



Issue-99

MARCH 2000

## New Committee for 2000



Marilyn Barrett, Cliff Maidment, Doug Rankine, Bob Groom, Brian Sexton, Peter Wreford, Ian Capon, Maggz Butler, Dennis Linzmaier, Christine Jenkins, David Broughton and John Atkin.

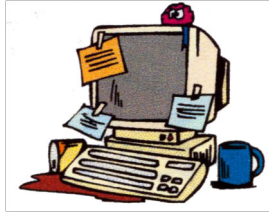
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On February 2nd, 2000, our Annual General Meeting was held at The Riverside Centre, where a full house of members and visitors discussed the evening's business. After the various reports from the outgoing Committee were read and the Auditor, Ken Cameron, gave his findings, a vote of thanks was given by Peter Woollerton to the committee for all their hard work over the past year. The floor was then asked for nominations for the new officers to form a new Committee for the year 2000. The Committee members, as shown above, were duly selected and seconded, in order that business could be resumed as normal. The new Committee duly convened on the 9th February to discuss all outstanding issues that were in need of attention. It was decided that the rate for membership to the IWPCUG be unaltered and therefore the cost of £12 per year and £1 for the Wednesday evening meetings at Riverside Centre remain intact.

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# FUTURE MEETINGS



|                   |   |                         |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>1st March</b>  | <b>Question &amp; Answer Session<br/>Windows Tutorial</b>     | <b>Dennis Linzmaier</b> |
| <b>15th March</b> | <b>Linux for Beginners</b>                                    | <b>Richard Morrell</b>  |
| <b>5th April</b>  | <b>"Objects of Desire"<br/>Taking another look at Windows</b> | <b>Tim Bateman</b>      |
| <b>19th April</b> | <b>Question &amp; Answer Session<br/>Windows Tutorial</b>     | <b>Dennis Linzmaier</b> |
| <b>3rd May</b>    | <b>Web Page Design</b>  | <b>David Broughton</b>  |
| <b>17th May</b>   | <b>Clinic Meeting<br/>Question &amp; Answer Session</b>       | <b>IWPCUG Teams</b>     |

*We're on the Web:-* <http://www.ddina.demon.co.uk/iwpcug/>



New Committee sitting for first meeting at Riverside Centre

**ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP- COMMITTEE MEMBERS****Honorary President:**

Sir Norman Echlin,

**Chairman:**

Dennis Linzmaier,

**Vice Chairman:**

David Broughton,

**Treasurer:**

Bob Groom,

**Secretary:**

Peter Wreford

**Assistant Secretary:**

Christine Jenkins

**Membership Secretary/Marketing Manager:**

Douglas Rankin

**Hot Key Distribution & Refreshments:**

Peter &amp; Dorothy Wolletron:

**Hot Key Editor:**

Brian Sexton

**New Members Co-ordinator:**

Maggie Butler

**Disability Resources Co-ordinator**

Helen Edom

**Riverside Centre Liason:**

Ian Capon

**Meetings Reception Assistant:**

John Atkin

**Assistant Show Organiser:**

Marilyn Barrett

**Committee Member:**

Cliff Maidment

*My editorial is short this month because of the poignant letter from one of our members, which is our star letter for this month. If you have any comments regarding this letter or have any other matters that you would like to discuss, including articles featured in Hot Key, please send an email or letter to me.*

*The best letters will be featured in forthcoming issues of Hot Key.*

*Our next edition will be a special 100th edition.  
Ed.*

From: Tim Bateman

To: The Editor

Subject: **Speakers for Wednesday Evenings**

Denny has in the past given talks on upgrading hardware. However, as we all know, hardware changes at a very fast rate and what has been covered in the past may no longer be relevant or may have been superseded. Alternatively, the club now has a number of books in the library, some of which cover hardware upgrading in detail. OneList is also an excellent way to gain information about correctly upgrading hardware and the answers can be almost instantaneous (instead of having to wait for the next meeting and then finding out the person you wish to consult could not come along).

As I continually upgrade bits and pieces (and accumulate a huge pile of bits and pieces which will one day cascade down from the rickety shelving and bury me) I would find a periodic return to a hardware upgrade evening very useful. One on memory would be very interesting because there is now a huge variety of different types of memory from the old 30pin SIMMs to the latest RDRAM. However, I do feel that sometimes we put on Denny too much and he ends up doing a lot of our meetings. I, for one, value his talks greatly and I know of at least one person who was sad that the Win2000 talk was not held. I was glad that it was postponed to another evening because then we can spend the whole evening on the subject.

I wonder how many people are put off doing a talk because they think they do not know enough about the subject.



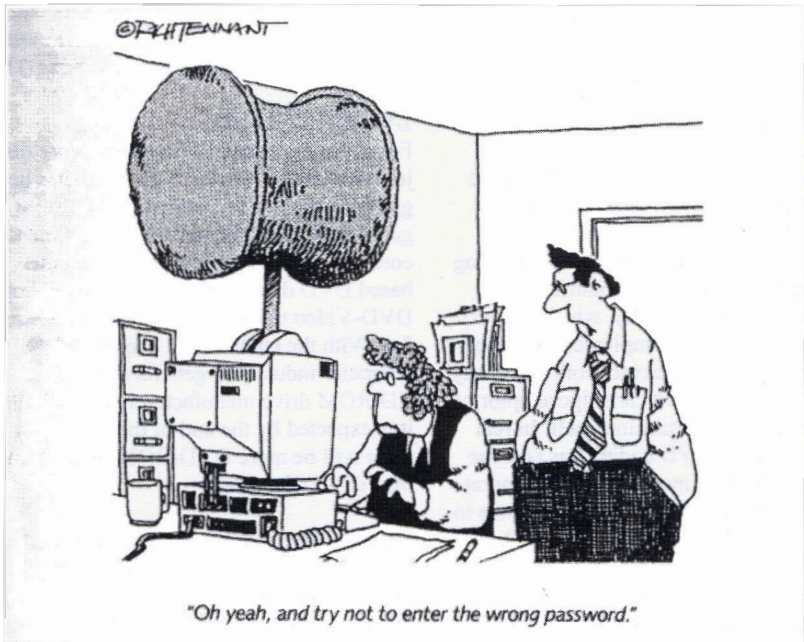
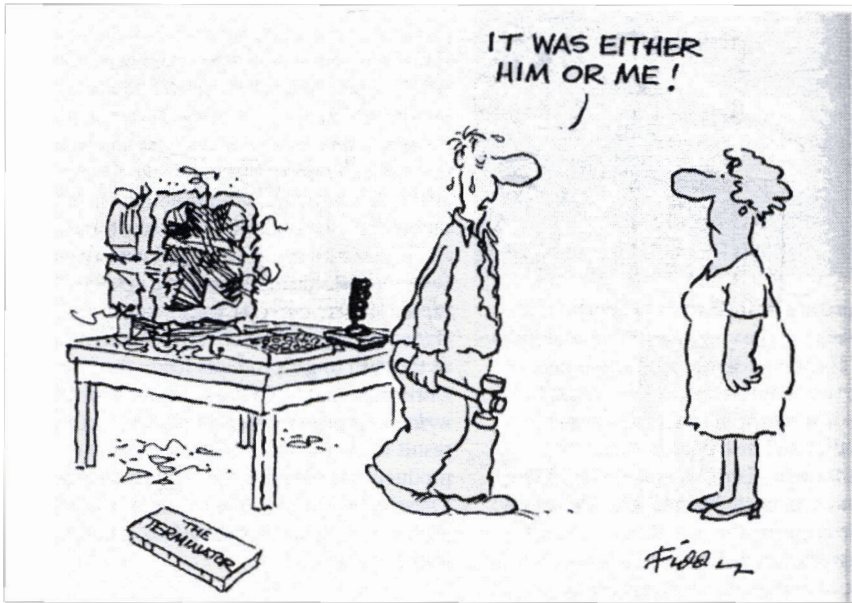
This is why I really admire John White for doing his music talk. Enthusiasm goes a long way to making up for gaps in knowledge and swatting up for a talk also helps. My DVD talk is an example. I am very enthusiastic about DVD and I said I would like to do a talk even though I did not know a huge amount about the subject. Once the date was set I then set about writing the talk and learnt a lot more in the process. The same is true about my next talk - "Objects of Desire". I came up with a great idea for a talk but did not have a great deal of background knowledge but I still said I would like to do it and the first Wednesday of April was set. I am now busy working on the talk and learning much as I go (unfortunately, it is not about upgrading). I am keeping the subject secret but what I will say is "What's under the veneer"?

I am sure there are many members who have a particular slant on computers and are enthusiastic about the subject but are worried about doing a talk on it. To them I say bite the bullet (or should it be Byte the Bullet: sorry, old joke). Maybe we could have an evening of sound bytes where members have twenty minutes just to talk about what enthuses them and this could give them the confidence to return for a longer time. There is nothing more encouraging than to have someone say how much they enjoyed your talk and hope that you will do another soon - thanks to Peter and Dorothy for that one.

I shall stop now but I would like to finish by saying I hope someone reading this has been encouraged towards at least thinking about doing a talk (and giving Denny a rest in the meantime).

*Regards, Couch Potato*

# HUMOUR





Motion picture studios want to control the home release of movies in different countries because cinema releases aren't simultaneous (a movie may come out on video in the US when it's just hitting screens in Europe). Also, studios sell distribution rights to different foreign distributors and would like to guarantee an exclusive market. Therefore they have required that the DVD standard include codes that can be used to prevent playback of certain discs in certain geographical regions. Each player is given a code for the region in which it's sold. The player will refuse to play discs that are not allowed in that region. This means that discs bought in one country may not play on players bought in another country.

With hindsight, the attempt at regional segregation was probably doomed to failure from the very start. The games console manufacturers (Nintendo, Sega and Sony) have been trying to stop owners from playing games imported from other countries for several years now. Generally, whenever such regional standards were implemented, it only took someone a few weeks to work out a way around it, whether it be a cartridge adaptor or a modification to the machine itself. In real terms, all regional DVD coding has cost the DVD Forum a lot of money, delayed market up-take and allowed third-party companies to make a great deal of money bypassing it.

There is also a large gap between titles being released in America and over here. This is

not solely caused by the film companies staggering releases but is also caused by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) because every moving element of a DVD production has to be approved by them, even if it is only a menu screen. And because the BBFC does not have any DVD players, all moving elements (including extras such as trailers, interviews with cast and so on) have to be transferred to VHS and sent to the BBFC for approval. The problem is, as the number of Region 2 discs increases, the BBFC are becoming swamped with requests for approval, meaning possible delays. At present it takes several weeks to get a product signed off, but this could stretch into months as the rush to get products ready for Christmas starts. (*Editors's note: article written before the year 2000*) This could result in release dates being missed and products not reaching the shelves on time. These delays could soon escalate into a real problem, with authoring studios experiencing long backlogs.

If you decide to buy a dedicated DVD player that looks very like a VHS player then you are looking at spending between £300 and £1,000. This does not include the 31" wide screen TV and Dolby Theatre System (DTS).

### **DVD ON YOUR PC**

For computer users, DVD means more than just movies and while DVD-Video has been grabbing the most headlines, DVD-ROM is going to be much bigger for a long time to come. Over the next few years computer-based DVD drives are likely to outsell home DVD-Video machines by a ratio of at least 5:1. With the enthusiastic backing of the computer industry in general and the CD-ROM drive manufacturers in particular, it is expected by the end of this year, that there will be more DVD-ROM drives in use than CD-ROM drives .

Initially, the principal application to make use of DVD's greater capacity will be movies. However, the need for more capacity in the computer world is obvious to anyone

who already has multi-CD games and software packages. With modern-day programs fast outgrowing CD's, the prospect of a return to the multiple disc sets which had appeared to go away forever when CD-ROM took over from floppy disc was looming ever closer. The potential storage capacity of 17Gb provided by DVD lets application vendors fit multiple CD titles (phone databases, map programs, encyclopaedias) on a single disc, making them more convenient to use. Developers of edutainment and reference titles are also free to use video and audio clips more liberally. And game developers can script interactive games with full-motion video and surround-sound audio with less fear of running out of space. Add to that the fact that DVD drives are backwards-compatible with CD-ROMs, audio CDS and even CD-Interactives, and the argument for staying with CD-ROM doesn't even figure. So you can see why a lot of new PC's are now being fitted with DVD drives in preference to CD-ROMs.

It is possible to view DVD films on your PC with just a DVD drive. But to get the best image quality you would need to buy an add-in card to decode the MPEG signals. This can be emulated using a software program, but the image quality is not as good and you need at least a 300MHz PC. Also you would be seeing the films on a screen much smaller than your TV unless you use the connection on the back of the MPEG-2 card to connect the PC to the TV. This leads to other problems such as having to return to your computer if you want to pause or stop the film.

Instead of refreshing each frame, the DVD only stores elements that actually change from one frame to another. They also use lossy compression techniques, but the loss of some video data is imperceptible to the human eye and still vastly superior to VHS.

Games can also take advantage of DVD. Games developers are beginning to release products that can take advantage of DVD technology in terms of extra features and



special movie stages of games. And of course, with all those gigabytes floating around, games will get bigger and better. However, this side of the DVD market is taking off extremely slowly with only a couple of games out at present; the first being a game called "Lander".

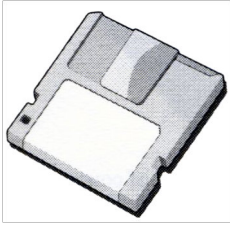
More and more companies are now producing DVD drives and we are now getting closer to having a rewritable DVD drive. Toshiba will soon release the SD-R1002 which is a combined CD-RW and DVD-Rom drive. If you decide to buy a DVD drive for your PC you are looking at spending around £200 for the drive and an MPEG-2 card in a combined package. However, it may be better to buy a drive and MPEG card separately because you can then shop around for the best equipment.

## CONCLUSION

Ultimately, DVD will prevail as there's simply far too much heavyweight support behind it. In the US, even the die-hard LaserDisc collectors are being forced to adopt DVD as the movie studios cut down their LaserDisc production and ramp up their DVD output. With the increasing availability and decreasing cost of DVD-ROM drives, MPEG-2 cards and DVD players, as well as DVD's being bundled with new PC's, DVD will really start taking over the market.

If you use your PC to play DVD videos and have access to the Internet, then it's more than likely that you can pick up a software fix for the problem completely free of charge. Check out <http://Aavender.fortunecity.com/willis/507> and [www2.datestlab.com/regionhacks](http://www2.datestlab.com/regionhacks) for starters, but remember that any physical modifications will invalidate your warranty.

## The End of the Floppy Disk????



In the beginning was the disk. And the disk was "Floppy".

Yes way back in 1981 at the dawn of time (*shurley you mean PC's*) the only

way to store your precious information was on a floppy disk. They were 5 1/4" floppy disks and held 360k of data. People were awe-struck, why that was 360,000 characters nearly 90,000 words. Gosh you could write a novel and store it on a disk. And the great thing about them was you could easily buy more at around 50p to £1 each.

These disks held the Operating System, (usually DOS) plus the programs all in 360k and the people were happy. But happiness doesn't last long and by around late 1982 they were fed up having to change disks whenever they wanted to use a different program. Behold the Hard Disk Drive. A 10Mb disk; yes 10 million bytes of data, (alright 10,485,760 bytes to be exact) surely the people would never be wanting again. But they were. Those 5 1/4 floppies, so loved by everyone only a few years before, were now cumbersome, difficult to carry around and if you accidentally bent them you could lose valuable information!

1983 Sony saved the day. A 3 1/2" double sided & double density floppy disk capable of storing an unbelievable 720k. Twice the amount of the 5 1/4", less than half the size and it fits in a man's shirt pocket! (*well women don't use computers do they?*) and encased in plastic so stiff it was virtually unbreakable. The floppy disk is dead! Long Live the Floppy Disk!

Now the people could have their O/S and programs on the 10Mb Hard disk and store

their data on 3 1/2" floppies. Peace and quiet returned to the PC world and the people were contented again. All except the 5 1/4" disks. The people were now turning their backs on them and the disks didn't like it. "That little 3 1/2" Johnny-cum-lately with its stiff upper case, What does it know? Hiding away in pockets, while we are proud and stand out on the desk for all to see! We'll show him!" And so they did. Taking deep breaths and using **High Density**, suddenly they could squeeze a massive 1.2Mb into their flexible frame. And as added bonus their smaller 360k cousins could use the same drive. Smiles all round then, except for the 3 1/2" disks. Right! they said if those overgrown beer mats can use High Density, then so can we, et voila! a 1.44Mb disk (*err... Shouldn't that be 1.4Mb, Oi, who's writing this you or me?*). As I was saying the 3 1/2" 1.44Mb disk, being a huge 14.3% bigger, won the war and so went back to hiding in pockets. And just to be sure those 5 1/4" never reared their ugly heads again the 3 1/2" brought forth the 2.88Mb. But the people had had enough. "Eeagh! take that monstrosity back from whence it came!" they screamed. And so it was never heard of again. And the 3 1/2" 1.44Mb disk sat back and rested on it's laurels, safe in the knowledge that it was No 1 and could take on allcomers.

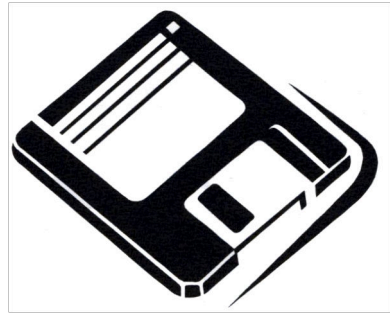
As the years went on, software grew bigger and bigger. Programs now needed 10 to 20 disks and took an hour or more to install. More often than not, one of the disks was corrupt (*Sod's Law said it would have to be the last one*) and you would have to try and obtain a replacement. Music CD's had been around for years and data is data, so it didn't take a genius to make the link and lo the **CD-ROM** for computers was born. Able to hold an incredible **650Mb**. This was even more than the average Hard Disk. And so as the price of the CD-ROM drives became more affordable to the average PC user so more and more software companies began

distributing via CD. But 3½" disk was not worried. They might use CDs for installing software but they will still need me to back up their data because they can't write to a CD. And as hard disks became bigger, so they needed more floppies. 3½" floppy disk was feeling smug. Workers now wanted to take work home but simple files were now growing to 2 megabytes or more. Compression programs like PKzip were suddenly in demand. People needed to learn how to span a file across multiple floppy disks and looked on in awe of the techies who made it look so easy (*Do they mean me? ... Shurely not!*) and so the quest was on to find a simple, cheap, practicable solution.

**Zip drives** became fashionable. These disks could hold around 100Mb or 200Mb but you had to carry around the drive as well. A **LS120** was a 3½" disk that could hold 120Mb and you could still use the aging 3½" 1.44Mb disks. But neither of these solutions have caught on: why? Maybe because although they were practicable and (fairly) simple they were not cheap. The drives cost over £100 and disks were around £10 each.

So 3½" floppy remained smug and is still squatting in virtually every PC. But honestly when was the last time you saved any files on a floppy disk? When did you actually use it?

Well now, 3½" floppy; "On yer Bike"! There's a new kid on the block and he is everything you're not! Not for him to hide away in pockets, he's big and proud, comes in a smart plastic jewel case and when you open him up, ah! he shines right back at you with your own reflection surrounded by a holographic rainbow effect. And best of all he can hold a gigantic 650Mb of data that is the equivalent to over 460 of the tired old 3½" floppies. What do you say to that Mr. ("I've been around since 1987") Floppy? Read it and weep! Mr CD-Rewriter (for it is he) has been quietly waiting in the wings,



biding his time and is now ready to consign you to the annals of time. Off to the PC scrapyard in the sky along with Mono, Cga & Ega monitors, hand held scanners, Hard Cards, 2,400bps modems et al. And who is that waiting at those pearly gates with St Peter? why it is your old adversary 5¼" floppy. How he has longed for this day, when those same fair-weather friends who used to worship you at the alter of size, have now tossed you aside too, like the little piece of dirt on their shoe.

Mr. **CD-Rewriter** is versatile; you can write a file, change it and delete it, exactly as if it was a floppy. He can be read in nearly any computer fitted with an ordinary CD-ROM. He can copy a CD, music or data (*er... who wants to make copies of copyright CDs? it certainly never happened in the olden days of floppies! did it?*), or he can behave just like your CD-ROM does now. But is he affordable? Oh yes! A good CD-RW can cost between £100 and £150 and the disks are less than £1 each. So there we have it: a simple, cheap, practicable solution to moving large files between computers. A panacea, no less, that should last well into the next century.

But wait, what is that around the corner? **DVD** drives; they can hold over **4 gigabytes**. Now if they could make an affordable rewriteable DVD. Wouldn't that be something? But surely nobody will want or need that much..... would they!!!!

*Dennis Linzmaier*

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



### My CD-ROM drive is missing....

No, not physically missing, just that the icon is missing from Windows. This usually occurs when Windows own driver fails to recognise your drive. I find the simplest way to restore it is by following these steps.

- 1: In your "Autoexec.bat" file is a line something like .....  
 REM by Windows 95 MSCDEX /D:  
 MSCD001 /V edit the REM  
 statement so it reads .....  
 MSCDEX /D:MSCD001 /V save  
 the file and restart your computer. Did it work? If the icon is back go to the final stage.
- 2: It may be your CD-ROM isn't being initialised at startup, in which case you need to check. Restart your computer and when you see the line .. "Starting Windows 95" you must press the F8 key and go to the Windows Startup Menu (if you see the Logo Screen you are too late, so restart again). From the menu choose "step by step". Now follow the steps by pressing "Y" to all the questions. You are waiting for a line in your "CONFIG.SYS" file something along the lines of....  
 DEVICE=CDROM.SYS /D:MSCD001  
 after you confirm this line, did a

message appear saying "No Drives Found" (or if there was no line similar in the "CONFIG.SYS") go to step 3. Did you get a message appear saying "Drive found at address 170" (or something similar). Good; this means your CD-ROM is working.

The /D:MSCD001 part of the line should be the same as that in the "AUTOEXEC.BAT" part, (see step 1), so Edit them so they are the same, then return to Step 1.

- 3: If you have no CD-ROM driver in your "CONFIG.SYS" or the message "No Drive Found", then check out your Drive. Open the case; are the cables in firmly at the back of the drive and on the motherboard? Check the power cable as well. If not push them in firmly then restart the computer. If the problem is solved; well done, you have finished. If the problem is not the cables, you may be using the wrong or no Device Driver. On my Web Site are 3 drivers, (cdrom1.sys, cdrom2.sys, cdrom3.sys), one of which will almost certainly be compatible with your CD-ROM. Download them onto a bootable floppy disk.

### (See FAQ - "Making a System Disk").

Edit the CONFIG.SYS (on the floppy) and put these lines first  
 device=cdrom1.sys /d:cdrom  
 device=cdrom.2.sys /d:cdrom  
 device=cdrom3.sys /d:cdrom  
 Now reboot your system from the floppy disk but using the Startup menu as before and stepping through those first 3 lines until the CDROM is recognised. Then press "Shift + F5"; this will put you into DOS. Now copy the recognised file (cdrom1, 2 or 3) to the hard disk with the command...  
 A:\ copy cdrom(x).sys\_ c:\cdrom.sys  
 Now edit your CONFIG.SYS (on your hard disk) to include this line....  
 device=c:\cdrom.sys /d:cdrom01  
 and remove any other lines referring to

cdrom drivers (see earlier steps). Now edit your AUTOEXEC.BAT (on your hard disk) to include this line...  
 mscdex /d:cdrom01  
 Remove the line starting REM by Windows 95... (if its there)  
 Now restart your computer. Did it work? If the icon is back, go to the final stage.

- 4: Is your CD-ROM not an IDE? If it is an old Panasonic (Creative SB), Sony or Mitsumi, you may be able to initialise by “Add new Hardware” from the Control Panel.
- 5: This is more serious and may need looking at. *E-mail me with as much info as possible and I'll try and get back to you with the solution.*

The final stage when your CD-ROM is working again is optional but it should make your system run a little smoother. Insert your Windows 95/98 CD and run setup again. This is so Windows can reinstall its own CD-ROM drivers.

## Making a BOOT Disk (System disk)

Everybody should have a disk that will start their computer in an emergency. The following steps will show you how to make one and tell you which files should be on it.

- 1: Before creating a BOOT Disk, check your system for viruses with the latest checker, (just in case), then insert a floppy disk.
- 2: Right click on the disk icon in “My Computer” and choose Format from the menu. Check the boxes for “format” and “copy system files”; then start the Format. When finished close the window.
- 3: Now run “Sysedit” (click Start Button, click Run, type in sysedit, click OK) and edit the “CONFIG.SYS” file. Remove all the lines except the two similar to



these:-

**device=c:\windows\himem.sys** and  
**device=c:\folder\cdrom.sys /d: mscd0**  
 (Note where your CD-ROM driver is located) Now change the two lines to read.

**device=himem.sys**

**device=cdrom.sys /d:cdrom**

then “Save as’ A:\CONFIG.SYS

Now edit the “AUTOEXEC.BAT” file by removing everything.

Just add one line reading

**lh mscdex /d:cdrom**

then ‘Save As’ A:\AUTOEXEC.BAT

- 4: We now need to copy over essential files. *These are just my opinion — you may want other files.* In the Windows directory, copy (or “send to”) HIMEM.SYS: from the Windows\Command directory, copy the files EDIT.COM, FORMAT.COM: FDISK.EXE; MSCDEX.EXE
- 5: Finally copy over your cdrom driver (you made a note of where it was earlier). Then rename the cdrom driver on the floppy only, to “CDROM.SYS”, so as to fit with the config.sys you wrote earlier.
- 6: Now comes the moment of truth when you reboot your computer from the disk. (You may have to change your CMOS settings to “**Boot from Floppy**”). Check your CDROM is working by doing a directory (dir) of a disk.

## REMINISCE



**We** old un's are prone to this, or so we are told. I can well remember the first typewriter I purchased; it was an Ambassador, a sit up and beg type at a cost of approx £400. To justify this expense I went to evening classes; the teacher taught my teenage daughter in the day and held evening classes at night for adults with a view to passing RSA 1 and 2.

The Ambassador was loaded into the car and I spent the next couple of hours learning the "home keys", with the teacher walking

around and around her kitchen table, just to keep an eye on me !!!!!

After the first few lessons I was introduced to a gadget which was placed onto the table in front of me and which swung back and forth, making a loud ticking noise, much to my annoyance and concentration.

Oh what joy to own a computer; an Amstrad 1640, no more typex or copying paper for me, but two 5.25 floppy discs. This was the "bees knees" of technology. The master disc's were promptly formatted and the blue air started rising!!!! Oh dear an expensive mistake.

In time an upgrade was necessary and a hard drive was duly installed, which had to be "parked" before the computer was moved. But I was hooked and soon had withdrawal symptoms if I was away from the Amstrad for any length of time. Attached to the computer was a large daisy wheel printer, which chugged along and which stood on two old rubber car mats to cut the noise down.

Then along came "Windows", another challenge for another day. The old Ambassador is still in the loft "just in case".

*Thanks to member, Molly Mills for this memento*



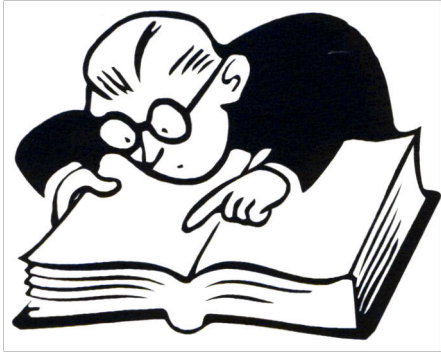
## WINDOWS SHOW Olympia 28th-30th March

Your chance to see the UK's Windows 2000 Show and to review the newly launched product at the Olympia in London. Exhibitors will include Microsoft, BT, Xerox, Epson, and Sun Microsystems and 150 other companies who will demonstrate the latest IT technology.

For your free visitor pack, including full information on the features and your admission badge and save the £15 admission fee, visit:-

<http://www.itevents.co.uk>

## BUSINESS @ THE SPEED OF THOUGHT



This is Bill Gates' second book and in it he spells out his vision for the future regarding Microsoft, the computer industry and communications. His main theme is how the world wide web and the Internet will play an expanding and dominant role in exchanging information, in trade between businesses and the consumer, and how Microsoft is contributing and will contribute in the future to this development.

Concepts such as the Digital Nervous System and the paperless office are at the forefront of these developments. He gives examples of how Microsoft are using the email system and the web to inform, educate and manage their employees, their relationships with the outside world and with their business partners. Integration of computer software and systems is the name of the game. By making all of a company's forms and communications electronic, will save on time, resources, staffing and waste. At Microsoft they are already doing this and reaping the benefits, in terms of releasing staff to deal with problems, and in handling the interface between the company and its business associates.

My own particular interest, which is in sharing knowledge and using computers for advancing learning is given good coverage in this book. I was much surprised by how my own thoughts, regarding the use of computers for communications, for linking up seats of

learning and for exchanging information and training have been influenced by Bill Gates's thinking. Schools, universities, students and teachers are all finding it easier to establish links with one another via the web and the Internet. Individual tuition, such as that pioneered by the Education Service in the Australian outback many years ago, but using radio communications, will become common. Students will be able to use software and computers to check their learning skills and teachers will be released to help in dealing with problem areas of their learning. Distance learning will come into its own. Our own Open University makes a great use of these systems and many other universities will be adopting them. Bill Gates quotes a number of world examples of these changes for the better.

Computers as they get faster, cheaper and enhance their memory storage, will become more powerful still, because the biggest change will be in the new software which will come on line in the next few years. A massive expansion will take place in this area, opening up new areas for computer tools to exploit. Marketing, analysis, production requirements, ordering, checking, payment and accounting and the use of pivot tables for financial and production analysis, are already becoming a reality. That is what MS Office is all about; allowing small businesses to use these tools for developing and managing their business more efficiently and allowing the proprietors to do things that they would never have dreamed of only a few years ago.

Whether you are in business, or in education, or you are just curious as to what will happen tomorrow, this book is well worth a read, it is packed full of information. It also shows you some of the reasoning behind the development of Microsoft Products and software tools. We now have a copy in the club library and if you would like to borrow it, then please let Maggz Butler or myself know.

*Douglas Rankine.*



## Prize Puzzle for March 2000

by David Broughton.



Doris and Brenda's combined age is 84. Doris is now twice as old as Brenda was when Doris was as old as Brenda is now. How old are they?

Send your answers to me,

**David Broughton**, \*\*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*\*, Newport, IW, PO30 \*\*\*  
or e-mail [david@\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*.demon.co.uk](mailto:david@*****.demon.co.uk) to arrive by 5th April 2000.

### Answer to January's puzzle

This puzzle concerned a boat on a river. The speed of a boat relative to the water must be added to the speed of the water to get the combined speed. In one direction the two speeds add up to 1 km/minute. When going against the current the current is negative and the two speeds total  $5/7$  km/min. If you add these two speeds ( $7/7 + 5/7 = 12/7$  km/min) the speed of the current cancels out and you get twice the boat's speed. Half this ( $6/7$  km/min) is therefore the boat's speed. It will therefore take 5 divided by  $6/7$  minutes to do 5 km in slack water. That is  $35/6$  minutes or 5 minutes and 50 seconds.

This problem is similar to the classical problem of a car that goes at 20 mph for half the journey and 30 mph for the other half. The average speed is not 25 mph as one might at first think, but 24 mph. The formula is  $2ab/(a+b)$ . Here, a and b are 20 and 30. In the January HK problem a and b are the time periods 5 and 7 minutes, the distance of 5 km being irrelevant.

I received 10 correct answers, although one was too late for the draw. They were:- Peter Wreford, Alan Mackenzie, Rosemary West, Ian Moth, John Bownas, Bill Woodmore, Ken Cameron, Dennis Linzmaier, Michael Hodge and Peter Greenhalph.

Ian Moth won the draw and the £5 book token. Congratulations to all.

Thank you for all those e-mails and comments.

### The Isle of Wight PC User Group

welcomes all owners and users of  
IBM Compatible Personal Computers.

It is a group which seeks to exchange ideas and seek new information. Our meetings are informal on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month at The Riverside Centre in Newport, 7.30- 9.30 pm.**

The first Wednesday has usually a formal talk whilst the third Wednesday is more informal, geared to the new user and aims to help out members with specific problems.

**Membership is £12 per year.**

This journal, "**HOTKEY**", is produced every month and a "cover disk" of popular software is distributed three times a year.

**Visitors are welcome.**

If you would like to know more about us, either come along to one of our meetings or contact one of our Committee Members on one of the numbers on page 3.

## Web Sites for WINDOWS Help



### Cutter's Windows 95 Crossroads

A huge collection of links to other Windows 95 sites

<http://www.io.com/~kgk/win95.html>

### Frank Condron's World of Windows

Windows 95 and NT drivers, news and tips

<http://www.conitech.com/windows>

### Microsoft's Knowledge Base

Answers to windows technical questions

<http://www.microsoft.com/kb/default.asp>

### TipWorld

Free daily email tips on windows and many other programs

<http://www.tipworld.com>

### Windows 95 Annoyances

Discussion of some of the more annoying Windows 95 features

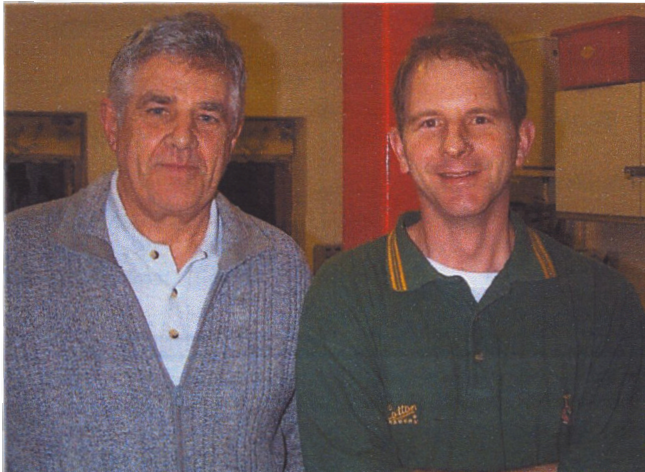
<http://www.creativelement.com/win95ann>

### WUGNET's Shareware Hall of Fame

Windows 95 and NT shareware and tips

<http://www.wugnet.com/shareware/index.html>

*Our thanks to Peter Wreford for this information*



**Bob Cook and John Trigg pictured at a recent meeting**

# MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD



**This Board is FREE to members  
Please use it!**

## WANTED

**Disks 23 & 31  
for  
Microsoft Office 4.3 Pro**

Contact:  
Christine Jenkins  
Tel: #####

## FOR SALE

### Hardware

- \* 32xSCSI CD-ROM - £25
- \* Maxtor 1.2GB SCSI Hard Drive (Fat 32) - £25
- \* AT Power Supply - £5

### Software

- \* Windows 95B and licence - £25
- \* Windows 3.1 for Workgroups/DOS 6.22 (Shrink-wrapped/disk, licence & manuals) - £10
- \* Windows 95 /"How & Why" Sealed - no licence (2CD Pack) - £15

### Books

- \* Idiots Guide to DOS - £9
- \* Idiots Guide to Windows 95 - £9

Contact: Roy Hollis  
#####

## FOR SALE

### Computer

14" NI LR SVGA monitor  
4 Mb S3 PCI graphic card  
2.5 GB hard drive  
64 MB Ram  
Cyrix 300 CPM  
Tx Pro 11 mother board  
Win98 loaded  
£295 o.n.o.

### Software

WordPerfect 6a (with manuals and cert.)  
£10  
Corel Draw 5 (with three manuals)  
£15

Molly Mills  
Tel: #####  
Email: \*\*\*\*\*@aol.com

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