to Z88 linking software, charging £15 for the program and £8 for the cable. The company is running a bulletin board for Z88 and QL owners – the board uses Viewdata format and is free 6pm-9am and at weekends. You can log on to the bulletin board on (0772) 454328.

Another QL to Z88 link program is available on microdrive for just £2.50. For details contact the Z88 Users' Club, whose address appears in the 'Club Contact' section. This program was written by Phil Borman, prolific Secretary of the QL User Group 'Quanta'.

Sector Software produces QL

QL show scene

The QL scene was busier than at last year's PC Show – but there was no sign of the Thor XVI. The Thor development team moved to Stockholm, Denmark, in a caravanette one weekend in the summer. Their firm CST had booked a stand at the show, and for a while it looked as if their Danish partners, Dansoft, might occupy it.

CST and Dansoft are in the throes of setting up a new firm, Thor International, to market the Thor, but they didn't turn up either. The story is that the developers have moved nearer to the Iron Curtain/Glasnost Grille so that the whole project is run from one place – to whit, Copenhagen.

This leaves the UK market in the hands of third-party suppliers like PDQL and Gap Software. It's not certain whether the next batch of Thors will be manufactured in Britain or Denmark, where the action is. CST/Dansoft/Thor need to sort this out soon, before we start to become nostalgic for the erratic ways of Sinclair Research... We'll report back as soon as we know more.

Also at the Show was Miracle Systems, with QL MIDI, a standard musical interface, amongst other QL and Z88 goodies. The MIDI package incorporates a THIRD processor for the QL, in the form of a Z80 that controls the interface sockets, plugging into the long-suffering cartridge port. *Shopper* music maestro Jon Bates is playing with this add-on even now, and will report on it in a future issue of *Sinclair Scene*.

Eidersoft QL made an appearance, and Digital Precision snapped up the stand vacated by CST et al. The large QL user groups, QL-SUB and Quanta, also had stands.

Quanta has good news for QL and Spectrum owners who bought their machines from Dixons, with a 'free' serial printer. The printer was a 'Serial 8056' model, originally manufactured for IBM, no less, as an add-on for the PC Junior – an unsuccessful model that never reached the UK.

The 8056 is not a bad printer, for a freebie, but it only works with special heat-sensitive paper. This paper is now hard to find, but Quanta has found an alternative. Apparently you can run your 8056 on 'Mufax Thermal Recording Paper', available from W.H. Hayden & Co, 52 Holloway Road, London N7 8JL.

Sid Martin and Timothy Green are Sinclair afficianadoes and freelance journalists