

I.O.U.

The Voice of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 5 - late September 1985

EDITORIAL

It seems that my comment about O.P.E.L. : 'this firm is virtually Tansoft reborn so I leave it to you to decide how advisable it is to buy direct from them' has caused some confusion leading to some letters from users and a threatening letter from O.P.E.L. . I would therefore like to make the following clear :-

O.P.E.L. Ltd. and Tansoft Ltd. are two entirely separate companies. I at no time intended to imply that they were the same company and apologise to those people that misunderstood my comment and to O.P.E.L. Ltd. for any subsequent inconvenience.

In my handwritten version of issue 4's editorial I had written 'this firm seems to be' but in the rush to get issue 4 typed up it came out as the above. My concern was that all the available evidence suggested that O.P.E.L. was a new firm set up to take over where Tansoft left off but without meeting Tansoft's debts. However the letter from Mr Steven Hopps, the operations manager at O.P.E.L. informs me that O.P.E.L. has been selling Oric hardware since 1983. It was, in fact, the official export distributor for Oric Products International outside of France and certain Benelux countries prior to Eureka's takeover. O.P.E.L. decided to market within the U.K. following the collapse of Oric and the corresponding decline in foreign demand. Of course if O.P.E.L. had made this clear in the computer press after it started taking enquiries from people writing to Tansoft then there would have been much less confusion.

In my strongly worded reply to Mr Hopps' letter I asked a number of questions which, if answered, will once and for all make clear the circumstances of Tansoft's cessation of trading and O.P.E.L.'s appearance in the U.K. market. At the time of writing no answer has been received. Should a reply arrive in time you will find it further on in this issue, otherwise I'll let you know what has happened in issue 6.

As for the change in format to A4 this has been forced upon me by time considerations. The old format was produced by photocopying two A5 sheets mounted on A4 paper and then cutting down the middle, as I am sure that most of you have deduced. With over 80 copies of issue 4 distributed already you will understand that I no longer have the time for this. With the university academic year about to start in October the I.O.U.G. will have to take second place to my studies. I remain committed to the I.O.U.G. but more than ever I will be relying upon you to cooperate by following the steps for receiving issues and contributing to the letter; the details are inside this issue. This will enable me to ration my spare time efficiently.

I considered the tone of Mr Hopps' letter to be unnecessarily threatening and somewhat insulting to my intelligence and therefore made what I think was the necessary strong reply. I am hoping for a more amicable communication between O.P.E.L. Ltd. and myself in the future. Whilst I accept that the phrasing of my statement in issue 4 was a mistake it was made in good faith and based upon the available evidence. I am sure that you will agree that this incident has made the situation much clearer. I feel that as consumers we must search for the truth about our suppliers to protect ourselves from possible loss and I would appreciate your opinions about this.

Gary Ramsay

NEWSFLASH

Eureka have finally got round to naming firms to provide official U.K. distribution and after sales service. The distributor is Dudley Langmead Enterprises, Bedford Street, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 2JG tel. 0462-31225 .

Micromend will provide the after sales service on 01-398 8055 .

Orpheus didn't reply to my letter but Ian Brown from Toddington phoned them. They said that they would bring out some new Oric software if Eureka say something official around October.

Stuart Wright of the Byte Drive User Group has contacted me. The B.D.U.G. magazine is released periodically on disc and has a wide variety of content. More from Stuart at

