CPC SOUTH WEST
The Amstrad Users Group

BATTLE-ZINES
Stand back, sparks are about to fly.
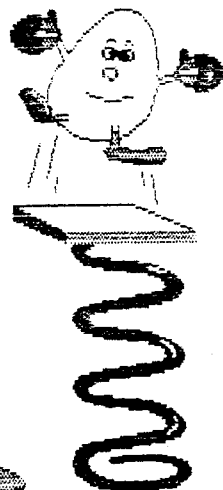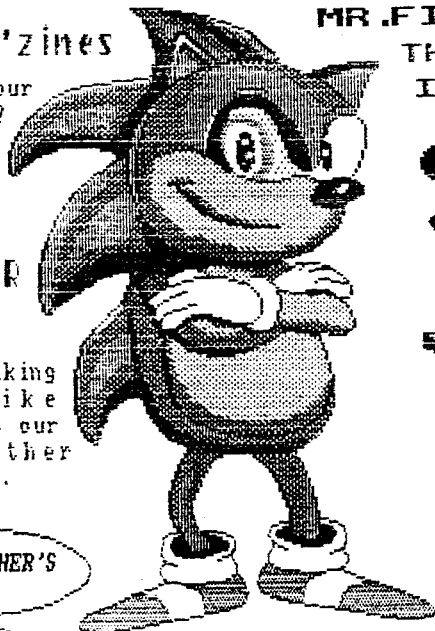
DIY Disc'zines

Wanna edit your
own disc-zine?
Jonty is here
2 show you
how....

DESIGNER LABELS

A DTP is 4 making
things like
fanzines, but our
John has other
ideas...

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

MR.FIXIT IN THE NEXT ISSUE ???

FREE CD With Every Issue.

IF ONLY I'D
SENT DAVE A
DISC....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE EDITORIAL [THE BIT NO ONE READS]
PETER'S PAGE, YOUR
LETTERS, PMS REVIEWS,
MUSIC TUTORIAL, HELP
LINES, REVIEWS, AND
MUCH MORE...

MEMBERS
HELP - LINES

HELP LINES ARE PROVIDED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

Please phone after 6 pm or as stated. if sending a letter or a Disc / Tape, dont forget an SAE for the return. TA! .

TAPE TO DISC or DISC TO DISC.
PETER CURGENVEN
0841-520875.

ART WORK AND GRAPHICS
JOHN REILLY
15 NORTH GREEN
FORCHES EST.
BARNSTAPLE
EX 32 8EA

MUSIC FOR YOUR PROGRAMS
SIMON CRUMP
0844-32761
AFTER 7PM PLEASE.

EPROM BLOWING HARDWARE AND ELECTRONICS (+).
IAN NEILL
01926-337708.

BASIC PROGRAM'S
JAMIE COOPER
01752-351101.

DISCOUNTS-HELP PD SOFTWARE.
GENERAL NATTER AND I DO LIKE TO TALK.
USER GROUP INFO
DAVE STITSON
01752-254404.

TECHNICAL ADVICE HARDWARE,AND CPC REPAIRS.
TURN THE PAGES FOR NEWS OF A NEW SERVICE TO CPCSW

PLEASE DO NOT PHONE NIGEL AT HOME .NIGEL HAS LEFT THE HELP LINE SERVICE....
NIGEL CALLCUTT
MR.FIXIT STARTS A NEW SERIES IN THIS ISSUE....

YOUR NEXT ISSUE OF CPCSW IS DUE OUT AT THE END OF AUGUST 96.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HARDWARE — SOFTWARE. THAT YOU COULD DONATE FOR A PRIZE IN ONE OF THE COMPETITION'S.????

PLEASE HELP ME BY GETTING YOUR ARTICLE'S
TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO GIVE ME TIME TO EDIT THEM ETC.

DAVE >>>...

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

Hello once again.

It seems that no sooner I finnish posting out the magazines to you, I start all over again on the next issue,even though it wont be completed for posting for 6 - 8 weeks time. I was asked by someone who is thinking of taking over the Editorship of another magazine, does it take up a lot of your time putting a magazine together. I think that he may be having second thoughts about taking on the Editorship of that magazine now,although he is retired and does have a lot of time on his hands.

You will see an article from Brian Watson in this issue about PC's ,and I must say I totally agree with what he say's, PC's take a long time to boot up to get to the wordprocessor, I should imagine that I could initialise the Protext ROM,type the letter and almost complete the print out before I have booted up the wordprocessor, at work, we have the Apple Mac's, with windows 96 etc.which I have to use to type in reports, case notes etc ,and when you think that those machines cost over £2000's, Give me my 6128 any day,much more user friendly than those Mac's.

Do have a rummage through your wares to see if you can Donate a prize for the competitions,I am sure you have some software, (Tape or Disc) that you NO Longer need or use, and talking about the competitions,I must say that I have been very pleased with the entries for the competitions in the last issue, there are a lot of you who have got the right answers,but regrettably,there can only be ONE winner,to find out who it was,look for the winners page to see if you were lucky. And for this issue, I have included a CROSSWORD,so good luck.

With this issue, I shall put in a slip that shows you when your subscription will run out,this has been askedforby a member who's sub's had run out and wondered why he hadn't received his magazine for two months. I should like to remind you that we as a group, do not make any profit on the magazines and therefore we can't send out a copy if it hasn't been paid for, so Please try to keep the 'slip' handy or make a note in your diary to remind your self to re-new your subs.

LOOK AT YOUR ADDRESS LABLE !!!!! That is all from me for this page,but be warned ! I am also on another page !!.

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

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

Hello folks, I do not know if this letter will reach Dear Dave in time for the June issue as there is a postal strike taking place. In the PMS reviews you will spot a 80,000 word dictionary for sale, please do not buy it as I have just found out from Barrie Snell that there might be some dirty tricks going on. As you can see from the review the dictionary does not come up to much, so I wrote to Barrie to find out if he is still selling his, or has he made it PD (same price really) and mentioned the review in my letter. This is roughly what he had to say, I have had to edit it as he very rightly got a bit irate.

Barrie's Letter

I must get this off my chest. Ages ago I put together a series of ASCII files on 4 or 6 discs-sides of words, about 80,000 in total. I subdivided them into AA-AF, AG-AL, AM-AZ, BA-BK, BL-BZ, etc, etc., and advertised them in CPC Domain and Amstrad Action at a penny per 1K. The grand total was about 650K. I got an order for the lot from a guy in Ireland. After about 6 or 7 months everybody who was ever going to buy them had bought them. Then I put together 4 Prospell dictionary discs using these ASCII files, and had added an extra 11,000 words to them in the meantime. I advertised these in CPC DOMAIN and Amstrad Action as well. Guess what ? I got an order from the same guy in Ireland. Well things ran their course as before, and after some more months imagine my surprise when I saw an advert in the "reader's ads" section for Prospell Dictionary discs. Guess who was selling them ? Yes, you have got it in one go; the same Irishman!

Anyway, tell this guy to get BLEEP, he's a rip-off merchant. It took me 7 months to type all those words in, if he won't admit he ripped me off he can get doubly BLEEP.

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

Hello Dave.

Having read my first issue of CPC South West, I must say what an interesting read it is, with quite a varied selection of articles.

I particularly liked Simon Crump's Music Tutorial ; some good ideas there that I must try out.

Here is a TIP for anyone having trouble with dirty edge-connectors ; give them a rub over with a fibre-glass pen. It brings them up like new. If you've never seen one of these things before, it's a small plastic pen-shaped device with a retractable fibre-glass brush at one end. It's available from Electronic Component Suppliers such as RS, although I got mine from a Car Accessory shop. The one that I bought went under the name of (GUNSON'S SPEEDPLATE). (as it was intended to be used for cleaning off rust prior to painting).

Finally, can anyone "HELP" me with a game????.
I'm stuck on 'INCENTIVE'S FIRST FREESCAPE GAME' (DRILLER).
I've cleared 17 sectors of gas, thus producing a switch in Obsidian, but I still can't get into the last sector, TRACHYTE. It looks as though there should be a switch in BASALT. But I can't find a way of producing one. So if any member out there can help me. Please get in touch .

             Bye for now......Martin Bela.

Thanks Martin for your letter and the Tip about egde connectors, I use a rubber my self to clean them up.

Welcome to CPC South West.

                    Dave))) .....

Martin can be contacted at
11 Colwell Drive
Brookside
Alvaston
DERBY

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

Dear Sir !!Oh um!!
Polite and formal letter by hand this time. Please find enclosed e n t r y t o t h e 4 F U N competition,Regret to say that I found the competitions too hard in the last issue,so I'll pass ,
(We beet him hooray)........
May I please have a copy of the FREE software as listed in the magazine,3.5" disc blank enclosed + stamp etc. I have not entered the world of Computer music (or anything else to do with computers realy!!)yet,but will ASAP.
SERIOUS_COMPLAINT. Dave I thought you were a TRUSTWORTHY FRIEND (??RISKY !) But I was wrong !,You have realy reached the parts normaly reserved for the snakes belly, (aint nort lower). How could you do such a t h i n g t h a t a n upstanding,genuine,honourable EDITOR would never do.
What have I done now to OWEN I ask my self,Dave>>>...

Oh YES you do know what I'm on about,But other club members may not,- so fellow (dont forget the *l a d i e s* a n d *f e l l o w e s e s* C P C S W E R S , T A K E NOTE***CONFIDENTIALITY DOES NOT EXIST WITH STITSON !! WHY.....

Dave, WHO the "X"->>;;"etc gave you permission to use my private and personal PHOTO,taken just for your eyes, as a PAGE 1 (one) (not 3 three) HEADER !!
What on earth is he on about ???? Dave >>>...

You have realy shown what you are now, Nasty - Sneaky - Anti Friendly, I am very dissapointed with you and will expect an unmistakable apology for misusage of a friends trust in the next issue of the magazine (that told him again)...

I now know what he is on about,the front cover of APRIL issue,don't blame me OWEN,blame JOHN ,he wanted to know what you looked like , so I sent him the photograph, I didn't know he was going to use it for the front cover Dave >>> ....

PS:: OH ! he's not finished yet

If I find the FREE SOFTWARE on Cover disc has a tune on it ' AUTUM LEAVES ' you'll have gone way O T T. and I shall take leave of the club.

Yours sincerely

OWEN......

JUST 4 FUN BY OWEN.....

NEW FAMILY CONSISTS OF 2 GIRLS + 1 BOY = TRIPLETS

BE THE TRUTH !!!!! OWEN.   owen's address somewhere in the magazine for the answer !!!!!!!

NIGEL'S TECHY-PAGE

You may have read in the MEMBERS HELP LINE PAGE,that Nigel Callcutt has left the Help line, that is the BAD NEWS, but here is the GOOD NEWS !!!!

MR.FIXIT himself, Nigel, will in each issue answer all your questions on how to FIX your computer,printer,monitor,disc drive's etc,etc,etc.

If you have any questions on how to sort out your problems (No SEX questions please). Please send direct TO ME (DAVE) and NOT NIGEL,I will forward on to him for a reply,don't worry,you will have your answer before the next issue comes out,and the answer will be printed in the next available issue for other members who, I am sure will wan't to know the answer also.

So get typing away or write to me NOW..

PLEASE REMEMBER...ONLY COMMUNICATE TO NIGEL THROUGH ME .

NIGEL... Here is a question that I often get asked ..PC 3.5" disc drives can be used on the CPC,what has to be done to the Drive to get it to work on the CPC ?????

NIGEL... I believe that 5.1/4 Disc drives can be used as a second drive on the CPC,are they better than the 3.5" drives if so where can I get hold of one that I can just plug in,add a power supply and go ?????

NIGEL... Is it possible to tap off from the 12 volt DC supply from the monitor to drive a second drive on my 6128 ?????

NIGEL...Can you please explain the difference between the IBM and CENTRONICS dip switch settings ?????

get your questions for Nigel into Dave ASAP.

Thank you Nigel for offering this service to CPCSW members.

Dave >>> ...

WHY DON'T YOU ?

Last issue I suggested that you could create your own disc labels using PowerPage 128, I wish I kept my mouth shut as this month has been hectic.

Because making disc labels is just a mini page please read between the lines in this article as I will probably carry on next issue and pass it off as a mini guide to Desk Top Publishing. (I dare you...Dave)

THE EASY WAY OUT

On the cover disc you will find a page with disc labels on, you can not miss it, it's called 'LABEL.PP' these are just basic templates I use when I have a Spring clean and sort all my stuff out. When you load the page up you will notice a weird 'L' shaped ruler, this is for non 9 pin printer users, print-outs vary slightly.

DO YOU MEASURE UP

Taking it for granted that your printer produces the same as my Star LC 10 (I've just got myself a nice little Bubble Jet, that is how I know about the sizes) the co-ords you require for the first template are 335*887. One of this DTP's graphics features is creating rectangles, this is achieved by holding down the SHIFT key and pressing COPY, and stretching the box which appears on the screen to the desired size and pressing the same two keys again. As there are co-ords displayed at the

bottom of the screen simple technical drawings can be done (I have already designed and built my kitchen using a plan created with this package, and it all went together perfectly thanks). (John, her in doors needs a shelf hung, any chance of popping down...Dave). Using the same keys the spine of the disc can be drawn by putting a rectangle ending at 335*102.

BIG IS BEAUTIFUL

Personally I don't bother half the time, but you can round off the corners if you want, all you need do is enter ZOOM mode. Put the cursor at 0*0, hold down the CONTROL key and press Z. Working in magnification is known as pixel drawing, this is where artists add detail and tidy bits up. Just add a few dots to the corner to round it off and get rid off the sharp edge.

COPY THAT

Here is where 'Luddites' envy computer users, once you have a single part drawn it is fairly easy to manipulate the object or reproduce it again and again. In PP128 you have the BLOCK menu, by defining a box (same keys as drawing a rectangle) and going into that menu you have quite a few gimmicks to play around with. For the corner we need to COPY the corner and move it over to the left hand side of the outline, then X-FLIP it so the corner is facing the right way round. Using the same

technique the A side can be copied so it will end up being the B side. Some where along the line you will want to save the label as a template, I realise that the B side is upside down and back to front but there is a reason for me doing it this way.

CLIP ART

I wont bore you trying to explain how to produce clip art, for now I will recommend that you get yourself some ready made stuff. For this type of label you are looking for 1K files so try and choose a selection with lots of little pictures (normally advertised as 64 A-Z pics). The good thing about using clip art on discs is that you can store your collection in different categories, each with its own picture, so at a glance you can put your hand on the ones you want, they also look pretty posh. Most of my own MODE 2 pictures are too big for this sort of stuff so do not bother writing to me for them.

COLOUR LABELS

For those with colour printers here is a way to set your printer to print out slightly more colours than just black, I'm no programmer so please forgive me, it does work though. Substitute 'A' for the colour you require (change A to 2 if you want blue).

PRINT#8,CHR$(27)+CHR$(114)+CHR$(A)

WADUINEED

Here is a quick shopping list to do basic Desk Top Publishing work like these 'ere disc labels.

1 * CPC 6128 + MONITOR
1 * PRINTER (EPSOM COMPATIABLE)
1 * POWERPAGE 128 - Almost PD
1 * CLIP ART DISC - Usually PD
1 * SHEET OF A4 PAPER
1 * GLUE STICK

PowerPage 128 is ALMOST PD. As our library has permission to supply PP128 and has plenty of clip discs to choose from why not get in contact with Dear Dave, you will find his address on the back page.

0 = BLACK	
1 = RED	HAPPY DISC
2 = BLUE	PD GAMES
3 = PURPLE	
4 = YELLOW	IF I NEVER
5 = ORANGE	HAD A SPINE
6 = GREEN	I'D BE 3.5"

335 087
335 102

To get back to black either turn the printer off or change A back to zero.

WRITE ON

Text wise all you must remember to do is set the margins (CONTROL + UP key) so that the lines are just within the template. The title usually looks best set at CENTRE JUSTIFIED and written with a headline font, while the contents of the disc JUSTIFIED and wrap-around. More about that next time. The B side of the disc will require some more work, see COPY THAT, but for now that's it.

TTFN.... John R.

ARTHUR BAGGOTT
11. THE LEA
FLEET
HANTS
GU13 8AX

GAMES ON DISC'S

01252 - 626610

3D NATIONAL TENNIS	BACK TO THE FUTURE
GHOST BUSTERS	BATMAN
HUDSON HAWK	TURTELS
SONIC CHALLENGE	CAPTAIN PLANET
HAMER FIRST	CISCO HEAT
MANCHESTER UNITED	DOUBLE DRAGON
DYNAMITE DUCK'S	MAIRO POLICE
TURBO CHALLENGE	

ALL DISC GAMES ARE BOXED WITH INSTRUCTIONS POST PAID FOR ONLY

£ 3 = 00p

MINI OFFICE 2 ON TAPE BOXED WITH INSTRUCTIONS ONLY **£3-00**

MINI OFFICE 2 ON DISC BOXED WITH INSTRUCTION ONLY **£5=00**

ARTHUR WANT'S

LIGHT PEN WITH SOFTWARE   PROPRINT ON ROM   ROM BOX (6128)

DART SCANNER AND INTERFACE

Give Arthur a ph one call or write if interested in any of the games
or if you can help him with his want's

Arthur say's 'Here's a tip for you (*if you pardon the pun*). Go
to your local rubbish TIP early monday Mornings or late
sunday Evenings. People are throwing away old computers,you
can get them for nothing or a song. (*I think I will give that
one a miss Arthur. Dave*)))...).

Arthur has made a suggestion about ' COVER DISC'S '. Those who
would like a cover disc sent each time with the magazine,
members pay 50p extra.(this price would only apply to 3.5"
disc's).This would save you having to send a disc and a SAE.
And to save you having to remember to send for the 'cover
disc'. What do you think ?????.
If members would like to go with Arthur's suggestion,I will only
be happy to supply the 3.5" 'Cover Disc' for the 50p...

Thanks for the 'Tip' ? and suggestion Arthur. As you can see

this has turned out to be **YOUR** page ARTHUR..........

Dave))).....

Pocket Money Software

You are dead lucky to get any reviews this issue, as work gave us a week off at the end of May I put things off till then. Everything in the garden was done so I thought I'd have a break for a change. Then Owen sent me two discs full of Keith Mortimer's word games, now when my missus heard that Keithh had written some more games my computer had to be set up in the kitchen (with loading instructions) so she could play when ever she wanted to. Yet again, I was expected to cook my own meals, while she sat and played MY computer. Things did get a bit heated when I HAD to play as well. Now, you know me I don't loose my rag very often but when it comes to playing any type of game with HER IN DOORS I get rather cheesed off. The reason being she always wins, hard to believe I know, but she'll keep me up till all hours until she wins, 4am if things are not going her way.

Out of the 23 (or so) word games I only really got to play the one (HER FAVOURITE) 'Cross Fire', this consists of two 8*5 grids, after SHE set the conditions a large letter appears in the centre of the screen. The letters can be chosen by the player or at random, SHE prefers the random option, so that is the way we play (I see who wears the trousers in your house John....ED). Obviously you try to place the letters onto the grid the same way you would when playing Scrabble but as the board fills up things get a bit confusing, SHE seems to manage somehow though. Also on the screen are three options which are meant to aid you in filling the grid. 1) HINT - gives you a list of words which may fit in, 2) VALUES - score given for length of words, 3) DECLARE - end the game.

Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N
	H	I			W	O	
E		R			L	M	
	M		R			A	
R	E	P	L	A	Y	E	D

Jenny Scored 61 pts in this game.

There are a few bonus options within each game, just when SHE'S having problems up comes a 'DELETE LETTER' or a 'CHOOSE A LETTER' to get HER out of trouble, me I just soldier on. Another weird bit is, the game seems to finish when she wants it to. Whenever I need just one letter to finish off an eight letter word the game finishes, the words are totalled up and I loose. While the words are being analysed by the dictionary up pop little comments about them, SHE normally gets praised for her intelligence while I'm told to 'think harder next time'.

DINAMIC and others - CPCSW PD
Cargando
Reviewed By Owen Smith

Owen's here again with another review. (Not him AGAIN did I hear?) Demo Disc is 'DINAMIC'. To the lilting background music of the 'Pink Panther' the method of moving the letters into the correct order for the title is fairly good. However after some twelve seconds of flashing colour, the title as expected did not materialize. A short game Demo did appear, so short was it that one could not make any sense as to good or bad. The good news is the title does eventually turn up completed. The credits etc: travelling from right to left are far too fast to read with comfort, well, for me anyway.

MADNESS - By Cozeur & ZZ Top

The name of this demo is correct! To try and read once more the right to left scroll wording is a headache with eye strain. Back off the monitor some two metres and you have a chance. GOOD NEWS..it is possible to select from three musical scores, though you need it switched off while reading. There is no question that a lot of very skilled work has gone into the scrolling and making of this very colourful demo.

DIGITAL ORGASM - By Symbiosis.

Calm down - it's not one of those! (Shame, I mean good..JR) Sound for the internal or an 8 bit digiblaster on this one. Unlike the previous two, SPACE will skip parts later into disc.

Again, serious work gone into this one and well worth a few pence to have and see. Although fairly rare, its a pity that these type of discs can not be written without the unnecessary use of crude words. Only about three in these but too many to be acceptable. I'm certainly no prude but keep it to the ADULTS ONLY type discs. (You tell 'em Owen...Ed)

WOMAN & DRAGON - By Boolaware

Slow start off but colourful, then into a bit of a drawn out show of red and white followed by some 'AEROBICS' by a well built RED INDIAN type lady accompanied by some skulls and fire balls (what ever next!). Next screens very good, uses moving circle as a magnifying lens on Dragons and Women, (don't panic, it's in good taste). It's different and well done. Next comes the 'Dark and Dirty Knight' plus NUDE LADY... Please note the menu says its a NUN. NO WAY!!!! She turns up again NUDE and chained up on the deck. It must be very cold to her tail as the deep breathing 'movements' could easily black a bloke's eye, hence the seat six feet from the screen, NOTE, move closer to view partly clothed busty beauties on the credits screen.
Summing up the whole disc. Very entertaining, colourful, clever work and worth the cost of disc and postage. GIVE IT THREE SMILEY'S (and a pint of home brew..bye).

☺ ☺ ☺

Thanks Owen, I wish more readers would give us a hand... JR

PLEASE NOTE... WACCI PD software is only available to WACCI members.

━━━━ ● ━━━━

800,000 WORD DICTIONARY
Marcus Ruegg

There is nothing worse writing for a fanzine than some smart Alec pointing out spelling mistakes, we don't all eat dictionaries for breakfast and errors crop up from time to time. To cut down on these minor language problems I've got - two dictionaries, two thesaurus and two books which combine both. On top of that are my CPC software, Prospell and a CPM Thesaurus, with four extra disc sides of dictionaries by Barrie Snell (the bloke who helped John Fairlie write Rambase 3 and went on to write Rambase 4). Being one not to go over the top, I've also got one of those electronic thingumajigs (thingumajigs is in BAR1 dictionary, now) which checks spelling amongst other weird and wonderful things.

So when I spotted a letter in WACCI mentioning an 800,000 word dictionary I thought nothing of it, just popped a couple discs in a jiffy along with the quid copy charge, and thought no more about it.

Knowing I'm thick (Prospell keeps reminding me) all my articles and reviews get spell checked, so using Marcus's new dictionary would come in handy. Not really, waste of money.

You see, the words are split over three disc sides. A-

HED,HEE-SHI AND SHI-Z not A-Z which is much easier to use, also he has saved them at 99% full. You may think 99% is great, but in reality it means you are waiting for ages for the software to plough through the lists to find each word. BAR1 is 91% and it whizzes though compared to this.

All in all, I'd say the dictionary does the job, a bit slow and you have to stay sat infront of the CPC listening to the sound the drive makes to know when to swap discs but it gets there in the end.

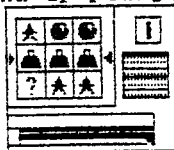Send either 2*3" discs or 3*3.5" discs + SAE and a quid to:

MARCUS RUEGG
8 HORSE PARK
CARRICKFERGUS
Co ANTRIM
NORTHERN IRELAND
BT38 7ED

BANDIT - KAD
DINO - A. Scully

This game is just like the real thing in that it lets you think you're going to win loads of money, when in reality you will end up pennyless. Because it's only aim in life is to get you to keep ploughing in the cash, it does this by teasing the player into thinking they are getting somewhere. Say you have been playing for a while and win three quid, you have two choices: you can either 1] Take the winnings and run. Or 2] Press

a button and win a fiver. All the flashing lights etc inform you that the jackpot is yours for the taking, all you have to do is press that key. Either way, you'll end up putting more cash in just to see if it holds.

Bandit has most of the latest gimmicks - CASH DASH, QUID IT, NUDGES, REPEATS etc, what it doesn't have is a Auto Nudge function. Graphics and sounds are not bad, the jackpot jingle is very good. I've had a few jackpots on this game recently, mainly because I've found a little bug which gives you the maximum every time you win (three in a row). So far I've knocked up £ 48.70.

Now, I would tell you how to achieve the cheat but Angella and her father said they wouldn't pay me my £48.70 if I split on them, it's a lot of money so my lips are sealed.

Some say 'simulators' are a complete waste of time, this is very true, there's no way you could expect to fly a plane if the only training you've had is on a simulator. But after ten minutes on Bandit you could walk into any pub and loose a fiver.

Just 4 Fun

Last issue's answer: They were triplets, didn't I mention the other one. Sorry.
Another 1. If it takes 2 men 6 hours to dig a normal size grave, how long will it take 1 man to do it ?

‡‡‡ PLEASE NOTE ‡‡‡

WACCI Public Domain software is only available to members of the club. BANDIT and the other software on the disc is **EXCLUSIVE** to King Arthur's Domain so do not hunt around, no other library has it.

W

DAVE STITSON
CPC SOUTH WEST PD
4 CONNAUGHT AVENUE
MUTLEY
PLYMOUTH
PL4 7BX

H

GNASHER PD
36 SWEETMANS ROAD
SHAFTSBURY
DORSET
SP7 8EH

E

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

R

IF A LIBRARY YOU USE IS NOT ON THIS LIST ASK THEN TO WRITE

E

PD FUN
FOLLY FARM
COLD ASHTON
CHIPPENHAM
WILTSHIRE
SN14 8JR

2

PENGUIN SOFTWARE
62 NURSERY ROAD
KNAPHILL
WOKING
SURREY
GU21 2NW

G

O

ROBOT PD
2 TRENT ROAD
OAKHAM
RUTFORD
LE15 6HF

ONLY HALF OF
THE ABBA SWITCH. BY PETER.

It was a good job that Dave phoned me to remind me that I had'nt done my bit for this issue. Blind panic set's in what to do for this issue. During our phone conversation,Dave mentioned that a lot of members including Dave was experiencing " A Drive Failures"..Through my experience,it is disc's that are now commonly at fault,so check your disc's before delving into the drive...I have had several disc failures lately and personally ' binned ' 6 X 3.5" disc's (OUCH !!!).

Now for this months project,It's not mine but MARCOS CARVAJAL JAIME, who sent it in to ' EUROSTRAD ' issue 6,if you were lucky to get a copy with ' Bonzo Scrapyard ' (I did'nt get one with my copy Mr.Caleno,Dave)))...).
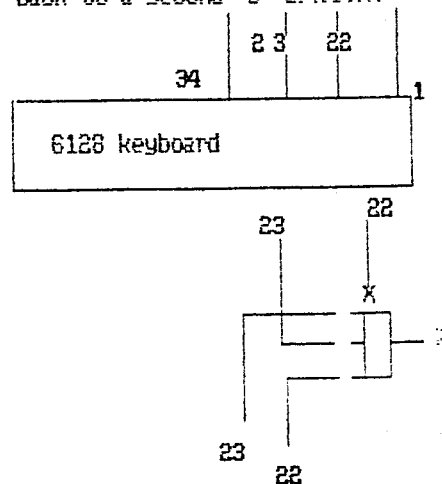
Beware, there is a fault with his instructions....

Now this is easy !!! for 6128 owners with a "B" drive and don't fancy the idea of having to delve inside to create an "ABBA" switch. You simply create what is called a " B A " switch,get it,half of the group,Dave)))...

This little modification makes your "B" drive into an "A" drive. This idea appealed to me as I have all my software backed up on my 3.5" "B" drive. So this simple little modification let's me run my 3.5" drive as my main drive...

You only need a Single Pole Double Throw (SPDT) switch about £1-00....

On the "B" drive ribbon cable, find wires 22 & 23. cut and connect as the diagram below... Leave line 22 cut (going to the drive), but join wires 22 & 23 either side of the SPDT switch from the computer and wire 23 to the disc drive on the 'common'... Now here is the fault that MARCOS forgot to mention, if you have a 3.5" 2nd drive,for this modification,YOU MUST set the drive as a FIRST drive**VERY IMPORTANT**,now MARCOS must have a FD1 as a second drive, because FD1's DO NOT have to be set to be an "A" or "B" drives..Guess who forgot about setting the drive as a "A" drive and spent two hours cursing,and yet a few issues ago I did an article on how to set drives.....Also don't forget to RESET the 3.5" drive to a "B" drive when reverting back to a second "B" drive....

Thanks Pete once again....

TIP'S   BY DAVE.

I quite often get asked about 'USER AREAS', and how do we access
them.

First let me try to explain to NEW commers to the CPC, that on a DISC
you can have upto 255 different 'User Areas',so what is the advantage
of using different 'user Areas'.

It allows you to sort or arrange you disc files for example.
In USER 0: you may want to store your text files.
In USER 1:you may want to store your utility files.etc.etc.
As you can see there is an advantage to use different user areas on a
disc. (BUT) stay clear of 'USER AREA-229' why???.this User area is
where Amsdos stores deleted or erased files,so if you save a file in
'User 229 Area' it could disappear without warning as the directory
space gets filled up with erased files.

To save a file in,let's use User Area 1, type:::: Save "1:filename".
You can also change the 'user'area as follows::::POKE &A701 (1)is the
user area,you can also use this to save to "A" or "B" drive,the
address is always &A700 (0) is for drive "A" . (1) is for drive "B".

You can also ' UN-ERASE ' accidentally erased files by typing the
following; POKE &A701,229:I REN,"0 : filename","filename"

THE DREADED ' SYNTAX ERRORS '.

Any Newcomer to computing or experienced user's will come up against
the 'Syntax Error'. What it means is that your computer hasn't the
foggiest idea of what it's been asked to do !!!in other words, the
computer can't act upon the information in the program, so it'll stop
all confused.

And quite often,you will come against 'syntax error line 100,oor any
line number, after checking that line,and you can't find anything wrong
with it,you have to then find the line with the error that affects the
line stated in the 'Syntax error line', it is one of those faults that
drive's me mad, (who said that I was already mad).

SYNTAX ERROR

MAD DAVE)))).....

NO COMMENT'S FROM YOU 'OWEN'

MUSIC BY SIMON

THE FINAL CHAPTER

Hopefully over the past year or so, you will have seen how interesting the area of music on the CPC machines can be. So now you may want to take another step with any music you have written. [By the way there's a music package up for grabs see below].

You could get to gether with a CPC PD games writer, and see what you could come up with in a game. This way you could get experience of composing to suit the games. You know that a game can be improved if it has good music, as even on the humble CPC you can really define the game atmosphrere by the background music. If you feel confident enough why not see give it a go?

If you are not over confident with your music so far, then you could put the music you have into a little demo. Maybe leave a contact address this way you will get some feedback. Although you need a lot of patience! So be prepared to wait for the replys. O.K. this idea isn't much! But it is a start. And you don't have to be a coding genius. A simple BASIC control program is all thats needed to play/stop the music and maybe show a few nice pictures.

Failing all of the above, at least you might want to show some CPC freinds what you've done so far. See what response you get, maybe you'll be encouraged.

Remember the music you write is what you make it! It's always worth that little bit of extra work to polish the music off. Well thats it, its up to you now! The End. Although the telephone help line is open for any problems your having.

Well more about that free music package. The package is the 'E'lectronic 'M'usic 'U'tility. This is a musical notation package, arghhh!, no problem though as there are some basics on musical notaion included in the manual. Its in a box to keep it safe, the box opens so you can get the disc out. The editor may seem a bit daunting at first. But the manual will soon have you sorted. Once you've written some music (or entered notes from sheet music) a file can be saved, with some RSX commands ('I') so you can use the music in your Basic/Machine code programs. If you reckon you're up to it here's another brain teazer .... over to you dave

DAVE HERE !!.. HERE IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO WIN THIS PACKAGE,IT COMES ON A 3" DISC AND A LITTLE MANUAL TO SORT IT OUT. SOME KIND MEMBER SENT IT IN FOR A COMPETITION PRIZE..

Thanks to Simon for trying it out and for the Music tutorials,I hope you won't stop here Simon.

Dave))) ....

ELECTRONIC
MUSIC
UTILITY

BY
DISCOVERY

FOR THE AMSTRAD CPC 464/664/6128.

The Final Chapter .... It's music Jim but not as we know it,

Spock:"We are now in orbit around planet earth captain" Jim:"Scan for inteligent live Spock ..." Spock:"There doesn't seem to be ... there are some strange power surges in the" 4 Mhz band . it appears that the power surge is coming towards the ship" -lots of vibration lots of tilted camera views- Jim:"Spock, what happened?!" Spock:"Mmm, quite interesting, It seems as if the whole universe just dissapeared for a few seconds" Jim:"Mr spock we'll take a landing party and beam to the planets surface" Spock:"Jim look at Uhurahurawho she seems to be dancing" Jim:"Uhurahurawho what are you doing" Uhurahhura:"Captain I'm picking up some strange music transmission from the surface captain" Spock:"It's music Jim but not as we know it"

AND NOW FOR THE COMPETITION......

TO WIN THIS NICE LITTLE PRIZE,MAKE UP A TUNE USING SIMON'S TUTORIALS.

SIMON WILL BE THE JUDGE . IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG OR SHORT THE TUNE IS,SEND YOUR MASTER PIECE TO SIMON ON A 3" OR 3.5" DISC....

SIMON'S ADDRESS IS::::
SIMON CRUMP
9 CROW GREEN,
CULLOMPTON,
DEVON,
EX15 1EW
tel::: 01884 - 32761.

Sorry to pass the judging over to you Simon,but who better to judge a tune than your self..

If you want any tip's, give Simon a bell,he get's lonely night times and would love to have a chat with you.

Dave)))......

DARKSIDE SOFTWARE (By JONTY)
the GHOUL

SPECIAL SOFTWARE PROMOTION
FROM (DARKSIDE SOFTWARE).
DISC LABLE SUITE
THE BIRDS & THE BEES
BRAIN STORM
2 IN 1
DISC LABLES FROM 1p .EACH

DARKSIDE SOFTWARE
41 WESTMORLAND AVENUE
NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA
NORTHUMBERLAND
NE64 6RN.

CREATE A DISCZINE WITH...

the GHOUL OF DARKSIDE SOFTWARE©

"IN BASIC"

Hands up all who hates things that are complicated...Quite a few I expect.

Those of you who know me,will know that I can't say enough about keeping things as 'EASY' as possible when it comes to programming. I can past simple,and I mean SIMPLE BASIC if a routine can be run from basic. So what, if it's not as fast as machine code, and in this case the program is a "DISCZINE". Why bother if it does'nt run 1/30th faster.
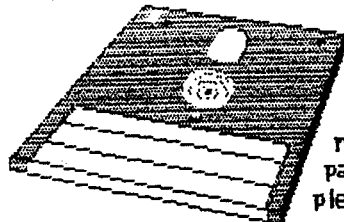
Now I have viewed a few 'DISCZINES' in my time, some beautiful to watch as they unfold in their strange way's. Some so stark and brash that I have'nt asked to be sent the next issue. But out of the dozens of mind numbling encounters,one loan feature has been my ticket to being hooked on a particular disczine......

The "CONTENTS...not the CONTEXT". And I don't want to be brain drained by one or two blasting tunes, that either 'play or dont'. A stark choice two tunes (on or off)..OK, so BTL offers anything up to 6 tunes, but that is still just 6 tunes to be looped over and over through some twenty odd articles when all said and done.....

Give me articles, features, readers gripes and moaning every time, if I want to listen to mindless tunes and eye stabbing graphics, I'll load a bleeding 'DEMO'!!!!. All that is needed is to get the point across in a simple and clear manor, then you will win me over.

Until farely recently, I was creating (struggling would be a better term) with such a zine. As it happens in fact one of CPCSW'ites very fold wrote for my 'zine' for a period of time. He even created HIS OWN suedo especially for the zine...WHO ???. Why the "SAVAGE PUMPKIN" of course,HI there DAVID....

next
page
please

DISCZINE ::::

In fact, the very type-in that appeared in the APRIL issue of CPCSW,, was created by the ' SAVAGE PUMPKIN ' for me to use in compressing "After Darks" rather large text files. Though when I asked SAVAGE to incorperate it into A/D for me, HE, ER!... never got back in touch about it !!..Strange that.....

Anyway, I am not here to rake up the past, more just stressing the point of things that are simple, are'nt so bad in the end.

So I have or will in a minute,present to all you CPCSW'tes a refind and full functioning disczine operating set-up. When I say refind, I mean that I have cut down the routines especially for CPCSW that were so large in A/D, and out of lazyness and the lack of time to trim them. If the Pumpkin is reading this and still has a copy of the A/D original listing that I sent him, will notice that I have exchanged the lengthy file de-compression routine for the more simpley SQZ routine.

I have also managed to break the reader / printer routine into two so that the functions of both of these may (not?) be seen on..

So if you are'nt board to tears YET, on we will go....

LISTING #1.
I'll assume that you have already drawn and compressed a LOGO SCREEN,and saved it to disc, (or had it done for you). Now edit line 60 to carry the LOGO SCREEN saved file name, inside the << >>. (remove the greater than and less than brackets before saving out). Now edit line 80 in the same manor,so as it to can CHAIN the main program.

If you would like to add a tune into the routine, the memory setting should not be a problem for most. Try a few out. Any tune that is required to run must be called with. LOAD"<<TUNE>>",&4000 : CALL & 4000, will need to be set out in such a way as seen in listing #1a. I do know and appreciate that there are numerous ways of installing and calling pictures to and from the memory, but as I've said, I never intended to create a SHOW-OFF 'Zine'. type-in this listing and save it to disc,it will save you time and effort of having to write a seperate loader.

Note that at this time there is NO config routine installed ? you'll find it has been placed in a file READ/LIST routine (listing #3).

Another point to (listing #1) is that there is no listed "MENU SELECTION" ie:::PRINT"[1]....SIDE SWITCHING".. This is because the 'Zines' actual files/contents can be drawn in with the menu screen.

Both (more than two) the Logo and Menu screen's can be loaded via' LISTING #1.simply add another LOAD" <<filename>>",&4000 :CALL &4000 after the last pause until a key pressed LOOP (WHILE INKEY$""WEND).and dont forget to CALL &4002 to stop the tune. If you have space on the disc, you can come back with a new tune for each screen.

next page please..

DISCZINE ::::

Well that takes care of the loader and booting the main program. In the next issue,we will take a close look at the MAIN PROGRAM. RUN/READER ROUTINE, so until then,mess around with these two listings to get a result that suits you. If you can't wait until the next issue, why not send me a disc (3"or3.5")and return postage for the full listings ahead of other CPCSW'ites out there....
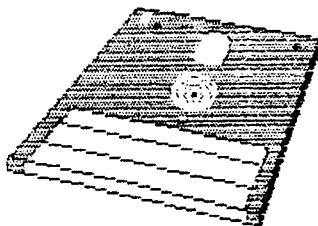
SEND TO:::::
JONTY.
41 WESTMORLAND AVENUE.
NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA.
NORTHUMBERLAND.
NE64 6RN.

A very interesting article, and there's more to come over the next few issues,but if you wan't to take up 'JONTY'S' offer,then send him your disc(s) for the whole program and his lable programs,which I have had the pleasure of trying out.

DAVE >>>.........

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTE: where line broken carry on as
full UN-BROKEN line. Line spaces are
listed as ...... And REM statements
are listed as *.

```
5* LISTING.#1
10 *
20 * DARKSIDE SOFTWARE
30 *
40 * LOGO SCR' LOAD/BOOT MAIN PROG
50 *
55 MEMORY &3FFF
60 LOAD" ((logo  file  name))":CALL
    &4000
70 WHILE INKEY$=""WEND
80 CHAIN"((main prog file name))"
```

```
5* LISTING.#1a
10*
20* DARKSIDE SOFTWARE
30*
40* LOGO SCR' LOAD/BOOT MAIN PROG
50*
55 MEMORY &3FFF
60 LOAD"((logo file  name??":CALL
    &4000:LOAD"((tune))":CALL &4000

70 WHILE INKEY$="":WEND:CALL &4002
80 CHAIN"((main proig file name))"
```

DARKSIDE SOFTWARE
THE GHOUL......

THANKS JONTY FOR THE ARTICLES..........

WE DON'T WANT NO PC.

THE CASE FOR STAYING WITH 8-BIT
TECHNOLOGY
BY BRIAN WATSON.

Just why do people keep using 8-bit computers at home, when common-sence seems to point in the ovious direction of upgrading to more memory and processing power, faster loading, better graphics and sound, and a much wider software base within easy reach once one has moved to a 16-bit computer or beyond ?. The answer is::it doesn't necessarily point that way at all. I have used my son Robs HUGE BRIANED 486-driven,monster PC with CD-loading and a top of the range sound card, so I know something of the overwhelming competition to 8-bit computing which the PC and the other 'more advanced' computers purport to be.

Let's consider the main points one by one, starting with the supposed advantages of LARGER memory and processing power. Just how big a memory does a computer need ?. Surely only enough to get the job done well. Having spent about £1,300-00 on his PC, Rob was still finding his computer took much longer than my 8-bit to initialise, and his new games software ran at a very disappointing speed too. It took an extra £100-00 of expenditure on cache RAM chips, which he had to fiddle into position on the board to avoid an installation charge from his local electrical engineer, to get the games to speed up, and after all that,my 8-bit still initialises much faster than his.

I came in the other day to hear the phone ringing. Even as I picked up the receiver and enquired who was calling, I pressed the on switch,keyed IP (return) to initialise protext,put a disc in the drive,and in less than 5 seconds, I was typing in my notes on the conversation while we talked. I would have finished the conversation before my son's machine booted up.The same wordprocessor (protext) works happily with my inkjet and a friends laser printer. The printer driver part of the program ia easy to set up even for a newcomer,and at a cost of about £40-00.

The larger the computer memory which is available to the programer, the longer the code that seems required to be written for it.If you want an example of this phenomenon, start with a look into the memory requirements of 'Windows 95'. One of the advantages of 8-bit code is that it is compactand relatively very efficient.If a program needs a modification at any stage of it's development or use,the simplicity of the code frequently encourages and allows this.

next page please

Dave)))....

Because of Rob's enthusiasm for his PC, CD after CD comes into our house fixed to a paper brick full of PC verbiage. The capacity of these things is phenomenal, but the quality is decidedly variable.

Asked if he had tried all the software obtained on cover disc so far,Rob admitted he hadn't,and wasn't likely to either. Apparently his testing procedure usually involves loading the CD as far as the first screen, and making the decision whether to go on from there. Or not. I wonder how many potentially useful or entertaining programs will ever see financial success, just because they had the misfortune to be launched in demo form with 500 others on CD, and the programmer was not to good at doing any eye-catching loading screen's.

One problem seems to be that some retailers attempts to persuade the potential buyer that a new computer can solve every office and domestic requirement short of making toast. In other words, hopes are raised to a point which common sense says simply cannot be realistic. Alas, it was ever thus in computing as elsewhere,but what a shame nobody seems to have lesarned from it.

The greatest myth is that of the declared range of software just waiting to solve our every computing need once we get rid of our old box and move to it's generic miracle machine. How many wordprocessors,databases ?, does a person need ?????...

Please don't try to persuade me that the PC's increased memory size gives added realism to games. Action graphics still look like cartoons on a BIG BRAINED computer, albeit quite good cartoons, and as the definition does improve the speed suffers. As ever, if the gameplay is good enough our imaginations will do the rest, regardless of the computer in use. I do accept that using video clips as part of an encyclopedia program is useful, but I would also argue that using a good book is faster,cheaper,and more user-friendly. Incidentally, it will be a long time before I am convinced that viewing films on a 14" monitor viewed less than a metre, makes any sense at all compared to a decent TV or,better still,the cinema.

About the only areas of Home Computing that are unavoidably hungry for memory are Databases and Graphics programs. A database will be required to store more information than you are likely to need at any one time and let you reorganise or extract the data you do need. Add to this, the structure into which you put the data and you can run out of disc and/or space. Similarly with saved graphic images;the blank pixels get saved along with the used ones.

To solve either problem,the 8 bit solution is, just buy a plug-in memory module or a large format operating system costing a lot less than £50-00,and not a new computer which could cost more than 30 times that figure.

8 bit continued....

Moving on to consider a home computer's use for sound handling,any of the 8-bit computer'S is about as valid as a PC for tinkering. One can produce a reasonable 'house' track,in a stereo of course,on pretty well anything except a PCW. For serious creation and manipulation of sound to studio standard only dedicated equipment will do. And on that I speak as a freelance broadcaster and production assistant with the BBC.

My point is that, even if I were to be using it for my various home,club and business purposes,the features built into a giant PC wordprocessor program or any serious software I have yet seen running on my son's machine,are not features I have ever found I needed. Oh, I'm sure I'd take the time to learn them if I had them,but life's to short to retrain for such small benefits. My 8-bit computer is from what might be called the WIN (what I need), rather than WINDOWS (what I need demands overstretched wallet, seemingly,generation).

If I should ever find that I need more processing power than my 8-bit computer can provide, I am not so much of a Luddite that I will stick to the old machine regardless.

But at this point, after eight and a half year's 8-bit computing, at home and work, I can honestly say that I feel NO temptation at the moment to change.

Brain Watson is the secretary of the Independent Eight Bit Association (IEBA)and the Editor of 8bit magazine.

Send £2-00 for further information and a copy of the latest issue of the magazine to..
BRIAN WATSON.
'HARROWDEN'
39.HIGH STREET
SUTTON
ELY
CAMBS
CB6 2RA.

Thank you Brian for the article

hope to hear from you again.

Dave >>>>.............

PRESS RELEASE FROM ' WACCO '

Who's " WACCO " I hear you ask, it is a software company that is partnered by Brian Watson and Comsoft.

PROTEXT OFFICE is a re-relaunched program by WACCO compatable for all CPC'S at a cost of £19.99 from Comsoft.

MERLINE SERVE Have now in stock their 8 - bit printer port for £15-00,give Angela a call and mention CPCSW,and I am sure you will receive a good discount.

The port comes built into the printer lead,so no extra expense is needed.

Tel::::: 01903 - 206739.

COMPETITION TIME

BY OWEN

CLUES OF SORTS.

An Arsonist would save on matches if
he could do this.
Quite a Topical Storm this one.
There is a type of wine/drink named
here.
A Special Net Needed to keep this one
out abroad.
History wise,the biggest ever craft.A
Millionairs.
Modern wise. Caused a terrible storm
over the desert.
A Lovely Oldie .Part striped and
vicious,other bad in wardrobe.
DeHaviland caused this to be seen among
the stars.
British Airways need more than star
here.
The AWAC long range security and
rescue craft,a mighty Warrior and
Hunter this one.

LETTERS NEEDED

????????

?????????
????????

????????

?????? ?????

???????

????? ????

?????

???????

??????

THIS COMPETITION IS CALLED !

NAME THAT PLANE

THE PRIZE FOR THIS COMPETITION
IS AN AMSTRAD BOOK THAT STATES
IT'S THE ULTIMATE PROGRAMMING
RESOURCE FOR ALL AMSTRAD CPC'S.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO CREAT AND PLAY ADVENTURES :

A HUGE COLLECTION OF STUNNING PRE-PACKAGED GRAPHICS :

COMPLETE LOGO IMPLEMENTATION TUTORIAL :

Entertainment and Exploration (games and more) ! Mountains of ideas
for you and your Amstrad. With loads of type-in's.

*Thank you Mrs. X . for donating the prize....and many thanks
once agin to OWEN for setting the competition.*

Dave)))) .....

COMP-WINNERS

Once again there was quite a few of you who sent in the answers to the last competition, got them right, but as always there can only be one winner per competition.

It's the Ladies who's names came out of the hat first,so it is congratulations to Margaret Schofield, who win's the ADAM Assembler-Monitor&Disassembler prize.....

And it is congratulations to Angie Sinclaire who win's the Cassette Cleaning Kit.....
And the answers were....

ADAM.....
VICTOR
ROBIN
SCEPTRE
SEVEN
EIGHT
HERALD
MAGNET
CONTINENTAL

CASSETTE KIT.....
SENATOR
BLUEBIRD
SUNNY
PANDA
CAPRI
DART
MANTA
GOLF

I CAN ONLY SAY SORRY TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ALSO HAD THE CORRECT ANSWERS,ALSO A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS WHO DONATED THE PRIZES......   Dave >>> ....

CPC.SOUTH WEST CONVENTION

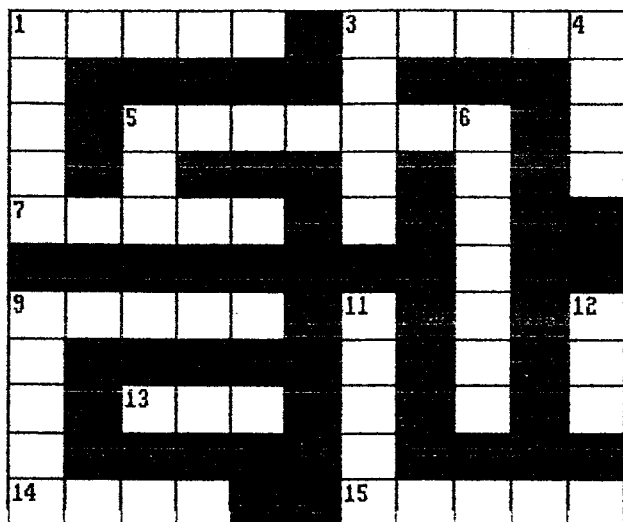## SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 1996.
VENUE PLYMOUTH.
10 AM to 4 PM.

BOOK AND PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE BY THE END OF AUGUST 96. PLEASE.

THE COST IS £1-50 EACH . CPCSW OR MY SELF DOES NOT MAKE A 1p. PROFIT SO PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB WITH THIS EVENT.....

DAVE >>>>.......

CROSSWORD

BY DAVE.

ARE YOU ALL CLUED UP ?

DOWN

1. OPPOSITE TO BEFORE
3. MISTAKE
4. SOUTH WHERE ?
5. M/C ARITHMETIC
6. FIRST COPIER ?
9. LOADED FRO TAPE ?
11. ADD TO CORRECT PROGRAM
12. HEART OF A COMPUTER

ACROSS

1. INFORMATION INTERCHANGE
3. GET RID OF
5. COMPUTER ?
7. NUMERIC EXPRESSION
9. MAY BE A PROGRAM ?
13. RAINCOAT
14. METRIC MEASURE
15. EXPRESSION

THE PRIZE IS 3 X 3" DISC'S OF P.D. SOFTWARE OF YOUR CHOICE FROM YOUR OWN P.D. LIBRARY. (FREE DISC'S).
SEND IN YOUR ANSWER'S ON A PIECE OF PAPER,TO SAVE CUTTING UP YOUR MAGAZINE.

in the event of more than one winner.the winner will be draw out of a hat..   Dave)))).........
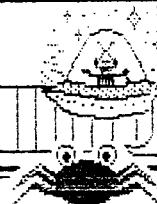
THE ADVENTURES OF IVOR THE SPIDER

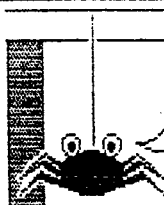Our hero, Ivor the spider, is awoken by some strange noises.

ON THE WINDOW SILL.

Visitors this time of the night..

S'pose I better go and see what they want..

EEEeeee.. A six 'egged monster...

TUNE IN NEXT ISSUE TO SEE WHAT IVOR IS UP AGAINST....