CPC SOUTH WEST

The Xmas Special

RoutePlanner Reviewed

Brian Furse gets in the driving seat to give the CPC's one and only Routeplanner a run for it's money.

INSIDE:

Editorial *Do You Read It?*

Simon's Music Tutorial, Star Quest, Serious Reviews and the Not so Serious Reviews, Competitions & WINNERS, CPC SW Meeting, and LOTS, LOTS MORE...

TWO SIDES OF FREE SOFTWARE

Please ONLY PHONE NIGEL ON A
FRIDAY EVENING. Untill further
notice.

Due to IAN having to attend
college by day,and having a lot
of homework to get through in
his spare time. Please expect to
wait just a little longer to
receive any ROM'S ordered.IAN
will endever to complete your
order within TWO WEEKS.

The CONVENTION REPORT is on the
editorial page in this issue. Is
it on for next year ?.YES I SAY.
And that is also the request
from a few of you.SO,Please let
me know when would be the best
month for you,and we will go by
the majority.

AND LAST BUT NOT
LEAST.

MAY I TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO
WISH YOU ALL AND
YOUR FAMILY. A
VERY   HAPPY
CHRISTMAS.A VERY
PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR FOR 1996.

MAY YOU KEEP ON
CPCING FOR A
LONG TIME.

DAVE >>>....

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

The Bit No-one Reads

THE CONVENTION REPORT.

On Saturday the 25 th,November 1995.CPCSW held it's first of many (I HOPE) get together's or calling the event by it's posh name:The Convention.

I felt it unfair to ask someone to report on the event,in any case no one offered,so I guess it is down to me.So,How did it go ?.As far as I was concerned,it was a great day,and everyone came up to me to thank me for the putting on the event.Here is where I have to thank YOU for attending.

Very special thanks to Peter Curgenven, Dave Caleno, and Paul Bowden for bringing their set-ups to the event,Oh!and me.

And thanks to Dave's wife,(sorry,forgotten your christian name) for calling out the raffle numbers.

Owen and Len kept them selfs busy washing up the cups and making tea & coffee,(you can tell the domesticated ones).

One special thanks must go to Peter Campbell (COMSOFT) for trusting me with his software to display and sell,and not forgetting Angela Cook,Dave Caleno,and SD.Microsystems for the raffle prizes.

A third of the membership made it to the event.perhaps the next one we will see others attending,we are only a couple of hours drive down the motorway.

My main disappointment,was that I didn't have time to visit Paul's display,or sit and watch Dave crack another game,I would have like also to have had time to go over some programs with Peter and tried to get John to show me how he does the cover disc's.I spent so much time chatting to those of you whom I have only spoke to on the phone,the day just went by.

Sorry you couldn't take your 6128 home with you John,(let me explain).John brought his 6128 for me to fit an ABBA switch for him,sure enough,just when you dont want it to happen,it through a fault up,and without my magnifying glass.(the eyes arn't the same these days).I had to bring Johns machine home with me to fix.The magnifying glass soon spotted the fault,a splash of solder must of run of the tip of the iron and got caught between two legs of the chip.Johns now got his machine back working with the side switch.

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

The Bit No-one Reads

convention continued...

We signed up three new members on the day. Patric Hanlan. Andy Moreton and Tony Jordan, who are WACCI members who took up the invatation to join us on the day. Welcome to CPCSW chaps.

Another thanks that I almost forgot, to Brian for selling the raffle tickets and helping out in general.

We where graced with John Walker, the chairman of the Cornwall PCW club. John said he found it very interesting, even though the event was bias to the CPC.

Sorry Jack, I just didn't have the answer on your Cuma drive, I know you will enjoy the little Rom Board you purchased from me when you get your Rom's.

Paul, your wife ask me to copy some programs for her, give me a phone call as I have forgotten which programs she wanted, I know I wrote it down on a piece of paper, but I just cant find it anywhere.

We may have been small in numbers on the day, and if I have missed mentioning your name so far I apologise, but I know that we all had a good day.

Tony Jordan who travelled down from Cippenham, Slough, was buzing around like a two year old, and very generously brought a lot of Plastic Disc case's that no longer needed, and asked anyone to help there self with.

The whole room was buzing with CPC talk, and it was nice to see every one mingle. Nothing was to much trouble for memebrs to answer questions and give advice and help to others, that is a sign of a friendly group which I was very pleased about.

Next year, the event will be bigger and better, this I am sure off, going by the responce I recieved from those who attended our first get together, it's advents like this and the WACCI one, that help's to keep the CPC alive. As you can see on the HELPLINE page, I have asked for a suitable MONTH that you would like the event to happen. I know you have christmas to think of and get over first, but these events needs time to arrange if it is going to be a success, so please give me an idea as to when and where.

Thank you all and here's looking towards the next event.

Dave))).....

Reader's Letters

DEAR DAVE

I think that the CPCSW get together was a great success for our members. A third of the membership turned up,was more than we could have wished for.
I must have admit,if I hadn't been the first to arrive,I dont think that I would have the time to talk to you.
As you know,we met about 9-30, and we did manage to have a chat while awaiting for the 'Place' to open up, and I must admit that I was very surprised my set up went off at the first switch on, I did expect trouble,but every thing was OK. I found that as soon as the event got under way,I was NON STOP in my corner. (may be it was to do with me being near the kettle).

Thanks Pete for bringing your set-up,like you,I had a great day .Not even I got to see the other demonstrations.

I enjoyed meeting face to face all those members whom I have only spoken to on the phone or by letter.

NEXT YEAR IS DEFINITELY ON

Dave)))........

I would like to have seen the other displays on show,but I couldn't leave my seat,Oh! I did get up to go to the loo,and on my way back I had a brief look around,but I soon found I was back glued to my seat.
Throughout the day I demonstraited Discomagic,Parados,Des and explained RomdosXL,Soundhacker plus many of my Utilities.
Sorry,but I cant remember everones name,but I hope those of you who sat with me through the demonstraitions,gained something from Pete's corner.
I believe that I managed to show Dave Caleno,something that he didn't know about BONZO.

I cant believe that the hours went so quickly,I also think I persauded a few members to buy Parados,(Pete Campbell,I want my commission).
At the next meeting,I am going to close down for lunch,to allow me time to look around.
Thank you Dave-Tony-Brian for the 'gifts'.
John,when I got home,I realised I hadn't copied your disc's,I'll be in touch mate.
Finally,I appologise to anyone who tried to talk to me but couldn't,being so busy and the time just flew.I enjoyed the eveny and looking forward to the next CPCSW get together.

Peter Curgenven...........

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

DATE=After days of recoup from meeting

Dear Dave
    O.K..,your at it again and winning (for a while!!) How,What ?,
This er'e Amstrad Thing'y still and without doubt will continue to tear mt nerves to bits on it's own WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!!,What's he on about I here you him mutter with complete distain, Well it's like this,in the last issue,I read of,and I quote,"A little proggy that use to drive me daft".....

Too Bloody true it does!!!. I spent an entire afternoon   no, I havn't anything better to do typing,re-typing,re-typing and on & on etc: this DOODLE thing into the 6128..Result ???SYNTAX ERROR'SSSSSSSSSS...Being what one may call 'of mature age',(translated means'pretty thick').

I always accept abreviations as real jargon in this world of electronics without question.Eventualy through a rather dense cloud of blue air,SHE, who of course,MUST BE OBEYED,hollers with ladylike gentleness."Pack the *;;;;;;+++++!!!Thing away and lets have some peace"...I did imediatly..and then started to read a book,purchased from

D.Stitson..WOOPEEEE..
There it was in clear print...LINE 30 ORIGN 320,200 should have TWO..It's NOT ONE....
I rest my case Dave...(But I'll be back...).

I told you it drove me daft.........
        Dave)))...

‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡

On behalf of all those members who actualy were able and did attend the meeting, to you DAVE, a very great THANK YOU for all the time and efforts you put into the organising of a VERY enjoyable get-together in Plymouth.
The welcome and friendliness, together with all the patience and advice was marvelous. Thanks obviously,to the people and companies, who so very kindly donated such a large an array of prizes,as well as goodies to purchase.
My appreciation to the person who donated the Books I was very lucky to win in the last comp:(and the draw prize).In all I had a most successful day with the prizes plus from Mr.?????,at a very good price,a coloured monitor with a convertor modulator,a light pen and a handful od disc's.When's the next meeting going to be?.

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.
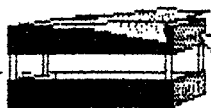
Letters continued........

To those of you who couldn'd attend this meeting, You MUST make the next one.......

So,untill I receive the next 'mind blowing' (well mine does, "among many other things says She Who MUST ") book of comps:and most interesting info : it's another Thanks Dave,see or speak soon I hope.
Seasons Greetings to all CPC SOUTH WSET Members.
Best wishes.
OWEN from " DOWN YER ".

Thanks for the letter Owen from the village with NO PUB,etc

Dave))) .....

DEAR DAVE

Thank you for your letter received today with my 'Goodies',which safely arrived in the post.

Hope the convention went well and was well supported.

It was interesting to see youe smiling face in the November WACCI magazine, the photograph taken at their convention in September.It's nice to be able to put a face to a name and voice.
    (NOT SO NICE FOR ME MARGARET,I HATE HAVING PHOTO'S TAKEN)
I dont suppose you have had any luck in tracking down an AMX MOUSE for me yet,(still trying Margaret Dave)))...) otherwise you would have mentioned it in your recent letter.

May I therefore place a WANTED AD in the next edition of the magazine.

WANTED. WANTED. WANTED. WANTED.

AMX Mouse and interface for use with Stop Press on the 6128,resonable price paid.

☎ MARGARET on 0161-439-7034 after 6pm please.
        HERE'S YOUR WANTED AD MARGARET...Dave)))),,,,,,,

★ ★ ★ Star Quest ★ ★ ★

Better late than never, some may have noticed a missing page last issue, Star Quest was not ready for print because I was a bit rushed off my feet, what with going to the WACCI meeting and doing odd jobs around the house. Sorry, I will not let happen again.

You never guess what, while I was at the WACCI meeting I met the bloke I intended to do an interview with, Richard Widley. He's nothing like I expected him to be, I had imagined someone in their early thirties and full of themself. Richard is quite the opposite, he is only nineteen. And he is far from being arrogant, actually he's quite a friendly helpful chap. A very very nice man.

Richard is quite a business man though, talk about having the gift of the gab, before I knew it I forked out half my savings on his wares, good job there was a discount on the day, my missus would have killed me if I came back skint.

Chatting to Richard was like talking to an old friend, by the end of the day he had just about told me his whole life story. For instance he first started computing when he was eight, the computer belonged to his elder sister. Actually he went on to steal it off her in the end because he was using it more than she was.

Those who used to read Amstrad Action will know that Richard used to do the odd article here and there, well now that it has bit the dust Richard has moved on to writing reviews in a PC magazine. At the moment I don't think he will be moving over to the PC fully, you can not fake the enthusiasm he has for this old beast.

At present he is converting DesText to work on a 64K machine, for those who have not heard of DesText it is a patch between DES and Protext, the 6128 version is a great bit of kit, a bit like you would expect Protext to be like on a PC. The best bit for me is being able to preview a page, this works under WYSIWYG, so if you forget to cancel underlining it stands out a mile.

Richard has been running Sentinel for three years now, doesn't time fly when you're having fun. It all started when CPC Attack died (yes he wrote for that magazine too, wait a minute. After writing for Attack and AA for a few months they both closed, I wonder if he's a jinx) and running a software house was just another challenge. It is not making much money though, that's why he's writing for Practical PC.

If you are into using word processors there is some good news coming Sentinel, Richard enjoyed writing DesText so much he is working on a few other patches: a spell checker and a thesaurus. (What's that ? Dave)

Plug time... I asked Richard if he would like to take this opportunity to advertise one of his wares, here is what he said "I could plug my own software here but I won't, everyone should have Protext,Advanced Art Studio and okay I will plug my own Stuff, TUSS is very useful.

ROUTEPLANNER

by BRIAN FURSE.

OPENING SCREEN ROUTEPLANNER V1. 11.

FASTEST
SHORTEST
DISPLAY
PRINT

ZOOM IN
ZOOM OUT
AVOID
OPTIONS
I X ↓
Fastest
00:00:00
Shortest
0M

FROM
TO
HERE

Brian's first of many reviews folks

Dave)))....

Recently Dave,John and myself attended the WACCI convention. And it was during the journey that a suggestion was made that it was time that I contributed to CPCSW. and would I like to review ROUTEPLANNER. It may have been something to do with me nearly taking the wrong exit from a motorway service area and almost proceding back in the direction from whence we had just come.
In the summer months,I pursue my other hobby which is to get on my Ducati and roam around S.W.England.So reviewing this program,appealed to me.
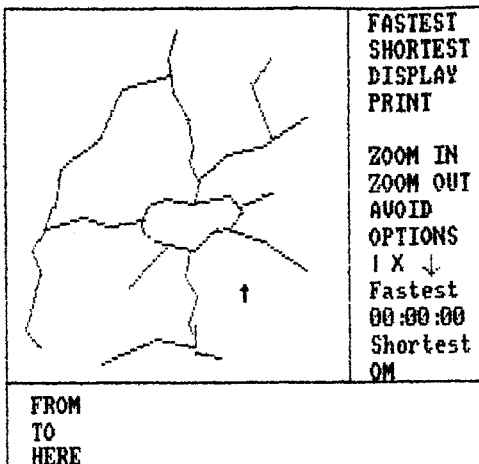
Routeplanner is written by RICHARD FAIRHURST who is well known for being an editor of "AA's" Technical Forum,and other good programs such as Powerpage and Pro-Ext.
The program is on Disc with a manual.And will ONLY run on CPC's with 128K.
It is designed to complement a road atlas and NOT to replace one. The program covers mainland England,Scotland and Wales.
On run"disc the main code loads,you are then requested to omit one of three areas-Scottish Highlands. Wales or the S.W.England.

This is neccessary due to the memory limitations of the CPC. The data not then selected, is loaded into the memory. The screen then displays a large window, in this window, the maps or route information will be displayed, to the right are eight windows for the menu functions, and at the bottom of the screen are two windows,the one to the left for the input of the towns of departure and destination, and the window to the right, gives you the information of the fastest time and shortest distance.
On the main window, a map of the motorway system is drawn in BLUE, followed by the outline of the coast in BLACK.

ROUTEPLANNER CONTINUED

While the map drawing is taking place,a symbol of a pen is displayed below the bank of menu windows,and when the drawing is complete,the pen disappears,each menu can then be accessed by positioning the cursor and clicking (COPY).Alternatively, there are eight control key shortcuts available to access the menu's.
The map may be magnified in five levels-1X to 16X,this is achieved by positioning the cursor on the map,press <COPY> and utilising the ZOOM-IN or ZOOM-OUT menu's,the level of magnification is indicated below the menu windows.
For Towns to be displayed on the map,a magnification of 8X or 16X is required.
Only the Towns that appear on the map can be used for the start and designation,also if utilising the avoid function.
Either the Fastest,Shortest route may be selected,and while the program is in calculation mode,a clock symbol will appear.Then after the calculation is completed,the pen symbol replaces the clock and the route assigned will be drawn on the map in a thick Black line.
By clicking <COPY> on the Display menu window,the route will be listed together with times and mileage.

HOW IS IT DONE ?.
Well if you recall Einsteins theories on relativity,"All Curves Consist Of Straight Lines".
The roads on the map are drawn as straight lines between Towns or Junctions.

An example of this is the area around John O' Groats,when Zoomed-in to 16X,the roads were drawn to overlap the coastline.the program calculates the angle between start and finish,using this data,the nearest road leading in that direction is used as a vector to the next nearest Town or Junction. The angle and distance are compiled and this method is repeated until the destination is reached.
Routeplanner is very user friendly. The options in the menu allow for adjustment of road speeds for calculating the route times.
Cities,Towns and London districts can be avoided by clicking <copy> the 'avoid' menu.

Another important feature is that the routes and data can be sent to the printer.
The program supports a mouse for the cursor control.
The disc has 90K of space which may be used to save data changes made in the 'option' menu,and these changes can be loaded into the options menu when required.
On the down side, calculations can be slow,for example it took 32 minutes to calculate the shortest route between Lands End to John O7 Groats.
The maps show the main roads ONLY.IE:The shortest route from Paignton to Tavistock is via Plymouth,as no road is shown traversing Dartmoor.
This program achieves exactly what it sets out to do,which is to display and print out the Fastest and Shortest routes between two places.

A very impressive and useful utility. Highly recomended. Brian)))...

ANGELA'S REVIEW.

AFTER DARK
DISCZINE

A new Disczine has finally reared it's head up North somewhere. "So what ?"You may say. "It's just another load of someone's opinions with no staying power and no writers to blow my hard earned money on."
Well, uh,no.
You see, a new fanzine is not just blank pages,with words stuck on them haphazardly, it is an explosion of feeling,belief,colour (maybe not in the literal sence of the word),images,pictures and words. All of these go together to produce a fanzine, or magazine, or disczine,essentially they are all the same thing.
Many magazines and fanzines are execellently written,no spelling mistakes,all using perfect English with standard page layouts and viewable pictures.But a few of these magazines lack the four most important aspects of all;enjoyment,feeling,variety and personality.
A magazine,fanzine or disczine can work without correct spelling (well, CPCSW survived didn't it?) and without the presentation you would expect to come off of a publishers presses. One example of this,is After Dark. After Dark is a new disczine, edited by a bloke called John Jones.Commonly known as Jonty.
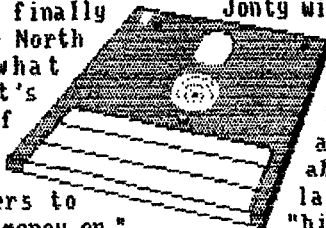
Jonty willingly admits that he is no prize speller (prize turkey maybe...)
His spelling is just another humorous thing about the 'zine',well I laugh when he writes "biast". At least he's consistent and spells it wrong all the way through.
After Dark has a lot of feeling in it.The pages (of the disc zine),I couldn't think of another term,screens maybe?) reek of enthusiasm and an actual personality. Jonty puts his views and feelings into the 'zine,and it is plain to see why it has such a vibrant and colourful range of articles.
The range of articles is very wide. This is basically a multi-format 'zine,but don't let that put you off, most of it is CPC.Some articles in the 'zine include are of a spooky nature,others technical,some reviews,stories even.Basically,anyone wanting to sound off about anything can do so,happily,easily,freely.
Jonty's sence of art and aesthetic appeal is very good,and enhance the 'zine a whole lot.
If you are starting to think that maybe this is all a bit pie in the sky,with no real computer content,then I am putting across the wrong image, and I apoligse for that.There is a good range of articles in the 'ZINE.
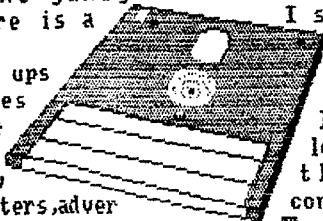
Apart from a good range of articles,there is just enough of other stuff to drive away the monotony of one subject. After Dark has some serious articles, and some gamey articles, but htere is a good mix of the two. There are some round ups of supporters, jokes (although they are pretty bad) reviews of new fan/disczines,news,letters,adverts the (usual),and also some rather good interviews(weren't you one of the people Jonty interviewed?- Ed) (Okay,so may be I was,but he cornered Dave Crooks and Richard Wildley too) There certainly has been some thought put into this. Now,what about the content of the actual articles,and how are they written ?Well,Jonty has so much enthusiasm for what he is doing,he some times let's it rule his articles,but no doubt that can be tamed,and he will learn as he goes along,we all do. My first Basically Basic for AA was horrendous,it was really difficult doing what was needed in the allotted space, with so many proviso's and other things to remember, but it got easier as I did it more and more (and in less and less time because Rob Buckley doesn't know what a deadline is) Anyway, the first issue of After Dark can only go from it's current standard and upwards.If you think you might be interested, look at the end of the page for details.

When I first wrote this review, it was issue one and two where paper fanzines, issue one was in colour, though how Jonty's printer hacked it I'll never know.
       Issue   three onwards,however,has transmogamied into a Disczine.
       It has got some lovely little icons at the bottom for controling the program.
       The actual program is a little annoying in places, but no doubt that will be revised and refined in time.
Just to finish of, Jonty has produced something which was better than I had expected,it is true that some of the spelling,sentence syntax's and page layouts have a lot to be desired for, but after all, Rome wasn't built in the proverbial day,was it ?, or did my history book have a misprint ?.
What Do I Do Now Dad ?.
Now you have read this rather good review of this rather good disczine,you will of course want to know where to send of your money to continue supporting your favourite machine.

Send Postal-orders and Cheques,made payable to John Jones for £1-50 an issue,to :

After Dark.
41 Westmorland Avenue.
Newbiggin By-The-Sea.
NE64 6RN.
After Dark comes out every 6 weeks to two months.3.5" disc's are supplied,3" disc's (one of) must be provided.

                    Angela..............

```
10 CLS
20 a$(1)= "YES ! GO AHEAD !"
30 a$(2)= "OKAY ! BUT BE CAREFUL !"
40 a$(3)= "SOUNDS A BIT RISKY TO ME !"
50 a$(4)= "NOT REALLY RECOMMENDED !"
60 a$(5)= "HA HA HA ! NO WAY JOSE !"
70 PRINT "THE YES / NO DECISION MAKER"
80 PRINT "WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION ?"
90 INPUT "",q$
100 RANDOMIZE TIME
110 PRINT "ADVICE: ";a$(INT(RND*5)+1
```

YES / NO

DECISION MAKER

type in a question that
requires a YES/NO answer.

```
10 CLS
20 PRINT "'EGG TIMER' by DAVID HALL"
30 PRINT "SELECT ONLY WHEN WATER BOILS"
40 INPUT "1=RUNNY 2=LIGHT 3=HARD:",a
50 b=90+(75*a)
60 c=TIME/300
70 LOCATE 1,5
80 PRINT "TIMER:"INT(b-(TIME/300-c))
90 IF INT (b-TIME/300-c))>0 THEN 70
100 PRINT "EGGS READY !"
110 SOUND 1,80,500,15
```

EGG TIMER

time your eggs the way you
want them

```
10 INPUT "0=VDU 8=PRINTER :",s
20 PRINT #s,"LOTTERY PREDICTION"
30 DIM n(49)
40 RANDOMIZE TIME
50 FOR a=1 to 6
60 b=int(RND(1)*49)+1
70 IF n(b)=1 THEN 60
80 n(b)= 1
90 PRINT #s,b;
100 NEXT
110 PRINT #s
120 PRINT "any key for more"
130 CALL &BB18
140 ERASE n
150 GOTO 30
```

LOTTERY PREDICTOR

selects random numbers to
be displayed on the screen
or to the printer.

I did try your proggy out
David,I got two numbers
from it, better luck this
week I hope.

Dave))).....

TYPE-IN'S
BY DAVID HALL

The MULTIFACE 11 is one of the more useful of CPC devices over the last 10 years plus, so much so, that it is generally considered as being a 'must have' piece of equipment,and,rightfully so, for it allows the user to make much needed back-up copies of software, hack into programs to discover and learn programming techniques,and to type in game cheats. I rather suspect that most people use their Multiface for the latter, (WOT ? ME CHEAT ? NEVER ! ....AHEM ....Dave)))...and that most people without a MULTIFACE would like to CHEAT. Well fear not all you readers without a MULTIFACE, for I have got the solution ! (sort of).

The program listed below, allows you to use the Multiface pokes, (like those in Amstrad Action's cheat mode section). to cheat on your games. HOWEVER,the program will NOT work on ALL GAMES . (Flashy Border Loaders are out for a start).but a surprising number will work !.As an example,try this little poke for size.:

Game - DIZZY Address - #751C Byte - #00 EFFECT INVULNERABILITY.

Good Eh ?.There are plenty of others that work,why not send them into Dave (The ED:),a compiled list can be printed in a later issue.

```
1.MULTIFACE by DAVID HALL (c) NOV 95
10.CLS:PRONT "'Multiface':Type poke(s)/(ENTER) to load game"
20.b=&BF00:FOR p=b to b+43:READ a$
30.POKE p,VAL ("&"+a$):NEXT:TAPE
40.DATA 21,B,BF,11,15,BF,6,81,C3,E0,BC,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,E5,C5,F5,21,
    2C,BF,7E,FE,FD,28,8,23,4E,23,46,23,2,18,F3,F1,C1,E1,C9
50.INPUT "ADDRESS #",k$:IF k$="" THEN POKE p,253:CALL b:RUN ""
60.INPUT "BYTE #",b$:POKE p,VAL("&0"+b$)
70.POKE p+1,VAL("&"+RIGHT$(k$,2))
80.POKE p+2,VAL("&"+LEFT$(k$,2)):p=p+3:GOTO 50
```
                     save the program Dave)))...
David says that he hope's that I enjoy the above program to put it into print,as you can see David,here it is.
David sign's off by saying. Best wishes to you and every other CPC NON-DESERTER !. and he will send in further articles when he find's the time.I SAY ! YES PLEASE DAVID,in fact David has given me his permission to use other type-in's from old ACU'S . A A's. so you know the programs are good and that David is a good programmer.

As David said,if you have any game POKES,send them in and I can put them in further issue's.

                     DAVE))) (me).......

Pocket Money Software

Christmas is just round the corner, so Scrooge (our JR) is here to tell us all about the best stocking fillers to be had this Xmas.

ALPHA SCROLL - David Hall
A Savage Pumpkin Production

At first glance this text scroller is quite good, all you need do is type in the text, press a few keys and your mini demo scrolls away in glorious colour. The patterned text border moving in the opposite direction to the scroll is very impressive. If it wasn't for the fact that you can not use the scroll outside the package I would rate it very highly, but as it stands it's a bit pointless using it really.

Overall 30%

THE MAGIC CUBE - David Hall
A Savage Pumpkin Production

I'm a brain box, well that is what the Magic Cube puzzle said. The puzzle is very easy to understand, you start off with a box cut up into nine squares, at radom these are jumbled up so that some are white and some are black. Using the F1-9 keys you swap them round till you end up with a single black one in the centre. Personally I thought it was dead easy, but I'm a brain box, this has got to be true because a computer is never wrong. Well not really I just pressed the keys any old how.

Overall 45%

ARION SPRITE CREATOR - David Hall
A Savage Pumpkin Production

Apart from Xenomorphs this is the best of the bunch, the creator is very easy to use and has most of the optional extras, things like being able to mirror a design or copy one, makes creating sprites so much easier. Dave's instructions are a bit brief but the program is so straight forward even a complete beginner could work it out in less than a minute.

Overall 75%

(All we need now is for someone to show us how to create a game. How about it Dave ? Ed)

A SAVAGE CONCLUSION

Xenomorphs (reviewed last issue by our Dear Dave) is the bee's knees. Personally I found it very challenging, only completed four out of the twenty levels so far. But I must say that what I've seen is very impressive, for only a quid this game is a bargain. As there are fourteen other programs thrown in for good measure (there's one not mentioned in the menu, a nice little tennis game) this suite is a must for bargain hunters.

Write to:
David Hall
288 Derbyshire Lane West
Stretford
Manchester

P.M.S. Continued...

Richard Fairhurst

You may have noticed that the appearence of *our* fanzine has improved recently, this is partly the result of using Richard Fairhurst's latest version of PowerPage 128, also Dave has used up all that horrible greeny paper.

At first glance the improvements Richard has made are just cosmetic, it is only when you start to use the program (and read the documentation) that you realise how much better it is over earlier versions.

Number one, for me anyway is being able to use Protext DOC mode, along with its codes. So half way through a sentence you can slip into **BOLD** or *ITALIC*, also the speed PP128 reads and prints onto the screen has been speeded up. Also speeded up a tad are the BLOCK options, X & Y flip etc and the fill option. PP128 has always been highly rated for its text handling but now it is even better.

Graphics wise not much has changed, you are still limited to: lines, boxes, elipses and dots. But you can now use a pattern editor to change of the fills, a great bonus for me personally as I like the graphics side of computing.

There is a bug though, when you save a CUT the box is still present on the screen afterwards, this is rather annoying at times. The menu bar is still saved when you save a screen but I put that down to good advertising.

Text wise PP128 is on par with Stop Press, better than MicroDesign Plus. But with graphics I feel MD+ has the upper hand. You can't have everything, maybe PowerPage Professional will have better drawing tools. All in all PP128 beats the commercial ones, especially value for money. £2.25 which includes a three inch disc, you supply postage and packaging though.

Overall 96%

Farmer Giles goes out to check his corn field, when he gets there he sees 20 crows perched on an overhead electricity wire. The farmer dashes home and returns with his 12 bore shotgun to find that five more crows have joined the flock. He raises his gun and shoots a crow.
How many are left ?

Unknown Author

Occasionally after squeezing a screen with SQ23 you will want to change it back to 17k, this little program will the job. BUT it does not have anything to do with the palette file, unfortunately.

Overall 80%

ProClip - CPC SW
RICHARD NARAIN

As the title suggests this little program allows you to print out clip art with Protext, and a good job it does of it too. With a lot of trial and error you could knock up a page like you would on a DTP but I'd rather use it to create letter heads. Unless you have access to a photocopier creating letter heads spells money, 7p per copy in Barnstaple is the cheapest I could find. Apart from being a lot cheaper Proclip has other advantages. It is dead easy to use, within Protext the print quality is first rate and fast.

The DOC file included is actually written in plain English, so no problems there. But there are a few downers. Firstly, when you CAT it would have been easier just to see the screen files, as that is all the user will be interested in. When loading a screen you have to include the extension, also there doesn't seem to be any error trapping, so if you make a mistake the whole thing crashes. Don't let the above put you off, this is a great piece of kit, and when you get used to using Proclip you'll be using it with all your letters.

Overall 70%

Sex Machine - CPC SW
RAYMOND & STEF

SEX... There you go, I said it. Stop Sniggering, we are all mature enough to handle the odd sexual comments. (Don't get too carried away....Dave). I wont mention the 68 then. (What's a sixty-eight ? Dave). That's where you owe her one.

Unlike your average porn film/demo this little slide show has a story line, it is a bit like the old black and white with text (in French) to tell you what is going on (as if you wouldn't know). The demo starts outside a whore house, indoors a couple are going through the motions, the sort of thing that would put the average person in hospital for a few weeks.

Out of the blue the police arrive and bang the door down with a big truncheon. Then the pair are banged up in jail. Together, must have mixed prisons in France because the action doesn't end there.

Animation wise, this is just a few two MODE 1 screens affairs. No where near as good as Germaine, but worth getting if you're into that type of thing, me I would never even looked at it if I never had to write a review, honest. Why doesn't anyone ever believe me ? (Because you are a perv..Dave).

Overall 55%

Bonzo's Scrapyard - ISSUE 14
DAVE CALENO

Have you ever had problems backing up software ? If so this is where to go. When it comes to copying software the EXPERT of experts is The Trog, in issue 14

he explains how to get the most out of XEXOR, the copier no-one can copy. I like Dave Caleno's style of writing, informative with a friendly feel about it. There is even a few reviews and previews by Dave Muggeridge, remember him he edited a simular 'zine many moons ago. What gets me about this "when it's ready I release it" (Dave has a nice way of apolgizing when it's late) offering is the price, for just a first class stamp (you supply an A4 SAE) you recieve a first class newsletter.

The only critism I could make is the odd typing error here and there but we all make mistakes now and again.

Overall 90%

To get a copy of the Xmas Issue drop Dave a line (with a A4 SAE) and an extra first class stamp. Write to:

DAVE CALENO
BONZO'S SCRAPYARD
29 CHAPTER ROAD
STROOD
ROCHESTER
KENT
ME2 3PX

CATALOGUE

To find out what a library has in stock send a blank disc and ask for their CAT disc. It's normally FREE.

You will find the name of the library which donated the software by the title, below are a few PD libs'. Please mention CPC South West when you make an order and see if they have anything new we can review in our 'zine.

DISK PD
LOWER DEXBEER
DEXBEER
HOLSWORTHY
DEVON
EX22 7LA

CPC SW
4 CONNAUGHT AVENUE
MUTLEY
PLYMOUTH
PL4 7BX

GNASHER PD
36 SWEETMANS ROAD
SHAFTSBURY
DORSET
SP7 8EH

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN
BRYMPTON COTTAGE
BRUNSWICK ROAD
WORTHING
SUSSEX
BN11 3NQ

PD FUN
FOLLY FARM
COLD ASHTON
CHIPPENHAM
WILTSHIRE
SN14 8JR

PENGUIN SOFTWARE
62 NURSERY ROAD
KNAPHILL
WOKING
SURREY
GU21 2NW

ROBOT PD
2 TRENT ROAD
OAKHAM
RUTFORD
LE15 6HF

COMP-WINNERS

We had a lot of winners in the last competitions,but,there can only be one winner per prize. So ER-IN-DOORS made the draw from a hat,and the names that came out where.

BOOKS: OWEN SMITH from way down there where the village has NO PUB AH!.....well done Owen.......

PROCOPY/MAXIDOS: CHRISTINE RAISIN from way up country in Nottingham....Well done Christine.......

No One won Mini-Office or the Route Planner,never mind,you can have another go in this issue,Which leads me nicely into the comps:

COMPETITION TIME

ROUTE-PLANNER.

THE ANSWERS ARE ALL ANAGRAMS OF THE CLUES.

1.TINY AXE ....=
2.UNITED ....=
3.ROTES ....=
4.TREASON ....=
5.NODE ....=
6.PROTEINS ....=
7.RECITAL ....=
8.LATE FIND ....=

SEE Brians review on this nice little program,somewhere in this magazine.

Comes complete with instructions on a 3" disc.

MINI OFFICE 11.

1.ENDURE. (9.).......=
2.PUFF UP (5.).......=
3.FORTUNATE(5.)......=
4.GROW UP (.6.)......=

THIS (3") DISC HAS A COMPLETE
O   F   F   I   C   E
WORKS,WORDPROCESSOR,DATABASE,SPREAD
SHEET,LABEL MAKER. ETC.

BONZO BIG BATCH.

1.FOOL (5). ....=
2.ADAPT (5). ....=
3.MYTH (5). ....=
4.PUBLISH (S). ....=
5.EVADE (5). ....=
6.DEAL (5). ....=

THIS   (3")   DISC   HAS   A
D A T A B A S E , P O O L S
PREDICTOR,SPRITE/SCREEN DESIGNER
PROGRAM'S.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL ....Dave)))........

CHEAT FINDING !

by PETER CURGENVEN

In the last issue of CPCSW.A request was made for an article on 'Game Cheats'.This is one of my favourite pastimes.
I will try to give the easy and simplest way of finding cheats.I have 5 Utilities for this purpose,also the use of a Multiface.

The first cheat finder Utility that I want to tell you about is 'INSIDER'.It was sold by the same company that sold the Multiface,a very good Utility for this purpose,but,a bit of a Pig to use.You have to load 'insider',which sit's inside the extra 'RAM' in the Multiface,you then load the program/game that you wish to 'LOOK' at. Press the 'stop' button on your Multiface,re-place the 'insider' disc in your drive,and you will see another menu,what you are looking for is Text or Machine code.The 'Insider' looks through your program and 'stops'at the address at an address where the code or text is what your looking for ,make a note of this and carry on looking.
Code tends to be at more than one address.(Not for the average user or Faint Harted,and definitly NOT for BEGINERS).It is good for looking into programs though.

The second Utility that I want to tell you about is named 'TEARAWAY'.
It is sold by James Varity and is identicle to Insider by sitting inside the Multiface,except,unlike Insider,you don't need to keep it in the drive.
You will see a menu where you can do lots to the program stored in the memory,again looking for text or machine code.
Tearaway has been a very good trusty friend to me,it works very well,in fact,I found my First Multiface cheat with it.I even won CASH from 'A A'.Its a long slog,awkward to get on with,but the final result does pay for it's self.

The next Utility is,JW.BROWNS,this utility is now in the PD library.JB.B is a good lazy way to find cheats. First save the game with your Multiface,(6128 owners remember on saving,use the 'C' option,so you dont save the 128 K! JWB looks looks through the saved game and gives you a list of addresses where cheats may be found,you then use the Multiface, and go by trial and error and put sujested values,this way is very fast,also once you have the hang of it,it will save you a lot of time.

With Insider and Tareaway,I have found over 200 M/F cheats together with JWB's disc.On the jwb's disc there are other useful Utilities,Well worth getting.
If at any time you get stuck,you have my phone number.
Now for another Utility,MF SEARCH,with this program,you first of all save the game using your M/F,You call this GAME 1.press return to play the game,lose a life or fire a bullit,and save the game again.This time call it GAME 2.

cheat finding..........

Now what you have to do is to run MF SEARCH,this tiny program compares the two saved games for the difference,(meaning Life-Bullit etc),It then looks and tells you where the event happened,all you do then is to alter the address!,I do love this little program,it helps where others failed.
This program is NOT FREELY available,but if you want a copy,then send a disc and a SAE.

The last Utility we are goin to look at is 'RANSACKER',you will need the old type of Multiface for this one,my copy has gone corrupt,so I cant use it,or tried. I am told it was good like MF SEARCH,but better.

There is another Utility that I have been after for some time now,called,'COMPARATOR' by Verysoft,even advertising in WACCI several times,but no one seems to be able to help.
So once again,If any of you know where I can get hold of a copy,PLEASE let me know.

Most games now have been 'POKED'.I have around 40 games that still need M/F Pokes found.

If anyone has a game that they want 'cheat busted'.I may be able to help you out,send the game on disc,(either M/F saved or transfered)an SAE.and I will return the game with the cheats in the game.

I have a DATABASE of M/F Pokes,done by Danny Webb,those of you who would like a copy,please let me know.

Anyone wanting to look for a M/F poke,try looking for D6,01,27, if found,change 01 to 00,This is the common M/C of timing a life 'BARS'.
Next try 3A,00,00,D6,01,27. if found change 3A for FF,This is the common form of INFINITE LIVES. Some others to look for are. 46,05,70.
    7E,3D,77.
    7E,D6,01,27
    3A,00,00,3D,32.
    2A,00,00,32.

Happy Hunting - from Peter.....
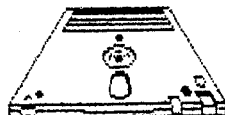
Part 4:- Hardware ENVelopes all is revealed ....
But first Sorry! Last months example tune were not on the Coverdisc ... but they will be on this months (these were the several tunes for the Arpeggios tutorial).
Just to remind you, ALL example tunes for loading into the Tracer have a load address of &4000. The tracer program is also available from Dave.
Apart from reading the keyboard and being passed musical instructions, the sound chip has a set of built in ENV's. This means there might just be an ENV already set up/stored, in the sound chip which you can use. Which basically means hardly any setting up is needed!
Firstly: they can be used as an alternative to BASICS's ENV command;-
Enter this line from BASIC.
'ENV 1,=8,4000:SOUND 1,75,100,15,1'

You will have heard a tone starting off at Max volume and fading away to silence. You may have noticed the strange format of the ENV command. The first number was the Env to define. The second must have an '=' symbol (this indicates a HardENV is wanted). Then the Hardware Envelope number from 8 to 15. Then the ENVELOPE period typically over 700 for the above use. The ENVelope period simply times how long a complete section of the HardENV takes to play. Try changing the value 15 in the above sound

command. Actually this volume param makes no difference ... as the volume level is taken over by the P.S.G.'s ENVelope generator.↑↓

There is a program on the disc (RUN"HWEXAM" hopefully!) which allows you to have a play with the parameters. This shows a visual image of the HardENVs, what they do. So hopefully you can set some up with a little more ease, for your own programmes.

Onto the Second use: Hardware tones pure or modulated?

RESET your C.P.C and enter this line from BASIC. 'SOUND 1,1,100,15' A sound was issued from channel A. But you didn't here it cos the tone period was set to 1 - meaning above the human hearing range!

Now try this line from BASIC. 'ENV 1,=8,1:SOUND 1,1,100,15,1' Notice the same sound command format (this time using ENV 1). But this time a tone was heard! Well notice also the HENV period was set to 1, actually playing the peaks and troughs in the HENV so fast they produced there own frequency! (you can see the peaks and troughs in the "HWEXAM" prog). Now we can change the note of the HardENV tone by changing the HENVperiod. Although not all the notes in any single octave can be produced. You can also get slightly different sounding tones by changing the HENV Number 8 through 15 is available.

I think you'll agree this is quite an
interesting sound! Next try this line from
BASIC. 'ENV 1,=8,1:SOUND 1,60,100,15,1' What
you just heard was a combined (or modualted)
tone consisting of a HARDENV tone and a
'real' tone. Again changing the HENV period
govens the overall tone. Notice this allows
you to have 2 tones (seemingly) at the same
time.   Some fine tuning of the the 'Real'
tone period will be needed.

Well now I've explained the basics of Hardware
ENV's, I think it's time for an example tune,
don't you? So load up 'HWEXAMTN' from the C.D.
into the tracer. Sorry but I couldn't resist
a christmas tune. I'll leave it up to you to
experiment with HENV's. Well thats it for this
time ... any queries concerning MUSIC/MACHINE
code etc, my numbers on the help page. Have a
good Christmas Holiday! .. Simon.

                     Thanks once again Simon Dave)))....

COMP-WINNERS

There where a lot of winners for last months competition's,but
sadly,only one person can win the prize for that competition,the
names drawn out of the hat by ER IN DOORS where.

BOOKS : OWEN SMITH.

MAXIDOS/PROCOPY: CHRISTINE RAISIN

NO ONE WON -MINI OFFICE. OR ROUTE PLANNER. SO THEY WILL BE UP FOR
GRABS AGAIN IN THIS ISSUE.TOGETHER WITH BONZO'S BIG BATCH.
ALSO FOR THIS ISSUE,COLOSSUS BRIDGE AND TUTOR WITH INSTRUCTIONS.

REMEMBER, ALL THESE PRIZES ARE DONATED BY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP,AND
THANKS TO THEM,THESE COMPETITIONS EXIST.
IF YOU HAVE SOME SOFTWARE / HARDWARE THAT YOU NO LONGER NEED, WHY
NOT DONATE IT FOR A COMPETITION. BOOKS, TAPES DISC'S,6128'S 664'S
464'S.MONITORS OR KEYBOARDS,MULTIFACE,ROMBOXES,ROM'S,PRINTERS
ETC,ETC,ETC,PUT IT TO A GOOD USE.
JUST SEND THE ITEMS TO ME (DAVE) AND I WILL MAKE UP A
COMPETITION,OR BETTER STILL,SEND IN A COMPETITION WITH THE PRIZE.

                DAVE))) ....

FROM THE PAST

BY DAVE)))...

It was twelve months ago that Simon kindly entered his 'BOOTRACKER DEMO' into my Public Domain software library,and I remember that it had a special message for CPCSW members. Yes it was a christmas program,I have it stored somewahre in my archives.

Peter sent in his article on Parados and gave it a 95%. I must agree with Peter,it is good BUT, it does have a bug now and again,by sometimes copying a disc to disc and missing a file,thankfully,it diesn't happen a lot,just when you dont want it to .

John sent in a Venturing into G.A.C. article and gave us a brief look into writing adventure games,John has nearly finnished another follow up to his last venture's Ranul and Whodunit. I have had the pleasure of a preview of his latest venture game,it's good.

We had an offer to write for us a series of articles on how to BUST GAMES by Alex Cochrane. But regretfully, Alex fell off the face of the earth and we never recieved any further articles,despite me sending Alex a disc for him to copy onto further articles. Has anyone been in contact with Alex of late ?.But never mind, I here from John that our very own Peter and David (him not me Dave)))... are good at tape busting and finding pokes and cheats.

Dave (me) put an article on CP/M.(yawn.yawn) I here you say,but wait,there are some good programs writen for the CPC in CP/M mode. In the early days of the CPC,you could only get CP/M programs.In fact I have followed up a request in this issue,for another article on CP/M. yes folks,I have been asked to explain how to get CP/M programs to work,and what does the files do that are on the system disc,(remember the system disc ?),It's the two disc's that came with the computer,and a new member have asked me to explain.

In the December issue,Paul sent in a little program on 'Password Protection',not that I have ever felt the need to put a protection on any files that I have produced,(and that's not many),I think that with todays sector and track editor programs,anyone could soon find out what the protection word was,so I never bothered to type it in,sorry Pul.

John continued with his Pocket Money Software articles,and they are very useful I think,it could save you spending your hard earned cash on some program that is not quite up to it's expectations.

I was able to put part two on Alex's tape busting article in thie magazine,because I had it on disc,but as I said earlier,he has fallen of the face of the earth.

Well that's it for this issue.more from the past in the next issue. Dave))).....

CP/M by Dave)))...

So what is CP/M ?.and what does it stand for ?.Let me tell you,but those of you who hate CP/M or fall asleep when reading about CP/M,I suggest you skip this page as I have at least one member who wants to know about it,so for Collin of Portsmouth,This is CP/M.

CP/M stands for. (CONTROL PROGRAM for MICROCOMPUTER). There are two versions for the CPC. 2.2 & 3.1 or Plus at it is sometimes known. And it was one of the first operating systems written to enable microcomputers to handle disc's. It was invented by a man (of course)sorry ladies a bit sexist that remark, Named GARY KILDALL who worked for a semiconductor company called INTEL. Intel would not market CP/M,so Gary went alone against all odds,even IBM stated and I quote "Microcomputers where just a passing fad".(un-quote). Gary traded under the name of 'DIGITAL RESEARCH'by mail order. How Intel must be kicking there bums now,as Gary is Maga rich and his programs where snapped up by all micro manufacturers. True,CP/M is not the worlds best written programs and can be slow,but most of the programs are very reliable.

CP/M is made up of four main components:(1).The basic input/output system.(BIOS). (2).The disc operating system.(BDOS). (3).The console command system.(CCP)

(4).Transient program area.(TPA). A brief explanation of this is: BIOS provides input/output interface to the disc drives. BDOS controls the disc drives and file systems. CCP reads the keyboard. TPA holds the programs loaded in from disc.

To see what is on a system disc,you need to boot CP/M and type in IDIR (return),not like Amsdos command of CAT for catalogue.

The main tasks you can carry out using the CP/M are as follows.
-Format a disc
-Copy a disc/file of one disc to another
-check the size and read/write status of disc files
-display a directory or selected sections of the directory(user areas).
-display the contents of a disc file on the screen
-erase \rename files
-output files to a peripheral device (printer etc)
-execute a series of commands with one command
-create and edit files.

doesn't some of this sound familliar to you ?,most of you I doubt bother to use CP/M,yet as you can see,most of the things you do on your computer with disc management,are on on the CP/M system disc.

The Big Yawn continues......

Here is a list of the CP/M utilitiy programs on your system Disc

AMSDOS.COM	Returns to Amsdos and Basic from CPM
ASM.COM	8080 assembler
BOOTGEN.COM	copies boot and configuration sectors from one disc to another
CLOAD.COM	copies files from tape to disc
CSAVE.COM	copies files from disc to tape
CHKDISC.COM	compares two discs (two drives needed)
COPYDISC.COM	copies a disc to another (two drives needed)
DDT.COM	debugging tool:8080 debugger
DISCCHK.COM	compares two discs (single drive)
DISCCOPY.COM	copies disc to another (single drive)
DUMP.COM	displays files on screen in HEX
ED.COM	text editor
FILECOPY.COM	copies files from one disc to another (single drive)
FORMAT.COM	format a disc Data or System
LOAD.COM	reads a file in intel HEX:produces a .COM FILE
MOVECPM.COM	contracts CP/M system of any given size
PIP.COM	peripheral interchange program:copies files between peripherals
SETUP.COM	changes pearameters in configuration sectors
STAT.COM	gives details on disc,(user areas IOBYTE
SUBMIT.COM	takes CPM commands from file instead of keyboard
SYSGEN.COM	writes CPM system onto system tracks
XSUB.COM	used with SUBMIT.COM for buffered program input

As you can see from the above list,there is a lot to CP/M that you
didn't know about,or ever used,yet,it's all there on your system
disc's tucked away somewhere in your disc archives.

One of the main enquiries that I receive regarding CP/M is,how do
I load the disc ?.Most newcommers to the CPC try to load a CP/M
program the same way as a Basic program. RUN"FILENAME.So here is
the correct way to load a CP/M program.

First, BOOT UP CP/M by holding down the shift key and at the same
time press the (| @)key,first key right of the P key and on the
screen you should see the following message.

CP/M PLUS AMSTRAD CONSUMER ELECTRONICS LTD
V1 .0. 61K TPA 1 (or 2) DRIVES FOUND
A)

To catalogue the disc (TYPE) DIR press return, and the list of
files on the disc should read IE: MYFILE.COM or MYFILE.DOC. To run
the program, type in IE: MYFILE (and press return) and away you go

Well, I dont want to bore you for any longer. But if anyone wants
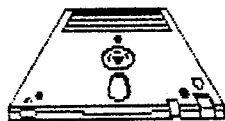to know more about CP/M.Drop me a line.

                    THE END OF THE BIG YAWN   Dave)))...