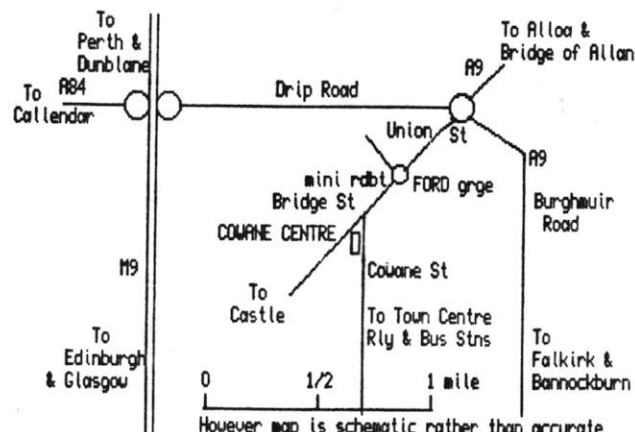


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GETTING TO COWANE CENTRE, STIRLING



Travellers from Edinburgh or Glasgow use SECOND exit marked for Stirling
Entrance to Cowane Centre for vehicles is off Bridge Street

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Scottish QL Users Group

SQLUG NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 31, MARCH 1992

Apologies for the tardiness of the last newsletter, which was due to a combination of circumstances. Hopefully everyone got their copy by the Saturday before the meeting - important due to the change of venue.

Last-minute news of the next All Formats Computer Fair in Glasgow City Hall - this will take place on 8th March (10am - 4pm). EEC Ltd gave us a batch of £1-off tickets for the last one, but they arrived too late to be sent out. Those purveyors of Exotic Electronic Components will again be present on 8th March, as will Miracle Systems, but I don't know about any other QL suppliers.

I mentioned previously that we should perhaps consider the merits of affiliation to the British Association of Computer Clubs (BACC). The information is now to hand, which states that affiliates must have an elected committee and be non-profit making. The latter is no problem, but for the former we would need to draw up a constitution and hold formal elections. The 1991 cost of affiliation was £19 for local groups and £34 for national - which are we?! Comments anyone???

LAST MEETING: MAYFIELD CENTRE, STIRLING, 16TH FEBRUARY

Our enforced change of venue from the Cowane Centre to the Mayfield Centre, due to renovations of the former, was not without its benefits. The Mayfield Centre is quite modern, in decent decorative shape and not too difficult to locate - not to mention that we were getting the room free of charge because of the inconvenience. The caretaker seemed surprised that we would consider anywhere else, suggesting that the Cowane Centre should have been demolished long ago. Rivalry apart, we now have two possible Stirling venues to consider.

As we were setting up our QLs, it occurred to me how different each person's setup was. This was mainly because I had just built my QL a new home out of black-painted plywood. The idea was to cut down on all the plugging and unplugging that is required, a notion which is not new to SQLUG members. For instance, John Skelton eliminates disassembling his system by bringing along the complete desktop - with QL, its power supply and assorted disk drives fixed in place, along with the CL video digitiser and another hefty power supply for the drives, rescued from a dead PC. John Shaw carries his QL around in a case which looks custom built for the job - the QL, power supply and disk drives fit snugly, and the whole thing closes into something like a brief case. I had looked for a long time for something similar, and it was lack of success in this search which drove me to make my own.

When John Shaw arrived with his QLs, it was clear that not all was well. His QIMI-modified QL, which had been behaving erratically, had finally decided to give up the ghost. It seems likely that all the fiddling with the ill-fitting mouse interface has caused some other damage to the computer. Alan Wilson mentioned that the problem with the QIMI interface's legs being too short is well known, but reportedly the current stock will continue to be sold. It would be best to wait a