

Oric User Monthly

Issue 17 : January : 1989 : 55p : Edited & distributed by R.Cook

Here is a good way to start 1989, a great issue of OUM. Things are starting to look very good for the Oric owner, with new soft/hardware on the horizon. Inside OUM this month you will find an exciting news section, it only seems a couple of months ago that a number of Oric owners were full of doom and gloom and giving up on the Oric (come on, admit it!).

Inside this month's issue is also a new review section. "Dave's Data" is a new monthly feature which will review all types of software, the brains behind it being Dave Dick from Ayresbury. There will usually be other reviews as well. OUM this month has two pages of reviews which normally won't occur but the reviews had already been written. "Dave's Data" will now take the main place of the software reviews now, to ensure that OUM doesn't become entirely a games magazine. "Dave's Data" starts this month with a review of the new release 'The Last Warrior' by HGC (Mailorder).

There is also the chance to complete a crossword. It is mainly for fun but we'll throw in a free copy of 'The Oric Games Guide' to the reader who has his name picked from the group of correct entries, see page 2 for details of this and the closing date. And don't forget the top ten charts, hints & tips, chat results and also a topic for voting, C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E. and quite a bit else.

I would also like to take this chance to thank Mr Allan Whitaker for printing OUM's address on his pricelist for HGC, and for distributing OUM leaflets with software orders, it has attracted a lot of new readers, many of which consequently leading to yearly subscriptions.

So, get those contributions in and keep the flow of top ten charts lists coming (top 3 favourite games plus the name of the game you don't like). Best wishes.

Robert Cook

I just don't know where to start this month's news section, I'll just dive straight in...

HGC has almost completed the public domain software base consisting of software written by the public, it's not too late for you if you have a program that other Oric owners would be interested in. There is also the shareware idea which allows the interested buyer to sneak a look at a public domain title and if he likes it then he can obtain the full product. To obtain details and a price list (which includes some titles not seen very often or never at all) send a s.a.c. to HGC, you know the address by now (if you've been living in a cave or on mars for the last 6 months or for some other reason don't know the address then just ask me).

New software titles from HGC should be out now (said to be released by January 1989) and they are: "Football" which is a welcome chance to break away from the League Champions type and play the match yourself with either a friend or the Oric. "Starwind" sounds like a version of Firebirds ELITE game on the Spec, comm, amstrad, etc. It is a space trading/strategy/arcade game with vector graphics and should prove to be a wonderful game.

"Winter Games" is a German simulation (don't worry, you'll understand it) which covers the sports of Shooting, speed-skating, skiing & ski-jumping, plenty to keep you interested. Each costs £ 6.50 on cassette with disk versions to follow soon (Winter Games is out on disk already). Grab copies of what you can, reviews to come very soon.

HGC now have in stock all the IJK titles, so if your collection is missing one of the classic few you know where to go.

News continues on pages

Issue 18 costs 55p with an A5 s.a.e. or 90p without the s.a.e. *
 A five month subscription costs. £ 2.75 + 5 A5 s.a.e's or £ 4.50 without. *
 A years subscription without any s.a.e's costs just £ 10.00 ! (80p discount).
 Back issues cost : 50p for 1 ; £ 1.00 for 2 ; £ 1.40 for 3

Additional details

- (i) Where * is noted, it means that when you include P&F in your payment then OUN will be delivered by 1st class postage.
- (ii) All subscriptions cover price rises that may occur throughout.
- (iii) When buying OUN back issues, please (if possible) state an alternative issue, although this may not be necessary.
- (iv) All orders for issue 18 should reach me by no later than January 23rd, the same applies for contributions, chit-chat replies, etc.
- (v) Payment can be in cash, cheques or postal orders. Please do not attempt to pay for OUN with postage stamps. Please make cheques/po made payable to : " Oric User Monthly (R.Cook) ".
- (vi) If you wish to obtain more than 3 back issues please ask for prices, subscriptions can be obtained for any length of time, just ask for details.

Help ! Over the past few months OUN's readership has rapidly expanded, with many new readers joining each month, and more continuing to do so. Although this is a good sign (and I welcome more!) I just cannot keep up with all of the content. I would like a number of readers to help me out, but don't think that I'm forgetting OUN, I'll still be doing the majority of it. What I would like is a situation where I could choose one of the readers from a list of volunteers, and I would send him/her content enough for a page or two, and they would put it together, so a printer or typewriter is needed. Then you return it and it'll save me a lot of time! Of course all your postage would be paid for. You wouldn't always be helping out, I'll just pick someone from the list when I'm short of time. If you're interested then please let me know.

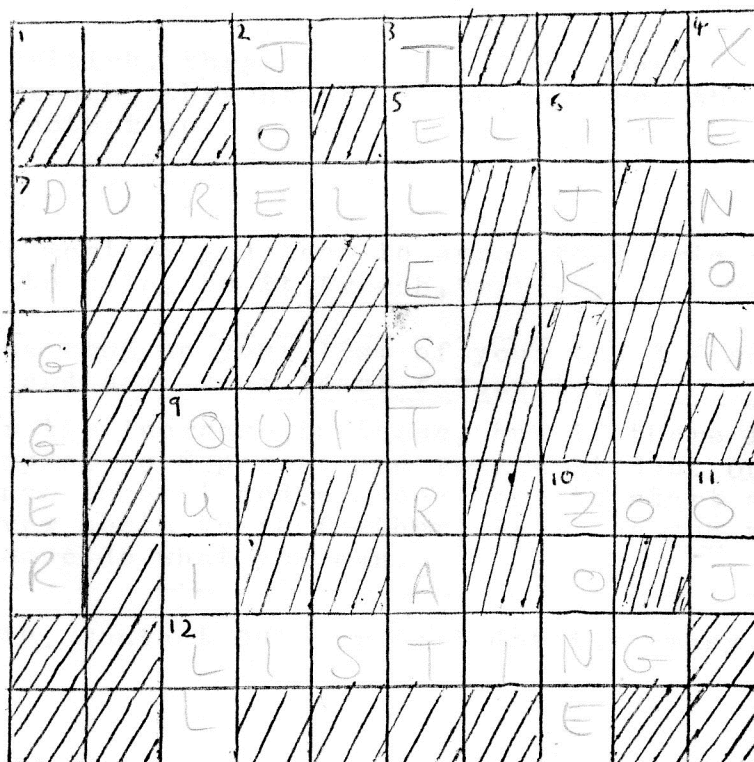
Here is a cross-word for you to sort out, most answers are easy, all are computer-related. It shouldn't take you too long, send in the answered puzzle by cutting along the dotted line and the first correct puzzle that I pull out of them will receive a free copy of 'The Oric Games Guide'.

Across

- (i) A type of printer (3,3)
- (ii) They own Loricels (5)
- (iii) Who decided to go skuba diving ? (6)
- (iv) How do you end an adventure game ? (4)
- (v) _____ olympics, with animals ! (3)
- (vi) Ready made programs for you to enter (7)

Down

- (i) Funny name for a lion ! (3)
- (ii) The famous saga (5)
- (iii) The last attempt for Oric. (9)
- (iv) The software leaders from the start (3)



CROSS-WORD



Crossword (cont:)

Down

- (vii) Lothlorion dug up an arcade game with this. (6)
 (ix) Using this old-fashioned writing instrument, you could make a small fortune, being an adventurous sort of person. (5)
 (x) Ultima and Twilight....they both lead to it. (4)
 (xi) A mail-order company, no longer with Oric (2).

See the top of page 2 for the closing date. PLEASE tell me what you think of the cross-word, and if enough readers like it then it'll become a regular monthly feature with a winners prize such as OUN issues.

C.O.N.F.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E.

Cobrasoft

No. 5

British titles: None

Available in France: 1815, ATM, Atlantis, Caractor, Formula 1, Gestion 1 & 2, Historic, Hyperespace, Hare & Tortoise, Neutre a Grande vitesse, Sudden death, Planete Bleue, Polyfichier, Cobra Pinball, Stress, Toutue Logique and a few more.

Reviewed in OUN: A.T.H. & Formula 1.

Last month we printed about a man called Phil who repaired Oric micro's, we can now let you know that his full name is Phil Blythe, and the costs is £ 36.00 exc. P&P, regardless of fault. He is low on ULA's, so hurry if you need his service. Contact him at: Phil Blythe, 7 Wandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. 'Phone: (0296)-21612. When writing enclose an s.a.e. and give details of the fault.

Last months' topic for chit-chat was based on who should really own Oric. The background information was that British hands got Oric started, but when it went down French workers took over a while after. The GB workers were sacked and this new attempt also failed. Then Eureka took over and released the Telestrat, which also went kaput. So, should Oric really be French or British?

(Option 1): Oric should be British, they got it off the ground.

(Option 2): Oric should be French, they helped it to release the Telestrat and only tried to give it another go.

Option 1: 35 %

Option 2: 65 %

Not a massive majority, but most of you tend to agree that Oric should be with whoever is willing to help, be it French, British, or anyone else.

To compile the charts, please send up your list of your top 3 favourite software titles (any type) and name your least favourite.

Contributions ! Thanks for the increase in these, but if there is just a little more then OUN can expand to 8 pages, and remain at 55p. OUN has already expanded by 40% since issue 1 and we soon hope to start a slow increase until we can't cover costs to go further, it'll be you who benefits in the end, so please do what you can.

'The Quill': £ 4.49 inc. P&P. Contact OUN for full details, many copies.

DAVE'S DATA

Game: The Last Warrior

Supplier: H.G.C.

Price: £ 4.99 (cass) / £ 7.59 (disk)

ATMOS ONLY

This graphical adventure has been translated from French to British by Archimedes (of "Your Oric" game) and is a recent release from Allan Whitaker's H.G.C. (Mailorder).

The game loads in two parts, after about five minutes the haunting music begins and the storyline and instruction begin to scroll up the screen along with some nice drawings. You then load in the main part of the game.

Your role as the Last Warrior is to find the sacred statue and defeat the Hogarth the terrible. You have 70 rooms to visit & a 106 word vocabulary to use as either a 1 or 2 word input. Abbreviations such as 'exam' for 'examine' can be used (the standard four letter input).

On-screen displayed information is: (a) Possible directions (b) objects found (c) save routine (d) energy remaining (e) middle screen window displaying either a graphical picture of your current location, or who you meet, or a narrative of the outcome.

I must admit, I am not a keen adventurer, games like Zodiac and Encounter bore me silly, but this is different! The game is well put together; has nice repartie and excellent graphics. I've visited about 50 rooms and though frustrated at times I found it very addictive.

One fault I found was having to quickly jot down the vocabulary as it scrolled down the screen, but Allan Whitaker has said that all new copies sold will include a typed list of words in the vocabulary.

All in all, an excellent value-for-money adventure.

Graphics: 8

Vocabulary: 8

Atmosphere: 8

Overall: 8

Dave Dick

Who wants issue 19 free, including 1st class P&P? Then answer these simple riddles and two readers will get it! If you already have paid for issue 19 (March 1989) then you'll have an issue added to your subscription, results next month but get those answers in quick!

The question: 'What do all these computer terms abbreviate?'

ie. OUN abbreviates Oric User Monthly

OPEL (the first name of OPELCO)

WYSIWYG

IOUC

GISO

BASIC

ASCII

FSS (the software company)

They're a bit tricky this month, but if you don't know all 7 answers just send up the answers to those that you do know and you'll still have a chance of winning, just a smaller chance. For each one you get right, we'll put down your name, and pull out two, but you can't win both. You can probably find most in your manual or other computer magazines.

Wanted: 'Original copies of Talisman, Doggy, and/or Starter 3D, good prices paid. Contact OUN for details.'

for under 4p each

Game: Breakout/Missile/Surrounded

Supplier: Express software

Price: £ 2.99 (cass) / no disk version released

If B/S/M was any more of a turkey then it'd grow wings and fly off, which I often hoped it would. It is just so pathetic ! Words fail me !

As you can see by the title, this game is a compilation of three games. First up is Breakout. This is a version of the popular bat-and-ball game, you must deflect a ball which will break away bricks from a wall at the top of the screen, this version is very poor.

Missile next. Oh boy, it just gets worse ! You must control a space-craft at the bottom of the screen and must shoot at one moving across the top, it doesn't even shoot back at you !

Surrounded now, let's get it over with. You must find another victim to take part with you. You and this unfortunate friend of yours must control a single line and must try to box each other in, as this program only accepts single key presses if one player keeps his finger down on the keyboard then the other cannot move his line. This raises tempers quickly.

B/S/M is just awful. I don't quite know how to explain just how bad it is, but if you think of Dambusters and Oric Flight, and try to imagine them on a ZX81, and you're getting close.

It is not even worth the asking price, and they are all written in 100% BASIC. Miss this at ALL costs. Graphics and sounds are also amazingly bad.

Graphics: 2 Sound: 1 Addictiveness: 2 Overall: 1

Game: Multigames 1

Supplier: Tansoft

Price: £ 2.99 (cass) / no disk version released

Multigames 1 is supposed to be Oric-1 only, but all but one worked on my Atmos, and that one worked with a little adjustment. This is another compilation cassette, this time with five programs. First to play is Bandit, which is a fruit machine simulator. The game does tend to pay out a bit too much but it's not at all bad.

Projectiles is a two player game (or one with the computer) where you must shoot your opponent who is on the other side of the mountain between you. You must decide on your velocity and angle of launch and then watch your shot fly, good fun.

Colourmatch is not too bad. You must match colours with the Orics' secret code in memory which changes each go. A colour monitor/TV is required to stand a chance in this.

Flip over to side two on the cassette and first up is Quest. Here is an adventure game with no graphics, limited vocabulary, little locations, etc. but I did enjoy Quest, I don't know why ! It just keeps you playing !

Reversi is the last (the one I had to convert for the Atmos to work) game, and it is the usual board game, play against a friend or the micro. It's good fun, and the computer opponent is no push-over too !

All five games are good and would be worth the price on it's own. If you feel like ANY of these, I'd say go for it. It's good value, but not stunning.

Graphics: 6 Sound: 6 Addictiveness: 7 Overall: 6

'The Oric Games Guide' booklet : Just £ 1.00. Over 25 reviews for under 4p each.

Advertising is free to subscribers, up to 60 words, exc. name + address.

(news:continued from page 1).

Jon Haworth has cured a disk-drive problem which could lead to helping other readers. His drive overheated easily and often refused to load from cassette, when his drive was plugged in. Instead of giving up Jonathon constructed an interface between the Atmos & disk drive which now allows the cassettes to load even when the disk-drive is plugged in.

Another genius, Dave Wilkin, has produced an add-on for the power unit which will use a heat-sink at that point, so the drive remains cool.

Allan Whitaker is hoping to have both devices up for sale soon, but if you have these problems and want them solved contact Jonathon (send an s.a.e) at:

Fenners Chambers, 5 Gresham Road, Cambridge, CB1,2EP.

Ever onwards, there is a new software/hardware distributor. "Software Cellar" sell reconditioned hardware and also sell cheap software, a couple of example prices are:

	3D Maze	£ 2.50	
(send s.a.e. for list)	Colossal Adventure	£ 1.00	(+ P&F)
	Jogger	£ 2.80	

Unfortunately most of their software is not Atmos compatible, out of the list of about 50 titles (some which are hard to find elsewhere) only 11 were Atmos compatible, all worked for the Oric-1 though. At present they are not selling disk software, but say that they are always adding to their stocks. They sell many types of computers and also buy them off the public so if you can't sell yours anywhere else contact them. They provide a fast and reliable service and currently have an Oric-1 48K for sale for just £ 32.00 + £ 3.00 for P&F inc. powerpack, leads, etc. fully boxed. Address in this issue somewhere.

Your local Tandy store should sell the lead that connects your TV to Oric, for just £ 1.69. It is cat. no. 15-7214 so quote that number if there is any doubt.

Still with the news, there are Oric books for sale from 50p + P&F upwards. Interface Publications Ltd, 9 - 11 Kensington High Street, London, W8,5NP.

That's the address to send a.s.a.e. to for lists of books for sale and state that you are interested in 'ORIC' books as they cater for many machines.

I know that it's been ages since we first mentioned OUM software, but it's on it's way. Remember the promises of League Soccer, Excalibur, Craxon 1, and the others? Well, League Soccer is being put together now and The Haunt is hoped to be released by April 1989. Expected prices are £ 2.99 - £ 4.99.

In the Chesterfield town centre's market there is supposed to be Oric software for sale, so if you live near there get down to the market and find out more.

I think that's it! Remember where you read it all first. Many thanks to Dave Dick this month for his batch of news-items. If you have found Oric software or peripherals for sale near you write up and let us know.

Oric TV to Oric lead + cassette to
cassette lead, £ 3.00 for both,
contact OUM.

Wanted: OPELCO disk drive.

Wanted: Copies of Oric Owner.

All enquiries to OUM.

SOFTWARE CELLAR

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Top Ten: Compiled by readers

<u>Title</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Last Month</u>
1. Zorgons Revenge	I.J.K.	1
2. Xenon III	I.J.K.	2 *
3. Defence Force	Tansoft	4
4. Haze Rally	F.G.C.	5 *
5. Karate	Gasoline	3 * (F)
6. The Ultra	PSS	7 *
7. The Hellion	Orpheus	8
8. The Boss	Peaksoft	NE * (F)
9. Frelon	Loricels	10 * (F)
10. Fireflash	No Mans Land	6 *

Comment: No room this month, but note that The Boss enters and Fireflash falls.

Answers to last months free issues questions: The mixed up words could be re-arranged to form (in this order) : ATMOS ZORGON TELESTRAT MCP40 CURSOR VARIABLE.

Hints & Tips

On any Channal 8 'Mysterious Adventures' game just move around, collect a few items and save the game, then load in any other game from the same adventure range and load in the saved copy, many valuable clues will now be displayed on-screen.

On Zorgons Revenge go to the space mission and blast ten alien craft. Now if you can shoot the large craft and kill yourself at the same time you'll be awarded infinite lives, but it's a little tricky to do it.

Continuing the 'Wizard of Akyrz' solution, part 3. We are now at the bridge and there is a fox and corn, you can only cross with one of these, or the chicken you are carrying. If you drop the chicken the fox will eat it, if you cross with the fox the chicken will eat the corn, so how do you cross? You must cross with all three items, so cross the bridge carrying just the chicken (and all other items EXCEPT the fox and corn) and once over drop it, go back and grab the corn, cross the bridge and drop it and immediately pick up the chicken, go back over the bridge (by GO BRIDGE) and drop the chicken, immediately pick up the fox. Cross the bridge with the fox and drop it. You're probably a little confused by now, so I'll tell you that you are over the bridge with the fox and corn, the chicken is over the other side. Go back over and pick up the chicken, come back over but don't drop it. Solution part 4 continues next month, we're not even nearly finished.....

Chit-Chat: Topic

Decide which option best suits YOUR opinion and the results will be printed next issue as a percentage, let us know which you agree with before the 20th.

Background: 'The Oric participant at the Alternative Micro Show was tremendous & yet only 25 people committed themselves to Paul Kersey-Smiths' "Oric Show" - Why?

- Option 1: Did you not know about it?
- Option 2: You were not really interested?
- Option 3: Wrexham was the wrong location?

If option 3, then would you be interested in an Oric show at another venue, such as: (i) London (ii) Birmingham (iii) Manchester (iv) Aylesbury (v) other

Get those results in quickly, thanks to Dave Dick for the topic. Have you got an idea for a 'Chit-Chat' topic? Let us know. This months issue has been packed full, if it's like this next month OUM will be 8 pages long. Bye.

Oric User Monthly, 10 Thomson Ave, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38,8YD.