

## I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 17 - late September 1987.

### EDITORIAL

Yes, it's that time again. Time to apologise for another late issue. This one is later than even I expected it to be because I've been getting used to full-time employment. This means far less free time available during the day than I've been used to for the past five years of school and university. Predicting this problem, I tried to find someone else to do the issue but everyone that I asked had something else on so I gave up on that front. I need volunteers to prepare future issues especially now that I am working. In particular, after working at a terminal for much of the day I am not always willing to use my evenings for the I.O.U.G., after all I am human. All that you need is a bit of time to spare, which can be quite easily spread over a couple of weeks, and some means of getting the originals typed or printed on A4 paper in a good enough quality to be photocopied. If you think that you might be able to help then please write to me to this effect, indicating which approximate times of the year within which you expect to have the most chance of being able to prepare an issue. I am quite willing to continue to find the time for administration if I receive help with compiling the issues.

Since issue 16 I have had the sad, for Oric owners, news that FGC is to cease trading. Allan Whitaker told me some time ago that he had spoken to Ken Smalldon, the proprietor of FGC, who had expressed doubts about the continuation of his business in the light of drastically reduced sales. This is not at all surprising because the numbers of new Oric owners over the months are negligible and there's been little in the way of software of worthwhile quality. The loss of FGC is particularly bad news because I am sure that most of its customers, and that includes myself, would agree that it rightly has a reputation for quick, fair service at very reasonable prices. I would like to thank Mr Smalldon for his support for the Oric. Having met him once and talked to him several times on the telephone I know that his involvement was inspired firstly by his enthusiasm for the Oric computers and only secondly by the profit motive. Of course FGC wasn't run on a full-time basis, so I trust that Mr Smalldon still has his other work to keep him busy.

Gary Ramsay

### NEWSFLASH

As mentioned in the editorial, FGC is to cease trading but in the meantime its final price list contains some very good prices. For example:

Chopper £4.25, Manic Miner £4.50, Megabase £8.50, The Quill £9.50.

There are also some good reductions on FGC's own releases. On the hardware side there is the Cumana 3" disc drive with interface for the Atmos at £143.95.

The final price list is valid until 31st December, 1987. From December 27th surplus stock will be sold at clearance prices. See later list for address.

Back issues were mentioned as a possibility in issue 16. Unfortunately as I couldn't get anyone to prepare this issue I didn't find the time to give the matter proper consideration. I guarantee that I will give a definite answer as to whether or not information from past issues will be made available in issue 18.

An enterprising Business Development Manager from the TSB wrote to me a while

back about their new Speedlink banking-by-phone system. He asked me about the possibility of supplying a list of members living in the East Lancashire area, that is Chorley, Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and the Rossendale Valley. I'm not in the business of encouraging unsolicited mail to group members, so I decided to let you make up your own minds.

The system enables users to pay bills, transfer funds between accounts and obtain "up-to-the-minute" balances by sending tones down the telephone line to the TSB's "On-Line-Real-Time" computer system. If you would like more information then write to:

TSB England and Wales, District Office, The Guild Centre, Lords Walk, Preston PR1 1RE.

or let me know of your interest by Friday 16th of October and I'll send your address to the above in the s.a.e. that came with the letter from the TSB .

The I.O.U.G. has received publicity through the User Groups page in the August and September issues of Personal Computer World. Unfortunately my clear request for a s.a.e. was omitted and so about half of the enquiries that I have received have not contained an s.a.e. A low rate of follow ups to my replies has meant that I have not recovered the cost of most of the stamps that I have used, which were purchased out of group surplus funds.

I recently received a letter from the Co-operative Union Ltd. concerning the National Institute of Co-operative Computing's Conference for Computer Clubs and enthusiasts. This is to be held at Stanford Hall, near Loughborough in Leicestershire at the weekend of the 16-18th of October. I only received the letter on September 19th so it is very short notice, but basically there are a number of proposed workshops. These include a MS-DOS and PC workshop, trying out various UK on-line systems, adventure game writing, word processing, and a beginners workshop. The cost is £45 for anyone not affiliated to the NICC. This includes meals and accommodation at Stanford Hall. Places are limited. For more information contact:

Mr Len Booth, Officer for Member Education, Co-operative Union Ltd., Education Dept., Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 5QR tel. 050-982 2333.

Mr Simon Caspels of Caspell Computer Services contacted me about his firm's business of providing computer consumables. They sell paper, disks, ribbons and accessories via mail-order to individuals and organisations. A couple of interesting sample prices quoted were

60 gsm listing paper, 11 x 9.5 inch at £5.17 per 1000 sheets  
3" Amstrad CP2 disks at £20.83 for 10.

To these must be added v.a.t. at 15%, postage and packing is free for disks and £2.00 per order for paper/label orders. Discounts are negotiable for bulk orders, so if any members are interested in grouping together to see if they can get a good deal then send me a s.a.e. by October 16th and I will put you in touch with one-another.

Caspell Computer Services, 43 Emerson Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1Q5 tel. 0202-682087

## RESPONSE

Dave Edwards of Widnes in Cheshire has been checking out the cost of ribbons for the Amstrad DMP-2000. The best value in terms of price per ribbon set against the minimum order came from:

Micro Media Computer Supplies, FREEPOST, Rydal Mount, Baker Street, Potters Bar,

Herts. EN6 3BR - 3 FOR £10.35, works out at £3.45 each.

HSV Computer Services Ltd., 23 Hampstead House, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1LG - £3.95 each, equivalent to £4.13 assuming an 18p stamp used to post the order.

Pete Weisner would like to know if anyone has an English language manual for the SEDORIC disk system.

212 Wendover Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5TG.

Ed: Allan Whitaker tells me that he translated the manual for W.E. (Software), so if one is required then contact that company. See list later on.

Peter also wanted to know if disk based word-processors and databases are available for the Oric. The answer is yes. The Orpheus program, Megabase is a popular database program which is available in a disk based version which incorporates disk handling. FGC (Mailorder) is a supplier of this program. As for a wordprocessor, Tansoft's Author is available on disk as a version which supports disk handling of the 'text' as well as Minitext another wordprocessor. Try OPELCO for these. The two former programs, above, may be available from other suppliers.

Pete has also been in contact with a M. Stephane Sarlande of the Club Oric International. He was sent a list of over 100 disks in the SEDORIC format containing games, utilities etc. The price quoted was 10 francs per program plus 45 F to cover a disk and carriage. At the time of writing there were approximately 9.81 French francs to the pound.

4 Rue Michel-Ange, Fagnieres, 51000 Chalons/Marne, France

Forth users may be interested in the Forth Interest Group UK. Phillip Dunstall of Woking in Surrey sent in the information which I duly forgot to include in the last issue. The annual subscription of £10.00 covers 6 bi-monthly issues of their magazine, Forthwrite and entitles you to attend their meetings. For more information contact

Mr Collin Walls, FIGUK, 88 Woosehill Lane, Wokingham, Berks. RG11 2TS.

Robert Cook has started up the Oric User Monthly magazine. Details can be obtained from him by sending a s.a.e to 10 Thomson Avenue, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8YD. I have my doubts about the viability of any extra Oric magazines what with I.O.U. and Your Oric. I find it difficult to get out I.O.U. every 6 to 10 weeks, even with help with compiling the issues.

Mr C.P. Rolls would like to know if anyone has a hires screen dump program for the Brother HR5 to run on the Oric-1. 4 Preston Way, Crosby, Liverpool L23 9SU .

### ISSUE 18

I am aiming to distribute issue 18 between the 7th and 21st November. I guarantee that I will make a 100% effort to ensure that it is distributed no later than November 28th. Expected cost is 40p. To order issue 18 only, send 40p, either cash (2 x 20p pieces only, please) or a cheque/P.O. payable to I.O.U.G. plus an A5 s.a.e. to me at:

I.O.U.G. , c/o Mr G. Ramsay, 1 Kingsway Crescent, Burnage, Manchester M19 1GA.

Orders by October 31st please. The subscriptions that started with issue 13 are now finished. Details of how you can order issues 18-20 will have been enclosed with this issue.

NB. A5 envelopes are approx. 228 x 162 mm or 9 x 6.5 inches. Please do not send envelopes smaller than this.

## INFINITE LIVES

No, not the secret of eternal youth but some "cheats" for some of the games programs. A number of people have sent these POKEs and DOKEs in. Thanks to everyone and in particular to the main contributors: Alan Riley of Bolton and Robert Cook from Birmingham.

In each case you need to load the program but prevent auto-run and then enter the line before calling or running the program (I'm sure that someone will write to tell us which calls to use to start up the machine code programs).

Chopper DOKE #280B, #EAEA:POKE #280D, #EA  
Playground 21: DOKE #5A82, #EAEA:POKE #5A84, #EA  
The Ultra: POKE #6B4, 255  
Zebbie: DOKE #338D, #EAEA:DOKE #338F, #EAEA  
The Hellion: POKE #13FE, #EA:DOKE #13FF, #EAEA  
Manic Miner: DOKE #683, #EAEA

## SUPPLIERS

Here is a list of some, to my knowledge, current suppliers of Oric software and hardware.

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

OPELCO, Imperial Court, Station Parade, Virginia Water, Wentworth, Surrey GU25 4DH tel. 09904 - 4557

O.J. Software, 273 Mossy Lea Road, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 9RN tel. 0257 - 421915

Phildata, 8 Richmond Terrace, Pudsey, West Yorkshire LS28 9BY tel. 0532 - 578851

FGC (Mailorder), 20 Meadowcroft, Euxton, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 6BU tel. 02572 - 70088

## DISC OPERATING SYSTEMS

Here is a list of the Disc Operating Systems produced for the Oric computers.

Byte Drive 500 - Now no longer supported.

ORIC DOS V1.1 - Available from OPELCO. A simple DOS which provides basic facilities and sequential access only.

Cumana DOS - Available from FGC, O.J. Software and Cumana. Very similar to ORIC DOS V1.1 but not 100% compatible.

SEDORIC V1.006 - Available from W.E. Software. Powerful DOS which has sequential, random and sector access. Also includes some useful extensions to basic. Unfortunately, V1.006 contains a bug with the TAKE command which prevents negative real numbers and positive integer numbers being read from disc correctly. A fix is being sought.

RANDOS - Available from OPELCO. Development of ORIC DOS V1.1 which provides random access and sub-directory structures. Good as an upgrade from ORIC DOS as it has compatibility in its handling of files and arrays (via !STORE & !RECALL).

## TAPE CATALOGUE UTILITY

This utility, for the Atmos, is not entirely original but provides a neat print out of the contents of those long cassettes which you have forgotten the exact contents of.

```
100 T$= "CASSETTE TAPE CATALOGUE"
110 E$=CHR$(27):FOR N=1 TO 75:UL$=UL$+"-":NEXT:TEXT:PAPER0:INK7:CLS
120 PRINT@2,2;"Enter the cassette identification :-"
130 FOR Y=5 TO 8:PLOT0,Y,0:PLOT39,Y,16:PLOT1,Y,18:NEXT ' Plot attributes.
140 PRINT@2,6;:INPUT ID$
150 PRINT@2,11;"Select tape type - (1) C15 or (2) C90"
160 PLOT15,13,0:PLOT21,13,16:PLOT16,13,18
170 PRINT@17,13;:REPEAT:GET K$:UNTIL K$="1" OR K$="2"
180 IF K$="1" THEN TT$="C15" ELSE TT$="C90"
190 PRINT TT$:PRINT@2,15;"Identify the side - A or B"
200 PLOT13,17,0:PLOT22,17,16:PLOT14,17,18
210 PRINT@15,17;:REPEAT:GET K$:UNTIL K$="A" OR K$="B"
220 S$="Side "+K$:PRINT S$
230 PRINT@2,21;"Select printer ON-LINE and then press any key to continue.":GET K$
240 LPRINT CHR$(24);E$;"M";E$;"R";CHR$(0);E$;"N";CHR$(6); ' Init. printer.
250 LPRINT E$;"-";CHR$(1);"Cassette Identification";E$;"-";CHR$(0);CHR$(10)
260 LPRINT ID$,TT$,S$;CHR$(10);CHR$(10)
270 LPRINT TAB(25);" File";TAB(34);"File";TAB(41);" Start";TAB(51);" End";
280 LPRINT TAB(61);" Array"
290 LPRINT TAB(6);" Filename";TAB(25);" Type";TAB(34);"Init";
300 LPRINT TAB(41);"Address";TAB(51);"Address";TAB(61);" Type"
310 LPRINT UL$:LPRINT
320 PING:PRINT@2,24;"Insert the cassette into the tape":PRINT"recorder and select PLAY.
330 FC=0 'Initialise file counter.
340 REPEAT' Read all tape file headers.
350 : POKE#27F,0:CALL#E76A:CALL#E57D:CALL#E4AC
360 : FC=FC+1:AT=DEEK(#2AF)
370 : NM$="":P1$="(CHR$(#2P2$=)]"
380 : FOR M=#293 TO #2A3
390 : CHR=PEEK(M)
400 : IF CHR=0 THEN M=#2A3:GOTO 430
410 : IF CHR<32 OR CHR>91 THEN SUB$=P1$+STR$(CHR)+P2$ ELSE SUB$=CHR$(CHR)
420 : NM$=NM$+SUB$
430 : NEXT
440 : IF NM$="" THEN NM$="** No filename **"
450 : FT=PEEK(#2AE)
460 : IF FT=0 THEN FT$="BASIC"
470 : IF FT=#80 THEN FT$="Binary"
480 : IF FT=#40 THEN FT$="Data"
490 : AS=PEEK(#2AD)
500 : IF (-AS) THEN AS$="Auto" ELSE AS$=""
510 : SA=DEEK(#2A9):EA=DEEK(#2AB)
520 : IF FT<>#40 THEN AT$="":GOTO570
530 : IF AT=#FF THEN AT$="String"
540 : IF AT=#8000 THEN AT$="Integer"
550 : IF AT=#00 THEN AT$="Real"
560 : AS$=""
570 : CALL#E93D
580 : FC$=STR$(FC)
590 : IF FC>9 THEN FC$=RIGHT$(FC$,LEN(FC$)-1)
600 : LPRINT CHR$(24);FC$;:LPRINT TAB(6);NM$;
610 : LPRINT TAB(25);FT$;:LPRINT TAB(34);AS$;
620 : LPRINT TAB(41);HEX$(SA);:LPRINT TAB(51);HEX$(EA);
630 : LPRINT TAB(61);AT$
640 UNTIL KEY$=E$
```