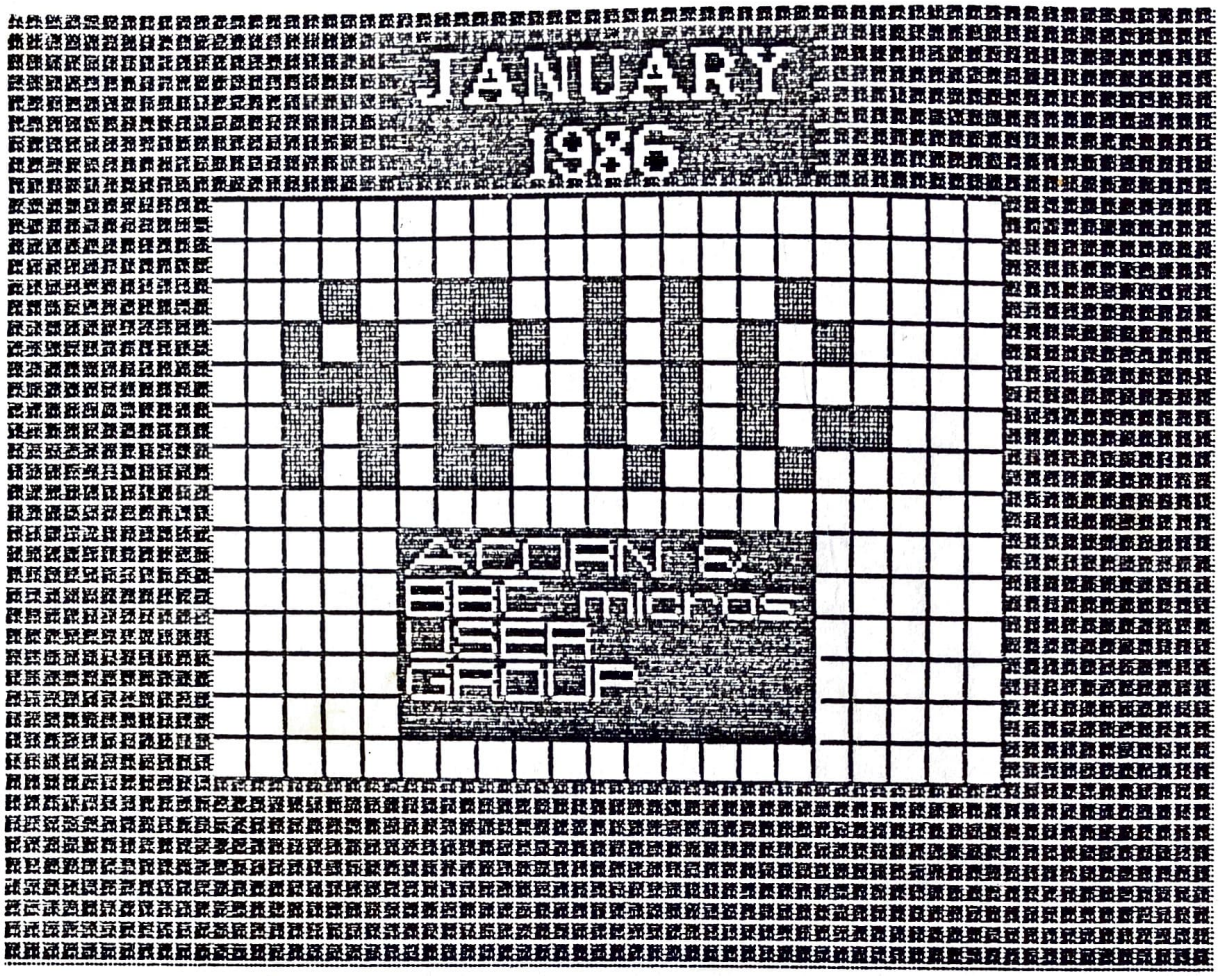

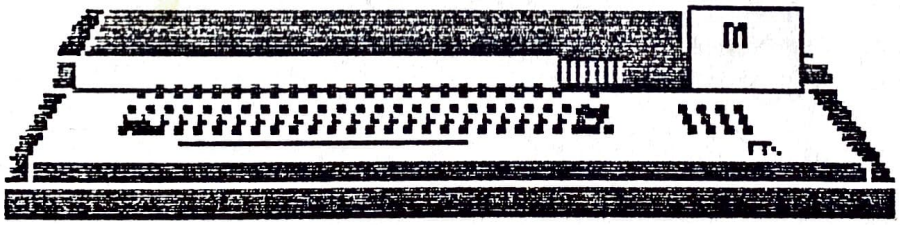

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DIARY

With the February meetings we resume our normal practice of having meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The next few meetings will therefore be held on:

5 February
19 February
5 March
19 March

All meetings are now held in the Shakespeare Hotel on Gibralter Street.

If you have any enquiries about club matters, meeting times, venues, etc, please ring the Secretary, Mike Cattel, on Dronfield 417413 after 6:30pm.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party seemed to be a success - there has even some food left over at the end!

1986 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please remember, that to take advantage of the reduced price subscriptions, you MUST pay by the end of this month. This means in effect, if you don't wish to pay at this meeting, you must make arrangements with the Treasurer to pay by post, or you will have to pay the new rate.

The reduced rates, payable up to the end of January, are:

Adult Membership	£8
Junior (under 16)	£2
Family Membership	£10

After that the full rates will apply:

Adult Membership	£10
Junior (under 16)	£3
Family Membership	£12

Alternatively, you can pay 50p (25p under 16) per meeting attended.

NEW MEMBERS

The Club always welcomes new members, so if you know anyone who has a Beeb, and who is not already a member, try and recruit him or her into the club. If you can advertise the Club at you place of work, etc, please approach any member of the committee, and we will do our best to help with posters and other publicity material.

Reduced rates will apply to new members joining after March, July and September.

NEW BBC MICRO

As virtually all of you must be now aware, on 7 January Acorn announced the successors to the Models A, B, B+, etc., the "BBC Master Series". The following is based only on published information (in the February Acorn User, CEEFAX and in Acorn's advertisments), not on actual experience. If any member gets his or her hands on one of these new machines, please let us have your impressions.

The series consists of five new models: the Master 128, the Master ET, the Master Turbo, the Master 512 and the Master SC.

The Master 128 is what Acorn call the foundation of the range. The case is wider than on normal BBCs, to allow a keypad to be fitted to the right of the normal keyboard. The rest of the keyboard is very similar to the one that we are used to, but the

BREAK key has been moved farther away from f9, and an optional lock has been fitted to prevent it being inadvertently pressed. The cursor keys are arranged in a more logical cross format. The rear of the case is higher than in the old models, to allow second processors, etc, to be fitted internally. Two slots are provided to allow ROMs to be fitted without removing the cover.

The 128 and the ET are 8 bit machines, based on the 65C12, a CMOS version of the 6502 fitted in the Model B, giving cooler running and more commands. 100 bytes of battery-backed RAM give a built-in real time clock, and also the ability to store configuration conditions after power off. There is a new 128K ROM which contains (for the 128) the operating system (OS 3.0), BASIC (version 4), 1771 DFS, ADFS, VIEW (vers 3.0), VIEWSHEET, EDIT and

communications. Page is set to &EØØ, even when the DFS, ADFS and ANFS are used.

The ET (Econet Terminal) is a low-cost version (£348.26, excl VAT), primarily for schools. ANFS is fitted as standard, but not the DFS, nor View, Viewsheet or Edit, and ports are only provided for RGB, video and Econet. It is, however, expandable.

The 128 is priced the same as the B+ - £499 inc VAT, and the memory is arranged in the same way, except that the "spare" 12K is used for storing function key definitions, character sets and as filing system workspace. The features given by the recent edit and graphics upgrades for the B and B+ have been incorporated as standard. The Econet ANFS can be added for an extra £5Ø.

The Turbo second processor upgrade costs £125 inc VAT (an increase already - the early advertisments quoted £99 for this upgrade), or £624 inc VAT for the 128 with Turbo already fitted. This contains a 65C1Ø2 8 bit processor running at 4 MHz. Acorn claim an "average micro benchmark" (presumably the PCW) timing of 4.67 seconds, against 9.2 s for the Master 128. For comparison, the standard Model B times at 14.6 s, and Solidisk claim that their 256K board gives 7.13 s with the Model B. It is flagged in VERY small print in their advertisment "check availability with local dealer", and we all know what that means!

The 128 and the ET are supposed to be available now, but the fourth member of the family will not be available until "after Easter", according to Acorn User (they don't say how long after (or even which Easter)). This is the Master 512, a 16-bit machine, using the 8Ø816 processor running at 8 MHz. The GEM icon driven word processing and graphics packages come as standard, and it will be MS-DOS compatible, so it should run some at least of the IBM PC software. Acorn quote the price as "less than £1ØØØ" - probably not much less, and probably excluding VAT! This price seems to include the 128, as Acorn User quotes £5ØØ for the upgrade only.

No release date at all is given for the SC, which is a 32 bit upgrade, using a 32Ø16 running at 8 MHz. It will use the PANOS operating system, and software available on disc will include FORTRAN, ISO PASCAL and C; the cost of the upgrade will be £1ØØØ,

or "under £1500" for the complete system.

This has been a brief run-down of some of the published features of the Master range. The March Acorn User promises a full review, and presumably all the major micro magazines will be doing the same.

Dave Brown

COVER

This month's cover, illustrating the Master Series, is by Ian Brown.

If you would like to design a cover, or have any suggestions for possible cover designs, please contact the editors, Pete Frith or Dave Brown.

BBC Software for sale (All Original cassettes)

Way of the Exploding Fist	Melbourne House	£6.00
Speech!	Superior Software	£7.00
Repton 2	Superior Software	£7.00
Duck!	Firebird	£1.50
Estra	Firebird	£1.50
Supergolf	Squirrel Software	£3.00
Oblivion	Bugbyte Software	£2.00
Galaxy Wars	Bugbyte Software	£2.00
Dragon Quest	Bugbyte Software	£2.00
Space Warp	Bugbyte Software	£1.50
Chess	Program Power	£2.50
Apollo	Software Invasion	£1.00
Funfair	Softspot	£2.00
Monsters (Never Used)	Acornsoft	£4.00
P.S.S.Liberator	Nebulae Software	£3.00
The Real You (never Used)	Collins Soft	£11.00
The Diary of Adrian Mole (With Diary)	Mosaic Software	£10.00

Chess computer with LCD chess board, Thermal Printer, Rechargable battery pack, Mains power supply, and battery backed memory pack (Saves game position when power is off)
Thermal printer prints moves as you make them, and can print out the complete board position.
Normal price about £200. for sale at £120 O.N.O.
See Pete Frith at meetings or tel. 389165 after 6pm.

2nd processor type cases for sale. See Fred Daley for further details