

I.O.U.

The Voice of the Independent Oric Users' Group

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EDITORIAL

This, I think, is quite a special issue. The I.O.U.G. is just over one year old, I.O.U. has made it into double figures and we've maintained a membership of 70+. It is also the first to be produced on my new printer, an Amstrad DMP-2000, in conjunction with Tansoft's Author.

Newsflash contains some very interesting and indeed exciting news, particularly from W.E. (Software). However I think that most members will agree that some of the prices could be more competitive.

As you will soon notice this issue is six pages long. I am able to do this because the current number of members enables this to be done without making a loss on the bulk photocopied issues. How often this will happen in the future will depend upon how many people have ordered within the deadline, production costs, and how much material there is for the issue. Since a six page issue involves a loss on issues photocopied in small batches, by self-service, I may have to charge the full break-even price for orders received after I have run out of bulk copied issues. G.R.

NEWSFLASH

W.E. (Software), in the last week of June, accepted an offer to become U.K. agents for Eureka Informatique and Oric Products International. This very welcome move means that U.K. users will be able to benefit from some of the developments on the French scene. These include:-

The ORIC TELESTRAT featuring dual joystick ports, Centronics parallel and RS232 serial interfaces, midi interface, 64K RAM, compiled BASIC, full compatibility with Oric 1 and Atmos and complete with a 3" double-sided disc drive is "soon to be released in the U.K.". The price is likely to be 360.00 pounds plus VAT and carriage.

The Eureka disc drive featuring the SEDORIC operating system is available at 269.95 plus 8.00 carriage.

Oric-1 and Atmos ROMs are available on cartridge at 22.95 each plus 60p postage and packing.

The SEDORIC DOS is available on 3" disc at 59.95 plus 1.50 p+p.

The Eureka/Oric COSMOS printer (40/80/132 columns, 80/100 cps) is available at 309.95 plus 10.00 p+p.

For more information contact W.E. (Software), Foley Bank, Worcester Road, Great Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4QW tel. 06845-69059

FGC's summer supersaver price list contains some new software releases. These are: Chuckford (6.95), Snake Venom (5.95), both arcade type games; Buccaneer (6.95), a graphics adventure; League Champions

(5.95), a football strategy game for the Atmos only; and two utilities for the Atmos, MCP-40 HIRES Dump (6.95) and Screen Designer (6.95)
All the programs are distributed by FGC.

FAHE AT LAST: Thanks to Pete Canning of Hitchin, Herts. I've finally made it onto television. Pete put a plug for the I.O.U.G. on the computer page of CEEFAX which has attracted a few new members.

Patrick Browne of Orpington, Kent drew my attention to a letter in the July issue of Computer and Video Games enquiring, amongst other things, about the existence of Oric users' groups. I've written to them about this and to draw their attention to the fact that new software has been appearing for the Oric.

RESPONSE

R.M. Dutton has a problem with The Hobbit by Melbourne House. The game is crashing shortly after loading the character and also during the game. He would like to know whether this is a fault with the program or just with his copy. 60 Whateley Crescent, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 ODP .

C.J. Cook of Basildon, Essex informed me that the Atmos is being sold for 15.00 by the Morgan Computer Co., 179 Tottenham Court Road, London W1. The price is exclusive of VAT and carriage and there is no warranty.

David Goodrum of Norwich would like to clear up a couple of points about the planned O.P.E.L. disc system. He says that it will include a second processor and an RS232 interface and that it will not be compatible with the Oric microdisc but will have a DCS which is similar in operation to that of the microdisc.

Graeme Burton would like to know where he can buy Mr Mephisto by Eurobyte and Warpl by Icon. 5 Honeybourne Way, Peltswood, Kent BR5 1EZ

REVIEW

Chuckford from FGC for Oric 1/Atmos 48k. Price: 6.95 from FGC, 5.95 from O.J. Software.

Loading time from cassette is approximately 3 mins. 2 secs at the fast rate. As is usual for FGC's own titles there is only one, fast copy on the tape but also as usual this loaded without any problems. There is a colourful but somewhat basic loading screen presented during loading.

Chuckford is a platform game. Your aim is to control your little man in his task of running and jumping around the platforms and going up and down ladders whilst he collects eggs and what I assume are piles of bird food. Whilst doing this he has to avoid the attention of the patrolling birds, which look like chickens. The controls are Z - left, X - right, ; - up, . - down and RETURN - jump. I found this to be a very usable combination. There is also a choice of two levels of sound, pause and escape (ie quit) facilities and a hi-score table. There are 10 different screens to complete.

The graphics are quite simple but effective. There is a cheat mode

