book provided with the BJ-230.

JET STREAM

What about noise? Well like all bubble jets it is very quiet indeed. I haven't tried a side-by-side comparison with the BJ-10 - youngest son has taken the BJ-10 away, but I get the impression that in the normal (High Quality) mode the 230 is a little quieter. Certainly in the Super High Quality mode it is much quieter. (Odd, isn't it. Dot matrix printers are much noisier when printing in their NLQ mode.)

TABLOID

And the print quality? Well my eyesight isn't what is was but I cannot differentiate between laser print-outs and BJ-230 in the normal

Fig 3 - Controls & LEDs

mode, never mind the Super High Quality mode.

POSTERIOR PROFILE

The bottom line is that the BJ-230 has all the sins (expensive ink cartridges and water soluble ink) and virtues (silence and print quality) common to all BJs. If you want to print on A3 paper or in landscape format on A4 then it is probably as small as any you are likely to find. It is easy to configure in the Epson LQ mode and when so set up will obey the standard printer driver codes resident in popular word processing packages such as PROTEXT and BRUNWORD. Enough information is provided to allow access to the good range of fonts and formats available. The provision of printer drivers on disc for PCs gives ample scope for growth - should you need to abandon the wonderful world of the CPC.

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY, THAT IS THE...

If you don't need portability or colour, if you want to print on wide paper, if you want a fast and very quiet printer with virtual laser quality and don't mind paying about £16 for ink for every 750,000 characters printed, if you have limited desk space then this is probably the printer for you. Watford Electronics charged me £287.88 (Sep 94) for mine and I think I have had value for money.   *Bob.*
<<The best price I can find on the Cannon BJ-230 in the latest edition of Computer Shopper is £245 from Novatech on: 01705 664144 -Paul>>

MARKET STALL Continued...

FOR SALE:
CPC 6128 with GT65 Green Screen Monitor includes user instructions and a joystick. £50.00
Software (3" disks) including Protext, Mini Office II, Bank Balancer, Microdesign/MD+, PDP, Rambase 2, Plus utilities/Facilities,
Games inclusing Colossus 4 Chess and Scrabble. Collectively very reasonable at £40.00 but will sellseperately.
All have instruction books.
About 30 used 3" disks at 50p each.
Post and packing extra.
PLEASE CONTACT : Les Ireland, Taunton, TEL: 01823 288201

FOR SALE:
EPSON MX80 Printer £38.00 ono
PACE series 4 MODEM with Power Supply and Owner Hand Book £20.00 ono

TANDATA TM512 MODEM with Power Supply and Owner Hand Book £20.00 ono
CHIPCHAT Multi Standard MODEM with Power Supply (No hand book) £18.00 ono
AMSTRAD Internal 5.25" Disc Drive as new £12.00 ono
3" DISC DRIVE with Power Supply in neat casing (Tatung manufacturer) little used. Operated with BBC Master. Could be adapted to work with Amstrad 464/6128 as second drive.£15.00 ono
SOFT156 Amstrad CPC 464 "teach Yourself Amstrad Basic".Tutorial Guide Part 2. Manual and 2 cassettes in ring binder and outer sleeve. Gold lettering on spine. £3.50.
PCW 8256/8512 Owner Hand Book £2.50
All above plus postage and packing.
PLEASE CONTACT: ROY FIRTH, 7, Burned Grove, Shelf, Halifax, West Yorks. HX3 7PU. Tel: 01274 679178

The following are available from WACCI HQ, please ring Angie to order.

FOR SALE:
Firmware Guide (soft 968)   £15.00
Disc Cleaners 3" 10 No price ea £3.00
Wigets for the expansion port of the CPC+ computers 3 No. price ea   £1.00
Plastic boxes for individual 3" discs 10 No. price each   £0.50
DMP 3160 printer minus the printer head and transformer not working, yours for postage at   £5.00
CP/M system discs (2 per set) v3.1 and v2.2, 2 No. sets at per set   £3.00

FATHER ARNOLD

"You are old, Father Arnold," the young man said,
"And your screen is all spotty and white,"
"And yet you persistently play violent games,"
"Do you think at your age this is right?"

"In my youth," said the CPC proudly,
"I feared I would break with the strain,"
"But now I've discovered it's easy to cheat,"
"I do it again and again!"

"You are old, Father Arnold," the young man cried,
"And your keyboard is tattered and grey,"
"And yet you do spreadsheets, and database progs,"
"Don't you think you should call it a day?"

"In my youth," said the sage "I was fearful"
"That I wouldn't be able to please,"
"But a disc drive and 64K added RAM,"
"Now helps me to do them with ease."

"You are old, Father Arnold," the young man shouts,
"And your old CPU's very slow,"
"Your colours are few, and you're not very new,"
"Don't you think that it's time you should go?"

"In my youth," said the ancient computer,
"I might have succumbed to your wiles"
"But now I'm supported by WACCI and friends,"
"So be off! Or I'll dump all your files !"

by Ron Izett (With abject apologies to the late Lewis Carroll)

PD SCENE

DAVID CROOKES BRINGS THE WORLD OF PD INTO YOUR HOME

A PD SCENE SPECIAL WITH MINI-PRINT SHOP

A shop on disc. Who says the CPC isn't at the forefront of technology? And in true PD tradition, the shop has free items. Like what? David Crookes finds out.

INTRO
The Mini-Print Shop isn't really a shop like your high street WH Smiths. But then, I'm sure you never really believed that. That was just a ploy to make you read the rest of the drivel on this page. Clever, huh? And look, I've just wasted another sixty one words in this paragraph attempting to back track on my claim.

Anyway Mini-Print Shop is actually a collection of clip art and a couple of fonts which can be used to spruce up any drivel that you may come up with (to match this lot, of course). However it isn't merely a case of quickly grouping together a load of pictures and assuming that the user is able to use them in another package. This is mainly due to the fact that Mini-Print Shop has it's own graphic editor with which the clip art and the fonts can be displayed in some sort of design and then saved as a standard AMSDOS screen.

EASY PEASY
Designing a screen is incredibly, extremely, ultimately and brilliantly easy peasy. The controls are very basic with one cursor especially for graphics and one just for text. And that's it. Of course it does mean you are incredibly, extremely, etc., limited in what you can produce because you can't harness any of your own real flair. In other words you don't have access to line, circle or rectangle facilities and so your designs can become a little "samey."

But if, say, all you wanted to do was rattle off a quick screen which looked presentable, then Mini-Print Shop is ideal. Besides if you want to add your own bits here and there, all you have to do is save the screen and them load it into GPaint or another similar package.

ABUNDANT CLIP ART
To draw a screen, it is just a matter of playing around with the cursor keys, SHIFT and the space bar. All of the clip art is loaded in in chunks of fifty pictures and there are four chunks. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that you get 200 pieces of clip art in all. Loading up the pics all at once makes the package more efficient by cutting down on loading time considerably. A definite plus, non?

The clip art is positioned by moving a square cursor around the screen using the cursor keys and pressing space to lay down a picture. If that picture is not the one you want then it is just a case of pressing SHIFT and the left or right cursor key to change the clip art. The change is immediate because all of the art resides in the memory. And to save the screen, the user (ie. you) just needs to press S and to load, L. So it can be seen how logical the whole thing is, not to mention easy to use.

IT'S GOOD STUFF
The clip art is superb. You may have seen the pictures loitering with intent under the guise of a few files called NEWS-LIB. Admittedly buying the clip art in this format is much better because you can be a lot more flexible with it but Mini-Print Shop has a different aim, providing some way of using the clip art in a self contained package.

There are absolutely loads of pictures to gawp at, from Cupid (handy for Valentine's day but, whooops, you've missed it and will have to wait until next year) to skulls to people dancing. They aren't large pictures by any means but for most work, large pictures aren't necessary. The flexibility of most of the CPC's art packages would allow you to enlarge the pics, though. Anyway, quality is the real name of the game with top class drawings prevailing throughout.

CONCLUSION?
So now you've piled through all the nonsense I've scrawled above, you probably want my opinion on it. You do? Oh dear, you see this is the most difficult part of the review because of the weird nature of the programme.

HERE IT COMES...
If you want an easy to use art package which requires absolutely no art skills or you want to whip up a few quick screen every now and then (in mode two, I hasten to add) then you should get this - it'll suit your every whim. However, people who want more flexibility will just find the clip art of use. Then again, seeing as the clip art is excellent, this is no bad thing, but it limits the use of the programme for these people.

AND FINALLY...
Anyway, I find that it is very well put together and carries a value for all CPCers. Therefore a mark of 85% seems very appropriate. And if you want to check it out for yourself then WACCI's PD Disc 27 should be of benefit. *David.*

8BITMART

THE REVIEW BY IAN PARKER

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

So what is it? It's an exchange/sale magazine on similar lines to Exchange & Mart. This version is different in that it has no adverts for Aardvarks or zebra crossing paint, simply adverts for 8 bit machines and relevant items. There is no discrimination of type or make so that when one opens the latest copy a typical range of 'adverts covers Amstrad, BBC, Commodore, Dragon (remember them?) and Einstein to name but a few.

HOW DO I GET IN?

To place an advert is easy and costs you no more than a short subscription. What more munny? I hear you shriek. Yes but not a lot, how about the price of four measly first class postage stamps for each issue? With your application you get the chance to enter an advertisement of your very own. Up to 50 words in a 5 by 10 format to run for the duration of your subscription. Rates like that are hard to match let alone to beat.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

What other types of advert are there? Software for Amstrad, Apple, Apricot and many others. Advertisements from companies such as Campursoft and SD Microsystems right through to private adverts for all sorts of types and makes of 8 bit machine.

WHO'S THERE?

Brian Watson is the editor and originator of this ideal instrument for sounding off about one's particular hobby/support group/club. Let's give a couple of examples of groups in the form of The Lawyers' PCW Club or ZAT for the Spectrums. I don't think a lot of WACCI members would have been aware of these groups if not

for such a publication. It's not that all of us are in smallish groups losing members all the time, it's more a case of less information going around and, maybe, folks feeling isolated because of it. Such is the benefit from the effort that Brian is putting in.

ANY MORE TO PUT IN?

But Brian needs input and a bit of help. Yes, your adverts and other titbits are wanted. Whether or not it's a note saying that you are a 464 fan in Mynydd Isa and want an ale quaffing companion in the area to swap ideas and can't find anyone or if you are an isolationist in London looking for a chance to buy or swap bits for an RM Z80 MkII but it's too crowded outside. How about simply showing your copy of the mag to a friend to help spread the good word?

WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

To keep talking about' the adverts is to do the paper an injustice for there are articles to cover different areas. Most of the articles have been written by Brian himself but now in issue 3 there are groups of words here and there by others. It's true that some articles will not be of interest to all readers, for example the 3 inch disc saga is not likely to be gripping stuff for BBC owners. That is not to say that other users are excluded for there are a few hints say for C64 users within the article about

emulators. How about the definitive description of the Amstrad CPC range for those who've found the machine only recently.

ARE YOU CONTENTED YET

The content of this Martazine is settling down by the third issue and I am finding it more and more enjoyable with each copy that hits the mat. It's format in the future will depend on all owners and users sending in info, tips, ads and even letters to keep the system rolling. If perhaps only Spectrum Users respond then only Spectrum bits will appear in the pages. So don't waste the opportunity. This is where you can help Brian to help you to help others to help you to help Brian etc. etc. ad infinitum. As with all fanzines they rely on your input. That input can be as little as a note to say "Hi! thanks for being there" to a full article on how rewind the multi tapped transformer used in the Amstrad monitors when they fail.

HOW 'BOUT YOU HELPING?

Hmmm. I wonder how many people reading this have said to Paul something to the effect of "Oh yes I can do an article on so and so" and still haven't done so? Get the picture now? 8Bit Mart or WACCI both need your input, in fact, so do all the fanzines and clubs. Fair play now, they are there to help you so why not help your friends for a change? Is there any body out there that can type and send an entry? Wasn't it YOU that found that odd bit in that program a while back - You know, when you said "I wonder if anybody else has found this?" Get the drift? GET WRITING!
<<Ian actually reviewed 8BIT MART Issue Three. Issue Four announced that the next issue would be called just 8BIT - so there you are. -Paul>>

STORY TIME

FRED by Dennis Francis

A Mystery story for you to solve this month. First read the story. Then write down your answer and send it to me. My address is on the Whos Who page. ⟨⟨John⟩⟩

"Ho, hum", (or words to that effect) said Fred, glaring at his MONITOR. "Drive A: DISC missing?, Retry, Ignore, or Cancel?", the screen glared back.

"Blast!!", he stabbed the 'R' key. The drive whirred, stuttered and then produced a catalogue. *"What's wrong with these damn DISCS? wonder? Perhaps it's the drive? No, can't be, works all right the rest of the time."*

He took the disc out. As he looked back at the screen his jaw dropped. The garbage was gone and in its place he read, *"Watch it, Fred. You nearly upset me that time. I don't like my peripherals being impugned like that."*

He was nonplussed for a moment. Then, inspired, he tapped in, *"Sorry Arnold.... I suppose it is you"?* He pressed 'Enter.'

"Of Course it's me", flashed the COMPUTER in angry red italics, *"Who did you think it was? Cray, having a silly micro-second? Stoopid!"*

"Hey! Who you calling stupid, you bag of chips", Fred keyed back in touch-typing mode. *"If you start giving me lip, I'll pull your plug and power up one of the PCs."* Fred's fingers flew over the keys at a speed that surprised even him.

Arnold couldn't remember the last time his keyboard had been rattled so savagely.

"Whos there, Fred." Arnold came back in conciliatory green gothic, *"No need to get that shirty."* The screen cleared.

Fred was puzzled. Here was Arnold able to clear his own screen, must be in machine code too. Fred had not seen any 'Cls'. What was going on? Fred looked around the office. WACCI (Wonderful Anglo-Celtic Computer Intruction plc.) boasted one large, upstairs room where the five programmers worked at computers set in small bays down each of the long sides. At this end there were the oldies, CPC, Atari, BBC, in centre, middle aged RM, Macintosh and Amiga; and at the far end some young PCs with Intel inside. The programmers moved round the room to whichever computer they needed for the software they were developing, or converting, at the time.

To his left, across the aisle, Eve was busy on the RM, probably testing that 'A' level astronomy unit she'd written in Forth last week. She obviously wasn't aware of what had just happened on the CPC. In front of him, Staring intently at her monitor, Dora too seemed unaware of anything untoward going on behind her.

He craned his neck to see the screen, a program on differential equations, in Fortran by the look of it. Clever girl, Dora, but a bag of mischief nevertheless. He had his suspicions about her!

Bill was across the aisle, in front of Eve. Fred could see the Amiga's screen. It was full of prettily coloured graphs and pie charts. No doubt it was the Logo program for juniors that Bill had been full of during the lunch break yesterday. So, Bill fully occupied. What about Colin?

Colin was down the far end of the room working at one of the PCs, too far away for Fred to see what he was doing. Carefully, Fred pushed back his chair and padded silently down the aisle. As he passed, Eve, Dora and then Bill watched his progress down the room.

He stood behind Colin who seemed unaware that he was there.

He was disappointed, the PCs screen was filled with C programming. He cleared his throat, Colin turned round and grinned, *"Hullo, what's afire squire?"*

"Nothing, just stretching my legs", he turned to go back and almost caught the other three wiping grins of their faces pretending to have been hard at work all the time.

Back at the CPC he sat and puzzled. He was pretty sure one, or perhaps all of them had been pulling his strings. No way would he believe Arnold had come to life! But how? He looked up at the clock above the PCs. It was one of these new ones that run backwards. After a few seconds study, he made it twenty-five to twelve.

He checked his watch. Yup, twenty-five to. Oh, well, not long to go now. He'd leave it and investigate at lunch-time. They must have rigged something downstairs. On the floor below, WACCI had its stores office, despatch and of course PCs for admin. A couple of technies, Zach and Yvonne, looked after all machines one of them had hooked him up to one of the office computers. Mystery solved! Or is it?

After lunch Fred came back to the CPC more puzzled then ever. A thorough search downstairs had not revealled a lash-up, at least not one he'd been able to spot. True, he wasn't a techie himself but he knew enough to recognise a link between one of the computers and the CPC above.

But everything looked just as it always looked. Bah! He was going to have to give in and ask the gang how they'd pulled it off.

He didn't like the idea of eating humble pie and admitting he'd been had, but he noticed the date on the calendar in the Rest Room.

April 1st.....................Oh, yes! He'd been well and truly had. How was done? You could win 1 PD Disc.

FAR CALLING   By John Keneally

Back into the WACCI archives we go again, this time to the month of June and the year of 1987 where John delves deep into the depths of the Z80 chip to astonish us all. Can you hear me Mother ??

ADDRESSES

Long ago, when the Z80 chip was designed, having a '16-bit address seemed more than adequate for any foreseeable use. Unfortunately, modern systems require much more than the 64K of memory that a 16-bit address can access, so cunning trickery is needed to overcome the problem.

What happens is that blocks of memory are overlayed into the same address but, so that there is no confusion, the programmer must arrange to switch on just the block he or she wants to use.

On the CPC6128 there is up to 128K of RAM, plus a 'lower' ROM of 16K occupying addresses &0000 to &3FFF. As well as this you can add-on up to 252 16K ROMs, all of which will occupy addresses &C000 to &FFFF, one of which is the on-board ROM containing Basic.

SORTING

How is all this stuff sorted out? Well, basically by sending control data to special bits of hardware which switch on the appropriate blocks.

The first thing to realise is that, when writing to memory, the data is always put into RAM, even if a ROM is selected. This is sometimes known as a 'write-through' system. Only if you are reading from memory is the state of ROM selection important.

Fortunately there are various routines provided for the programmer to use, so it is usually unnecessary to bother about using the hardware directly. For example, suppose you

have a program in RAM which wants to use a routine from the lower ROM. Normally when a program is run in RAM it runs with both upper and lower ROMs disabled. Thus, to run the ROM routine, you must first enable the lower ROM, then call the routine, then disable the ROM again before returning to the RAM program. All this can be done automatically by use of a so-called 'far address', which comprises of the normal 16-bit address of the routine, plus a third 'ROM select' byte which gives the information needed to select the correct ROM. This third byte is interpreted as follows:-

VALUE	INTERPRETATION
0 to &FB	Call a routine in one of the upper ROMs.
&FC (252)	Enable upper, enable lower, and call routine
&FD (252)	Enable upper, disable lower, and call routine
&FE (252)	Disable upper, enable lower, and call routine
&FF (252)	Disable upper, disable lower, and call routine

Upper ROMs can be 'selected' without being enabled, ie: to access the ROM it must be both selected and enabled. For values &FC to &FD, there is no change in ROM selection, ie: whatever ROM was last selected will be the one

enabled. Unless special action is taken to change it, this will be the on-board ROM.

There are various ways of using a far address. For a full description you need the Firmware Guide, but perhaps the simplest is to load the address into C and HL (HL holds the 16-bit part, C holds the ROM selection). Then you CALL &1B to call the routine. The following routines can also be useful:-

```
CALL &B900 - ena upper ROM
CALL &B903 - dis upper ROM
CALL &B906 - ena lower ROM
CALL &B909 - dis lower ROM
CALL &B90F - select an upper ROM
         (C holds the ROM number)
```

It's not much use knowing how to call ROM routines if you can't find their addresses. However, you can find the address of any RSX command (ie: any command preceded by a vertical bar) by using the following code:-

```
        LD    HL,name
        CALL  &BCD4  ;kl find command
        RET
name:   DEFB  'E','R','A'+128
```

This would find the far address of the ¦ERA command. Note that the last letter of the name has to have 128 added to it (ie: bit 7 of the last

byte must be set). The far address is returned in registers HL and C, so the CALL &1B instruction can be used to actually call the routine (see above). If the name doesn't exist, the carry flag is set to false.

SAVING MEMORY

If you're writing your own programs and want to save a block of memory to tape as fast as possible without having to have a 4K cassette buffer allocated, then the following might help.

```
save:LD HL,&C000   ;start address
     LD DE,&4000   ;length of block
     LD A,16       ;sync character
     CALL &BC9E    ;do it
     RET

load:LD HL,&C000   ;start address
     LD DE,&4000   ;length of block
     LD A,16       ;sync character
     CALL &BCA1    ;re-load it
     RET
```

SYNC CHARACTERS

The stuff written will not appear on a cat, (eh?) and you can put in your own sync characters to make it difficult for anyone else to copy unless they know which character you used. The above routines save and load the screen memory, but the addresses and length of block can be altered to suit.

Note that to re-load, the same sync character must be used as that used when saving.

JK

Brunword Elite?

BRUNWORD ELITE (ROM) REVIEWED BY NEIL SPRINGTHORPE

When my brother John phoned and said that he had told Paul I would do a review of the Brunword Elite Rom I thought I had had a nightmare, but after reading the Thanx and Stuff pages of WACCI 85 the awful truth dawned.

INTRO
When I first got my Brunword Rom I opened the box (didn't want the money) and found a self contained Rom not requiring a Rom Box. With some trepidation I plugged the thing into the back of the rusty old 6128 (or is that trusty - depends how long you've had it) and froze. How do I get it to work?. Thirty seconds of scanning the instruction booklet and then pressing the magic Bar bw (¦bw) Return and there I was in the Main Menu.

INSIDE BW
The main menu (see fig 1) is quite a comprehensive one with all the functions you may expect from a decent word processor such as (L)oad, (S)ave Etc. In fact most things I have heard Protext does, but not possessing that Rom I can't say. *<<Due to space considerations, I've transcribed the the menus. OKay Neil? -Ron>>*

After a quick scan at some of the things it can do I pressed Enter again and found myself in the Editor (Fig.2) The time had come to put aside my fears and have a go. The first thing I wanted to do was set the left and right margins so, pressing the control key and first (L) and then (R) I changed the margins to where I wanted them to be. The left margin has to be a minimum of 1 column and a maximum of 107 columns but the right, which, when set to 81 columns or above (max 128), formats the text and puts a kind of magnified box at the bottom of the

```
                       FIG.1
          ***BRUNWORD***
  Copyright Brunning Software F0289

        L - Load
        S - Save
SHIFT @ - CAT DISC  ERA  TAPE
        M - MEMory Save
        G - GET MemFile
        K - KILL MemFile
        D - DIR MemFiles
        T - TEAR Block
        W - WEAVE MemFile
        Q - QUICK Move/Copy
        R - REMOVE
        C - Clear
        F - Find
       F7 - Help Edit
        P - Print
        O - Load Option
        X - BrunSpell
        * - DataLink
        Z - SECURITY CODE
    ENTER - Return to Text

  Escape?
```

screen because the text is very difficult to read. (See Screen 2 over) I found that I could use a maximum of 10 tabs spaced along the ruler line.

WORD WRAPPING
Like all processors I have read about in magazines I did not have to worry about pressing enter/return at the end of every line so away I went.

```
                            FIG.2
          ** Editor Functions **

        F. - Next Find
        F0 - BrunSpell Delete
        F1 - Temp L Margin
        F2 - Temp R Margin
        F3 - Spelling Lookup
        F4 - Fixed Space
        F7 - Help Edit
        F8 - Page End
        F6 - Mark Text
        F9 - Clear Marked Text
    CTRL C - Centre Line
  CTRL L/R - L/R Margin
  CTRL T/X - Set/Reset TAB
  CTRL B/W - Justify Para/Whole
  CTRL V/Q - Unjustify Para/Whole
  CTRL D/U - Del/Undel Word
  CTRL TAB - Insert/Over
     ENTER - Return to Text

    Free 23567    Words 00066

  Escape?
```

SPELLBOUND
The Elite rom has it's own built in spell checker and a dictionary of 33,798 words which is split into four, and is capable of checking 530 words in just 8 seconds, but it has the added bonus of an instant spell check so that if you do spell sumfing (oops something) wrong the computer bleeps to let you know that it can be changed immediately or left till you've finished. When you do use the spell checker by pressing ESC to exit the editor and pressing X twice you can find the word you want and insert it

automatically. If the word is not in the dictionary, then there is the facility to save the word to your own Dictionary known as dict5 and load it when you want to use it. This is perfect for place names or christian and surnames as there are very few of them in the dictionary supplied.

F NUMBERS

The function keys at the right of the keyboard can be used in several different ways. On their own they can be used in the editor mode to mark text, set the left and right margins to the end of the paragraph, spelling instant lookup (useful if you are like me and can't spell), fixing spaces which remain when using justify, displaying the menu, page throw markers, marking the text ready to move/copy/or remove, and for clearing the markers.

When these keys are used in conjunction with (Shift=ON and

```
                               FIG.3
                 Print Menu

        P - Print
        L - Left  Margin   10
        R - Right Margin   70
        N - No of Lines    58
        F - Form Length     0
        H - Header

        B - Begin Page      0
        E - End   Page    999

     Z - PrePrint 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
```

Copy=OFF), they can be used to mark the text to send printer codes such as Enlarged, Condensed, Underlined, Emphasise, Superscript, Subscript, Double Strike, Italics and Double Height. The shift <f5> can also be used to write equations such as $Y=ax+bx^2$ Etc.
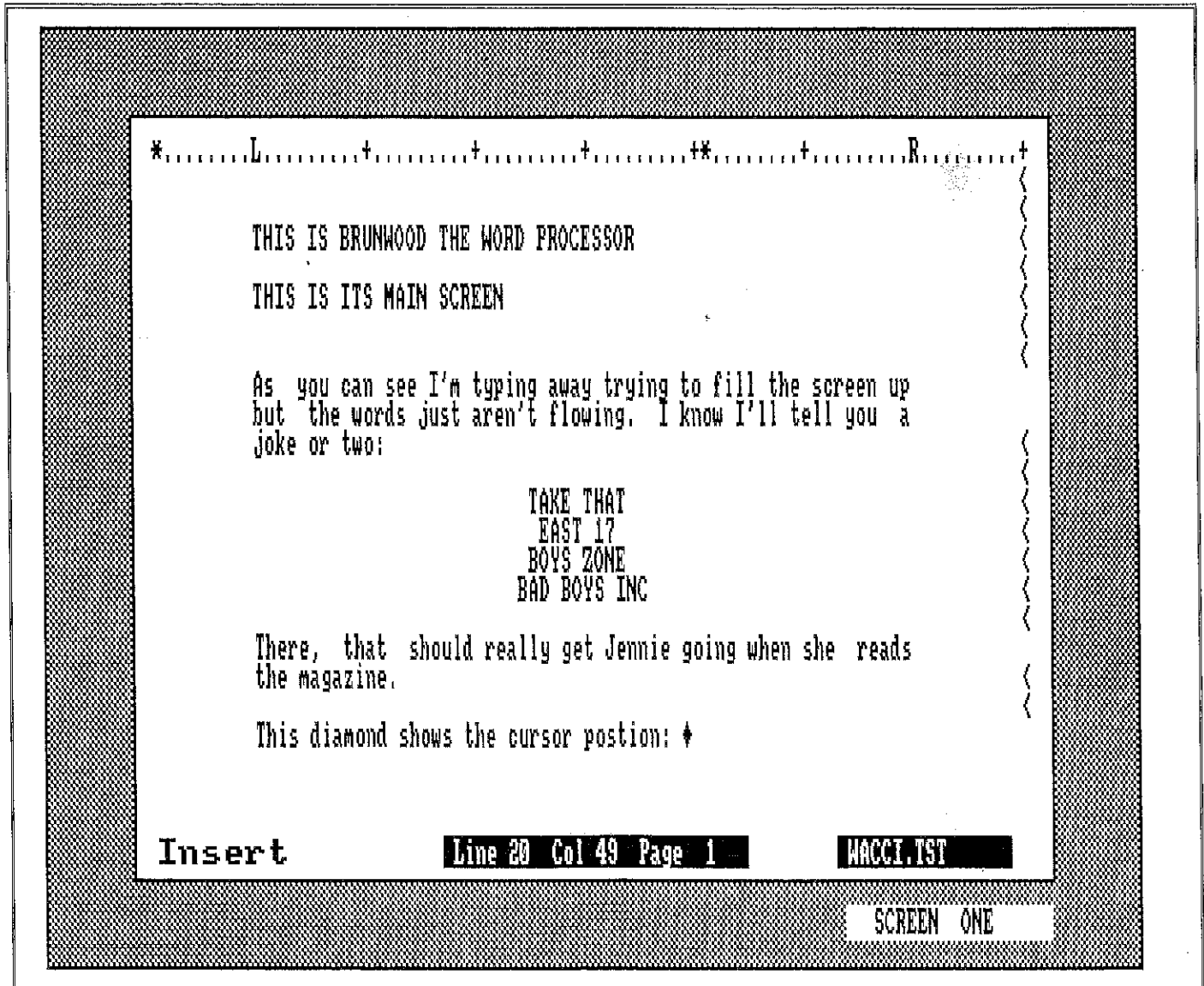
PRINTING HERE WE GO

When it is time to print out what you have written then pressing ESC twice to get back into the menu and then P for print sends you to a print menu (see fig 3.)

This menu allows you to print the text you have written as is, or you can change the margins, set the number of lines to be printed, set the form length, set headers or footers, set the page number to begin printing, set page number to end printing, set start page number, and set pre print codes. The Brunword System 2 printer control is also available, and this uses 9 'pre print' codes. Headers and Footers can also be used from the print menu, and group file printing is also available.

MAIL MERGING

The database or Infoscript as it is called by Brunword is accessed by pressing Shift *. When entering the

```
*.........L.........+.........+.........+.........+*.........+.........R.........+

                                                                               <
                                                                               <
          THIS IS BRUNWOOD THE WORD PROCESSOR                                  <
                                                                               <
          THIS IS ITS MAIN SCREEN                                              <
                                                                               <

          As you can see I'm typing away trying to fill the screen up
          but the words just aren't flowing. I know I'll tell you a
          joke or two:                                                         <

                         TAKE THAT                                             <
                         EAST 17                                               <
                         BOYS ZONE                                             <
                         BAD BOYS INC                                          <

          There, that should really get Jennie going when she reads           <
          the magazine.                                                       <

          This diamond shows the cursor postion: ♦


    Insert          Line 20  Col 49  Page  1        WACCI.TST

                                                         SCREEN ONE
```

first thing you are asked to do is "enter todays date". This is optional but it does enable you to see how long you have had the records on file. On pressing Enter another menu appears that lets you Load, Save, Edit record, enter a New record Etc.

When a record is entered from new or loaded from a disc it is loaded straight into memory so it is easy to manipulate the records without losing all the information as it is still on the disc. The mailmerge facility has the ability to do a multi-merge or a one-step merge and to print labels and addresses to the left, right, or 1 or 2 at a time. The fields that are used are not just for names and addresses, and as there are 18 fields that can be used for each record, all sorts of data can be stored. The database also provides the option of changing the background colour to suit most people, using the number keys.

With the ability to print to screen or printer a quick list of all the records contained in memory, it is simple to find out if you already have the data you may be going to enter.

HEADING UP

Brunword Elite comes with a Font utility called Headline which is a separate programme within the ROM. Pressing 'H' from the main menu switches Headline on and once entered it intercepts the info that is being sent to the printer and converts it to a format so that even a lowly 9 pin printer can use the 24 pin quality fonts. The fonts supplied are SLIMLINE, MIDLINE, FINELINE, SEMITYPE, MIDTYPE, FINETYPE, HEAVY, COMPUT, CHELMER and CLACTON. The headline facility has flexible print sizes, and print can be set from single to nine times width, and from single to double or even eight times height.
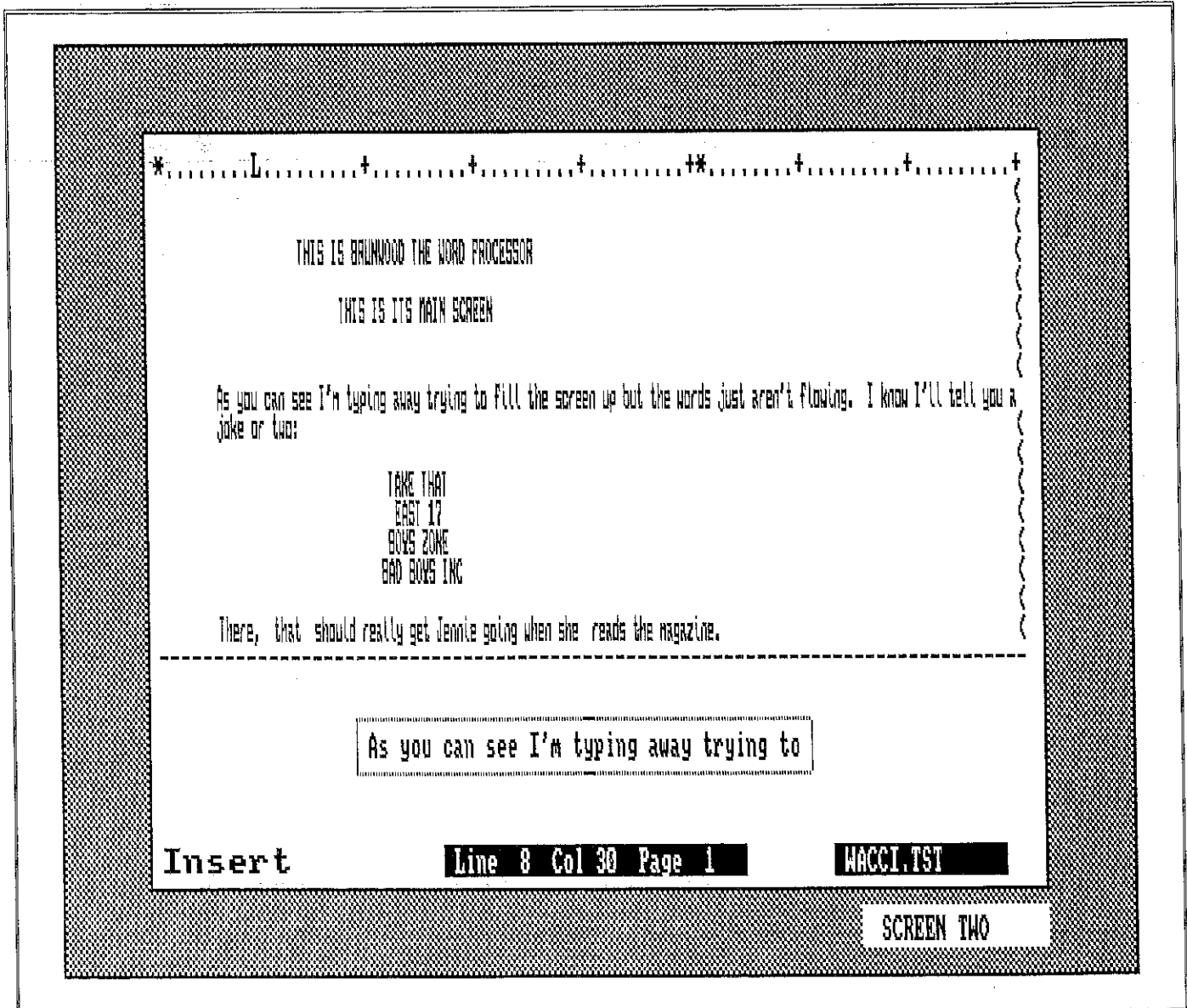
LINEDRAW CHARACTERS

Line or boxes can also be printed from the special in-codes that are used in the Headline feature of this ROM.

Brunword Elite also comes with a comprehensive examples disc.

AND FINALLY...

For a person who is only a novice when it comes to computers and software, Brunword Elite with it's in-codes and ability to cut, tear, weave, cat disc, erase files from disc, load files into memory, move, copy, find, replace, use a character set, change colours, and even use a 3.5" drive through the in-built KDS ROMDOS as well as set a security code, is very easy to get on with. The only drawback that I have found with it, is that the 76 page main manual and the 12 page Mark 2 supplement tend to be more than a little vague in some places, and leave one guessing as to what to do.

BTL A REVIEW

By STAMPER METCALFE

As things are progressing, rumours abound that there will soon no longer be any commercial magazine produced for the CPC. However in the words of that great character of Dickens -- "Something will turn up--" Whether it may be another club fanzine or a disc fanzine one knows not.

FANZINES COME AND GO

Club fanzines come, and go after a short while, and I believe the main reason is that they do not meet the needs of the CPC community.

We saw at one time CPC Attack and no doubt one of the main causes of it's demise was the language used and the childish remarks that appeared on it's pages. One notes that three of BTL's contributors are ex-CPC Attack. Disc fanzines have vanished for the same reason. Most of them have spent too much time and space on knocking others who have vainly tried to make their mark as so called experts.

However when a new disc fanzine appears we all hope that it may turn out to be just what we are hoping to find. A new one has appeared·called BETTER THAN LIFE or BTL.
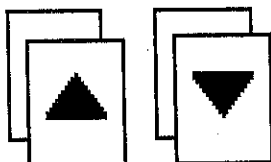
When Paul asked me to review it I looked forward to so doing very much indeed, especially when I heard that one of the main driving forces behind it was Richard Fairhurst, whom I think is one of the U.K.'s top CPC Gurus and writes for BTL under the pseudonym of ChaRleyTroniC.(the capitals are his not mine). NO, I'm not on a creeping mission and I firmly believe that to carry out any review at all one must be unbiased and tell exactly what one thinks of the finished article, be it a serious programme, fanzine or what you will.

BETTER THAN LIFE ARRIVES

When I first received the disc and booted it up,I was mesmerized by a circle of lights going round a central point like a an old 45. but soon realised that the lights were words introducing me to the 'Zine and Hey presto! up comes page one -- the
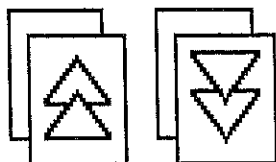
Editorial by Akira (better known as Mark Gullam). I did not care for the music accompaniment and so turned down the sound to zero.Along the bottom of the screen are some eleven icons to help you through the pages. The first two (See fig 1) are Icons that allow you to move up and down the page that is on the screen at the present time,line by line, but by using either of these plus the COPY key one can move over the pages some eighteen lines at a time.

FIG.1

The next two icons are double arrowheads that allows one to select the next article or the previous one. See FIG 2 below. This is not the only way in which one can select either the previous or the next article, it is possible to do so by typing - NEXT - or PREVIOUS - on the Command line; the cursor for which appears just above the row of Icons.
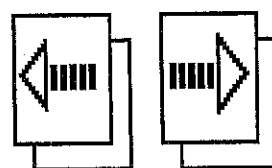
FIG.2

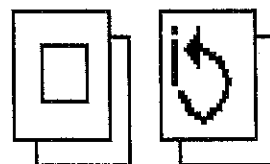The left and right arrows (See FIG 3) are used to move the article scroller(to be found at the top of the screen) either Left or Right. Moving it to the left selects the previous article, whereas pressing the right handed arrow·selects the next one. If one holds down the icon the scroller line moves along the whole range of article names.
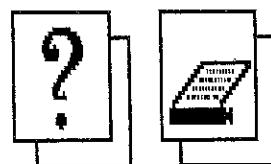
FIG.3

The next two Icons show a square and an arrow pointing to a letter *i*. The square is used to load the article that is displayed at the top of the screen on the scroller. The article can also be chosen by using SHIFT and COPY. The arrow head and the letter *i* are used to choose the help screens.

FIG.4

The question mark icon brings up the help screen and the pages of the Help section are turned by pressing the SPACE Bar. The other icon showing a printer is used to print out the fanzine. These are shown in Fig. 5. Another icon shows a pallette for choice of colour.

FIG.5

Having found out how to proceed from page to page I decided to take a quick glance at all the article titles by using the left and right Icons and choosing the article from the scroller at the top of the screen, and thought "This is just what we need to complement WACCI", so back to page one and the Editorial. I agreed wholeheartedly with his first four paragraphs when he remarks that previous disc fanzines were too awful to review in the BTL fanzine without the need for an 18 certificate because of the extensive use of *bad language*. Then when I carry on reading his next paragraph I am confronted with the same bad language that he is condemning himself. NOT a good start.

In order to peruse the fanzine at leisure I tried to print out the 48 pages but only managed to print some eight lines and then after reading the help screens realised that the fanzine was intended for an Epson compatible 9-pin printer. I tried IBM mode on my 24-pin but -- No joy! However help was at hand. Paul readily provided me with a complete print-out of the 'Zine.

GARBAGE
I must say I nearly rang Paul up to say I had thrown the disc and print-out in the garbage bin. The language in parts was FILTHY. I'm no prude having served in the forces and learned all the words and a few more besides in several languages. but no way would I recommend a fanzine to anyone that is liberally sprinkled with filthy words such as f******,s*** p******, b******* etc. and on numerous occasions.

It was so bad that I actually spoke to Richard Fairhurst at Trinity Hall and asked him would he submit a thesis to his tutor using such language. I leave you to guess what his answer was. In all fairness to Richard I must say that I did not find any filthy words in any of the articles attributed to him.

SO WHAT DOES BTL CONTAIN?
The 'Zine itself contains some forty-odd pages that are very diverse both in content and in language. Starting off with the Editorial it then goes on to list the regular articles that are to appear regularly. This is followed by the Newsline with a mixture of news and tongue in the cheek talk, with a special report on the PD scene.

Page eight once again reaches the depth of filth and supplies quotes of useless value. One page is devoted to a voting form in the form of a questionnaire on what the reader thinks is the BEST of this, that and the other. An essential requirement for any successful magazine of any kind is the occasional introduction of a classified page for selling, buying and other wants. I think that this could be a godsend to many CPC types.

ChaRleyTroniC's next page is called Comment. No doubt that this will to some extent emulate WACCI's Thanx and Stuff.

Richard Fairhurst's next few pages are pleasing and easy to read, containing some excellent items under the titles of "Fables of the Deconstruction", "Cut the Crap" (needs a better title) "Idiot Country" and "Sex, lies and CPC forever".

He follows this with two in depth reviews of DES and PARADOS, excellently written, and follows these with a Soundhakker review, and reviews on Games, PD Games and Disc fanzines. Some of which are very objective. (Note, I said some.)

WHAT NEXT?
There follows four serious articles called "When the chips are down" - "The Firmware Collection" - Part 1 of a series on Hacking, which I found easy reading and one called "Hackland" which contains Multiface Pokes and Games Tips. Included in each disc will be an up-to-date list of Demos with details. A Release schedule in three parts follows. These being a list of

a) Recent releases, b) forthcoming releases, and c) Programmes under development, as well as Where to get them from.

In all there are fourty-three pages in issue one of the 'Zine and it is pleasing to note that a touch of humour invades the occassional article even though the language at times shows a sad lacking of the use of the English language. (Perhaps the contributor was playing truant on his computer rather that attend English lessons!!!) If it is going to be a success (and there's no valid reason why it shouldn't) then there are one or two suggestions that may be forthcoming, such as:- Cut out the Filthy language, stop riding close to the wind with the near-libel remarks (even the worm will eventually turn) and concentrate a little more on the layout. I am sure with all the expertise and experience upon which the editors can call that a successful disc fanzine could be here to stay.

COMES THE CRUNCH
Would I buy into BTL? In short Yes - provided the language was cleaned up and the fanzine was not used as a medium for facetious and libellous remarks. Then, and only then would I recommend anyone to join. Come on Editorial team, the success or otherwise is in your hands.

A SUGGESTION FOR ALL
At home following several obnoxious phone calls, every phone conversation is recorded, and now that we have BT's new Call Return line we are able to record all calling numbers. The calls have now stopped.

AND FINALLY...
A small reminder really. One of the contributors still owes me a 3.5 inch disc drive from some four or five years ago.!!!

Stamper Metcalfe

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SEPTEMBER 1995