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EDITORIAL

AT LAST! a real chance for Oric users to help each other to keep interest in their machines. Over the past six months I've watched the sad decline of Oric Products International which, as we all know, culminated in its recent collapse. For many of us the real collapse came some time ago: the appearance of new software has fallen to minute levels; the availability of Oric software in the shops is negligible; most of the computer magazines have ceased to print listings for the Oric. I cannot really believe that sales of the Oric-1 and Atmos were that low-it's noticeable that whilst the computer magazines fall over themselves to tell us how many hundreds of thousands of Spectrums or C64's have been sold or even to point out that tens of thousands of Q.L.'s and Dragons have been sold we never hear how many Oric computers are around in the U.K. .

In an attempt to partially rectify matters I decided that it was time that there was an independent Oric user group. My background, for those of you who are remotely interested, is as follows:-

I am a first year undergraduate at the University of Salford on the Joint Honours in Science course. I am currently studying Economics, Chemistry and Computer Science and have to drop either chemistry or computers at the end of the year - bet you can't guess which one I want to drop. For the record I'm currently 18 and I am of West Indian descent.

The success or failure of the user group will depend upon you the members. I'm relying upon as many of you as possible to contribute - the whole point of a user group is interaction. This first newsletter is just a taste of what is possible. Lets make issue 2 a bumper one.

Gary Ramsay

RESPONSE:- your views, hints and problems

The response to my letter in issue 103 of Personal Computer News was both encouraging and varied. I received letters from school students, students, businessmen, employees and retired gentlemen. Unfortunately it seems that there are no female Oric users out there. These facts would seem to prove two things

- 1) Home computers are not just the preserve of the under 16 whizzkids and games players.
- 2) there are not enough girls and women in the world of computing.

Anyway I thank you all for replying and here are some points raised in the replies that might interest you

~~B. J. Hall of Exsoft, a local Oric Supporters Group from Blackpool, informed me that there is actually quite a lot of Oric software and sent me a long list to prove it!. Exsoft have managed to copy the Oric-1 rom onto a 16K EPROM enabling Atmos owners to run those programs for the Oric-1 which are otherwise incompatible. Naturally the same can be done with the Atmos rom - is any of this legal? I wonder. If you are interested why not contact D.J. Hall, 38 Colwyn Avenue, Marton, Blackpool, Lancashire - and don't forget to keep us informed.~~

K. Crowley of Bury, Lancashire would like to know if it is possible to replace the c.p.u. chip with a CMOS 6502 to take advantage of the extended instruction set. To tell the truth I don't know anything about the CMOS 6502 but I'm sure that someone out there does.

Steve Hyatt of Bradford, W. Yorkshire tells me that he has written a word processor almost entirely in Basic!. What's more it is reasonably fast and sounds quite powerful. I'm sure that we all want to know more about this achievement, Steve. Steve has also built his own RS232 interface, again something users will be interested in.

Steve also has a problem with Tansoft's Forth:-  
;LLIST PON LIST POPF; gives false carriage returns in

