

## I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 12 - late October 1986.

### EDITORIAL

This issue is the last one that I'll be able to compile for quite some time. As most of you will know I am a student. To be exact I am now in the final year of my Joint Honours in Science (Computer Science and Economics) course at Salford University and so I'm going to be busy until I've finished my finals, some time in June. I will however continue to administer the I.O.U.G. and distribute I.O.U. because I can fit these into my spare time quite easily. It's not that compiling an issue takes such a long time, the trouble is that if you try to spread out the effort over several weeks then you either get a newsletter which is very much out of date by the time of distribution, both in the news content and the articles, or you keep having to change the contents. I therefore concentrate my efforts on the time just before the deadline, when compiling an issue. This year, what with job interviews as well as course work, I can't be sure as to when I'm going to be extremely busy and hence unable to spare the time, therefore I couldn't guarantee that distribution would be no more than a week late.

The obvious implication of what you've just read is that I will be relying on your help even more than usual. I need more volunteers to compile an issue. To be able to do this you must have (or have access to) a word processing set up which includes a full size printer with a fairly good print quality, or have the Author word-processing program so that you can send me the text files on tape, or a typewriter. Anyone interested should write to me telling me of the approximate dates between which they expect to be free to produce an issue. Please note that I can't guarantee anyone an issue.

I am sure that most of you will be aware of the existence of a relatively new Oric newsletter, namely 'Your Oric Newsletter'. For those of you that have not the person to contact is Mr Keith Thompson, 41 Morden Gardens, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4DH. I don't see this as a competitor to the I.O.U.G. but as more of a complement. Your Oric is much longer than I.O.U. (I mean the newsletter, not the title) and therefore more expensive and, I am told, has a different approach. I've not actually seen a copy so if anyone would be willing to lend me one or two I would be grateful to hear from you.

Well that's about all that I have to say. You'll all be getting the welcome relief of a long rest from my editorials. I hope to contribute one or two articles over the next few months and, if there is still sufficient interest, I hope to be back some time after June, 1987.

Gary Ramsay

### NEWSFLASH

By the time that you read this several disc based programs should have been added to W.E. (Software)'s range. These are:

Sector Editor/EXMDN/Character Design/TV Test - £12.50. Four utilities on one disk. All Oric-1/Atmos except Sector Editor which is for the Atmos only.

Backgammon/Patience -£8.95. For Oric-1/Atmos.

ORICSTAR - £12.95. Word processor for Oric-1/Atmos.

It seems that W.E. may also be distributing some French software either at the time of reading or in the near future. More details when I get them.

Lasky's in Manchester have been selling off their surplus software including some good Oric software at £2.99. If you have a Lasky's nearby they may be doing the same.

David Goodrum of Norwich informed me that JB Software has been selling some 'bankrupt stock' software at cheap prices, including some Oric software. For a catalogue and price list send a large s.a.e. with postage at the 150g rate to JB Software, PO Box 247, Birmingham B11 3SD. 24 hr telephone on 021-236 1976.

FGC are planning to release a new word processing program, WORDWORTH, which seeks to better Tansoft's Author by taking account of those aspects of Author which have come in for criticism from users. Ken Smalldon, FGC's proprietor, has sent me a copy so that I can help with the last minute testing and if there are no major bugs then there should be a review in issue 13.

#### RESPONSE

Nick Rees of Lewes, East-Sussex informs me that Tandy have been selling their printer/plotter, the CGP 115 which is very similar, if not identical, to Oric's MCP-40 for £49.95. Also they sell a printer lead for the Dragon computers which is compatible with the Oric for £10.

Martin Bateman would like to know if anyone knows how to convert the Oric-1 version of Softek's 'Super Meteors' to run on the Atmos. Also he would like to know if anyone has any tips for Krillys by Orpheus. 121 Coppice Way, The Coppice, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1XQ

Richard Cox would like to know if anyone knows how to construct an Oric-1 ROM cartridge as he has a spare Oric-1 ROM and thinks that he could make one given the details. 70 Cambridge Close, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 7BG

Paul Sparks would like to know if anyone knows where he could get Gauntlet by PSS and/or Snowball by Level 9. Lower Fyfett Farm, Otterford, Chard, Somerset TA20 3QP

Mark Greenwood would like some help with Tansoft's Zodiac - "I have located all six treasures and done as the 'pidgen' sign says but nothing happens. What must I do?. Also what is the wire in the cave for?. 39 Anchorage Lane, Sprotborough, Doncaster, South Yorks. DN5 8DX

(If anyone has any tips for Arrow of Death Part II from Channel 8 I would be grateful - Gary.)

D. Arnold of Morden, Surrey wrote in response to R.M. Dutton's letter in issue 11 - Fishy Business was a limited edition with less than 100 copies made.

#### Printer-Plotter Pens Tip - by Trevor Shaw

Anyone who uses the Oric printer-plotter or a similar device is no doubt aware of how quickly the pens run dry. Since they are not cheap the following will probably be of interest.

It is possible to extend the life of the pens by refilling them. To do this you must grip the main body of the pen with your fingers and thumb and then using a small pair of pliers grip the brassy pen tip. By carefully pulling and twisting, the ball-point tip will usually come out of the plastic bush. You can then refill the pen using a pipette or dropper. The pen tip can then be replaced into the body by the reverse procedure, making sure that it is pushed fully home.

Since the pens use water-based ink, the first time that this is done you can just top them up with two or three drops of water. The next time it will probably be necessary to wash out the pens and refill them with fountain pen ink. This can be done several times before the ball-point wears out too much to be of use.

