UNITED AMSTRAD USER GROUP

1 Magnolia Close
Fareham
Hants
PO14 1PX

NEWSLETTER No 4 - JULY/AUGUST 1987

COMMITTEE

SECRETARY

Gary Carter
1 Magnolia Close
Fareham
Hants

GENERAL MANAGER

Seamus Delaney
91 Fairfield Ave
Fareham
Hants

TREASURER

Paul Walker
109 The Avenue
Fareham
Hants

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr T Lomnicky
Guildford
Surrey

INTERPOOL
PO BOX 27
88475 SCHWENDI
GERMANY

COMPLEMENTARY MEMBERS

Mrs Beverley Peek
HSV Computer Services
Basingstoke
Hants

Mr Mick Freeman
Horton Road
Gosport
Hants

Ms Josephine Quick
Durell Software
Taunton
Somerset

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LOVEBYTE

The Ultimate in Amstrad CPC user support

EDITORIAL

Dear UAUG Members,

Welcome to the fourth UAUG newsletter. The first thing you will notice about this issue is there have been quite a few changes made, for example we are no longer going to print every page on headed paper.

I have also managed to purchase a small stock of budget games, joysticks etc. These items are listed in the 'limited offers' section of the discount list. As I have said we only have a small stock of these items so please, if you would like any, order quickly.

The budget games are between 24p and £1.24 cheaper than the usual price, and this includes P&P! Some of the games, such as Brainache, are new releases. There are also several 'full priced' games on which you can save up to £5. Perhaps the most notable items are the Gunshot Joysticks, these are available to you at only £5.95, which is a saving of £4! You have the chance to win one of these in this issues competition.

Well anyway I hope you take advantage of these offers. If all goes well I should be able to purchase more items cheaply. There is a chance that sometime in the near future I will be able to buy games on disc. Nothing has been made official yet but the prices are expected to be from between £1.99 to £5.99 each! And the games wont be rubbish either! Being able to purchase discs this cheaply all depends on how well the other items sell, so get buying while everything is going cheap!!!!

Also this issue sees the relaunch of the PD library. Yes I know there is hardly any programs in there but its your fault. I'm sure quite a few of you are very good programmers but for some reason you seem reluctant to contribute (apologies to members who have contributed). We need your help! Without it the PD library will go down hill rapidly. I contribute as much as I can, so how about you sending something in, please.

Any programs are warmly welcomed, whether it be a game, a utility, a demo program, a quadratic equation calculating program! or anything, we don't really care what it is, we dont expect professional software.

I am presently in correspondence with 'Aslan Technical' about reduced computer repair charges for members. I have been offered all replacement parts at cost price and a 15% discount on labour. Aslan Technical may also be contributing to the newsletters. Anyway more details next issue.

Most members have read my plea's in the March/May newsletters about wanting contributions to the newsletters and I have had a great responce, you will see THE letter printed on the members letters page.

Why oh why doesn't somebody contribute to the newsletters? Its getting almost as bad as the PD library. We love to receive contributions from YOU the Members. Your contribution could be either a letter for the members letters page, a type in or even a whole (A4 sized) article. Dont worry about room, you may have as much space in the newsletters as you require. We welcome contributions on all subjects, if you are really stuck why not look through the Amstrad magazines for ideas! For example letters about prices, companies, problems, ideas, compatibility, software pirates (for or against), new games, new hardware, your particular interest, etc, etc, would be most welcome.

That about wraps up my editorial for this issue. Remember if any member is having problems with services etc then please don't think twice about writing.

The aims for the next months are: to contribute to the PD library, to write a letter or article for the newsletter and to buy as much discounted products as the wife (or husband!) will let you.

Happy Computing.

Gary Carter
Club Secretary

CLUB NEWS

Stylish Look

We may in the near future be using 'Pagemaker' to design the newsletters, this is of course if we can find a version that isn't full of bugs.

Correct Address

If you change your address during your membership period can you please inform me. It is very important that we know your complete, correct address and postcode.

Constitution still on way

The club constitution is still being designed. When it is complete it will be sent to all members, it will clearly show service and price details as well as the organization of the club.

Editors Required

Are you interested in word processing, have a good ability of english and can spell? If so then you could be the person we are looking for. As an UAUG newsletter editor you will be responsible for organising one of the newsletter sections. The contents of that section is completely up to the editor. All that is required is that you own Tasword 6128, a printer is not necessary. For more details write to the usual address.

Help us to Reply

When you write to us it is always helpful if you could enclose a Stamped Address Envelope. This helps us to reply promptly to your letter.

Photocopy Order Forms

If you anticipate ordering many items from the club then it may be a good idea to photocopy the order forms. New order forms will not automatically be sent as soon as an order is received. Photocoping is available at most libraries and printing shops, it shouldn't be expensive.

MEMBERS LETTERS

Yvonne Kelly writes:-

Dear UAUG

Please pass on my thanks to Colin Baker who replied in responce to my DMP2000/Protext help. He'll be pleased to know I followed his instructions and I'm so pleased that he took the time and trouble to help me out.

TYPE IN'S

I would like to thank Philip St John-Cullen for sending the first contribution to this new section. Philips one liner allows you to design a simple barchart.

```
10 CLS:INK 0,0:PEN 2:INPUT"Title:",t$:LOCATE 5,24:PRINT t$+" BARCHART."
:x=1:aa=20:PLOT 1,96,3:DRAW 650,96:WHILE x<40:PEN 1:LOCATE 1,2:INPUT
"Size:",a:A=A*8:FOR s=1 TO a:PLOT aa,97+s,3:DRAW aa+30,96+s:NEXT
:aa=aa+48:LOCATE x,21:PRINT a/8:x=x+3:WEND:PEN 0
```

This small program uses the Amstrads transparent mode to create some weard graphical effects. For best results it should be left running for some time.

```
10 MODE 0:PAPER 0:INK 0,26:SPEED INK 3,3
20 PRINT CHR$(22)+CHR$(1)
30 x=INT(RND(1)*20)+1:y=INT(RND(1)*25)+1
40 a=INT(RND(1)*27)+1:b=INT(RND(1)*27)+1
50 d=INT(RND(1)*15)+1
60 c=INT(RND(1)*255)+1
70 IF c<33 THEN GOTO 60
80 PEN d
90 INK d,a,b
100 INK 0,b,a
110 LOCATE x,y:PRINT CHR$(c)
120 GOTO 30
```

If you can write small programs such as these then we desperately need your contributions. Send your program on a tape or disc with a letter giving a short description of how to use the program and what it does. Dont forget to include your name, address and membership number and a SAE if you would like your tape/disc returned rapidly.

GAMES REVIEW

Title: AMAUROTE
S/house: M.A.D
Price: £2.99 (£1.75 from club)
Type: Arcade Adventure
Micro: All CPC's

Reviewed by Seamus Delaney

The game is a Mastertronic Added Dimension creation and it is compatable with all CPC's. The plot is that a place called PARADISE (not very original) has been infested by killer insects (wasps).

All you have to do is go around killing all the queens, to do this you need a super-bomb, which can be ordered via a radio. The bombs are droped by air and you have to locate the drop site and pick them up. The actual layout of the screen is very pleasing to the eye, with a border that is made of hexagons. The movement of your little robotic (spider type) transport is very smooth, and the insects are pretty good as well. The surface you walk on consists of ploughed fields, on which you can only travel on the direction of the troughs and there are some cobbled stones which you cannot travel on at all.

The game itself has 2500 hi-resolution screens and very very good sound. You will never get to see all 2500 screens, because after a while the game will start to get a bit boring.

Why can't all budget software be as brilliant as this one, M.A.D. has really out done themselves this time. The game is much better than certain £9.99 games I could mention. Quick don't wait, go out and buy it (preferably from us).

O.K. I need some help, I have been banging my head against a wall because I have no idea what AMAUROTE is supposed to mean. If you know please write in and tell me.

Scores out of 10.

Graphics: 8.5
Sound: 9
Playability: 7
Value: 9
UAUG rating: 8

GAMES REVIEW

Title: GALLETRON
S/house: Bulldog Software
Price: £1.99
Type: Arcade
Micro: All CPC's

Reviewed by Seamus Delaney

What a treat, two great games to review. This is easily equal to
Amaurote, even though at first glance it may seem to be worse than
Amaurote visualy, but the game itself more than makes up for that.

The object of the game is to break all the communication links of a
hostile force, this force is the only hostile one in the universe,
because every one else decided that war was silly so lets pack it in.
The fact that all the goodies gave it up puts them at a disadvantage,
because the bad guys have had ages to think up some super androids to
kill anyone they don't like. So they choose you to get in your little
ship and go and break all the com. links.

It turns out that on the first screens that the androids are not that
dangerous at all, but there is a lot of them. An easy way to get around
this is to position your ship almost touching the spot where the
androids materialize and get a rythem going shooting them. This nearly
always works, but always be aware of where the other android is, as you
fight them two at a time.

The controls are easy to get to grips with, rotate left/right, forward/
backward thrust etc. On your travels around one of the nine planets you
soon become very short of fuel and laser power, these can be found
dotted around the place.

My over all impression of the game is very good. The quality of budget
game around lately is very pleasing to see, I say that as someone who
has little money to spend on games, and before now I chose not to buy
them at all because of the poor quality.

Scores out of 10.

Graphics: 7
Sound: 5
Playability: 8
Value: 8
UAUG rating: 8

Below are six of the best budget games around in my view:-

Amaurote   Galletron
Grand Prix Simulator   Bump Set Spike
BMX Simulator   Riding the Rapids

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING

This month we are going to deal with the different methods of creating a LOOP. The two main formats are shown below

1) FOR x=n1 to n2 : 'task' : NEXT

The variable x will take on the value from n1, then perform the task, and then 1 will be added to x, then the process starts again, until x is equal to n2.

There is a way to get the value of x to increase by a specified amount, by using the STEP command. In the following example n3=the amount to be added to x every repetition.

```
For x=n1 to n2 step n3 : task : next
```

2) Another kind of loop is the WHILE .... WEND loop.

This loop is a slightly different version of looping, because there is no counting involved on the computers part. After the while command a conditional jump ie. the computer waits until certain conditions a met before proceeding. In the following short program the computer waits until a key is pressed, before going to line 30:

```
10 WHILE inkey$=""
20 WEND
30 PRINT "A KEY HAS BEEN PRESSED !!!!"
```

This kind of loop can of course be used for more complicated things, but there is no point in going in to them here.

Loops are very handy things as they are, but sometimes (quite frequently if you program often) they are not sufficient when used one at a time, so a method has to be implemented to have several loops interacting with each other, this is called nesting loops. There is an example of nested loops below.

```
10 FOR a=1 to 10
20 FOR b=1 to 10
30 PLOT a,b
40 NEXT b
50 NEXT a
```

This program will gradually draw a block in the bottom left hand corner of your screen. First 'a' is equal to 1 and 'b' increases from 1 to 10, plotting its position in the first column. 'a' is then increased to 2 and the procedure is repeated in the second column. This is a very simple example of nesting loops, but there is a virtually unlimited number of loops which can be nested.

Section by Seamus Delaney.

COMPETITION TIME

>>> FIRST PRIZE: A Gun Shot Joystick! <<<

>>> RUNNER UP PRIZE: The Game 'A View to a Kill' <<<

What you have to do

You will see listed below 10 statements. All you have to do is decide whether each statement is True or False. Once you have decided write your answers ON A POSTCARD like this:-

```
 1: ...........        Name: ....................

 2: ...........
 3: ...........        Memb No: ................

 4: ...........
 5: ...........        Address: ................

 6: ...........
 7: ...........        ........................

 8: ...........
 9: ...........        ...... Postcode .........
10: ...........
```

How winner is chosen

In the event that two or more members select the correct answers, their names will be drawn at random. Two names will be drawn, the first will be the winner, the second the runner up.

Rules

- Only one entry per member.
- No correspondence regarding the competition will be entered into.
- Entries not on a postcard will be disqualified.
- No cash alternative can be offered instead of the prize.
- All entries must be in by 25 August 1987.
- Winners will be chosen on 30 August 1987.
- The answers and winning names will be printer in the September newsletter.
- The judges decision is final.

The Competition

1) AMSTRAD is an acronym
2) BASIC stands for Beginners All purpose Symbolic Introduction Code
3) Pascal is a low level language
4) cps stands for Counts Per Second
5) The Amstrad tape unit can usually work at either 1000 or 2000 baud
6) A nibble is four bits
7) The pixel resolution in mode 2 is 640 x 200
8) First generation computers used transistors
9) The Amstrad 6128 can only access 64k of RAM at once
10) CAM stands for Computer aided maintenance

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIBRARY NEWS

Over the past few months many changes have been made to the Public Domain Software Library. One of the most obvious changes is that it is now only possible to order a whole disc full of programs, instead of individual ones. This will save us a lot of time as we dont have to worry about copying one program from one disc and then another from another etc.

This applies to both disc and cassette users, except with cassette users the disc is dumped to cassette. To order a disc of programs fill in a PD Request form and send that together with a tape or formatted disc and a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

As you will see, the software list at the moment is practically empty. This is because we have not been receiving contributions from you. If you can write BASIC or Machine Code programs then why not send in a few contributions. Remember the more programs in the library the better!

If you would like to contribute a program then please send the program on tape or disc along with a SAE (for return of tape/disc) and a letter explaining how your program works and what it does. It would be much better if you could either include instructions within the program or send a documentation file with the program. Documentation files should be written in standard ASCII format (ie from a word processor).

PLEASE MAKE SURE ANY PROGRAMS YOU SEND ARE PUBLIC DOMAIN.
NO PROGRAMS FROM MAGAZINES SHOULD BE SENT, THESE PROGRAMS ARE COPYRIGHT.

CASSETTE USERS SHOULD NOT ORDER CP/M PROGRAMS, THEY ARE FOR DISC ONLY.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIST

DISC 1 - Graphical Demonstrations

- Patterns.bas
- Elipse.bas
- Freehand.bas
- Graphutl.bas

BOOK LIBRARY

BOOK LIBRARY NEWS

The books below are available for hire. If you would like any of the books then please fill in a 'Book Request' form and send it together with a Cheque/Postal Order for the hiring fee. The books are hired out for a month at a time, so once your month is up can you please either return the book promptly or inform us that you wish to keep the book for another month. If you request a book which already happens to be on loan than we will send you the book as soon as the other member has finished with it.

The 'hiring fee' is used to pay for the postage of the book to you and if there is any money left, it is placed in a kitty to save for more books. The current hiring fee is £1 per book/per month.

As you will probably see it will take quite a while before we have enough money to purchase another book, so if you have any spare books on computing subjects, preferably about Amstrads, that you have finished with, then we would be very greatful if you could donate them to the book library. Remember, other members may be able to make use of books you will probably never look at again!

The book library service is still running on a trial basis so I am asking for your full support in keeping the service going. You will probably agree that being able to hire books which you will probably only read once is a very good idea.

BOOK LIST

Code	Title
B1001H	Colour Coded Guide to Micro Computers
B1005P	Writing Adventure Games on the Amstrad
B1006P	Sixty Programs for the Amstrad CPC464
B1008P	Machine Code for Beginners
B1009P	Made Easy: Using your Amstrad CPC464
B1010P	Computer Challenges for the Amstrad
B1011P	Advanced Amstrad Basic
B1012P	Introducing Amstrad CP/M Assembly Language
B1013P	Subroutines for the Amstrad CPC464 & CPC664
B1014P	Sensational Games for the Amstrad CPC464
B1015P	Applications for the Amstrad CPC464 & CPC664
B1016P	The Working Amstrad
B1017P	Filing Systems and Databases for the Amstrad CPC464
B1018P	Amstrad Advanced Users Guide
B1019P	Using DR Logo on the Amstrad

CLUB DISCOUNT SECTION

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT & POSTAGE

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO UNITED AMSTRAD USER GROUP

PLEASE NOTE: WE ONLY HAVE A SMALL STOCK OF THE ITEMS LISTED UNDER
'LIMITED OFFERS' SO PLEASE ORDER QUICKLY.
IF THE ITEM YOU ORDER IS BY ANY CHANCE OUT OF STOCK YOUR
CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER WILL BE RETURNED.

LIMITED OFFERS

		RETAIL	CLUB
OFFER/1	Rebelstar	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/2	Flyspy	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/3	Thrust	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/4	Tercognita	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/5	Brainache	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/6	Storm Bringer	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/7	Professional Snooker Simulator	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/8	BMX Simulator	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/9	Ghost Hunters	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/10	Ninja	£2.99	£1.75
OFFER/11	Master Chess	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/12	Danger Mouse	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/13	Five a Side Soccer	£2.99	£1.75
OFFER/14	Bump Set Spike	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/15	Ballcrazy	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/16	Riding the Rapids	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/17	Galletron	£1.99	£1.75
OFFER/18	Amaurote	£2.99	£1.75
OFFER/19	TT Racer	£9.95	£5.95
OFFER/20	America's Cup Challenge	£9.95	£5.95
OFFER/21	Bomb Jack & Bomb Jack II	£8.95	£3.95
OFFER/22	The Fifth Axis	£9.95	£5.95
OFFER/23	Pro Tennis	£8.95	£4.95
OFFER/24	Gunshot Joysticks	£9.95	£5.95
OFFER/25	3" Disc Boxes, holds 20 cased, lockable	£12.95	£6.95
OFFER/26	20x 5.25" DS/DD Discs	£13.90	£10.95

Timatic 'XROM' Eprom Programmer
and Sideways Rom Card

Usual Price   £80.00
UAUG Price   £60.00

Suitable for all CPC's

GAMES

01/0001	Thanatos	£9.95	£6.49
01/0002	Thanatos (disc)	£11.95	£7.49
01/0003	Deep Strike	£9.95	£6.49
01/0004	Deep Strike (disc)	£11.95	£7.49
01/0005	Sigma 7	£7.95	£5.49
01/0006	Sigma 7 (disc)	£9.95	£6.49
01/0007	Big 4	£9.95	£6.49
01/0008	Big 4 (disc)	£11.95	£7.49
01/0009	Saboteur II	£7.95	£5.49
01/0010	Saboteur II (disc)	£11.95	£7.49
01/0011	Ace	£9.95	£8.95
01/0012	Ace (disc)	£12.95	£11.95
01/0013	Sky Runner	£9.95	£8.95
01/0014	Sky Runner (disc)	£12.95	£11.95
01/0015	Cassette 50	£9.95	£8.95
01/0016	Disc 50	£14.95	£13.95

SERIOUS SOFTWARE

02/0001	Microfile	£49.95	£43.95
02/0002	Supercalc II	£49.95	£43.95
02/0003	DR Graph	£49.95	£43.95
02/0004	DR Draw	£49.95	£43.95
02/0005	Popular Accounts	£99.95	£86.95
02/0006	Popular Invoicing	£69.99	£60.49
02/0007	Payroll	£69.99	£60.49
02/0008	Tasword 6128	£24.95	£22.21
02/0009	Tas Spell	£16.50	£15.00

DISCS (UNBRANDED LIFETIME GUARANTEE)

	x10	x50	x100
3.5" SS/DD 135 TPI	£14.73	£66.50	£128.25
DS/DD 135 TPI	£16.63	£76.00	£147.25
5.25" SS/DD 48 TPI	£5.65	£23.75	£42.75
DS/DD 48 TPI	£6.60	£28.50	£52.25
DS/QD 96 TPI	£7.55	£33.25	£61.75
3" Amsoft/Maxell CF2	£26.55	--	--

DISC STORAGE BOXES

50 x 5.25" Hinged Lid	£6.60
50 x 5.25" Hinged Lid & Lockable	£7.55
100 x 5.25" Hinged Lid & Lockable	£11.35
120 x 5.25" Hinged Lid & Lockable	£12.30
30 x 3.5" Hinged Lid	£7.55
40 x 3.5" Hinged Lid & Lockable	£8.50
80 x 3.5" Hinged Lid & Lockable	£12.30
10 x 3" Hinged Lid (Holds 10 cased discs)	£5.65
20 x 3" Hinged Lid (Holds 20 cased discs)	£9.45

CONTINUOUS STATIONERY (MICROPERF ALL EDGES)

	x500	x1000	x2000
9.5" x 11" 60 GSM White	£4.70	£8.50	£14.20
True A4 90 GSM White	£8.31	£14.20	--
True A4 100 GSM White	£9.45	£15.44	--
True A4 100 GSM Cream,Blue,Grey	£12.80	£24.23	--
Labels 3.5" x 1.5" (1 across)	£2.80	£4.70	£9.03
Labels 4.0" x 1.5" (1 across)	£3.09	£5.23	£9.98
Labels 4.0" x 1.5" (2 across)	£3.56	£6.18	£11.38
Labels 2.75" x 1.5" (3 across)	£2.61	£4.28	£8.08

Matching Envelopes - White, Cream, Blue, Grey x100   £5.65

PRINTER RIBBONS

	COLOUR	BLACK
Amstrad PCW 8256/8512	£4.70	£3.75
Amstrad DMP 1	£3.75	£2.80
Amstrad DMP 2000/3000	-	£3.75
Atari 1029	£3.75	£2.80
Brother M1009/1109	£3.75	£2.80
Canon PW1080/1186	£3.75	£2.80
Centronics GLP	£3.75	£2.80
Citizen 120D	-	£4.70
Commodore DPS1101	-	£2.38
Commodore 4023	-	£3.75
Commodore MPS801	£3.75	£2.80
Commodore MPS802/1526	-	£3.75
Commodore MPS803	£3.75	£2.80
Epson FX/MX/RX80	£3.75	£2.80
Epson LX80/86	£3.75	£2.80
Epson MX100	£3.75	£2.80
Juki 6100 S/S	-	£1.43
Juki 6100 M/S	-	£2.30
Mannesmann Tally MT80/80+	-	£3.75
Oki Microline 80/82/83	£2.30	£1.43
Panasonic KXP1090/1080	-	£3.75
Seikosha GP80	-	£2.61
Seikosha GP100	-	£2.61
Shinwa CP80	-	£3.75
Star SG10/SG15	£2.30	£1.43
Taxan Kaga	£3.75	£2.80

*Colour ribbons available in Red, Blue, Green, Brown, Purple and Orange
(Please state which when ordering)

ACCESSORIES

Amstrad 6128 Dust Cover (2 peice)	£7.13
Amstrad DMP2000 Dust Cover (1 peice)	£4.28
Printer Stand, 80 Column, Smoked Brown Acrylic	£14.20
Tilt 'N' Turn 12" Monitor Stand	£12.30
Tilt 'N' Turn 14" Monitor Stand	£14.20
Rexel Binders 9.5" x 11" Blue, Red or Black	£2.38

ADVERTS