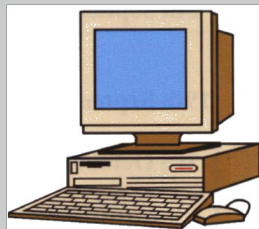


ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP

Monthly Journal

Issue 116 - August 2001



HOTKEY

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Jonathan Burt presenting "CDrewriter Software" at Riverside Centre

Our members were treated to an excellent talk given by Jonathan Burt on the various aspects of CD/R (readable compact disks) and CD/RW (rewriteable compact disks) and how they benefit us in computer work. Jonathan discussed copywrite issues and mentioned that the copying of Audio CD's without the artists permission is illegal, as it is to copy commercial software onto CD's. However, most terms and conditions of commercial packages allow you to make one (and only one) backup copy. Jonathan went on to explain what a Compact Disk (CD) is and discussed the various types of disks. He

mentioned that you must take care that your data does not exceed the capacity of the CD to which you are recording and then discussed the different speeds of the hardware available on the market. Compatibility was explained and burning tips were given by using Nero 5.5 software. Jonathan then went on to talk about how to avoid CD disk failures and what causes buffer underruns. After the interval, Jonathan went on to discuss the different methods used in the burning of CD's in Nero 5.5. He invited questions on the use of CD/R and CD/RW disks to which many of our members had queries, including how to use the

InCD software that formats a CD/RW disk so that you can use it as a floppy disk. Thank you Jonathan for a very informative and interesting evening.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1st August	HTML (Part 2)	David Broughton
15th August	Barbecue in Bembridge	Bob Groom's Place (see page 11)
5th September	Corel Draw\Corel Photo Paint	Ian Capn
19th September	Databases	Tim Bateman
3rd October	Video Editing	George Lemonifides
17th October	Computability Group Presentation followed by General Q. & A.	Members of the Computability Group
7th November	Windows XP (Experience)	Dennis Linzmaier
Sunday		
18th November	Computer Show	Riverside Centre
21st November	Internet with Search Engines	Dennis Linzmaier
5th December	New Products	To br advised
19th December	Christmas Party	Riverside Centre



John Amos, Greg and Veronica Hattersley and Richard Anscombe at a recent meeting

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USERGROUP- COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Honorary President:

Sir Norman Echlin,



Chairman:

Dennis Linzmaier,

Vice Chairman/Show Organiser:

David Broughton,

Treasurer:

Bob Groom,

Secretary:

Christine Jenkins

Membership Secretary:

Douglas Rankin

Refreshments:

Dorothy Wolletron

Hot Key Editor:

Brian Sexton

Committee Member:

Maggie Butler

Committee Member:

Ian Capon

Meetings Reception/Hot Key Distribution:

John Atkin

Committee Member:

Marilyn Barrett

New Members Co-ordinator:

Dennis Lambeth

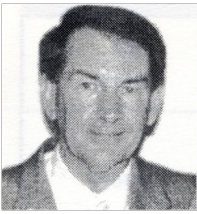
Committee Member:

Cliff Maidment

Disability Resources Co-ordinator:

Helen Edom

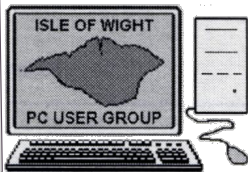
EDITORIAL



I have recently experienced an invasion of gremlins, which has caused repeated crashing of my computer together with the appearance of a number of error dialogue boxes. I have formatted my hard drive and reinstalled my Windows Me operating system in the hope that the faults would disappear. I kept getting weird dialogue boxes saying that comcomctl32.dll and mshtml.dll and kernel32.dll had caused an error in explorer and that my application would now close. I also found that my optical mouse was working in Safe Mode but not in Windows Me when I booted up and even my keyboard was cutting out for some reason. I also tried running Windows Me over the top of my existing system thinking that I had corrupt files, until I suddenly realised that my graphics cards files had been corrupted. I obviously had to download another Me file for my Hercules Prophet MX II from the appropriate site on the Internet. Much to my surprise, when I went to the relevant website, there was a new updated driver recently released to work with video applications. On reflection, I can now see that my Firewire card, which I am using to connect to my camcorder was in conflict with my video card, due to the corrupted graphics card files. All this stretched my patience and caused untold frustration in that valuable files and images used in Hot Key were lost, causing me to redo much of the August Hot Key. However, in overcoming this problem I am wiser for the experience. **BACKUP**, I now have to keep telling myself. With all the annoyances and trauma caused by Windows Me I have decided to revert back to Windows 98, where I can now use System File Checker, Sysedit and enjoy a better menu for the Safe Mode selection list in DOS.

If you receive page faults or messages such as "iexplore has caused an error in comctl.dll" or "explorer has caused an error in mshtml.dll, then the best place to get your answers would be to go to:-

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/windows/topics/errormsg/emresctr.asp>



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, 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.

Visitors are welcome.

This journal, **HOTKEY**, is produced every month.

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.

HUMOUR

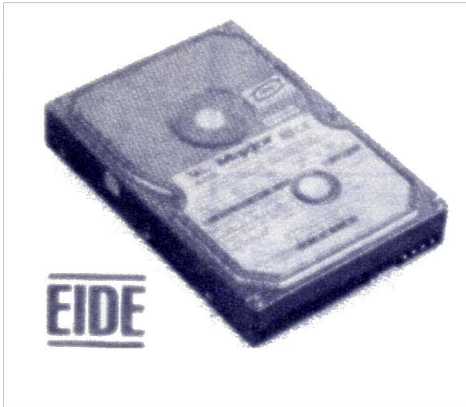
off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



HARD DISK TIPS



1. The silent killer of hard drives is heat especially high speed SCSI drives. I would recommend using a hard drive-cooling fan with all hard drives. I have cooling fans for both my IDE and SCSI drives.
2. Optimise your hard drive on a monthly basis. As much of a pain in the butt as this may be for some, optimising your drive has several benefits. Besides optimising the files, this process also catches many minor problems that may manifest themselves as a major problem later. Examples are cross-linked files, or orphans. Another good reason is if you do have a problem accessing data on your drive when a utility is run, such as Norton, Nuts and Bolts, Tiramisu, etc., the chances of recovery are much higher if the drive has been optimised recently. (By the way—Mijenix makes a great utility to perform this function)
3. I would also recommend running Spinrite on all of your drives once a quarter at level 5. This is a personal recommendation; this utility is excellent, and will find many if not all surface defects before they manifest themselves further. TIP IT is also an excellent tool for Zip disks.

4. Should I mention backing up your data on a regular basis???

5. Power—I want to mention that it is not too difficult to tax a power supply in some systems if they are fully loaded. If possible, I would recommend making sure that the systems have a decent power supply. A UPS (uninterruptible power supply) is also advisable. They are much more reasonable than in the past.

6. On the issue of keeping your computer running all the time, or turning it off and on, here are my thoughts. My recommendation is turn your computer on in the morning, and off at night. I would also recommend disabling all power saving for hard drives. No use in having them spin down every 15 minutes of inactivity and waiting a minute to spin up. This is like turning the computer off and on.

7. Another suggestion (I think we are all guilty of doing this) is never move the computer while it is up and running. Try telling that to laptop users. Any blow to the computer—it tips over, it is dropped an inch or more—gets transmitted directly to the hard drive, and in most cases it will cause a minor head crash. In worse case it will cause bad things to happen.

8: Don't forget about static when handling drives—the newest and highest performing drives come with Giant MR heads, which are extremely sensitive to any static. Ontrack has redone all of our static procedures to handle this technology, and I can tell you from first hand experience that static will kill drives dead.

9. Drives that make clicking, thumping, grinding, etc., are experiencing mechanical problems of some sort. Each time that the drive is powered up, more damage is occurring on the drive. The less you do to the drive, using utilities, etc., the more data we can recover.



Buying a fast hard disk

Choosing a suitable hard disk for your PC isn't an easy task.

One of the key features is **areal density**. With a higher areal density, more data can be packed onto each platter and this means the heads don't have to move as far to reach the data.

Access time is another major contributor to performance. This is the time that it takes to find the data on the disk and be ready to transfer it. It's actually a combination of the rotational latency - the time taken for the disk to rotate until the data is under the head - and the seek time, which is the time taken for the head to move to the right track on the disk. Because sequential transfer rates of current hard disks are so fast, the access time becomes a much bigger factor in the overall speed of the hard disk. So, a hard disk with a lower seek time can still be faster than another disk that has a faster sequential transfer rate.

Since RAM is much faster than mechanical disks, a hard disk's buffer size is also a key factor in performance. This on-board memory acts as a cache that can store several megabytes of data, enabling ultra-fast transfers.

What about SCSI?

SCSI drives are generally faster than the EIDE drives, mainly due to their low seek times and ultra-fast spindle speeds. However, no SCSI drive can match an EIDE drive for value. Unless you already have a SCSI controller card, this is yet another expense on top of already sky-high hard disk prices. The average price per gigabyte for an EIDE drive is about £3.50 compared to the whopping £17 demanded for the SCSI hard drives. The bottom line is, a hard disk with low seek time, high areal density, large buffer and fast spindle speed will go some way to reducing the bottleneck that the hard disk causes in a PC.

10. If you think you have a problem with a drive, you can try going to the Web site of the manufacturer of the hard drive, and download a specific utility that they make to check the drive. These utilities, since they come from the manufacturers themselves, can check all kinds of manufacture specific issues with the drives. Examples are as follows:

Quantum—has a utility called QDPS

IBM—has a utility called DFT

WD—has a utility called WD Diag. I think they are updating the toolset

Maxtor—has a utility called MaxDiag.

Ontrack's Data Advisor will work with all drives, by the way. It is probably the safest tool to use to check a drive.

11. For all of you SCSI users, driver and bios updates for your SCSI card can make a big difference in how your drive performs. Don't forget to make sure you follow the specifications for cabling and termination.

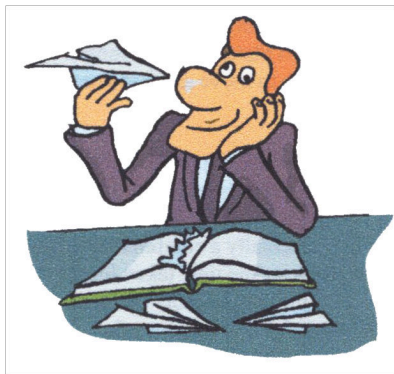
12. Make sure that you have a good anti-virus product, and update the signatures on a bi-weekly basis.

Our thanks to Chris Doyle, Ontrack System Engineering Supervisor Published [www. TUGNET.COM](http://www.TUGNET.COM) -

Thanks to Jim Martin of PC Pro for these extracts

A Very Brief History of the Internet

by Coco Johnston,
F1 Computer Club, Shell Knob, MO,
coco@mo-net.com



The Internet had its beginnings with the launching of Sputnik. The Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) wanted to maximise the use of computers for national defence. Dr. J.C.R. Licklider was chosen to head up the research project and find a way to achieve that goal.

In the early 1960s, computers were little more than mathematical calculating machines. Licklider, with a background in psychology, saw computers as potential information processors and visualised a network of communities of people worldwide connected by computers. His position at ARPA and his commitment to transform computers into instruments of communication shaped the direction of research, affected how funding would be spent and eventually changed the direction of development within the computer industry. Designing network technology (hardware) and creating a universal language (software) that could move through that technology still lay ahead.

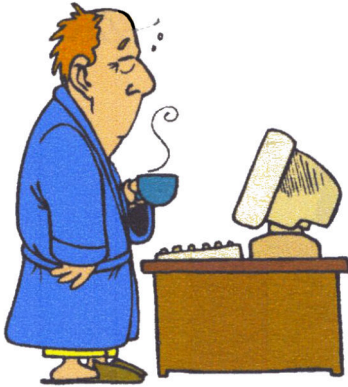
Building this network would be a monumental undertaking. The job was offered to AT & T, but they saw no potential for profit in it and turned it down. At first the computer companies also resisted the idea that computers would ever be used for communication, so they weren't interested in investing in research and development. It was left to the universities that had computers

(Stanford Research Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UCLA and others) to invent the technology, develop the programming and build the network. One of the first big hurdles was getting computers to talk to each other. In those days, a computer filled a large room, and users sat at terminals which connected to the mainframe. Most mainframe computers were self-contained, not networked to other computers. A terminal could connect to only one mainframe, and, if the information a person needed was spread out in several different mainframes, then a user had to get up and move to another terminal. Going back and forth to different terminals was frustrating for

Robert Taylor of ARPA. He came up with the idea of connecting mainframes so that he could sit at one terminal and access data from several mainframes. He called Larry Roberts at MIT for help with the problem. Together they worked out a solution and in 1968 sent their proposal to over 100 of the largest computing companies that time to find someone to build the equipment. IBM and Control Data Corp., the two giants, saw no future in it and declined to take it on.

ARPA finally found a company, BBN Technologies, willing to work with them. State of the art Honeywell equipment was developed, but the first message sent across the Internet had to be the Internet. He also came up with the idea of the @ sign to signify where the message was going.

After many trials and errors, the first email was exchanged in September of 1969 between University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Utah, Stanford Research and MIT. People at different terminals had been able to send messages to others on the same mainframe before, but this new technology was limitless; people could potentially communicate through any computer anywhere in the world. Within a decade, the traffic on the ARPAnet grew so heavy, improvements in hardware and software had to be continuously upgraded. Personal computers came onto the market in the 1980s, and the



Internet just kept growing. In 1992, a Swiss programmer named Tim Berners-Lee came up with hypertext markup language (HTML) which “linked” together documents across the Internet. He named his group of linked pages the World Wide Web.

Marc Andreessen came across Berners-Lee’s linking idea and thought he could improve on it. He and some partners came up with graphical interface (the pictures and graphics you click on to move from link to link). This replaced the all-text method of navigating the Net and made it user-friendly. Andreessen went on to develop Netscape. With Andreessen’s development of graphic interface, Internet use exploded, growing 341,000 percent in 1993.

For the first twenty years of its existence, the Internet was restricted to use by military and universities for the exchange of information. In 1992, U.S. Rep. Frederick Boucher submitted a bill to Congress asking that the Internet be opened to the people, free of government restrictions, and President Bush signed it into law.

Businesses slowly edged into the new marketplace with mixed results; some failed,

some thrived briefly and some are still going strong. The biggest money made from the Internet to date is by the Internet Service Providers.

According to The Internet: Behind the Web, a program which aired in January 2001 on the History Channel, the amount of data that travels across the Internet doubles every 100 days. In 1992, when Berners-Lee invented the link, there were 50 pages on the WWW; today there are over 70 million Websites and 11 million registered domain names.

In 1999, the first computers that could access the Internet were allowed into Saudi Arabia. A computer in an isolated village in India can bring in the world. The world grows smaller, and with this new medium of communication, it gets harder to maintain strict political control over a populace. No longer can something like the Iron Curtain keep people in isolation. The Internet has brought us into an information age where many geographical boundaries are no longer significant barriers.

In a paper he wrote in 1968, JCR Licklider predicted that by the year 2000, millions of people around the world would be communicating through a global network of computers. Licklider’s vision was realised through the perseverance, imagination and genius of hundreds of people, but not, unfortunately, before his death in 1990.

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organisation to which this user group belongs. There is no restriction against anyone using this article as long as it is kept in context, with proper credit given to the author.

TIP

Q. How do you save a file type in Word Pad that isn’t supported in its File Save As list? In Notepad you can type the file name and extension but you cannot do the same in Word Pad, as it appends whatever file format is selected in its own choice list.

A. You need to enclose the file name and its extension in double quotes: “filename.ext”. Word Pad will then save the file with that extension and won’t append its own extension onto the file.

Our thanks to PC Pro Magazine for this tip

NOVEMBER SHOW POSTER COMPETITION



Members are invited to design a poster to advertise the Show.
The prize will be one year's free membership of the club.
Entries for the competition must be on one sheet of A4 paper.

The poster should contain some or all of the following words in any order that makes sense in any font or colour or shape or fancy design that will attract attention. The words in square brackets are less necessary -- use your own judgement. The oblique stroke separates alternative suggestions,

- * [Isle of Wight/IW PC User Group]
- * COMPUTER SHOW (not FAIR)
- * SUNDAY, 18th NOVEMBER [2001]
- * [at] The Riverside Centre, Newport. 10 am to 4 pm
- * Sponsored by The [Isle of Wight/IW] County Press
- * Admission/Entry: Adults £1, Children free [if accompanied by an adult].
- * [Win a multimedia computer] [raffle] [Tickets £1]

These words are for your guidance only. Alternative or additional words may be used -- I don't want to cramp your inspiration for good ideas but most of the above words are obligatory. Any computer software may be used.

The posters will be judged anonymously by all members who attend the meeting on Wednesday 3rd October (which is the closing date for entries). The winning design will be reproduced in large numbers for distribution round the Island. (Keep your computer copy safe!)

Please let me have your entries on one sheet of A4 (not by e-mail) either by hand at a meeting or by post.

-- David Broughton.

ANNUAL BARBECUE

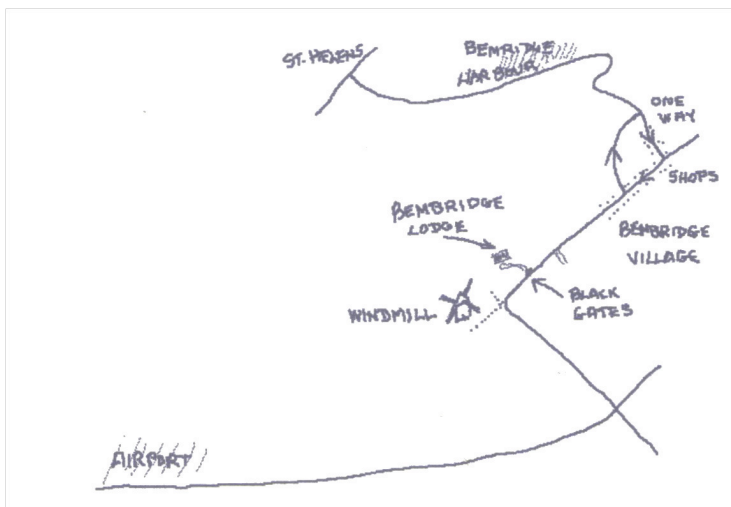
Wednesday 15th August at 7.30pm



We cordially invite you to our Annual Barbecue, which this year, will be held at Bob Groom's home in Bembridge (see map below). Bob has a large expanse of garden and adequate parking in his grounds for all our members.

The barbecue is free to all our members and their spouses, as all the necessary food and drink will be provided from the Club's funds.

We look forward to an enjoyable evening, weather permitting.



Computability I.W.

by Roger Skidmore



A computer can best be regarded as a brain extension - it doesn't do anything, on its own, but it can aid and abet our mental processes, thoughts and communications. If you've got a disability and maybe can't get around so much mental life takes on a more important role and these brain extensions called computers can become really handy. They cost money and that can be a real problem, especially if you're not sure you'd get on with one.

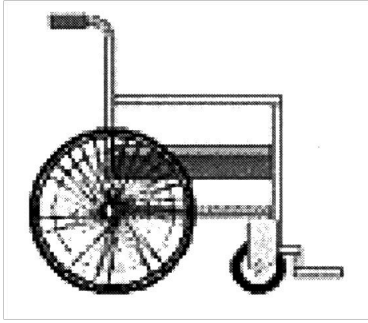
This is where the Computability wing of the Isle of Wight PC Users' Group comes in. Members of this group enjoy playing with PCs, and enjoy helping other people with their PCs. A person with a disability can now acquire or borrow a computer through Computability IW, start to learn about how it can become an asset in his or her life and get a measure of technical support all at no cost. If it proves to be of no value then that in itself has been a worthwhile learning process, and the computer is available for someone else.

Computability has a number of discrete activities. One is making approaches to industry and other computer users in order to acquire the necessary hardware, check it out and ensure its safety and functionality. This also involves the purchase of additional hardware, e.g. CD-ROM drives, modems and

special needs hardware. Also we assemble software packages gleaned from cover disks and other legitimate sources. In some cases we purchase specific registered software for special needs. This equipment then needs to be catalogued and stored safely. We also need to make ourselves known to possible endusers through the various disability resources and byword of mouth. This involves "networking", posters in libraries and similar places, communications with Social Services, Isle of Wight Blind Society and various disability organisations.

We interview each new client to establish his or her needs and ensure that he or she has somewhere suitable for the equipment. We also need to work out how the computer will be supported - ideally software support and learning are best sourced locally to the client in order not to overtax our volunteer resources, while hardware support has to remain with us. We then need to assemble a computer package ensuring that the specification is relevant to and not excessive for that client, considering such things as Internet access, desired printing quality etc. When the computer package is assembled and tested the client is contacted and an appointment made for delivery and initial instructions.

Follow-up procedures tax our limited volunteer resources within the group, so we always offer guidance on computer training and local support (e.g. friends and neighbours). We do run an audit scheme to establish just how well the client is doing and give us feedback on our effectiveness in the disabled community. To date we have already helped over 50 people. This is not always in supplying a computer - sometimes we are able to help with technical support or simple repair work. Where a client finds that they simply cannot manage with a computer that also becomes a relative success in that we have sorted out their expectations in that direction.



We do find that most of our work is with people whose disability results in mobility restrictions. There is another area where the disability requires computer facilities beyond what you or I may have at our workstation, typically visual or hand restrictions. Where this is of a minor nature Microsoft offers simple options within Windows such as different screen sizes, keyboard or mouse attributes (Accessibility section). Further enhancements are available in the form of special keyboards, mice and specialist software. Voice software, screen readers, head mice and other disability devices generally require more powerful computers and of course can cost a lot of money.

Most of the "cast-offs" which come our way are always behind the power requirements of the latest disability facilities, which is why we are always on the look-out for higher end machines. In fact today we simply cannot

accept anything less than a fast 486 - which sounds positively ungrateful but is a sign of the times. We also require printers, monitors and modems. Many of you will have an IT section in your organisation which will almost certainly be upgraded at some time. Please may we have your cast-offs? If any readers are at all interested in helping our group then your time could be even more valuable.

We do have a government grant application in the pipeline for a selection of more expensive, specialist disability equipment and software. Otherwise funding is either in a limited way from the club account or direct from those most involved. We do not yet have charitable status.

If you have equipment to donate or, like us, enjoy playing with computers and helping people, we'd be delighted to hear from you. (Telephone 822900 or 527208)

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Manual Registry Restore

How to recover from a lost registry in Windows 98

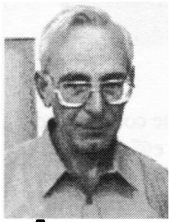
1. Boot into Safe Mode, Command Prompt Only from the menu. (Windows Me users can use their startup disk). Type the following at the Command Prompt:

`cd<windows>\command` Where <windows> is the name of your Windows folder.

2. Hit the Enter Key and then type this at the Command Prompt: `scanreg /restore`

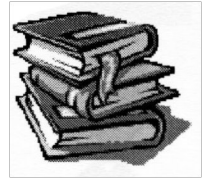
3. Hit the Enter key and you'll see a list every time a successful boot occurs. Any that have ~Started" next to the date are ones you can use, as the "Started" indicates that this is a Registry backup created after a successful startup. Having selected your Registry to restore, hit the Enter key again. When you get told that you've restored a Registry, hit the Enter key once more and your system will restart, loading the backed up Registry.

Thanks to PC Pro Magazine for this tip



Prize Puzzle for August 2001

by David Broughton



Alice and Brian like walking and both have accurate pedometers. (This is a fictional story!) They decide to go on a circular walk from their home but Brian is impatient to set off and starts out first in an anticlockwise direction leaving Alice to prepare the picnic lunch. As Alice is about to set off she phones Brian on his mobile and finds that he is exactly halfway round so she sets out in a clockwise direction to meet him. They meet up and have their picnic lunch. Alice notices that her pedometer shows she has walked exactly three miles. But they quarrel, and when they set off again Alice continues in her clockwise direction whilst Brian in his resentment continues with his anticlockwise walk. However, his walking has a calming influence and puts him into a more conciliatory frame of mind. He decides that they should settle their differences as soon as possible so when he arrives home he continues without pausing to meet Alice who should by this time be well on her way home. When they meet, they kiss and make up. At the time of their second meeting Brian's pedometer shows that he has walked a total of eleven miles.

Assuming both Alice and Brian walk at a constant (but not necessarily the same) speed, what is the length of their circular walk?

SOLUTION TO THE JUNE PUZZLE

The answer to the question "What is the probability that the ball in the bag is white?" is $2/3$. I received some answers of $1/2$ and $3/4$ but four out of the seven received were correct. These were from John Amos, John Bownas, Rosemary West and Ken Cameron. John Amos, new member, also sent me a full analysis to justify his answer. At the July meeting, to demonstrate that the answer is $2/3$ I used the the following diagram:

		Original ball colour	
		WHITE	BLACK
Ball taken from bag	White ball added	✓	✗
	Original ball	✓	DOES NOT HAPPEN

The four rectangular boxes in this diagram are all equally probable because the original colour of the ball is either white or black with equal probability and the choice of ball removed from the bag is a simple case of choosing one of two balls of the same size and shape.

continued on page 15

EMPTY INK JET APPEAL - Children's Orphanage



Don't bin your empty inkjet cartridges as a registered charity, 'Love Russia' needs them. 'Love Russia' is working to restore broken lives in Russia and we can make a positive impact and raise money for orphanages in Russia. Underprivileged children in Russia can benefit enormously from our giving.

If you have any Cannon, Hewlett Packard or Lexmark cartridges, please forward them to the Editor.

Thank you for your support.

NB: Epson cartridges are not required.

continued from page 14

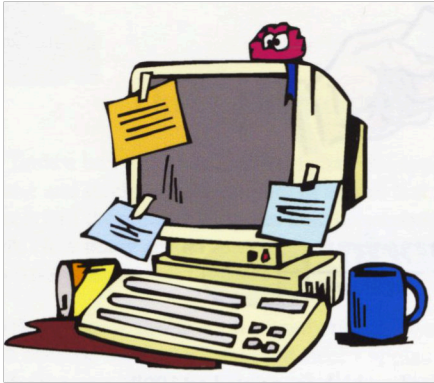
Therefore the four rectangles show four equally probable cases. The ticks show those cases where a white ball would be in the bag and the cross shows when a black ball would be in the bag. The fourth rectangle is marked "DOES NOT HAPPEN" because the problem states that the ball removed from the bag was white so it could not be the original ball if the original ball was black. That leaves three equally probable cases, two of which leave a white ball in the bag. Therefore the probability is $2/3$.

John Bownas won the draw and the £5 book token. Thanks for all your thoughts on this problem. I hope my explanation will satisfy those who got the answer wrong.



John Garner and Clive Johnson at a recent Riverside Centre

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD



FOR SALE

HARDWARE

IBM Pentium 75
complete with monitor,
keyboard and mouse
with 16Mb RAM and 540 Hard Drive

Installed software:
Microsoft Works,
Microsoft Office and Lotus Smartsuite

£95

Contact:
Christine Jenkins

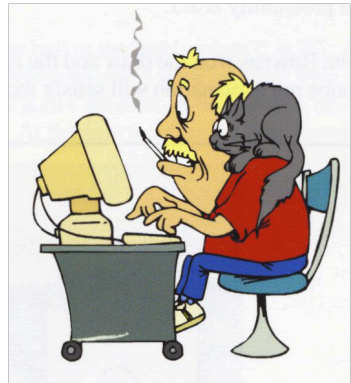
FOR SALE

PRINTER

Hewlett Packard Jet 6L
with driver disk
and 2 spare toner cartridges
but no cables

Good condition
£150

Contact:-
Roy Hollis



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