

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 23 - early February 1989.

EDITORIAL

First some explanation of the lateness of issue 22, which was originally targetted for distribution by November 12th, 1988. Firstly there was the postal strike, which held up distribution of issue 21 such that most of you wont have got your copies before early October. Then there were difficulties in finding an editor until eventually Paul Kersey-Smith stepped in. Paul had a little trouble with his word processor files getting corrupted and also had the Alternative Micro Show to attend, which delayed things further and explainsto some extent the lack of varierty of articles. I eventually received the originals on Saturday December 3rd, collected the copies from the print shop on December 9th and had the first batch distributed by December 12th.

Now for some fairly sad news. I have decided that this is to be the last issue of I.O.U. . I have had to succumb to the declining interest of Oric users, suppliers and of myself. Members will have noticed that there were only 4 issues in 1988 and I feel that the general standard of content was below par. I had an offer to take over the group from a member who had the aim of uniting it with Robert Cook's "Oric User Monthly". This I considered to be over complicated and instead I recommend that members who are not already subscribers to O.U.M. try an issue or two.

As for my involvement with the group since setting it up in early 1985 I have found it to be both useful and at times a very enjoyable experience. Over 300 people have received the newsletter at some time although it remains an area of disappointment that I was unable to get membership much above the 85 mark at any one time. Although the group never developed into one of the 'all singing and dancing' set ups that you find for some of the other minority micros. e.g. the TI99/4A , I feel that it did serve its key purpose of maintaining some contact between Oric owners. My overriding aim was to provide a forum for the hobbyist users as these were the people most likely to stick with their Orics as support declined. This was reflected in the membership, if that is the right way to refer to an informal group of persons, and meant that there were and are still some members with a very sound or even exceptional technical knowledge. Personally I never found the time to build up such a level of knowledge of the Atmos. This was originally because of the time that I spent running the group and latterly because I make extensive use of computers at work. Over the last year I have only switched on my Atmos very occasionally and much of that was only for word processing.

So what of the future. Firstly, I have to get your remaining money and envelopes back to you. Please bear with me for two to three months as it will involve quite a lot of work. Secondly, I am prepared to remain a point of contact for the more technical users. I have a number of longer articles in my possession that I would like to find a way to have published on a public domain sort of basis. Thirdly, I would like to set up a system of advice provision for matters as diverse as hardware/software to programming advice. This would involve people who are willing to help on selected topics allowing their addresses to be publicised. Send me a s.s.a.e. or check out future issues of O.U.M. if you are interested.

As for unused material still in my possession I will pass this onto Robert Cook unless any specific contributor does not wish his contribution to be passed on.

On the matter of group funds there will be a small surplus. With your agreement I would like to donate this to a children's charity.

I wish you all the best with your future computing.

Gary Ramsay

NEWS

W.E. (Software) appears to be getting rid of its remaining stock as it has reduced prices on all Oric software to £2.50.

W.E. (Software), Foley Bank, Worcester Road, Great Malvern, Worcs.
WR14 4QW tel. 06845 - 69 059

The best hope for some continued software support comes from Allan Whitaker's HGC. As well as quite an impressive range of older titles, the latest mailshot contains information on some new releases and plans for a possible public domain/shareware scheme.

HGC (Mailorder), 8 Staley Hall Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 3DT
tel. 061 - 303 7369

A second Alternative Micro Show has been scheduled for Saturday April 1st, 1989 at the new Horticultural Hall, London. The show will aim to cover all machines other than IBM and compatibles, the Amiga and the ST. The organisers are :-

EMSOFT Ltd, Poplar Lane, Copdock, Ipswich IP2 0BA
tel. 0473 - 690 729

Robert Bray has written a HIRES drawing aid program called Sketch with some advice from Neville Clark. The program is mostly in BASIC with important functions written in machine code. The program is available on disk in Oric DOS V1.1 and SUPER2.DOS formats. There is no mention of any price in Robert's letter so I can only assume that the program is free. The instructions are to send a formatted disk in a padded envelope with return postage and preferably a return address label. As both Robert Bray and Neville Clark are supposed to be supplying the program I assume that they will supply one format each. Unfortunately I do not know who supplies which format. For details write to Robert at :-

117 Braehead, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire G83 9NB

A Mr M. Mills has written to me with some bold plans to release some software in the future and details of the impending release of an Organiser program. Enquiries to :-

32 Trinity Close, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7EJ

George Fontanini has managed to bulk purchase some Oric software and is considering starting an Oric software hire club. He sees any such club as being an efficient non-profit service.

7 Bucknill House, Ebury Bridge Road, London SW1W 8SR

RESPONSE

Pete Canning is willing to offer advice on converting tape software to

