



# DRAGON

# MAGAZINE

© SEPTEMBER 1987 ©

© COPYRIGHT 1987 by DRAGONFIRE SERVICES. All Rights Reserved.

## DRAGON

## MAGAZINE

15 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

**JUST £7.50 PER YEAR!**  
(or £10.00 overseas)

**Dragon Magazine** - *It's the magazine!*

- ☐ NEWS!
- ☐ REVIEWS!
- ☐ SPECIAL OFFER!
- ☐ NEW & OLD COLUMNS!
- ☐ PLUS A LOT, LOT MORE! TAKE A LOOK NOW!

## Dragonfire Services

PROPRIETOR - A. HILL

Editor - Andrew Hill: Assistant Editor - Michael Edwards: Software Editor - David Barclay



# EDITOR'S VIEWS...

Well, the show up there in Rochdale takes place early next month... or in the next few days by the time you're reading this! So if you can make it at all to Rockdale on the 12th then DO! It looks like being a great show, with many companies attending. But for those of you who, sadly, cannot make it then don't cry, don't go and do something silly, because all is not lost... we'll have a show report for you, as soon as possible after the show! News comes in this month from Jenny Pope who, of course, was the excellent organiser of the London show earlier this year. She said... we'll I won't go on about it here, because you can read about it in the News File this month. Also in News File is info on another possible show... its good to see shows still appearing, in force, all around the country. But, I warn you, they won't continue unless you get up and attend! It may cost you, but its worth it.

Letters for Letter's Corner have come rolling in for the third month running now! Is it a record? It seems to be a popular spot that, but to keep going it needs, of course, your support since thats what the columns made up of... your views! Its your page. Use it! Punchjaw, the newly promoted Software Editor, is back, as strong as ever, this month after last months holiday! He's asked me to point out that the column for last months adventure page was sent out before he set out on his holls... and it must have been the postal strike that delayed it.

Next month we hope to have a special offer on for you all, readers only, of course! So don't miss it, will you. And if your off on holiday, in Britain, or abroad, then have Dragon Magazine forwarded by the P.O. not to miss the limited offer!! Only joking, you know, it won't be that much of an offer...

And finally, to end this months natter may I introduce David (Punchjaw) Barclay to you as our new Software Editor. He's asked me to refer to him as 'Punchjaw' the Software Editor, rather than 'David'... So David (the Software Editor)... Welcome!

EDITOR - ANDREW HILL

SEARCH-LINE SEARCH-LINE SEARCH-LINE SEARCH-LINE  
SEARCH-LINE  
SEARCH-LINE SEARCH-LINE SEARCH-LINE SEARCH-LINE

Here's YOUR chance to help someone else!

Search-Line, lauched by Dragon Magazine in April of this year is designed to help readers who have a problem obtaining an old (or new) piece of software or hardware for their Dragon, usually because the producers have gone bust, or ceased trading since it became available, sometimes because the producers no longer produce it, and even if the producer is an overseas company an the reader doesn't know who to contact any longer. All it takes is your name and address, the products name, supplier and any other details you know (if you don't know the name or the supplier we'll still do our best to help you) and a first class stamp. We'll then print the message in Dragon Magazine and contact all those who we think my have copies. So send your queries in... NOW! But for the moment, can you help with this Search-Line problem?

>> TOOLKIT <<

Premier Microsystems, who went under in 1985, produced a cartridge called 'Toolkit'. It was released in the late part of 1983. It has 23 full colour low-res screens, new basic commands, and other features. If you can help, or even have a copy (willing to pay £5 for the cartridge), the please write co. the Editor at the editorial address on the front cover.

\* Please send all requests to the Editor at the address on the front cover also! \*



\*\*\*\*\*  
LETTER'S CORNER  
\*\*\*\*\*

## ★ STAR LETTER - MIKE VINE

### "Get Rich Quick!"

I have to largely agree with *Eddie Freemans* letter (August issue, Dragon Magazine). Let us be honest and say it is *Quickbeams* prices of £9 and £10 that started the "exorbitant prices" and the "get rich quick policy" debate, while other larger, and smaller companies both have an average price of £5.95 for a game.

All companies, presumably, have the same costs, both development and duplicating/retailing their product, so any one company exceeding the 'average' price must, obviously, suffer a drop in sales.

It is true "*Fire Force*" suffered at the hands of certain reviewers, notably one "*Expert Orbaum*", but for £9.95 it is fair to expect perfection in a game, not to have to deal with the infamous "blanks" in the gun and the so-called "bugs". Just compare "*Fire Force*" with another £9.95 game, "*Wizball*" on the *Commodore 64*, and you see the standards a £10 game should reach (it makes "*Fire Force*" look like a budget price game, and even the back & white "*Airball*" looks pretty poor in comparison).

*Wayne Smithson* is reported as expecting sales of "at least 1000" for "*Superkid*", but is this really going to be helped by an £8.95 price tag, when the competition (*Airball*, *Tanglewood*, ect), is all £5.95.

As *Eddie* says, he wouldn't pay "£8 to £10" for a game, so a slight reduction in price would surely encourage him and others to buy, and the resultant extra sales more than offset any losses by cutting the price. It would also encourage people to buy rather than "rip-off" a copy, too I imagine.

It is perhaps interesting to note that for another "minority" computer, the *C-16*, there are many budget-price games still being released at £1.99, so the cheaper games obviously do still sell in worthwhile quantities. As I asked in a letter in the '*News from the Dragon*' newsletter, why, if not a use of "lets get rich quick" is there only one company whose prices are upto £4 higher than all the others?

Mike Vine, 120 Auriel Avenue, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 8BU.

OUR REPLY: Thank you, Mike, for continuing where *Eddie* left off last month. I'm sure your letter sparks off many people in asking the same question as you, and *Eddie* last month, asked. Why does one company sell games in the £8 to £10 price range while others can sell them for just over £5? Well, two obvious competitors are *Microdeal* and *R.&J. Preston Software* (formerly *Elaby*). *Microdeal* sells their new *Dragon* software for about £3 less. *Prestons* software start at about £7 less! They make money.

Probably what the high price tag is showing is the authors who work for *Quickbeam* want returns which are more realist to those produced from good software on other computers. But, as you state, sales are down, so that theory seems not to work. It seems to me they'll get the same money either way, but, of course, larger sales mean more trouble for a small home run (I don't know if that's what *Quickbeam* is) software house!

ed...  
This subject will be covered more in 'Support?' an article coming soon in Dragon Magazine (details elsewhere in this issue) so I won't say anymore on the subject, except to say that Quickbeam, you, or any other software house are welcome to write in and defend their case, or put forward more views on the high pricing.

### Do they REALLY want SUPPORT ???

Once upon a time there was a business man who owned a Dragon (not his wife, but a computer!). After the so-called *demise* of the Dragon it was still kept alive by the *enthusiastic owners*. However, many of the software houses pulled out of the market (I don't know why, because with *Dragon User* having an alleged circulation of 32379 at one time there must have been *plenty of customers* for software if the price was right).

Anyway, after the demise? of the Dragon software prices were much more reasonable, and there were a number of software houses still producing and marketing programs for the Dragon.

Now that the prices were more reasonable this business man decided to support the producers of these programs.

### Was this a wise decision???

Consider the following-

#### SITUATION A

1. April 14th - 4 programs ordered.
2. April 29th - Cheque cashed.
3. May 12th - Programs not received, chasing letter sent.
4. May 15th - 3 programs received.
5. May 18th - Chasing letter sent for fourth program.
6. May 30th - Fourth program received.
7. June 26th - Fourth program returned faulty.
8. August 6th - Still awaiting return of program.

Contrast this with situations B and C -

#### SITUATION B

A quartet of programs was bought at the 6809 Show in March. There were *auto-run problems* and therefore returned to the software house. The program was returned within 7 days with a) a letter of apology and b) additional program added as compensation.

#### SITUATION C

Ordered a musical program on cassette. Ordered a second musical program on disk, because in the meantime he had now acquired a *DRAGONDOS* controller. He received a letter saying that he has noticed one program had been ordered on cassette and one on disk and offered to put the first program onto the disk with program number 2 at *no extra charge* and also enclosed a *stamped addressed envelope* for his reply.

Letter continued...



This business man is prepared to buy quality software at reasonable prices and expects to be dealt with speedily and efficiently.

Fairy stories normally have happy endings and this business man has told me he will continue to support the Dragon market but he will bear in mind the old adage "once bitten, twice shy".

Many of the software producers for the Dragon are only one/two man concerns, but they must learn to allocate their time in such a way so as to deal with the customers efficiently. Having written the program you still have to sell them.

Mr.E.G. Freeman, 80B Main Road, Old Duston, Northampton, NN5 6RA.

OUR REPLY: Thank you for your letter, Eddie. We have been informed who 'situation A' is by Eddie (he's asked not for their name to be disclosed) and have since been in touch with them. They said the remaining program will be sent to him. However, was there any excuse for such a situation? I think not.

OK, so some (most) Dragon software houses are now run from home by one to two people. Situation 'A' was, many others are, we are. A company can't afford only to support the Dragon and have offices and staff these days. But, he should pass his programs on to someone else to sell if he doesn't want to take the time to deal with orders promptly. By law you should receive your order within 28 days. But, I think a company, or individual, should at least make the effort to send the order within 14 days, or if out of stock, or there is some problem causing delay, a reply explaining with those 14 days, or less. We always try to reply with 48 hours, often less, sometime a little longer. When we send out orders for software we have never yet sent out a order over 7 days after its received. Theres no excuse for such delays. Its upto you to get the problem sorted out, write to someone who could help (a magazine, us, for example).

Have you had problems with any companies? Let us know and we'll try to print any problems, and try to sort it out for you too! So write in at the address below.

≡ YOUR VIEWS! ≡

Get your views aired! Get your problems soted! Get your compliments of companies shown! Get your bad service from companies published! Who ever your writing about, what ever your writing about, send your letter to DRAGON MAGAZINE - the liveliest magazine around fo the Dragon - at;

DRAGON MAGAZINE (LETTERS), 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

██ CHART TOPPER ██

█ 1st AIRBALL █

2nd Boulder Dash

3rd Wizard's Quest

4th Tanglewood

5th Superkid

BUBBLERS: Stone Raider II and Fire Force!



## ECLIPSE IS BACK!

John Penn Discount Software, a major Dragon software distributor, now has the marketing rights for that cult game, *Total Eclipse*, marketed earlier this year by the ill-fated *Eclipse-fenwar Limited*. J.P.D.S. will be marketing the *Dragon Magazine 5 Star* game for just £6.50, that's over £3 less than it's original price! It's also the version 1.3. That's the one that was launched just prior to *Eclipse's* collapse. Many owners don't have this version which is 'bug free'. On the cassette is universe 1 and on the flip side, universe 2. J.P.D.S. have also managed to get hold of the third universe - they will be marketing this in the coming months. John Penn Discount can be contacted at Dean Farm Cottage, Kingsley, Bordon, Hants. GU35 9NG. or by telephoning 04203 5970.

### Support No! Support Yes!

It has been said that *Microdeal* were dropping the *Dragon* - something which really is inevitable. However, their 'Summer Sale' recently has pushed many *Dragon* owners into believing the time has now come. This is not so, however. Speaking on behalf of Mandy Sandow of *Microdeal*, a spokes woman (another Mandy!) said *Microdeal* have indeed had a summer sale of *Dragon* software but had no plans of dropping the *Dragon* just yet. But... when asked does that mean new releases they would only say that they would continue supporting the *Dragon*. What this means is upto you to decide!

### "Quickbeam Quirk"

Last month *Dragon Magazine*, among other magazines in the *Dragon* press, released information that *Metal-on-Metal* had been released. Since then we've been in touch with *Quickbeam Software* and they've assured us that it has not, to date, been released. Screen shots and information has been promised, however, as soon as it's available. Also they plan to release another program for the *Dragon* in the near future, *Six-aside-Soccer*. More details as soon as it becomes available.

### New Software from Jollysoft!

*Metasoft* is a new company set up by that master of *Dragon* music, *Chris Jolly*. Their first release is *Prolog*. A high level language alternative for the *Dragon 64* and *OS-9* disk system. It costs £29.95 inclusive, and comes with a 100 page manual. To order, or for more details contact *Metasoft* at 4 Pinhurst Walk, Orpington, Kent, BR6 6DD.

### SHOWS ON - SHOWS OFF - SHOWS EVERYWHERE!

This month the *N.W. England Dragon Show and Convention* takes place in *Rochdale* on the 12th (FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT PULSER SOFTWARE ON 0706 - 849189) and later in the year a meeting or 'non commercial show' may well take place on the South Coast. But not all is good news. *Jenny Pope* has decided she won't be organising one in *London* for *December* as she had formerly hoped. On the brighter side, however, *John and Helen Penn* (J.P.D.S.) have expressed to us an interest in organising a show in *London* (if at all possible within the time now available before *December*) and if not, one in *Wales*. No definite decision has yet been made but a show is very likely to come from them.

*Dragonfire Services* and *Dragon Magazine* are now considering organising a *Welsh Dragon* show for some time, hopefully this year, though we are in contact with other *Dragon* show organisers so not to have a number of shows in a short period of time. They would like a *December* show, if that's not possible because of a *London* one it may not be until sometime next year. LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON WHERE TO HOLD A DRAGON SHOW!

### Dragonfire Releases Soon...

*Dragonfire Services* have recently announced that they will be expanding their range of *Dragon* software in the near future. This comes as a direct result of a 'take over' of distribution of another smaller software company, virtually unknown. They hope to have the releases ready for sale by *November*.

---

PLEASE NOTE: *Arcade Yier*, the monthly arcade column in *Dragon Magazine*, has taken a brake this month and will be back next. *Hacker's Corner* has also taken time off, for several issues and will be back soon. The alterations are only temporary!

---

SEND ALL DRAGON NEWS TO-

DRAGON MAGAZINE (NEWS), 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP23 3HH.



## The Editor's

## PAPER AROUND

Welcome to this, Paper Round, A new monthly feature in Dragon Magazine, the liveliest Dragon magazine around! For the next few months, at least, we will be taking a look at the Dragon press, the computer press, and even the press in general (newspapers)! We'll give our view on what's best, and what to avoid, from the big computer magazines, right down to the small Dragon newsletters, and the national press! So, don't miss this column, read it every month, only in Dragon Magazine!

This month the Editor takes a look at Dragon Update - which is the newsletter of the National Dragon User Group, The Star - one of the popular tabloids, and Micro Decision - a business users' magazine for computer owners. Read on to find out our views...

DRAGON UPDATE -

Averaging around 12 to 14 pages each month, this newsletter isn't focused on any particular subject. It's got a little of everything. If you're just interested in one subject, and don't want to know about the rest then I can't recommend you subscribe to it, but if you have a wider scope, of three or more interests, then this magazine will provide one of the most value for money newsletters you could buy! If you want to learn a topic, reading though a copy could prove very useful, since everything from games to fitting new boards on the Dragon are contained within its pages.

THE STAR -

This is one of the 'cheaper' newspapers more interested in reporting what the t.v. and pop stars are doing, than what's going on in the world. Having said that, it does contain more news than the Sun and Mirror. I find this paper alright for the occasional read, but wouldn't take it every day.

MICRO-DECISION -

Aimed at business computer users, and especially at P.C. owners, this mag. won't suit most Dragon owners. But, I read it every month since it can provide you with a wealth of information on the computer industry, other than just with what new games are about. With special features each month, which usually I find interesting, and a good reader - advertiser service, I find this magazine to give a really good read. But many of you won't - only those interested in business micros, and their uses, will.

NEXT MONTH in PAPER ROUND I'll be looking at another Dragon magazine, two newspapers, and a games magazine. But, until then, goodbye.

Dragon Update is the N.D.U.G.'s newsletter, more information on membership can be obtained from -

Paul Grade, N.D.U.G., 6 Navarino Road, Worthing, Sussex.

The Star and Micro-Decision can be bought at newsagents.



Coming soon in Dragon Magazine...

>>> A MAJOR FEATURE <<<

# 3 SUPPORT? €

- \* Do we get our fair-share ?
- \* How long will it last ?
- \* What should be done ?
- \* and more...

After the demise of Dragon Data ltd. in 1984 support for the Dragon dropped. It dropped - violently! What should have been done then? What should we do now? For how long can the Dragon continue to live? How long will you support the Dragon? We want YOUR views on all those questions, and more!

So send us your views on the support we receive, or don't receive, and much more. We'll have views from other readers, from the Dragon Magazine proprietors, editors, and contributors, and from the Dragon software houses! This MAJOR feature should not be missed. Its your chance to get your views on this subject out in the open, the views you've wanted to let out of the bag since that dreadful day, way back in 1984!

To make it worth your while, and to ensure you Dragon is kept fed this winter, we're offering the best FIVE letters received a mixture of FREE SOFTWARE & SUBSCRIPTIONS. So get writing, theres no closing date, but we need your views soon, so hurry!

Send your views to -

SUPPORT?, DRAGON MAGAZINE, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

The Editor's Decision is final!

◻ ADVERTISEMENT ◻

## COMPUTA-TEXT

FONTASIA 1

Compu-Text is a new font (type-style) from Dragonfire Services for use with the Printer Control word-processor from MacGowan Consultants (see below). It allows a new font 'computer style' text to be printed using a standard dot matrix printer via the Printer Control's Bit Image function. Ideal for letter-heads, cards, posters, ect. and it can be printed in any of the four sizes available! All the alphabet (upper and lower), numbers and selected characters have been redefined. Simply loads in to Printer Control and go!

### ACTUAL TEXT

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ1234567890abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz!@%&'

Smallest print shown above

ONLY £2.00

SORRY - EPSON COMPATIBLE PRINTERS ONLY AT PRESENT!

Make a cheque, postal order or international money order payable to DRAGONFIRE SERVICES and send to -

**DRAGONFIRE SERVICES**

13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

PRINTER CONTROL DETAILS: Your copy must be version 24 or under (purchased before July 1987). You must also have an 8 bit dot matrix printer (7 and 9 bit ect. printers are not compatible with Compu-Text).



# Punchjaw's ADVENTURE Page

Punchjaw can be contacted at-

1 Dalbeattie Road, Dumfries, Scotland, DG2 7PE.

## A WACKY JOKE TO START OFF!

Once upon a time, not so long ago, there lived a man who had a maddening passion for baked beans, he loved them, but they always had an embarrassing, a somewhat odorous effect upon him. However, one day he met a beautiful girl and fell in love. When it became apparent they would marry he thought to himself, "She's such a sweet, gentle, fair girl she'll never go for this kind of carrying on.", so he made the supreme sacrifice, and gave up baked beans, and then they were married.

Some months later his car broke down on the way home. He phoned his wife and told her he would be late. On the way home he passed a small eating place and the smell of freshly baked beans overwhelmed him. Since he still had several miles to walk he figured that he would walk off any ill effects before he got home, and so stepped in. Before he came out he had eaten three large orders of baked beans.

All the way home he phut phutted merrily and so he felt reasonably safe when he reached his front door. His wife excited at his arrival said, "Darling, I have the most wonderful surprise for dinner tonight!". She then blindfolded him and led him to his chair at the head of the table. He seated himself and just as she was about to remove the blindfold... beep beep ...the phone rang. She made him promise not to remove the blindfold until she returned. He seized the opportunity, shifted his weight to one leg, and let fire. It was not only loud but ripe. Several other violent eruptions followed, then just as he thought things were back to normal he felt another explosion. Comming with amazing rapidity, he shifted his weight to his other leg, and let go again. This one was the loudest of all, a true prizewinner. Frantically, he waved his hands about the air trying to clear the smell as well as he possibly could.

Keeping his ear on the conversation in the hall he went on like this for some four minutes, until he heard the phone farewells, and the sound of his wife returning. Casually he waved his hands about clearing what was left of the pungent odour, folded his arms, and smiling, slightly awaited her return. After apologising for taking so long she asked if he has peeped and, of course, quite truthfully stated he had not. With a flourish and smiling happily, she removed the blindfold... and there to his surprise... were twelve dinner guests, seated around his dining room table!

## Back to normal!

A touch of humour to start off with this month. "Aha", I here you cry, "The man has a sense of humour", even if it's a little perverted! Kevin Coward has written to me asking how to get to the top left hand corner of the map in Tanglewood where he thinks the magic carpet is and a caravan. He also needs help in Franklin in Wonderland. What to do after getting into the woods outside the rabbit house. Seeing as I don't own a copy of the game I cannot help, however, Kevin, to cross the forcefield in Trekboer you need to have the Amulet from the Ice Planet. To get in CLIMB CENOTAPH. And to cross the lava stream you use the bridge accross it. If it crumbles, lighten your load, and remember to tie the rope to the tree before crossing or you won't be able to get back. He also would like to know why there aren't any Adventure Designer programs for the Dragon. How am I meant to know? Why not write one yourself seeing as you like creating problems for adventures.

Sorry, Kevin, I can't tell you the 'official highest text compression factor' for an adventure, porobably because it wouldn't interest me in the slightest even if I did know! Also, Kevin, after consulting your letter I've decided you need urgent psychiatric help. See a doctor soon (Punchjaw should be able to recommend a good one! - ED). If you can help him on any of the above problems then you may write to Kevin at 27 Bellbrooke Avenue, Darfield, Barnsley, S. Yorks. S73 9BP.

Mad Moores would like to know the combination to the safe in ENO. If you can help him, then write to 15 Parkville Road, Prestwick, Manchester, M25 5QG. He also is having problems with muggers in Shenanigans. Show them your dagger and they should flee. EXAMINE everything in the game, and you should have no problems.

Last month I reviewed the Onyton Quartet by P.C. Asbury-Smith and the copy of Gnome which I had been sent wouldn't load. All is now well, P.C. sent us up another copy which worked perfectly, and lived upto the high standard of the other three games in the package. Onyton Quartet can be bought for just £5 from P.C. Asbury-Smith, at LEVERSOFT, 73 Guinnes Court, Lever Street, London, EC1.

Continued...



NEWSFLASH! Peaksoft are to discontinue advertising in Dragon User. Although they are still supplying a vast range of Dragon hardware. Write to them with your hardware shortage problem and a stamp and they will send you their new catalogue and your own personal reply. After enquiring about some printers and joysticks I received a reply only 5 days after posting it. If that's not impressive enough, I sent an order off for some joysticks on Tuesday evening and received the package from Peaksoft on Friday morning the same week... that's THREE DAYS for my order to reach them, be processed, and return to me! Hows that for a mail order service? While on the subject of Peaksoft, Kevin, if your still reading, they do an adventure writer package written by Cowan Software, now being distributed through Peaksoft. It costs £14.95. You can write to Peaksoft at 48 Queen Street, Balderton, Newark, Notts. NG24 3NS.

# GETTIE

Title : *Ragtime*  
Price : £3.50 (tape) / £4.00 (disk)  
Author : *Dave Cadman*  
Supplier : *Dave Cadman*, 32 Breedon Hill Road, Derby, DE3 6TG.

I have very little knowledge of music and if any body asked me about crochets and quavers I would probably say that the first is what my old granny used to use, and the second is what you keep your arrows in.

I intend to buy them all. I can assure you that you will be dealt with efficiently and courtesly. By the way, Dave used to be a church organist for 20 years.

FOOTNOTE: Dave regularly sends out his excellent music on Dragon RTTY on Sunday mornings. RTTY users may like to contact Dave through his 'callsign' which is C6XGF.



# THE COMMUNICATIONS

Simon Jones, 37 Collins Meadow, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4EN.

by  
**SIMON JONES**

*Column!*

*This is the last but one 'Communications Column' in the present series in Dragon Magazine, so if you have any communications queries then get writing to our comms. expert at the above - ED.*

Semblique' ma friuche pout va gtrerz uietyuyz ma cmuucidoz clmezzne loidbe ma quen'tbez clmezzne bjitya pouncet lokopo ma friuche voupule lkqetyz nondergan't lokopo juournqew ma dieze poutyie kliqche. uietyuyz ma lotyze udefuupoip at'lo juoutyrez loidbe friuche uetyze.

To all you not fluent in Prussian; Hello! Right, first of all I must thank you all for the hudge response which I have received; I have been amazed, staggered, and stunned by the unparalleled amount of enquiries in conection with the column. Yes, I have been inundated with absolutely nothing.

Undetered, I shall continue, diving into the pool of itriguing, exciting, and above all, dammed expensive, Multi-User games. First, though, some hot news (by the time you read this, though, it will probably be cold (probably - ED)), and indeed good news. At last, after several years of haggling with Prestel, there is now a 'true' Dragon only section on Prestel (and about time too! - ED)! This is in the form of a few pages on Clubspot 810, edited by Dragon's Fail magazine (did I notice a bit of criticism there, Simon? - ED) former editor, Julian Cogdell... more details on that next month.

To all those thinking of buying a modem, but have been unable to obtain the necessary software, Peaksoft have just come up with the answer, in the guise of COMROM, which, as it's name suggests, is based on an eprom. Peaksoft also supply the interface, so now there's no better time to get on-line!

COMROM, available with the 'New Era' interface for around £30, has two distinct advantages over the old, out dated Modem House cartridge, which this is based upon. Firstly, it allows access to scrolling type Bulletin Boards, such as the long established 6809 Board which I'll be looking at next month. Above all, though, the software now enables ESCAPE codes to be used, allowing double hight, flashing text (previously could not be seen on the Dragon), and all forms of graphical representation to be used. Of course, though, the Dragon is still limited to the usual black and white display. A display which all 6809 users have come a customed to.

As stated, one of COMROM's greatest assests is it's ability to access scrolling boards, which means all Dragerians may now access the vast number of multi-user games, which are mostly based upon scrolling screens. But, what are Multi-User games, or MUGs as they are more commonly know (perhaps because of the price you pay to play them? - ED). Well, in short, they are similar to convetional text adventures, such as Keys fo the Wizard, with the same objects, and same style of play. The differance being, they are far more interactive.



Imagine playing Return of the Ring, but instead of befriending, and fighting, computer controlled characters you are actually 'playing' (many regard it as more than just a 'game') with upto one hundred 'real-life' people, also taking part.

Infact, its true to say, to some, it is more than just a 'mere game', but a way of life; in effect, a gateway to another world, a world not limited by computer capabilities (or the lack of them), or memory, but a word where you may act out your every inspiration : Controlling your own character, with your own unique identity and name; battling with fellow adventurers, and adventuresses (they're not sexist here!) bidding to reach the ultimate goal... immortality (I never knew The Immortal Strain was now a MUG! - ED). You may talk to, follow, befriend, or join forces with fellow adventurers; if you are more evil minded, you may plot against, fight, and eventually kill, unsuspecting players, in the aim of gaining the morsels of treasure they may have had... Yes, you can do almost anything in Multi-User games; the only restriction is the cost!

But, I here you shout, how much does it all cost ???

Well, like all aspects of communications, it is largely based upon how much you use it. Some, as mentioned, treat MUGS as a second world, and as such, use it all day, every day; even sleep is denied, as it is seen as an obstruction, and a waste of time. Therefore, costs can be as high, especially if your 'addicted', resulting in bills of excess of £5000+ every year (personally, I'd prefer to play Microdeal's Airball on the ST, than pay that! - ED).

For the majority, though, costs are kept done to a minimum; for some, less than £2 a week including 'phone charges. Shades, the most well known, and widely used MUG, based upon Prestel, is only 96p per hour to access, if you hold a Micronet account. This also has the distinct advantage of local, cheap rate 'phone charges, effectively allowing use of Shades for less than £1.50 per hour, including ALL additional costs.

Other MUGs, such as MUD, GODS, ect. have similar charges, with an additional registration fee, plus the prospect of long distance telephone calls, if you live out side the south-east.

Yes, I recommend Multi-User games; it is truely the ultimate form of communicating, and one CAN NOT, and WILL NEVER be surpassed by any form of conventional computing game on ANY computer. Yes I know it can be expensive, but so can one of Quickbeam's games (no comment - ED)... and believe me, MUGs are fifty times better in all respects.

My advice to you? Buy a modem, subscribe to Prestel/Micronet, play Shades, and put your Dragon into hyperdrive!!! Once you have, you'll never look back... but behold mere mortal (he isn't talking to me, of course - ED), beware of the one name DRAGGY... I might, just might, have a long sword behind my back. HAPPY HACKING!!!

## =====

# == DRAGON MAGAZINE ==

This month we've got a special readers only disk offer, next month some thing else. What would YOU like to see offered through the Dragon Magazine Reader's Offer page? Write and let us know... You never know, your idea could become possable! ANYTHING CONSIDERED!

DRAGON MAGAZINE (SUG1), 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

== SEND NOW! == SEND NOW! == SEND NOW! ==

== SEND NOW! == SEND NOW! == SEND NOW! ==



**THE**

**YOUR TASK:** You are Hercules, the hero of Classical times. As you may know, he was given twelve harsh labours to perform by Eurystheus, a ruler of the land. .

Hercules completed all these tasks without fail. But now he has been given another - a Thirteenth Task!

**E3** from - ARC SOFTWARE, 272 Mearns Road,  
 Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 5LY.

If you have written a piece of good Dragon software then why not send a copy to us at below address for a non-exclusive quote.

We offer generous royalties (10-30%) plus  
Special Bonus Commission deals and adverts  
in a national Dragon publication. So send  
us your program on next piece of software  
any time - no matter how many viruses etc

~~XX~~

## BROOKS/JOHN'S LATEST ADVENTURE!

**"The ULTIMATE Classical Adventure!!"**

ONLY £4.00 INC. (OVERSEAS ADD 50p) P&amp;P

CHAVES POSTAL ORDERS INTERNATIONAL INC. INC.

BROOKSFT, 30 Brookhills,  
Newlyn Garden City, Nerts. AL7 INF.

[illegible]

Cheques/postal orders made payable to

# DRAGONFIRE SERVICES

and send to-

DRAGON MAGAZINE (ADS); 13 Parry Jones  
Close; Blaine; Gwent; NPS 3NH.

# Dragon Magazine - *It's the magazine!*

**13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.**



# DRAGON MAGAZINE DISK OFFER

## 10 DISK PACK for £7.00!

OR BUY 100 DISKS (10 PACKS) FOR JUST  
**£60.00 INCLUSIVE**

□ □ PLUS □ □

**\* DOUBLE SIDED \***  
**\* WRITE PROTECTS \* LABELS \* SLEVES \***

Dragon Magazine are offering readers a special discount price on top quality disks this month! They're 5 1/4" disks, double sided and have reinforced hub rings, and whats more, they've got a full replacement guarantee! What more could you ask?

Many suppliers charge more than this BEFORE postage, our price INCLUDES postage. Check out the price for disks with all the above at your local store... you'll probably find they cost over £10 !

Get your disks in NOW ready for the winter! Buy as many packs as you wish - there's no limit! There's no extras to pay on the above prices either... it's INCLUSIVE! But, to get prices on quality disks we have to buy in quantity... and that means we have to place one bulk order. So there's a limit to the time you have left to order.

Send us your order to reach us by the 30. of OCTOBER. Make sure of this because we're going to order the disks the very next day! Then, within 28 days of this, the closing date for orders, you'll receive your quality disks!

NOTE: We're very hopeful that we'll get enough orders to buy in bulk. But, should we not receive enough orders your cheque will be returned on the 31st October, un-cashed. Having said that, we are sure if most of our readers who have disk drives place orders, then we'll no problem getting the numbers up for our bulk order. **YOU CHEQUE WILL NOT BE CASHED UNTIL OUR ORDER IS PLACED!**

So, hurry, and save money... complete the form below and return it to us  
- NOW - at the address below. Offer ends 30th October 1987.

>>> DRAGON MAGAZINE READER'S OFFER <<< >>> DRAGON MAGAZINE READER'S OFFER <<<		DK/87
NAME : _____		
ADDRESS : _____ _____		
POST CODE : _____		
TELEPHONE : ( _____ ) _____		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross box where appropriate. Complete blanks and delete where necessary.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please supply me with _____ box(es) of disks (10 disks per pack) @ £7.00 per box. I therefore enclosed a cheque/postal order for the sum of £_____ which includes P&P.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please supply me with _____ packs of disks @ 100 disks per box at the special price of £60.00 per pack inclusive. I therefore enclose a cheque/postal order for the total sum of £_____.		
Cheques/Postal Orders payable to DRAGONFIRE SERVICES and post BEFORE 30.10.1987 to us at- DRAGONFIRE SERVICES, DM DISK OFFER, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blairstown, Gwent, NP23 3NH.		
I understand that if the order is late or disks are not available the cheque/postal order will be returned to me, UNCASHED, on, or within 7 DAYS of the 1st October 1987. Otherwise the disks ordered will be delivered to me within 28 DAYS of the 1st of October 1987.		
SIGNED : _____		DATE : ____ / ____ / ____

12p / 48tp