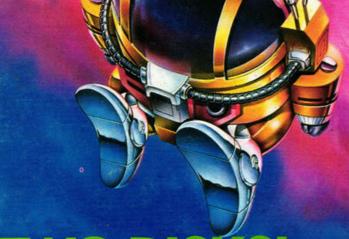
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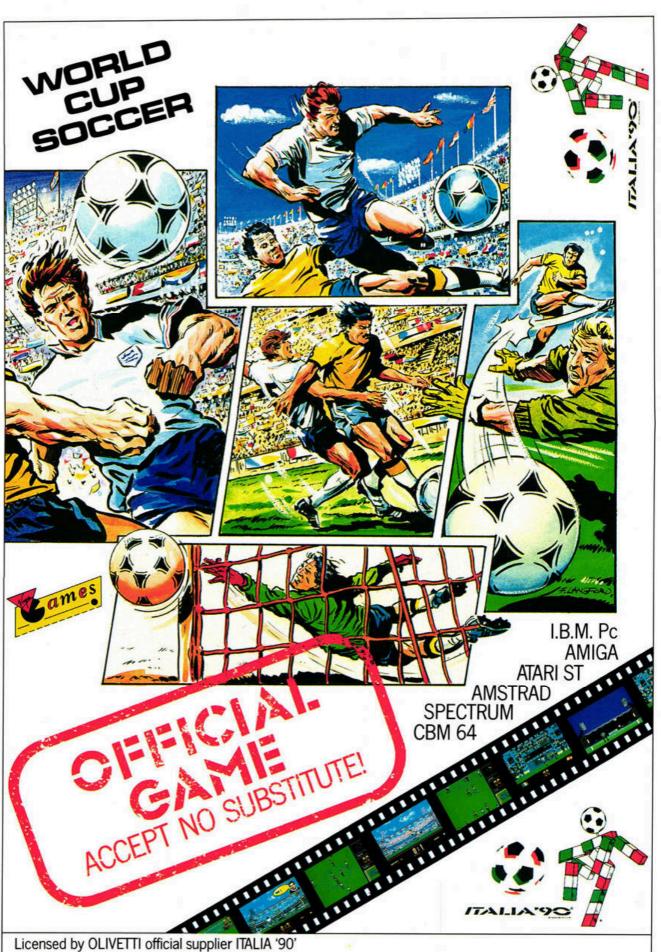
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Tel: 0943 463501 Fax: 0943 850760

Advertising:

0943 850613 Chris or Linda

Managing Director/Editor:

Pat Deeley

Production Director:

Linda Eke

Programmer:

David C. Bowler

Technical Advice:

Stuart Scott

Compiled By:

Colin Ramsden

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Contributors:

Duncan Evans, Paul Edwards, Shaun McClure, Fred E. Pike and Pete Townley.

Disk Format by:

Rob Northen Computing

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

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On Disk?

Your FREE Game — Mr Heli from Microprose Firebird © Irem Corp.

Demos:

Pysgnosis Anarchy, Jeff Minter's Photonstorm, Ocean's Ivanhoe.

Reviews:-

Ivanhoe, Their Finest Hour, F19 Stealth Fighter, Theme Park Mystery & More!

News:

Demise of two games publishing companies.

Oasis

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Sincere apologies to any Stampeders who thought Kick Off 2 was free inside last months issue! Kick Off 2 is free to subscribers, see page 5.

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儿ATARI 90's

The Atari 90's show ran from June 1st — 3rd at the Novotel Exhibition Centre in Hammersmith. Just a few minutes away from the nearest tube station, and with ample parking space, the hotel was easily accessible and relatively simple to find. The show was split into two sections; a lower section for general stands and an upper section for business stands and displays. Approximately 100 stands and displays were on show, covering every aspect of Atari computing in great detail. Despite the number of different machines present, the ST was the main focus and the majority of software and hardware stands were devoted to promoting ST products. Demonstrations, seminars and a myriad of new launches took place, making it the ST event of the year.



Who was there?

Amongst the many stands were a number of 'big names', here to display their latest wares. Silica Shop, Evesham Micros, GFA, Hisoft, Gasteiner, Kuma, Rombo, Third Coast Technologies and Signa were just a few of the stalls I browsed around. Retailers were extremely well represented. Amongst their stalls were Dowling Computers, HSV Computer Services, Microdeal and WeServe. User Groups and Public Domain libraries were also present in force. Budgie and the

16/32 Library shared a stall; the Association of Atari User Groups, the Portfolio User Group, Riverdene PDL, the ST Club, STUN User Network, and the South West Software Library were all there.

Britain's leading ST magazines all had stands

too. Page 6, ST
User, ST Format
and — of course
— our own
Stampede were
there. Although
the other
magazines,
particularly the
Interactive stand.



made impressive displays, I'm pleased to report that the magazine bargain of the show was undoubtedly Stampede's. Apart from discounting issues one and two of the magazine when bought together, subscriptions were available at discounts, together with a choice of a free game.

A few famous faces appeared at various points during the day. Captain Sensible was around, as was Beats International. I recall hearing that Adamski was also due to make an appearance, but I saw and heard no sign of 'Killer' anywhere. Bob Gleadow, Atari's UK boss, presented the press briefing and answered journalists' questions.

Bargains galore.

What sort of bargains were there? Hardware was competitively priced with machines ranging from £220 for an ex-display 520 STFM to £440 for a brand-new 2Mb STE. Other bargains included hand-held scanners from £99, disk drive cleaners for £2.50, mouse mats for £1 and microswitch joysticks from just £5.

Show

Software was well catered for too. New titles were being sold at discounts of up to 30 per cent. For example the STE-compatible STOS compiler V2.5 was being offered at £13.95 — £6 off the RRP. Older titles were being offered at enormous savings, with games starting at around £4. One pitcher was shouting 'Three STs for £20!' and soon gathered a huge crowd around his stand. Even when the onlookers discovered he meant three games and not actual machines, the crowd remained intensely interested.

Utilities were slightly more expensive, but



bargains could still be found quite easily. For example, GFA BASIC V2 and the compiler were available at just £5 each. Blank disks for bulk buyers were at bargain prices, starting from as little as £35 per hundred. Not long after enquiring about prices at one stand, one dealer actually followed us around the show to try and make his sale. He didn't make his sale, but full marks for trying and for his sense of humour.

Demonstrations

Both new and old products were on prominent display throughout both levels of the show. Amongst the more recent products were Spectre GCR, PC Speed, GFA Basic 3.0, the Daatascan range of scanners and Vidi-ST. Displays were set up on both levels of the

Report by Paul Edwards

show, with the more serious exhibits confined to the upper level. All of Atari's most popular machines were available for visitors to play with or gasp at. These included the Mega ST, Stacy, TT, Portfolio, Lynx, ATW and new PC machine. One of the most impressive demonstrations was 'Learning with Atari', an excellent demonstration of applications for the ST in Computer Aided Learning. There were also several arcade-style stands where visitors were able to play some of the latest games free of charge.

Atari was particularly keen to stress the Midi capabilities of their products and gave prominent locations to a 'Midi Village' and live demonstrations of the ST in musical action. I must give a special mention to RC Simulations, who apparently were called up at short notice to replace someone who had failed to appear. Although the company has absolutely nothing to do with music applications, I thought their display was one of the best I saw.

RC Simulations produce a rather special flight simulator, unlike any other available. RC Aerochopper is a hardware interface, complete with controller, that simulates the control of model aircraft on your monitor. Suffice to say that even though I have no interest in model aircraft, the quality of their product — which featured a brilliantly realistic screen display — was very impressive.

Launches

Atari 90's was of significant interest to trade visitors too with an excellent press conference covering the Company's plans from now until Christmas together with longer term objectives.

On the ST, Atari feel that at £299 for the Discovery pack this is really the bargain 16-bit machine for every household and will be

revising their ST advert for the Christmas push together with national press coverage. The EXTRA pack is priced at £499 and includes a fairly comprehensive suite of software. A free magazine is also provided with new ST packs to introduce users to the variety and scope of products and services available to them. The programs in the pack are: ST-Word (word-processor), ST-Base (spreadsheet), ST-Graph (business graphics), First Basic (language), STAC (adventure creator), Hyperpaint (art package) and a strategy game called 'Prince'. Apparently, the retail value of these programs is more than £300, making the offer comparable to previous bundles such as the 'Summer Pack'. In the Midi Village Roland were out to convince ST users that linking their ST to Midi equipment is not expensive and were showing their new PC200 keyboard with its CM range of desk top music equipment. Retailing at £175 it features touch sensitive controls, pitch bond modulation and volume panning facilities. Also on display was the new Gajits package CM Panion and Dr. T's Tiger Cub sequencer.

Ablac Computed displayed a new range of educational software from an American company called Davidson Educational Software. Although primarily aimed at the PC and Apple market, several ST conversions exist and the other programs are compatible with PC emulators, such as PC Ditto. The programs are expandable, include reporting facilities and can be used in both school and



home environments.

Other launches in brief were: Condor introduced it's Troika integrated add-on for the ST; a combined hard disk, floppy disk, supercharger, Spectre GCR and multisynch monitor. Eclipse Computer Supplies showed new products; a paper trim and desk holder, and a new copy holder — both priced at under £4. Gasteiner revealed new 286 and 386 versions of PC Speed.

GFA Data Media demonstrated GFA G Shell, a development shell for the GFA Basic 3.0 Compiler. Also on show was GFA Basic 3.5, the latest version supporting all STE graphics modes. HiSoft launched Lattice C5, a fast C compiler, reckoned to become the standard C compiler for the ST. Finally, Kuma launched Polyfiler, claimed to be a major advance in ST database systems.

Success.

Overall the show was a resounding success for all concerned. Retailers made profits, visitors got bargains and Atari reduced the criticism normally aimed at it for lack of customer support. What more can you ask?



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