

UNITED AMSTRAD USER GROUP

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NEWSLETTER No 3 - May/June 1987

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EDITORIAL

Page 1

Dear Members, welcome to the third UAUG newsletter. In this issue there are quite a few items of club news, so I have itemized them below instead of trying to cram them all in the editorial.

One thing I must include here though is yet another plea. We still haven't received much mail or contributions for the newsletters. That is the main reason why it is late most months, we have to write most sections ourselves. Remember, we like to receive letters on all subjects!

CLUB NEWS

Discount News

If you glance through the Discount pages of this newsletter you will see many more discounts available, for example discs, listing paper, disc boxes, printer ribbons, etc. I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Peek of HSV Computer Services Ltd for offering the club the 'Other Supplies' discounts. There are also quite a few Serious Software titles available at discounted prices. My thanks for these goes to Mr L Edwards of Edwards Comput A Bits for these.

The Durell discount list has been revised slightly. For a start the new games have been added and the disc versions are now available. Secondly a few of the early games are no longer available, eg Harrier Attack etc., and finally Combat Lynx, Turbo Esprit, Saboteur and Critical Mass are all included in the Durell 'Big 4' compilation.

Public Domain News

Many of the BASIC programs from the PD library are no longer available. This is because they had been typed in from magazines and the magazines in question have recently written a letter of objection.

However I have got many more programs to offer you (both BASIC and CP/M) but many of these haven't been sorted out yet. Therefore I have left the Public Domain list out of this newsletter. The new full list will appear in the next issue, when I have had more time to sort them out.

New Look

You will notice that a few more sections have appeared this month, notably this one! We are always looking to improve the newsletters so if you can think of any more sections to add then please write.

Change Address

If over your membership period you should change your address, or the address which appears on the newsletter envelope is incorrect, then please write and tell me.

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CLUB NEWS

Page 2

UAUG Management

As you will probably notice from the front page, there are now three dedicated volunteers running the club. I will remain in my usual position of club Secretary, Seamus has become the General Manager, and the new member to the team, Paul Walker, will be the Treasurer.

Types of Membership

There are now three types of membership, normal fully paid members, complementary members and honorary life members. Complementary membership will be offered to persons and companies which have worked in forwarding the club. Life membership will be offered to persons who have worked in an extreme fashion to promote the club.

Constitution on Way

The club constitution is now in production and will be realeast soon. This will fully explain the club organization, aims, services, prices etc. It will be despatched to all members as soon as it is complete.

Editors Required

We are looking for dedicated editors to help with the production of the newsletters. He/she must own a word processor (preferably Tasword 6128), a printer is not required. He/she will be responsible for organizing one of the many newsletter sections. The contents of the section is left completely up to the editor. If you are interested then please write.

Help for New Members

As the constitution is not likely to be ready for quite a while here follows a brief description of how to use the clubs services.

PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY - Send a completed order form, a first class stamp and a formatted tape or disc.

DISCOUNTED ITEMS - Simply complete an order form and send that together with a Cheque/Postal Order (payable to United Amstrad User Group) for the amount stated in the latest newsletter.

BOOK LIBRARY - Send a completed order form and a Cheque/Postal Order for the value of £1.00 (to help cover running costs).

When ever you write to me it is always helpful if you enclose a stamp. If you don't it usually takes longer for me to reply as I have to go out and buy the stamps.

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MEMBERS LETTERS

Page 3

Penpal and Music System Wanted

Mr N Mutton is looking for a penpal, he owns and Amstrad 6128. He also wants to know if anyone has the 'Advanced Music System' for sale.

Write to: Nicholas Mutton, 16 Ferncroft Ave, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 9JF.

DMP 2000/Protext Help

In response to Yvonne Kelly's letter, Colin Baker has written in to give some assistance.

To alter the print style within a document all that is required is to select the relevant control code letter as itemised on page 18 of the Protext manual. For example to emphasise the word 'HELP' in bold simply type: CONTROL XbHELP CONTROL Xb - the second CONTROL x switches the bold off. With a couple of exceptions the codes are turned on by the first CONTROL x and off by the second.

The control code letters are shown in inverse video on the screen and although they make the format appear incorrect they will not effect printing. If you find them distracting or want to check the format is correct then they can be toggled on and off using CONTROL V.

The standard set up uses code letters such as b for bold, i for italics, d for double stike, u for underline etc. but there is a facility for you to re-define your own codes and this is done as follows.

From the command mode type SETPRINT. You will then be asked if you wish to set the print options to which you can answer no. You will then be offered the chance to re-define the printer codes, answer yes. The next prompt asks which letter you wish to alter. Type the letter and then you are prompted for the code for on and then off. Do that for all the letters you wish to alter.

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GAMES REVIEW: DISC 50

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Title: Disc 50
S/House: Cascade Games
Price: £14.95
Micro: All Amstrad CPC's

I would like to start by thanking Cascade for sending me 'Disc 50' to review. Disc 50 for those of you who don't know, is a disc containing 50 games. I feel these games may appeal to some of you more than others.

The games as selected via a menu, there are approximately 25 games each side of the disc. The variety of games is very impressive, there are games for the young the old, many are very good. It will take you ages to play all the games and make up your mind which ones are worth playing again.

Compared to 'normal' games the games on the disc may at first appear very basic, but I can assure that out of the 50 games there will be at least ten that you will find enjoyable. It would be impossible to list all the games here but I feel Dynamite deserves a mention.

Dynamite is located on side two of the disc. You play the part of a pilot who has the task of destroying the dam and flooding the valley. There are a couple of hazards to hinder your task, for example anti aircraft fire and missiles. In my mind this is one of the most addictive games.

At the other end of the scale comes Hi Low. This game is a complete waste of time, there is no point in wasting electricity to play it. It is yet another copy of 'Play your cards right' where you have to guess whether the next card will be higher or lower than the current one. There is no change in scene to the game. It doesn't matter whether you win or lose, you always end up starting again.

For the price of the disc it is exceptional value for money, when you consider you're only paying 30p each for the games. However as I have already said it will appeal to some more than others. It deserves a look in.

Scores created from overall impression, all out of 10.

Graphics:	4	Playability:	5	UAUG rating:	5
Sound:	3	Value:	8		

Reviewed by Gary Carter

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GAMES REVIEW: THRUST

Page 5

THRUST, Mastertronic, £1.99, All CPC's, Tape.

This game is quite brilliant for the money. It outclasses some £8.95 games that's for sure. As I'm sure some of you know, this game was at the top of the Gallup charts for some weeks, and deservedly so, never has good software been so cheap.

As the game loads in some quite pleasant music is played, but this does not slow down the loading process, because the program plays the music and loads the game at the same time, thus taking the boredom out of loading from tape.

The game itself is easy to understand, but not so easy to do. The first few screens are easy enough to overcome with a little practise, but after them it gets unbelievably tough. With such hazards as the reactor which needs to be damaged is a long way under ground. The reason this is so annoying is the fact that the capsule that you have to retrieve has to be flown into space before the reactor blows up (10 seconds). There are gun turrets around the place, but it is controlling the space ship which will probably kill you and not the guns as they are very slow.

Another nice feature is on screen 7 reverse gravity comes into operation. This is totally freeky and completely throws your concentration off if you have never been on those particular screens before.

On screen 14 a real test is waiting for the budding pilot, invisible scenery. The screen is in fact the first screen again, but you cannot see it until you press fire. Pressing fire however reduces your fuel at an uncomfortable rate.

All in all this game is brilliant and anyone who won't spend £1.99 for a game such as this needs his/her head testing.

A good way to get around never seeing those screens before is to cheat. just press 2, 5, 8 (on the numeric key pad), UP, and ESC and you are through to the next screen with a bonus, good eh!

All marks out of 10.

Graphics:	8	Playability:	8	UAUG Rating:	8.5
Sound:	8	Value:	9		

Reviewed by Seamus Delaney

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HARDWARE REVIEW

Page 6

BROTHER M-1109 PRINTER

Brother, £169.00, Connectable to all CPC's.

The Brother M-1109 printer is a new addition to the Brother range of quality printers, infact one popular magazine is quoted as saying that 'There are two types of printers - Brothers and the rest'.

The M-1109 has ports for Centronics parallel and RS-232C connections. Unfortunately the connector cables do not come with the printer, so some shopping around is required before buying the correct lead for approx. £6.00.

The printer is capable of 100 cps which is easily enough for home and business use. In NLQ however it decreases to only 25 cps but the quality from it is very good for a dot matrix printer.

The printer has a nice visual effect unlike some ugly big thing that needs a table all of its own. The pads on the top are On line and Line feed, NLQ is easily activated by pressing the LF pad while the printer is on line.

The printer has fourteen different character sets including sets for ten different countries. It also has italics, condensed and all the other usual features found in quality printers.

The M-1109 can accept cut sheets or fanfold paper and comes with the pin-feed mechanism at no extra cost (unlike quite a few printers on the market at the moment)

The documentation with the printer gives all the required information about the specifications, a vast improvement on the Brother HR-5 printer manual which might as well not exist at all.

This printer has got to be one of the best buys on the market at the moment. What with its excellent print quality and the affordability it comes out top in my books.

Scores out of 10.

Presentation:	8	Actual Use:	9	UAUG Rating:	9
Documentation:	8	Value:	8		

Reviewed by Seamus Delaney

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HINTS, TIPS & CHEAT POKES

Page 7

Elite Made Easy

If you're finding elite difficult and want to impress your friends, then this little cheat method will help.

To gain about 3,000 000 credits, fugitive status and Elite rating when prompted to load a new commander load in the file 'Elite'. Your elite disc should be inserted into the drive.

Mutant Monty Cheat Poke

This cheat poke will give you infinite lives.

```
10 MEMORY 8191
20 MODE 0
30 LOAD"CODE",8192
40 POKE 38465,0
50 POKE 41322,0
60 CALL 42910
```

We Need Your Help

We need your contributions to this section. It is very hard for to think up all the hints and tips, and with out your help it will prove to be a very short section.

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INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING

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As many of you have written in saying you only have a limited knowledge of BASIC computer programming, we have decided to include in our newsletters an introduction to programming. We are starting right from scratch, as though you never programmed before, this will avoid problems in later sections.

First of all what is the purpose of a computer program? Well without a program of some sort the computer will just sit there looking stupid. The computer of course has its own program in the ROM called the operating system. This operating system contains all the basic commands you will need. The program you will type tells the computer to perform a task eg. clear the screen.

The 'CLS' command clears the screen and positions the cursor at the top of the screen, the screen is now ready to display anything you care to print (the CLS command is not required for any reason except to tidy the screen up).

Once the screen is cleared, how do you print on it? The command used in this situation is PRINT "Text to be displayed". PRINT on its own will move the cursor down one space.

Eg. PRINT "United Amstrad User Group"

This will print 'United Amstrad User Group' on the screen.

INPUT is a command which allows the computer to ask questions for further reference eg.

```
10 INPUT "What is your name ";name$  
20 PRINT "HELLO "name$
```

This will store the name entered in the variable 'name\$' and then say hello to that person. A variable can be in two forms basic forms :-

- 1) a Numeric variable
- 2) an Alfa-numeric variable

A numeric, as the name suggests is a variable in which only numbers for addition etc. The Alfa-numeric variable can store letters etc. The Alfa-numeric variables must be followed by a '\$' eg. name\$ Numeric variables are split up in to two groups

- 1) Decimal
- 2) Integer

Integer can only store whole or real numbers, where as decimal can store any kind of number.

This section will be continued next time.

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COMPETITION TIME

Page 9

Answers to March/April Competition

The winner of the March/April competition was Tom Houghton, a copy of CRL's great game, The Rocky Horror Show, is on it's way to him. I would like to thank everyone who took part and wish you all better luck next time. The answers to the competition are shown below.

Code:-

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
H G F E D C B A 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I

- 1) WHAT YEAR WAS THE AMSTRAD CPC464 FIRST BROUGHT OUT? 1984
L180 PZI4 L8P 014 8VPOQ85 6S6ECE 3ZQPO 7QTN210 TNO?
- 2) WHAT SIZE OF DISCS DOES THE AMSTRAD DDI 1 USE? 3 inch
L180 PZI4 T3 5ZP6P 5T4P 014 8VPOQ85 55Z H NP4?
- 3) WHICH COMPANY PRODUCED MINI OFFICE II? Database Software
L1Z61 6TVS8UJ SQT5N645 VZUZ T33Z64 ZZ?
- 4) WHAT CAR DOES ALAN SUGAR OWN? Rolls Royce
L180 68Q 5T4P 8W8U PM28Q TLU?
- 5) HOW MANY CREDITS DO YOU START WITH ON ELITE? 100 CR
1TL V8UJ 6Q45ZOP 5T JTN P08QO LZO1 TU 4WZO4?

May/June Competition

The competition this month has been made slightly easier to give everyone a chance. Listed below are five computer terms, all you have to do is find a correct definition for each term. Simple isn't it! The first correct entry out the disc box will receive a copy of Domarks 'A View to A Kill'.

- 1) TIP TOP
- 2) TOS
- 3) BPS
- 4) COM (nothing to do with CPM)
- 5) VDT

Please send your answers on a postcode to the usual address, dont forget to include your name, address and membership number as well!

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ADVERTS

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/
/  +  EDWARDS COMPUT - A - BITS  +
/
/
/      93 BOND WAY, RICHMOND HILL
/      HEDNESFORD, STAFFS
/
/      Tel:  (05438) 76161
/
/
/      Blank Discs
/      3" Amstrad Discs (10)      £29.00
/      Gauntlet                    £ 8.95
/      Sold A Million III          £ 8.95
/      Short Circuit                £ 7.95
/      Durell Big Four             £ 8.95
/      Sigma 7                     £ 8.95
/
/      Please add 50p Postage
/
/      Other Titles Available
/
/      Also Joysticks and Other Hardware
/
////////////////////////////////////

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*****
*
*      ORIGINAL AMSTRAD
*      TAPE SOFTWARE
*
*
*      Roland in Time      £4.50
*      Harrier Attack      £4.00
*      Fig-Forth           £8.00
*
*
*      Contact:-
*
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*
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*****
*
*      S O F T W A R E
*
*
*      Exploding Fist      £5.00
*      Dark Star           £2.50
*      Knight Games        £4.99
*      Sweevo's World (Disc) £6.00
*
*      Or all software for only
*      £15.00
*
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*
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BOOK LIST

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Code	Title
B1001H	The Colour Coded Guide to Micro-Computers
B1005P	Writing Adventure Games On The Amstrad
B1006P	Sixty Programs For The Amstrad CPC 464
B1008P	Machine Code For Beginners
B1009P	Made-Easy: Using Your Amstrad CPC 464
B1010P	Computer Challenges For The Amstrad
B1011P	Advanced Amstrad Basic
B1012P	Introducing Amstrad CP/M Assembly Language
B1013P	Subroutines For The Amstrad CPC 464 & 664
B1014P	Sensational Games For The Amstrad CPC 464
B1015P	Applications For The Amstrad CPC 464 & 664
B1016P	The Working Amstrad
B1017P	Filing Systems And Databases For The Amstrad CPC 464
B1018P	Amstrad Advanced Users-Guide
B1019P	Using DR Logo On The Amstrad

ORDER FORM

Please supply the following books:-

Code	Title

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order for £..... (£1.00 per book).

Name Membership Number

Address

..... Post Code

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DISCOUNT LIST

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REDUCED GAMES

			CLUB	RRP
DURELL				
PS1001T	Thanatos	CPC	7.95	9.95
PS1001D	Thanatos (disc)	CPC	8.95	11.95
PS1002T	Deep Strike	CPC	7.95	9.95
PS1002D	Deep Strike (disc)	CPC	8.95	11.95
PS1003T	Sigma 7	CPC	5.95	7.95
PS1003D	Sigma 7 (disc)	CPC	7.95	9.95
PS1004T	Big 4	CPC	7.95	9.95
PS1004D	Big 4 (disc)	CPC	8.95	11.95
PS1005T	Saboteur II	CPC	5.95	7.95
PS1005D	Saboteur II (disc)	CPC	7.95	11.95

CASCADE

PS1006T	Ace	CPC	8.95	9.95
PS1006D	Ace (disc)	CPC	11.95	12.95
PS1007T	Sky Runner	CPC	8.95	9.95
PS1007D	Sky Runner	CPC	11.95	12.95
PS1008T	Cassette 50	CPC	8.95	9.95
PS1008D	Disc 50	CPC	13.95	14.95

REDUCED SERIOUS SOFTWARE

AMSOFT

PS3001D	Microfile	6128	43.46	49.95
PS3002D	Supercalc II	6128	43.46	49.95

DIGITAL RESEARCH

PS3003D	DR Graph	6128	43.46	49.95
PS3004D	DR Draw	6128	43.46	49.95

SAGESOFT

PS3005D	Popular Accounts	6128	85.96	99.95
PS3006D	Popular Invoicing	6128	60.49	69.99
PS3007D	Payroll	6128	60.49	69.99

TASMAN

PS3008D	Tasword 6128	6128	22.21	24.95
PS3009D	Tas Spell	CPC	15.00	16.50

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OTHER SUPPLIES

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CLUB PRICE

DISCS (Unbranded Lifetime Guarantee, price per 10)

R7001	5.25 inch SS/DD discs	£4.95
R7003	5.25 inch DS/DD discs	£5.95
R7005	5.25 inch DS/QD discs	£6.95
R7007	3.5 inch SS/DD discs	£13.50
R7009	3.5 inch DS/DD discs	£15.50
R7011	3 inch CF2 Amsoft/Maxell discs	£26.95

DISC STORAGE BOXES (price each)

R7013	10 x 5.25 inch, library case	£1.25
R7015	50 x 5.25 inch, hinged lid	£6.95
R7017	50 x 5.25 inch, hinged lid, lockable	£7.95
R7019	100 x 5.25 inch, hinged lid, lockable	£11.95
R7021	120 x 5.25 inch, hinged lid, lockable	£12.95
R7023	10 x 3.5 inch, library case	£1.25
R7025	30 x 3.5 inch, hinged lid	£6.95
R7027	40 x 3.5 inch, hinged lid, lockable	£8.95
R7029	80 x 3.5 inch, hinged lid, lockable	£12.95
R7031	10 (cased) x 3 inch, hinged lid	£5.95
R7033	20 (cased) x 3 inch, hinged lid	£9.95

ACCESSORIES (price each)

R7035	CPC6128 dust cover (2 pieces)	NEW
R7037	Printer dust covers (state which)	£4.50
R7039	Brown Acrylic printer stand (80 col)	NEW
R7041	Tilt 'N' Turn Monitor stand (12 inch)	NEW
R7043	Tilt 'N' Turn Monitor stand (14 inch)	NEW
R7045	Rexel Binders 9.5 x 11 inch	NEW

CONTINUOUS STATIONERY (Micro Perf on all edges, price per 1000)

R7047	9.5 x 11 inch 60 gsm	£7.95
R7049	A4 90 gsm	£13.95
R7051	A4 100 gsm (white bond)	£16.25
R7053	A4 100 gsm (cream, grey or blue bond)	£25.50
R7055	3.5 x 1.5 inch labels 1 across web	£4.95
R7057	4 x 1.5 inch labels 1 across web	£5.50
R7059	4 x 1.5 inch labels 2 across web	£6.50
R7061	2.75 x 1.5 inch labels 3 across web	£4.50

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OTHER SUPPLIES

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CLUB

PRINTER RIBBONS (Black, price each)

RO7063	Amstrad 8256/8512	£3.95
RO7065	Amstrad DMP1	£2.95
RO7067	Amstrad DMP2000/3000	£3.95
RO7069	Atari 1029	£2.95
RO7071	Brother M1009	£2.95
RO7073	Canon PW1080/1186	£2.40
RO7075	Centronics GLP	£2.95
RO7077	Citizen 120D	£4.95
RO7079	Commodore DPS1101	£2.50
RO7081	Commodore 4023	£3.95
RO7083	Commodore MPS801	£2.95
RO7085	Commodore MPS802/1526	£3.95
RO7087	Commodore MPS803	£2.95
RO7089	Epson FX/MX/RX80	£2.95
RO7091	Epson LX80/86	£2.95
RO7093	Epson MX100	£2.95
RO7095	Juki 6100 S/S	£1.50
RO7097	Juki 6100 M/S	£2.50
RO7099	Mannesmann Tally MT80/80+	£3.95
RO7101	Oki Microline 80/82/83	£1.50
RO7103	Panasonic KXP1090,1080	£3.95
RO7105	Seikosha GP80	£2.75
RO7107	Seikosha GP100	£2.75
RO7109	Shinwa CP80	£3.95
RO7111	Star SG10/SG15	£1.50
RO7113	Taxan Kaga	£2.95