



DRAGON

MAGAZINE

MARCH 1988

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DRAGON

MAGAZINE

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

JUST \$7.50 PER YEAR!
(or £10.00 overseas)

Dragon Magazine - *It's the magazine!*

TAKE A LOOK!

PUBLISHED BY -

Dragonfire Services



EDITOR'S VIEWS...

Dragon Magazines 'new look' is continuing to develop. More arcade material, more business material. Something to suit everyone, we hope. You, our readers seem to like it by the look of your comments that are coming in. It's attracting new readers all the time too! The Dragon companies are taking a keener interest in us than ever before. This kind of magazine has only come about by listening to our readers wishes over the years. We are always pleased to hear constructive criticism as well as pleasing comments. We always try and help where we can. I'd like to hear from you if you have either.

Our Arcade Column returns this month after its one month break with its new author. The Business Column written by Dragon computer buff Lord Edward. The classified column is starting to be used once again. Its free to readers and if you don't use it you'll lose it! The same goes for Letters Corner. A little more correspondence between users wouldn't hurt - write Letters Corner on the letter if you specifically intended it to be published, otherwise it might get treated as a general letter by us.

We're hoping to get new headers for all our regular columns and a new cover design in the near future to add to our 'new look'. We're looking for cover designs. Small drawing (less than A4) to include in the cover with relevance to the Dragon, also some computer clip art. We've graphics design software to give away in this month's issue so read on.

Andrew Hill.

GENERAL INFORMATION

EDITOR : ANDREW HILL

ASSISTANT EDITOR : MICHAEL EDWARDS * SOFTWARE EDITOR : DAVID BARCLAY

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All correspondence should be properly addressed and sent to us at the below address. While we cannot guarantee to answer all enquiries we will try our best to reply to all those who enclose an S.A.E. with their query.

DRAGON MAGAZINE, 13 PARRY JONES CLOSE, BLAINA, GWENT, NP3 3NH.

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LETTERS CORNER

KEEPING DRAGON USER'S IN TOUCH!

MORE FROM MR. VINE!

I expect I'll have upset that nice Mr. XXX (edited) again with my 'Star Letter' in a previous issue of Dragon Magazine, but an extra point not mentioned in the general criticism of their high prices is that these high priced games are not exactly 'original'. The prices might be more justifiable if they were, as XXX's later games are among the better Dragon one's, but some of their games seem to be inspired by Commodore 64 games. As an example, there's Metal on Metal a poor copy of Uridium, Superkid is a blatant rip-off of Wonderboy, and even Fire Force bears a resemblance to the likes of Commando.

I'm not suggesting for one minute that XXX were unable to come up with any original ideas of their own so decided to 'convert' idea's, but expecting anyone to pay Commodore prices (£9:95p) for a poorer Dragon version of the same game is not really on.

Mr. M. R. Vine
Essex.

D.M. REPLIES: Thank you for your letter, Mr. Vine. Metal on Metal, as detailed in a previous issue of Dragon Magazine has been scrapped (metal... scrapped! Get it? - ED) because, says Mr. Hitchman, the programmer didn't see it worth his while on. Maybe because of the similarity with Uridium? That's for you to decide, after all sources say that it was almost complete! However, the company in mention does produce some very good Dragon software. They may be copies of other software but if that's what the paying users want then that's what they get. It isn't as if the initial producers publish it for the Dragon anyway so WHY SHOULD DRAGON OWNERS GO WITHOUT? How can you expect Dragon games to match the quality of Commodore games? The price? Well you don't have to buy the thing once it's made!

USER FRIENDLY ???

I was brought up as a child several decades ago when it was customary to say 'please' and 'thank you'. To say these little words does not cost anything and it is only polite and courteous to do so.

I have made contact with many Dragon users and have continued to say 'please' and 'thank you', obviously now by letter as these Dragon users have been only too pleased to give assistance, just the same as I have in return. Occasionally Dragon users have appealed for help in magazines and on several occasions I have replied offering either the program they were looking for or assistance. Several times the 'advertiser' has already been offered the program or the information required but has had the politeness and courtesy to write and thank me.

I recently replied to somebodys request for information and went to the trouble of enclosing several photo copies. I have had no acknowledgement. I would have thought that a short letter of thanks would have been in order. So now what shall I do in future, shall I try to help people? Once uncourteous person makes you think is it worth it, despite the fact that the other dozen have said 'thank you'.

If you 'advertise' for information or a program or informtion in a magazine you should accept that you could receive several replies and you should be prepared to reply to them all even if you are only saying 'thank you, I am already fixed up'.

Name and
Address supplied.

D.M. REPLIES: We can only agree with what you metioned and say that anyone who does ask for help in any magazine should take responsibility to reply. Of course, if the feed back is too much a note to the Editor to publish a 'thank you' the the next issue is the next best thing. Without it you'll loose your support from the people in the know!

LETTERS TO-

DRAGON MAGAZINE, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP23 3NA.

THE DRAGON & TANDY SHOW - COMES TO OSSETT -

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THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS TYPESET & PUBLISHED FREE OF CHARGE BY DRAGON MAGAZINE - CARING FOR THE DRAGON!

DRAGON NEWS FILE

PROBABLY THE MOST UP TO DATE NEWS FILE FOR THE DRAGON

QUICKBEAM DROP DRAGON

QUICKBEAM SOFTWARE, the Dragon arcade game specialists, know for such popular titles as Fire Force and Superkid have dropped the Dragon computer. Following their recent release, Indoor Football, the non appearance of Metal on Metal, and the reported disappointing sales of Superkid, Quickbeam have decided to cease to produce any further Dragon titles. It is not yet known if the company still exists and has moved on to other micros.

Computape (0621 772589) have taken over the Quickbeam stock, and reduced what many users felt high prices. Indoor Football has been reduced from £8.95 to £4.95, contact Computape for further price changes. Computape, 27 Coombe Road, Southminster, Essex, CM0 7AH.

PULSATING SOFTWARE...

SPY AGAINST SPY is the latest release from Lancashire based software house, Pulser Software (0706 849189). Brian O'Connor of Pulser explains their latest game, "As a secret agent in a foreign embassy you must escape before it explodes". In the game there are 100 rooms, colour graphics, and the ability to play simultaneously against your friend or the Dragon. Sounds like a good game (expect review soon), and at only £5.95 on tape or disk (Dragon Dos) it's well worth checking out. Contact Pulser Software, 36 Foxhill, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. OL2 7NQ. Send an S.A.E. for their full price list of Dragon software.

READER ADVENTURE RELEASE

READER IAN ROSS has just finished writing two adventures for the Dragon. Sunken Ghost and Diamond Manor are their names. In Diamond Manor the object is to get into the manor house, find the black diamond, and make your escape. In Sunken Ghost various objects have to be collected. No price has yet been attached, more details and reviews in the near future.

ARC CONTINUE PRICE DROP

ARC SOFTWARE, a small software house based in Scotland, have just announced a continued reduction in the price of its one and only title, The Thirteenth Task. The adventure, which hasn't received a bad review, is set after Hercules, hero of classical times, has just completed his twelve harsh tasks which were set by Eurystheus, who was the ruler of the land. Now, Hercules has been set another task, a Thirteenth Task, it is your aim to guide him through it. The new price, which lasts through the Easter period, and until the end of April is £1.99 including postage and package. More details, or orders to Arc Software, 272 Mearns Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 5LY.

TWO YEARS SINCE...

IT IS TWO years since the very first issue of Dragon Magazine, then named Dragon Games Review, appeared. Since then Dragon Magazine has gone from strength to strength, from a 5 page fanzine to what you see today, with more planned for tomorrow! Thanks for supporting Dragon Magazine, we look forward to our continued support of you!

JAFFER-SOFT LAUNCHED

ORANGE SOFTWARE is a new software house formed by a Mr. Smith, brother of Crazy Foota author, Graham Smith. Their shocking orange inlays and leaflets apart, they intend to concentrate on Dragon and Tandy software to begin with, then, maybe, expand into other micros. They have around 15 titles already available, including Beanstalker and Bean Patch, old Microvision favourites, not to mention the latest version of Crazy Foota, version 3, which works on both Dragon and Tandy machines. For a free copy of their first price list write to Orange Software, The Garth, Nanty-Y-Derry, Abergavenny, Gwent, NP7 8HF.

DRAGONFIRE ON TANDY SOON...

DRAGONFIRE SERVICES, who already have a large range of Dragon computer software, will soon be expanding their range to include software on Tandy colour computer, and also on Dragon Dos disk. These conversions come due to the "quite good success and increase in range" of their software. Due for release on disk and Tandy cassette format by mid summer are both the S.B. Telephone Directory, and S.B. Word Processor, and Pyradventure may also become available in these formats. On disk, again by mid summer, the Script and Computa-Text fonts are hoped to be packaged on one disk, as are the three musical programs. Other titles in the range, and software "near release" is also being considered. More details, or free price list from Dragonfire Services, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

NEWS IN BRIEF:

MICRODEAL have officialy dropped the Dragon computer. Also software is now available through Computape.

BROOMSOFT, who have been quiet recently, have some new Dragon software in the pipe-line, including a title to accompany the Composer Column in Dragon Magazine.

SCRIPT, the new font by Dragonfire Services, has developed problems when being converted from Epson compatable version to other 8 bit printer versions. Release of the Universal version is not expected until late April. Epson version available now.

THE WELSH DRAGON SHOW took place last Saturday, the 27th Febuary. An estimated 150 users attended, full show report this issue.

** HAVE YOU ANY NEWS RELATING TO THE DRAGON OR TANDY COMPUTERS ? BE IT HARWARE, SOFTWARE, OR ANYWAY INFORM DRAGON MAGAZINE NEWS DESK NOW! 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH. **

** PLEASE MENTION 'DRAGON MAGAZINE' WHEN REPLYING! **

PLAY IT AGAIN, DRAGON!

TITLE: MUSIC MAESTRO

PRICE: £4.95 (+50p P&P)

FROM : R.&A.J. PRESTON, Kings Hall Court, St. Brides Major,
Mid. Glamorgan, CF32 0SE. TEL : 0656 880965 (24 HOUR)

The Dragon seems to have attracted quite a lot of music programs recently, notably Music Maker and D.A.M.S. among them. A little suprising then, I thought, for Prestons to release one too, especially when they seem to be directed more towards arcade software - though their latest two releases may show a diversion from that. However, I'm glad they did release this utility since it is the most easily mastered I have yet to use.

It uses only the hi-res screen for both text and graphical output - which is a nice addition when memory allows because of the Dragons very drap text screen. You are offered, upon loading, with a menu with 8 choices on, some leading on to a sub menu. Among the choices are load and save stave, save music, edit music, compose and, of course, play. Upon reading the neat size instruction booklet which comes with the program I already knew what to do first... flip over the cassette and load in a demo tune or two. This I did, and to my disapointment the system crashed! I prevailed, however, and re-loaded the whole system. This time the music loaded and played perfectly. You can either simply play the music, sit back, and listen or play it with the notes appearing, graphically, on the stave as it plays - though the manual does rightly inform you its a little slower with that option, obviously. Wanting to lern a little I watch the music as it played. It started off in rather boring (for a music program, not for the Dragon generally) but soon picked up into what was like four channel sound. This was purposely done by the composer, I believe, to demonstate the programs capabilities. After several run throughs of each demo I started inputing my own music, notes out of my head to begin with (which sounded awful) and then out of a organ book, which, I must admit, didn't sound bad at all. Typing in the notes is simplicity itself. Within five minutes your away.

I have not been very sucessful using more than one channel sound, but anyone who has any knowledge of music should find this no problem - or if they have a book with four notes per placing on the bar it will be simple. Two close together would, I suppose, give a backing effect. However, four channel sound appart, anyone who has a sheet of music in front of them cannot, I feel, fail to input it easily within a few minutes use. I did, I know. I soon had "When the Saits", "Brown Eyes", and others piping out of my Dragon.

It's ease of use makes this the ultimate music program for the Dragon for the average user. It seems to offer many features but, at the same time, give user friendlness. The programmer must be congratulated. I recommend this program to EVERYONE - musical or not! BUY IT!

100% - EXCELLENT

DRAGON MAGAZINE RATING - NOT TO BE MISSED!

SUPPORT?

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES
ON THE DECLINE OF THE DRAGON AND ON
WHAT THE USERS & COMPANIES THINK ABOUT IT!

THE DRAGON IS DEAD! Well that's the appinion of most commercial publications - and companies. This series of articles aims at showing different views why the Dragon, an excellent computer, failed, and what is to happen in the future. Companies and users alike have been, and are being asked their views - the first came from John Smallwood who, himself, is a Dragon software author. This is what he said...

"I think it's a shame that Dragon Data Ltd. wend 'bust' in 1984. If it hadn't, I feel sure that the Dragon would still be really around today. Maybe with a Dragon 128, or Dragon 2+. If it was a bit lower in price (maybe £125 to compete with the Spectrum 48k) the maybe enough would have been sold to enable those better modles to be developed, and sold in retail outlets in the towns.

"Another factor was the availability of software. A lot of software out near the start when the Dragon's releases were of reasonable quality; titles like The King and Scramble which were roughly equal to that on other computers. But since then the standard of software hasn't really improved - just look at Spectrum software (well, not for very long) - from O.K. games like Hungry Horrace to mega games like Elite, Gauntlet etc. this while Dragon software hasn'treally progressed that much. This may be partly due to the fact that the Dragon hasn't the capacity for hi-res multi-colour graphics, which is unfortunate. This might have given the Dragon more success, but there's nothing we can do about the past.

"It seems to me that the Dragon is doomed to decline, and all we can do is stave it off for as long as we can. The introduction of the new Atari 16-Bit machine, while still pricey, will soon come down into the home computer market. This, as it can operate at practically double 8 bit machone speeds will phase out the old computers within, I would think, 5 years.

"Dragons may hang around longer than some, as there is a dedicates core of users prepared to stick with it, but may end it's days as a lonly word processor only, or an old antique in someones loft."
JOHN SMALLWOOD.

Agree, or disagree ? Write and let us know. One point that I think was essential to Dragon Datas fate was the late release of the Dragon 64. Its expect release in Summer 1983 didn't happen, it missed Christmas too - for most shops anyway. This was, maybe, partly due to the new manager at Dragon Data Brian Moore, replacing the much better (I thought) John Clark. Mr. Clark had great plans in early '83 for the Dragon... if only they kept him on! A bad mistake which, in my opinion, cost Dragon Data their life.

You see, if the Dragon 32 was the minority computer and the 64 was the popular model, instead of the way it is, then the Dragons software would still, even today, be very good. For instance you can get Guantlet and Beach Head for the Tandy 64K - no reason for them not working on the Dragon with very little addjustment. More American news next month in the 'American Connection'.

Get your views on Dragon Data's failure aired. Write NOW to-
DRAGON MAGAZINE, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

BRANDS HATCH

NAME : Formula One
PRICE : £8.95
PUBLISHER : Pamcomms Ltd., 21 Wycombe Lane, Woodburn Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP10 0HD.

This game was released at the recent 6809 Show. I understand it is Pamcomms first game, although she has released some great basic programs and utilities. If this is her first then things can only get better (and you can't get much better than this).

When I first heard of the game I was expecting something like Salamanders 'Grand Prix'. But I couldn't be more wrong. It is in fact a two player version of 'Speed Racer' but is much better. The graphics are superb and scrolling is very smooth. It is all done on the PMODE 4 screen in black and green.

The best way to describe this game is to compare it to 'Scalextric' by Virgin for the (spit, ding!) Spectrum. If you have ever played this game, or even seen it then prepare for a shock. The Dragon Version is BETTER! Although not integrated with the track designer, it beats the socks off all other racing games.

You can choose to play against another player, the computer, or the clock. To play the computer in a race, you must enter your name as player 1 and just press <ENTER> for player 2. Then comes the track selection. This is done by moving an arrow to either 'yes' or 'no'. Then, one by one, all the tracks are displayed, 17 in all. All 17 are pretty real and are obviously based on the actual race tracks. Once you have made your choice, you must enter the number of laps, wait for the lights and then off you go. Different bends have different maximum speeds and going too fast causes you to skid and shudder. Your position on the track is shown on a miniature version of the track at the bottom of the screen and the view from the back of your car and your apponents is on the main screen. But finishing the game is the best part.

A screen is displayed that shows the back of both cars, with the winner jumping up and down for joy and the loser tapping his foot and an exclamation mark in a speech bubble as if he was angry. It's worth finishing the game just to see it.

On the other side of the tape is a track designer that is used to create your own tracks with curves, chicanes, banked curves, etc. When you have completed your track layout, it can be saved to tape and loaded into the main race game. On the whole the game is excellent.

95 % - EXCELLENT

NOTE: Also available on disk for Dragon Dos. Instructions are also given for Delta Dos 486x86 transfers.

FOR THE

TWO YEARS ON!

DRAGON MAGAZINE is now two years old. We have had great ideas for the magazine, most of which have now been accomplished... things like a 16 pages every months, better quality print, more features, more offers, and a generally better service. Now, not to allow Dragon Magazine to stay in its present form, we have set our sights higher still.

The main aim to to increase our readership. Still only just over the 100 mark, we would like to see it treble, at least. This, we hope, will be accomplished by good advertising and promotion through 1988. We are considering having Dragon Magazine printed by professional printers, not typesetted though because of the expense for the small number of readers. We are considering a change in format from A4 to A5 (A5 is half A4. A4 is the size of this page). The reason for this would be economical, once again. But I would point out that its size would, therefore, double to 32 pages. Thus you do not loose any pages, perhaps gain because of the reduction in space take by covers, adverts, etc. leaving more room for information. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON THIS FRONT - WE WANT YOU, OUR READERS TO DECIDE!

For all of the above to be accomplished we need help. You can help by being patient for magazines to arrive (no need to worry, everyone will get 12 issues from their subscription, whatever). But where our greatest help can come from is our advertisers! If they support us by advertising more regularly then we can support you. So support our advertisers, and we'll be able to support you better! After all, its advertising that pays for Dragon Magazines overheads!

We hope you will complete the questionnaire, below, and return it to us AS SOON AS POSSABLE. We will read and take account of ALL your views; we care about you, our readers.

THE EDITOR.

DRAGON MAGAZINE QUESTIONNAIRE

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

NAME: _____ (we have your address)

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CONTENT IN GENERAL ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE GENERAL LAYOUT ?

WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE MOST ABOUT DRAGON MAGAZINE ?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT DRAGON MAGAZINE ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PROPOSED NEW SIZE ?

ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD :

THANK YOU!

CLASSIFIED

ADVERTISING

Place your FREE classified ad NOW!

WANTED! The following Dragon Data software, originals only, preferably in original packing. *Dragon Forth, Flight, Music Box, Lunar Rover Patrol*. No reasonable offer refused. Tudor Davies, 57 Sunnyside Road, Weston super Mare, Avon, BS23 3QD. Tel: (0934) 28607 (evenings).

WANTED! used postage stamps, any size and any country, torn off reasonable close to their edges. Send to *ALADDINK (STAMPS)*, 4 Hurkur Crescent, Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland, TD14 5AP. All stamps sent to a *Cancer Appeal*. Please mention *Dragon Magazine* with your reply.

SOFTWARE LIBRARY/Software Exchange for the Dragon 32 & 64, Commodore 64, 128, C-16, and Plus4. Send 2 * 18p stamps for details and list. M.R. Vine, 120 Auriel Avenue, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 8BU.

FOR SALE: Sony CCP-13B high speed cassette to cassette (audio & computer) printer - duplicates three tapes (both sides) at a time! Four channel. Nearly new. £800 (including delivery). John Penn, Dean Farm Cottage, Kingsley, Bordon, Hants. GU35 9NG. Tel: 04203 5970.

WANTED: Dot Matrix printer for the Dragon. *Must be cheap!* Give details to Eddie Freeman on (0604) 582639 (evenings).

WANTED: 5 1/4" disk drive and Dragon/Super dos controller. *Must be cheap* and in good condition. Write giving details - A.Hill, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH.

>> **FREE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING IN DRAGON MAGAZINE** for subscribers (trade and non-subscribers charged - ask for details). What ever you need or want to get ride of... be it a disk drive, software, or maybe a second Dragon... a **FREE Dragon Magazine** classified may help. All you it costs you is a stamp! Send wording now for inclusion in the next available issue...

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

ADVERTISEMENT

- THE RETURN OF - BROOMSOFT

Broomsoft, who have been silent for some time now have a program ready for release at any time now! WATCH OUT - BROOMSOFT BITES BACK!

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IT'S BACK...

ARCADE - YIER

Written by Tudor Davies

Welcome to an old column, but a new writer. Unfortunately, Andrew has vacated his position as the writer of of Arcade Yier and I have taken over. Some of you may recognise my name from the few games reviews that I have had published in this magazine. I have a strange sense of humour that will probably become evident in this column, and I am also a proud owner of a Dragon 32, who survives under the torment of many (ugh!) Spectrum owing friends (who doesn't?). I also have access to an Atari ST computer, so I am 'in the know' when it comes to computer games.

One big bit of bad news was the announcement that Metal on Metal will not appear after all. I had a glimpse of this game at the 5th 6809 show and it looked great. If I am write in thinking that the game I saw was Metal on Metal then it is a great pity. It was a large scale version of Uridium, with crisp graphics and pretty smooth scrolling. But Quickbeam have released 'Indoor Soccer' which looks very good from what I saw of it at the 6809 show. The only problem was that I couldn't get close enough to have a go, as quite a few people were hogging it. Rolaball was released by R & AJ Preston at the show which looks extremely good. Well done Jonathan Cartwright for that (by the way Andrew, where is my review copy? - It's in the post! - ED). I played this game at both the South Wales Computer Show and at the 6809 Show. It's a 3D 'Marble Madness' style game, in which you must collect pieces of a jigsaw on its many screens. None of the characters flickered as far as I could see, and movement was smooth. Let's hope that it sells well for both J. Cartwrights and Prestons sakes.

Did anyone buy Formula One by Pamcomms? I did and it now has pride of place in my games collection. It is excellent. Not in the same league as Airball and Superkid as arcade games go, but its definately the best race game available for the Dragon. With 17 tracks to choose from, plus the ability to design your own, this game is the best. Two player option is the best, as you thrash the living daylights out of your best friend with a crafty bit of driving (I know, I did). But the best part of the game is its ending, its worth spending £8.95 just to see that. I won't say anymore - read the review elsewhere.

One of the things that I was going to include in this column was a list of all the pokes and cheats I have collected, but seeing as Hackers Corner did nearly every poke I have, it seems a bit of a waste of time. But if you have any hints, tips, pokes, or maps on any games then send them in to me and I will probably mention them.

I hope Andrew won't be too upset, but I am about to lauch another competition. The prize is will be something from the Editors Big Box of Games. Well here it is -

It seems to be a recent trend among famous (who me?!!) Dragon owners that their Dragon has a name. Unfortunately mine hasn't. So the competition is to find a name for my computer. Easy eh !! There are only two rules, and these are (1) My decision is final and biased and (2) All enteries are received by 31st March.

ARCADE-YIER continued...

TOP 10

EXCLUSIVE TO DRAGON MAGAZINE EACH MONTH!

1st AIRBALL

2nd SPEEDRACER

3rd SUPERKID

4th JUXTA-POSITION

5th SHOCKTROPPER

6th FIRE FORCE

7th TANGLEWOOD

8th CRAZY FOOTA

9th IMMORTAL STRAIN

10th ROLA-BALL

Still number 1 in the Dragon Magazine chart is Airball. Now that Prestons have released a contender, Rola-Ball, entering this month for the first time, Airballs long standing position at the top could be cut. Superkid, tipped to take over Airball last month if anything could, fell back one place to make room for Speedrace. Everyone must be getting out their 'golden oldies'. The Immortal Strains first entrance into the TOP TEN comes this month after it's bubbling outside last month. What will happen next month? Who knows... ONLY YOU THE READERS! So Vote, Vote, Vote for your TOP TEN favourite programs. Theres a copy of Rola Ball in it for you if your name is picked out of the bag, courtesty of R & AJ Preston and Dragon Magazine!

Send your votes and your name and address to -

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

IT'S THE MOST ACCURATE DRAGON CHART!?

>> ARCADE YIER continued...

Contary to the 'Expert' of Dragon User (do you mean Jason ...whoops! - ED), as mentioned in his first column, I am one of those people who cannot get past that up an' down thingummy in 'Copta Snatch'. I just thought that I would this fact before any vicious rumours were started.

Well, got to go, see you in the next thrilling installment of Arcade Yier, which could either be bi-monthly or monthly bepending on how I feel, and your feed-back, but definately bi-monthly. Byeee!

WRITE TO -

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

Please mark the top left hand coner of the envelope A.Y. No S.A.E.s please until further notice.

COMPETITION

2 COPIES OF PENN'S LATEST - PICTURE MAKER - TO BE WON THIS MONTH !!!

This month we turn to a slightly different competition, with prizes to match the problem. We want 'Clip Art'. This is little 'snipits' of graphics which can be anything from a road sign, to a cartoon, or even a picture of your Dragon! All we ask is that it's your own work. You can send as many enteries you like *ON CASSETTE* stating the number of drawing on the tape and their names - each will be judged seperatly.

We can't return the tapes so please keep a copy of the screens. Some of the pictures may be shown in Dragon Magazine at a later date. Remember that you cannot get your picutres from another program - *THEY MUST BE YOUR OWN WORK*. The the pictures received will become the copyright of *Dragon Magazine Public Domain Library* - they will be used as clipd art by Dragon Magazine, and can be supplied to readers as and when we offer them.

The best two pictures, in the Editors view, will recieve a copy of the latest Dragon art program, *Picture Maker*, and a choice of other software from the Editors bottomless box. Prizes may also be awarded for any 'worthy' enteries.

SEND YOUR ENTERIES NOW, ON CASSETTE TO-

DRAGON MAGAZINE (CLIP-ART),
13 Parry Jones Close
Blaina
Gwent
NP3 3NH.

TO REACH US BEFORE THE END OF APRIL 1988.

REMEMBER to give your Name, Address and the name of the art package which the pictures were drawn on. Any number of screens can be contained on each cassette (upto 20)

RULES:

- * The Editors decision is final.
- * No corrispondence will be entered into.
- * A list of the prize winners may be printed in Dragon Magazine and will be available upon request (SAE).
- * All material entered must be the authors own work.
- * Once entered all material becomes the copyright of Dragon Magazine Public Domain Library.
- * Anyone can enter as many times as they want.
- * Tapes cannot be returned - please keep a copy.

---- YOU & DRAGON MAGAZINE ----

**** THE WINNING COMBINATION ****

SOUTH WALES > SHOW REPORT <

DRAGON MAGAZINE - ALWAYS FIRST ON THE SCENE!

WE WENT... MANY TRADERS WENT... MANY USERS DIDN'T!
DRAGON MAGAZINE REPORTS ON THE DAYS EVENTS!

Computer shows in Wales never seem to be THAT popular, for some reason. Dragon shows have stood by this fact since the first Welsh Dragon show, even though its the home of the Dragon. Having said that, several hundred of users did turn up to the first show, decreasing the second time round, but still not that bad. This, the latest, failed, miserably, to draw 100 users! Having said that, it was probably the best supported by traders yet, with several attending.

Among the traders were Computape, selling there massive range of discount software, along with Quickbeams titles, which they recently aquired (see News File). Prestons were there with software on both tape and disk, with leads, tape players, the odd Dragon or so, disk, disk boxes, and other items. They seem to draw the crowds (not that there was any) quite well, considering they had no displays going on. Harry Whitehouse (Peaksoft, to you and me) were there with everything, from spare keyboards to car stickers, to M.S.X. machines. John Penn Discount Software, the shows organiser, had its large range of discount software available, including the new Formula One from Pamcomms (see review in this issue). We were there, with our full range, more or less, of Dragon software, and with a display. Since it was our first show attendace as a software house, not only a magazine as our prio shows have been, we were presently suprised with the interest drawn... considering the number of people who where there, of course.

A new company were also retailing, and had several Dragons and one Tandy demonstrating. Their name, Orange Software (see News File). They had a large range of software available (reviews next month) on both tape and disk, including Microvisions Beanstalker and Beanpatch, at lower than usual prices. It was hartening to see a new face at the show, with such a large range of new material. It just goes to show, some users are taking the risk of supporting the Dragon in their own way. If only everyone were so supportive.

There were three demonstrators at the show. One were showing off Radio Amature equipement, outside the show itself, and another was the infamous David Makin, author of Penns two utilities, Picture Maker, and Music Maker. He sad a sound sampler with him too, among other things. The 68xx Micro Group were there, too, giving advice on queries by users. They had a Mega S.T. on display, showing off its very impressive capabilities. What relavance that had to the Dragon, I don't know, but it was good for display purposes, anyway.

Now all those retailers mentioned made the effort to pay and attend the show, which was 'local' I am sure, to many users, only to find no one turned up! This isn't the kind of thing you ought to be doing to the few retailers left. I wouldn't blame anyone for not organising another Welsh Dragon show. Why should they? You don't bother, most of you, when they do. Finally, my thanks to all who turned up, the retailers, especially the Penns whom organised it, and to Tudor Davies for his help at the D.M. stall! Thanks!

=====

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ADVENTURE COLOUMN

At last, I'm back! The only person ever to complete The Ring of Darkness and Return of the Ring simultaneously while eating a bacon and egg roll and downing three bottles of home brew. I've also complete Juxtaposition twice!! But enough about my many talents, onwards to my long awaited return. Thanks for the heaps of letters and good wishes over the Christmas and New Year period. But seriously though, I never got one question, map, or even a solution so what do you expect me to write about when you don't write?!

There was, however, a response to my somewhat acclaimed competitions. Congratulations go to Eddie Freeman from Northampton who should have received his copy of 'Larkspur Waldorf is Trapped' along with a hint sheet. The answers to the Adventure Columns October competition were as follows. 1. Unscramble the letters and you get 'JUST ONE WORD' !! 2. 202 each time. 3. 50p and a 10p. The other one is a 50p piece. Next month I will have an exciting new competition for you all, not as complex as 'Scratch Monopoly' in the Daily Express, but just as good. By the way, does anyone understand how to play 'Scratch Monopoly'?

I must say I was disappointed at the turn out at the Rochdale show last year. It was appalling. I did, however, meet Jonathan Cartwright who promised me copies of Dungeon Destiny, Starship Destiny, Wild West Destiny, El-Pea and Composer Companion. I now have these programs and will be looking at them in more details next month. Also I'll be reviewing Pyradventure, available from Dragonfire Services, 13 Parry Jones Close, Blaina, Gwent, NP3 3NH. Priced £3:00 plus 50p post and package. I'll be telling you whether it's good, or not.

What happened to Dragon User? I thought this months was dreadful. For a start, the reviewers are resorting to give any OK game five Dragons on the hope that readers will buy the game and keep 'the Dragon alive'. Where as, about a year ago, only an excellent program would receive full credits, like Dark Star, Trekboer, Juxta-Position. Where are good quality games like these nowadays? There not being made that's the problem. How about another GOOD game from the Trekboer team? But Microdeal quit? So what! There are plenty of other suppliers still out there somewhere.

Also, people are still writing in with questions on Juxtaposition to Pete Gerrard. The complete solution was given ages ago. What a waste of space. If I see another question on Juxtaposition I'll throw the magazine out. By the way, Fire Force, in my opinion, is garbage. Thought I'd just squeeze that little point of opinion into this now controversial column.

>> Helen Armstrong, at D.U., is doing a very good job with Dragon User with very little quality material, not to mention funds. It's still the biggest and best magazine for the Dragon in the U.K. so support it! - Editor <<

WRITE TO PUNCHJAW C/O -

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

* Mark the top left of your envelope PAC!

NEXT MONTH...

* INTERVIEW WITH ORANGE SOFTWARE -

Orange Software talk to Dragon Magazine!

* REVIEW SPECIAL... LOT OF REVIEWS -

Less and less reviews have appeared each month in Dragon Magazine. Next month we publish reviews of all the latest software!

* THE BUSINESS COLOUMN -

The second part in this popular column!

* PLUS ALL THE USUAL COLUMNS, NEWS, ETC.!

♦♦♦♦ DON'T MISS IT! ♦♦♦♦