

# EINSTEIN COMPUTER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.1, Page.1

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John & Jenny Murray resigned as magazine editors as they felt they just didn't have the necessary skills to do it justice, but they've volunteered to take on the equally essential job of Publicity Officer, as Frank Wadl had to give this up due to other commitments. How we make ourselves visible to "lost" Einey owners urgently needs YOUR ideas.

Ted Cawkwell has suggested that as there is now only a very small number of active Einey members left -- most members are passive, not active -- he might act as co-ordinator of the small nucleus of active members, and edit a newsletter for them.

He was actually thinking out how to keep Einstein support alive without me, as my many other growing non-Einstein commitments seem to escalate quite inexorably, but in fact his suggestion is a very logical & very useful move in enabling our lonely hardware boffins to share ideas with each other & to become even more productive, and in drawing our software people in to our development work, thus ensuring that Einey has a future, not just a past.

Hence this newsletter, with Ted as future editor, as well as team leader & co-ordinator. You'll get your copy by direct mail if you are on our active list, otherwise as a supplement to the magazine.

Our "Give The Einstein A Future As Well As A Past" active team members are listed below. If you are not listed there but ought to be (or vice versa!), or if you want to timeshare other members of the team, contact Ted at 9 KING ST, WINTERTON, LINCS, DN15 9RN, or (considerately) on 01724 733640. Our initial active list consists of Ted Cawkwell, Duncan Elvin, Steve Potts, Dave Salvage, Stan Gibbs, Charlie Wallis, Andy Fay, John Marriott, Henry Perrin, Maurice Hawes, Les Foskett, Clem Cole, David Williams, Sid Dunn, John Murray, and The Big Bad Tony. Have we missed anyone out?

**STUART MARSHALL**

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Development work on the Einstein is ~~well~~ <sup>now</sup> well in hand, and some of it has already been reported in the magazine by those who have been actively and assiduously pursuing it.

So far we've ~~already~~ published articles on adding switches to select sides on 3.5" and 5.25" disks under the original Dos 1 (which can't side-select under software control), adding 3.5" and 5.25" **drives**, using serial terminals as 80-column display units if you don't have an 80-column card, and a lot more.

Duncan Elvin has ported CP/M PLUS to the TC-01 in a form that is compatible with the Einstein Dos, unlike the earlier versions of Einstein CP/M, which used an incompatible file format. This new Einstein version comes with utilities to read/write MsDos and Amstrad PCW disks. We also hope to be able to include Mallard BASIC, as used on the Amstrad PCW (& the Spectrum?).

For copyright reasons we can provide the prog but no user manual for Mallard BASIC, but it's available through Amstrad/Spectrum sources. We do hope to make CP/M documentation available, but we've not yet got copyright clearance from Caldera, who currently own the rights to CP/M.

Have any of you now beta testing CP/M PLUS had any of my problems installing it, using the CONFIGuration utility that Duncan provided? Mine doesn't seem to do anything at all, but I'm not at all sure what it is supposed to be doing, as you get into CP/M PLUS by booting XtalDos, then loading CP/M +. on top of it.

\*\*\* CAN YOU CLUE US UP ON THIS DUNCAN? \*\*\*  
Should CONFIG alter XtalDos (or something in the CP/M overlay) on the disk, or does it just alter the settings in the RAM? Why is it not doing whatever it should do in my case?

Although every care is taken in the preparation of these particulars, they are not guaranteed, nor form any part of an offer or contract.

100% MORTGAGES & LARGER THAN NORMAL LOANS

SUBJECT TO STATUS

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Duncan has also come up with an entirely new way of hooking up a hard disk to an Einstein, and this will be fully reported in an early magazine issue.

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Clem Cole reports that he has hooked up a Wyse WH-30 monitor (badged as Apricot T30) to Einey through the serial port, and it gives an 80-column display just like Duncan says. Logically there's no reason why you'd need a keyboard to display anything, but it hadn't occurred to me that a serial terminal is simply a monitor with a keyboard.

Can we have more experimentation and feedback on this please? If a plain old monitor works just fine, what sorts of monitor will work, how do you tell what will work or won't, and can the average user fathom out just how to connect it up to Einey?

You can connect up 3.5" and 5.25" double density disks & drives to Einey (see back numbers), even internally, with minor surgery. But...

# Fresh Fields



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they are obsolete and will become just as rare as 8" disks/drives. We urgently need to sort out all the angles on upgrading Einey to use high density 3.5" disks/drives, which are rapidly becoming the type universally available now & as system pulls.

We know how to fit them physically, and that all the readily available HD drives should be capable of being switched between double and high density modes. On the PC the operating system software would signal the floppy disk controller, which then sets the control line high (or low), to select the correct mode for the drive to work in.

Some HD drives have optical sensor, some physical, some none, to stop double density disks being used in high density mode. All the double density disks I've tested appear to format & to work OK as high density ones, but HD usually won't format/write as double density disks. But some do! Are some "HD disks" actually loaded with double density media?

In theory it's simple. You'll get an incompatible disk format, but you should be able to add a small switch to the mode-select line between the fdc and the drive, and select double or high density mode under hardware control, to suit the disk you're using. But in high density mode the drive will expect to receive (and will output) a much faster data rate. Steve Potts says the FDC675 chip can't handle this. Is this chip in the 256 too? Is it a major problem? Is a fdc upgrade a feasible cure?

News just came in from Steve Potts on the FREDDY DRIVES, which we'd hoped would avoid our having to re-invent the wheel. Designed as a standard plug-in-&-play 3.5" upgrade for Amstrad CPC/Spectrum 3" drives, they seem to be standard double density drives. At £73 each they are not cost-effective compared with the diy alternative we printed in EM

Software people -- We need you in the team too!