

## I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 21 - late August 1988.

### EDITORIAL

I owe you all an apology. This issue is over two months late, which is inexcusable. I made several mistakes in planning this issue. The most serious one was to set a comparatively short time between issues and to then opt to edit this issue myself. I've found myself taken up with various other things, especially playing cricket at weekends, on top of the weekly running of the group and just haven't found or made sufficient time to get this issue out. Still better late than never, to use a cliché. Those of you who paid by cheque will have noticed that your cheque has remained uncashed for some time, so at least you will have known that you weren't being robbed. The end result of all this is that I won't be editing I.O.U. again for some time. I will also have to consider whether I am the best person to distribute the issues. In the meantime I hope to have issue 22 out as soon as the editor of it can get the original to me and possible industrial action in the postal service permitting.

Onto other matters, I was wondering for a time as to whether I.O.U. would continue to be viable in its current form. This was because subscription renewals were slow in coming. Indeed I have received further letters from ex-members telling me that they have moved onto to other computers, in particular PC compatibles. However Allan Whitaker gave the group a mention in his price list and this has raised some new interest. We are sadly in the midst of a steadily declining interest. This is further demonstrated by the declining number of retailers of Oric software and hardware. Indeed over the past few months I myself have made little use of my Atmos. It is therefore left to the remaining users to provide their own support.

### NEWS

Allan Whitaker has sent out his first price list for his new Home and General Computing firm which has arisen from the ashes of FGC. The prices are very competitive, so I hope that you will consider HGC if you are looking for software etc. . If you weren't on the mailing list then send a s.s.a.e. to :-

HGC (Mailorder), 8 Staley Hall Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 3DT

Telephone 061-303 7369

Paul Kersey-Smith is trying to organise an Oric user show to take place during either November or December. This would support the Oric-1, Atmos and Telestrat. If you would be interested in attending then write to :-

1st Oric User Show, 8 Bluebell Estate, Pandy, Gwersyllt, Clwyd LL1 2UG

Owe Fransson has made the following DOS upgrades available for £2.00 cash each to cover postage, plus a disk.

SEDDRIC V1.007  
ORIC DOS V1.13

He has also written a file transfer program to convert SEDORIC files to Oric DOS V1.1 format. This is available for £5.00 cash plus a blank disk.

To order or to obtain more details write to Owe at :-

Gullrands vag 199, S-145 64 Norsborg, SWEDEN

The Software Club has moved to a new address and has consequently acquired a new business address. Mrs Perera has stated that they are willing to keep the Oric library going as long as there is sufficient interest.

The Software Club, P.O. Box 155, Cardiff CF5 4YA tel. 0222 - 593 476

## RESPONSE

David Wilkin is looking for a copy of the Megabase handbook. 22 Saxonbury Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 5HD

Pete Canning is having problems with his Cumana disk system. 'At intervals it resets itself to the point where insertion of the system disk is requested. At other times it locks the computer and crashes the program in use.' This problem seems to become less frequent the longer the period of use. Cumana say that there is nothing wrong with the interface.

1 Murrell Lane, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 4PF

Ronald Croft got a copy of Wordworth in the FGC closing down sale but it didn't come with a manual. He would therefore like a copy. 24 Leven Street, Glasgow G41 2JE

C.P. Rolls from Crosby, Liverpool sent a couple of tips :-

1) When using ORIC-CALC if you enter 'f' and then <RETURN> this turns off the reset protection. Using the reset button or <CTRL> C will stop the program, enabling it to be listed. Mr Rolls suggests that by altering the STORE and RECALL commands the program could be adapted for use with a disk drive.

2) If you use an 'auto-stop' program such as that included in issue 16, load in the four parts of Tansoft's Defence Force and then enter RUN, a '?' will appear. Press 'D' and follow the on screen instructions.

Paul Kersey-Smith sent some interesting information about a couple of innovative men who've designed and built interfaces for their Orics. I'm not sure whether the designs are for sale or whatever but both men are willing to be contacted about them. The details are :-

Toby Simpson has built a B.B.C. compatible user port which plugs into the Oric's printer port. It can carry out ROM paging and has a RAM disk set up around it. The interface is fully buffered and can handle upto 20 separate devices at the same time. The decoding is dealt with by the interface, with users being able to make use of it via BASIC. A B.B.C. user port can be used with things such as trackerballs, mice and joysticks.

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