letters

Write to *What PC?* Editorial, 32-34 Broadwick Street, London W1A 2HG. We offer a copy of the highly informative *The What PC? Guide to your PC* for the best letter

Scanner omissions

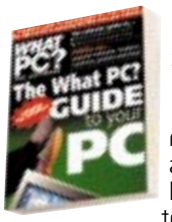
I found your review of flatbed scanners in the June issue irritating because it did not include the two models from companies which advertised in that section, the Black Widow and the Agfa. On the strength of their advertisements both merited a review; for while the Black Widow won the award for best scanner in June last year, how does it rate against the Epson GT-5000?
Tim Holt Wilson, Diss, Norfolk

On reading your review of scanners in the June issue I decided to purchase a scanner and chose the Mustek Paragon 600IISP for the price and the review you gave it. I rang Enta Technologies on the number supplied, got through to the sales department, explained what I was after and was asked if I was a business. When I said no, I was told they only dealt with companies, not private individuals.

What is the point of supplying a phone number that people like me will ring, only to waste a phone call? Can't you print a number that the ordinary computer user can obtain service from as well as business users? Do you know of anywhere that I can purchase the Mustek scanner for the price quoted?
Richard Swain, Sandwich, Kent

Both Agfa and Devcom (manufacturer of the Black Widow range) were given the opportunity to take part in the scanners group test, but neither company managed to get a unit to us before our deadline.

As far as a supplier for the Mustek Paragon 600IISP is concerned, the contact number we printed (for Enta Technologies) was simply a mistake. Enta is indeed a UK distributor for Mustek scanners but the company deals only with retailers and business customers, and not the general public. However, you can buy the Paragon 600IISP at the published price (£159 inc VAT) from Comtek Systems on 0121 693 1414.



Mirror, mirror...

I have often wondered why you always print the contents of What PC? in mirror image. It makes things difficult for people like me, so when I saw the picture of the Psion 3c on page 82 of the June 1997 issue, my hopes were raised. Perhaps over time you will extend the policy of printing things the right way round for the rest of the magazine.
Charles Stanley Cording, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear

Oops! For those of you who haven't reached for your mirrors yet, Mr Cording has correctly pointed out that the picture of the Psion 3c Personal Digital Assistant in our June issue was printed back to front. Apologies to those of you who thought you were seeing things, and here's the picture printed the right way round – we hope!

Work or play?

You cover some interesting reviews in *What PC?* comparing the advantages and disadvantages of numerous packages such as word processors, ISPs and the like. Many of these I find interesting but somewhat above me and directed more to business rather than pleasure. For the more amateur and leisure-oriented reader, I wonder if you might consider the following idea.

There are many categories of games software that compete with and alongside each other, such as flight simulators, pinball games, golf games and so on. Could you not review these in a separate article, giving your direct comparisons and ratings for playability, realism, speed, ease of use and graphics? For example, I am looking for the best golf game on the market, and my only guide at the moment is reading the backs of boxes, or coming across an individual report that does not compare plus and minus points with other golf programs.
Peter Shore,
peter.shore@virgin.net

The idea of a leisure software group test is an interesting one, and certainly something that we have considered. We may well do something with it in the future.

For a more immediate solution to your golfing problems, you could try both Links, from Access Software, and Microsoft's Golf. Both programs are well put together. In addition, you could keep an eye on our After Hours section for reviews of new titles that hit the market.

May competition winners

The winners in our May competition are: D Worthington of Bolton, Lancs, Jane Tanner of Milton Keynes and L Connolly of Preston, Lancs. They will each receive a Studioworks 56D monitor and a CRD-8160B CD-ROM drive, both from LG Electronics. The two runners-up, both of whom will become possessors of an LG Electronics CRD-8160B CD-ROM drive, are M Portbury of Startforth, CoDurham and Derek Edwards of Staines, Middx.

Virus.net

I am concerned about picking up a virus through my Internet connection. Can you please recommend a reasonably priced software package for domestic/home use to alleviate this problem?
Chris Jones
chris.jones7@virgin.net

Anti-virus packages are becoming more and more important, especially if you are downloading from the Internet. Have a look at our February issue (for back issues, phone 01483 733874) where we reviewed nine anti-virus packages starting at prices around £40.

CD-ROM speeds

I've just been reading your June issue, quality as ever, but noticed a small mistake in the Guide to CD-ROM drives table at the back. You say some manufacturers have announced the launch of 12-speed CD-ROMs, when in the table you review a 16-speed by TEAC.
DJ Rich,
www.thedisco.demon.co.uk

Well spotted. In fact, 24-speed CD-ROM drives are now available (see our In Brief section in this issue). Updated tables will appear in next month's issue.

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whatpc@vnu.co.uk
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