

I.O.U.

The Voice of the Independent Oric Users' Group

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EDITORIAL

I'll keep this as short as possible to make up for issue 5 in which I necessarily had more to say than usual.

I didn't get a reply from O.P.E.L. . I asked them questions about Tansoft's disappearance and their appearance on the U.K. market e.g. did the two companies share any common directors ?, did O.P.E.L. acquire any of Tansoft's stock and if so at what percentage of the market wholesale price?. I didn't lose any money to Tansoft but nevertheless would have been just as interested as most of you to know the facts.

On a much pleasanter note are the new software releases from Gilsoft and IJK (see NEWSFLASH for details). I don't see much prospect for a revival in software production for the Oric in this country. I think that IJK's ability to market in France probably explains their continuing support. Let's hope that some of the quality French software finds its way here. No Man's Land software ranges between very good and very poor in quality.

On I.O.U.G. matters the limited subscription service has proven to be very popular. I'm glad that so many of you think that I am trustworthy enough to risk your money with after your previous experiences with Tansoft etc. I would like to make a couple of points clear. Firstly, as mentioned in issue 5, the subscription covers a maximum of six issues, production and postal costs permitting. I will use any discounts obtained through bulk production to protect subscribers as much as possible but if costs rise too much then the number of issues covered by the subscription will be decreased as appropriate. Secondly should the I.O.U.G. have to fold at any time whilst I am running it then all unused funds and materials will be returned to you less the costs incurred in doing this. It is unlikely that this will happen because when the time comes that I can no longer give time to the I.O.U.G. I will try to hand its organisation over to another person or persons whilst remaining in financial control for an intermediate period.

Finally there are a couple of points that I would like to make about ordering I.O.U. . Firstly orders should be sent to arrive at least one week before the first date mentioned in the planned range of distribution dates for the issue. Late orders are liable to face a considerable delay before I get round to photocopying them. Secondly some of you still sent me cheques made payable to me. As mentioned in issue 5 cheques/P.O.'s should be made payable to 'Independent Oric Users' Group', which should not be abbreviated. This applies to people ordering individual issues as well as subscribers. It makes administration far more difficult if you don't cooperate so from now on I will not accept any cheques/P.O.'s made payable to me but will instead return them.

I hope that you all enjoy your Christmas' and that you will continue to support the I.O.U.G.

Gary Ramsay.

NEWSFLASH

Software Releases

Gilsoft have brought out an Oric version of the 'Quill' - their adventure game writing utility. The list price is £16.95 , FGC have it for £15.00 . Let me know if you see it any cheaper.

IJK have brought out three arcade games - Gobble (£7.50), a maze game; and Playground 21 (£7.50) and Damsel In Distress (£ 8.50), both platform games (I think). All three cost a pound less each from FGC.

I will try to get review copies of these programs (no pirate copies please!) but if any of you can spare 20-30 minutes to write a detailed review then I would gladly consider it. I strongly urge you to buy these programs through firms like FGC and O.J. Software because it is in our interests to keep them in business. Buying direct from the software house ultimately endangers our future range of choice.

Ronald Croft from Glasgow has informed me that Dudley Langmead Enterprises told him that the the distribution deal with Bureks has fallen through.

