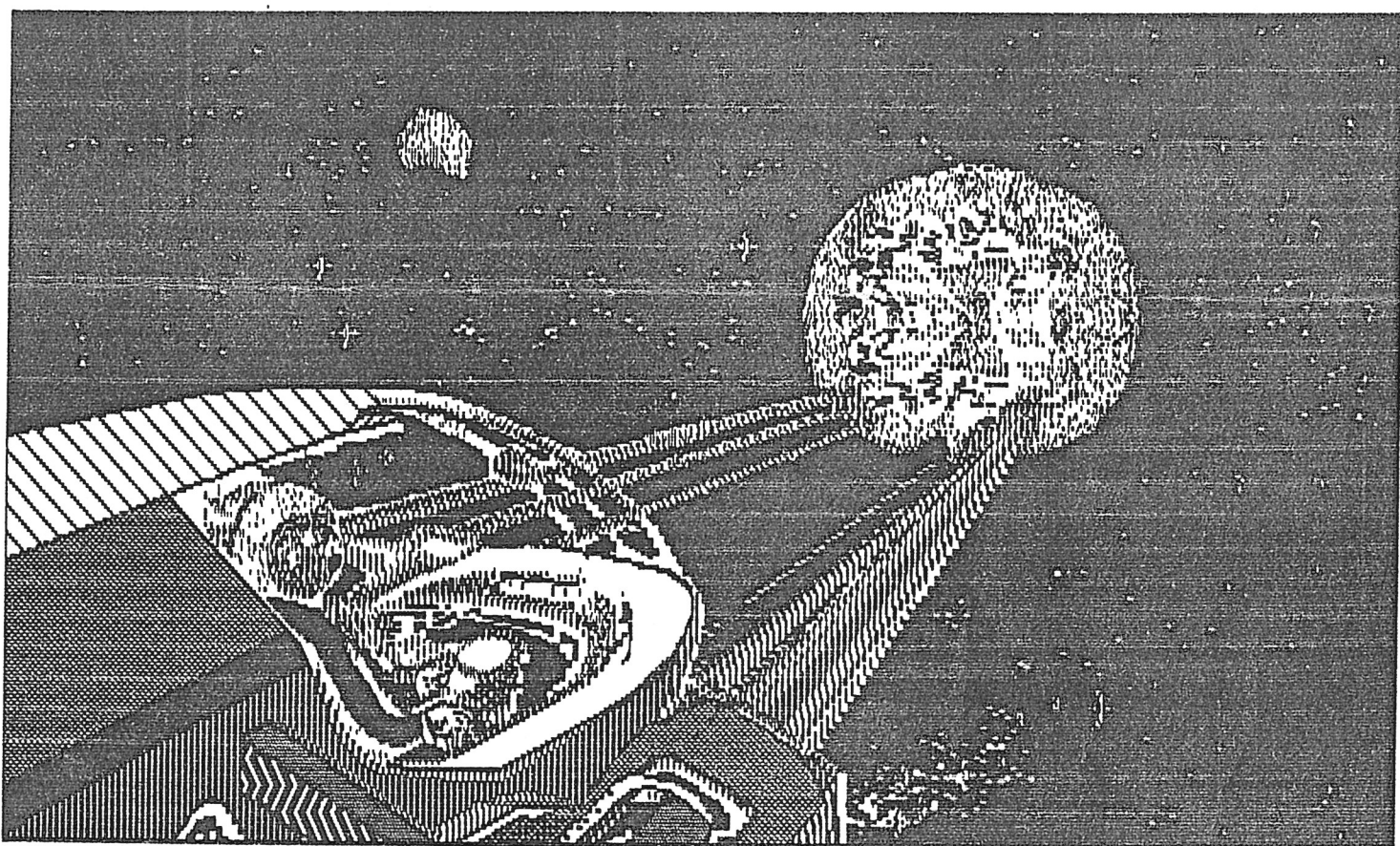


ORIC

USER
MONTHLY

Number 26 October 1989



STAAWIND

from
H.G.C.

Edited and Distributed by Robert Cook, 10 Thomson Ave., King's Norton, Birmingham B38 8YD

Issue 26 : October : 1989 : 65p : Edited by R.Cook

Editorial: Many thanks to everyone who has written to me to congratulate myself and the other two OUM writers, Jon Haworth and Dave Dick. Many of you wrote in to say that issue 25 was possibly the best issue yet, the questionnaire results were very popular. Remember though, that the readers really made that feature by sending in their replies.

You should by now have received a questionnaire-form from HGC (Mailorder), the results of which will help Allan Whitaker, who runs HGC, to give it's customers as good a service as possible. The replies should have been back in by now, but if you haven't yet replied I'm sure that if you did reply now the results would still be of some use. So, help out and in the end it'll be you that benefits. See the news section for more HGC details.

To end this editorial, just a note to remind contributors that material they may have sent in quite a few months ago is still being held. There is a great deal of extra contributions that lack of room force a delay on, but this material will be used sooner or later - keep reading.

Robert Cook

~NEWS~

HGC (Mailorder) has sent out it's summer '89 price list, and as usual it contains very good prices, I noted that HGC's own software is now cheaper in some cases. Football, Winter Games and Starwind are all now £ 5.99 (each) whereas they were £ 6.50 previously. All have received good reviews in OUM.

Items on this list that I don't think were on the last list include the brilliant adventure-writing utility "The Quill" by Gilsoft, it was originally priced at £ 17.00 by Gilsoft but HGC sell it for just £ 3.25 (tape) inc. P&P. Can you miss out ???

An extra hardware item on this list is the MCP-40 four-colour printer, it costs the quite amazing price of £ 45.00 inc. P&P. If you need a printer this is the place to go. Software starts from as little as £ 0.99 inc. P&P.

Another Oric-supplying company is SRS Microsystems Ltd who I had not even heard of until I received a letter from them a little while ago. Having already sold copies of 'The Haunt' (our own release) they may be selling more OUM products soon. I haven't as yet seen a price-list from SRS so I can't make comments just yet, SRS are at:

SRS Microsystems Ltd, 94 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Herts.
Tel: (0923)-26602

Due to a very good reason, OUM cannot get to this November's 'Alternative Micro Show' but HGC will be there with software so please try to get to it, it's at Bingley Hall (in Stafford). Doors open at 10:00 am until 5:00pm on Saturday, 11th November 1989.

'Cricket', our third software release is now available. Written by Alistair Way, it is an action game costing just £ 2.99 inc. P&P. At the moment, it is Atmos only whilst Oric-1 compatibility is being checked-out. It's expected that an Oric-1 version will be released next month. Not wishing to fool buyers, it doesn't feature stunning graphics, but animation is very good.

Saying that though, the graphics in 'Cricket' are by no means poor.

Our other release 'Krystal Worlds!', an adventure, is still being worked on and is slowly coming along.

HINTS+ TIPS

The next few 'hints & tips' sections in OUM will contain some brilliant new cheats for many games. I haven't heard of anybody discovering brand-new 'infinite lives' pokes/dokes in a fair while so I had a crack at it myself and after a number of hours making mistakes I found the pokes for a couple of games, and various cheats for many others. Stuck in a game? Write to me and I'll try to sort out a cheat if there isn't one already.

First up is an 'infinite lives' poke for BOMBYX which is the first success I had with infinite lives discovering, there was one already out for this game but it didn't work, the cheat:

DOKE#2B45,#EAEA : RUN

I don't know anybody who has managed to pass level 5 in 'Playground 21' but before you get excited I'm not about to help you. You may be interested in knowing that there are 14 screens, the titles are:

1. Oh no...not another ladder game
2. Load Runner
3. The Power of...
4. The Playground Entrance
5. Title Screen
6. The Bauta Mushroom
7. The Escalator Room
8. Over the Aqua
9. The main ladder
10. Seen Humpback before?
11. Will this give you the hump?
12. Den Svenska Leksplatsen
13. JETSSET, PHONE HOME!
14. The Radio-Active Chamber.

If anyone knows what the title of screen 12 means then please tell me !!!

Here is a little program from Mr Stan Ellison, from Manchester. The program give various patterns on the screen, Mr Ellison says to 'play around' with values for A and B for different patterns, in lines 10 and 40.

```

10 HIRES : A=0 : B=120
20 FOR N=#A000 TO#BF3F STEP 2
30 POKE N,B+A : POKE N+1,42+A
40 IF A 25 THEN A=0
50 A=A+1 : NEXT N
60 GET Z$ : PAPER 4

```

Okay, next I'll just remind you that adventure-game help is available on the following titles: Indiana Smith, The Haunt, Waxworks, Wizard of Akyrz, Zodiac, House of Death, The Hobbit, Captains Log, Arrow of Death pt 1, A View to a Kill, Circus, and others.

Continuing with OUM's new policy of printing as many listings as possible, here is one from Mr H.C.Brown from Essex. The program has been written to help out anyone who has had problems when using a large DATA-base, and needs to recall sections of the DATA. On the Oric system the RESTORE command will reset the data-pointer to the first DATA statement encountered which can lead to errors unless careful programming is used.

The following program will allow you to read DATA from any line, not just the first one. As you'll see when you RUN it, the second lot of DATA will be printed before the first lot, clever eh ??? Mr Brown has come up with an excellent program and one I've found alot of use for.

```

10 XX=100: REM Set pointer to line 100
15 REM Always necessary to set pointer first
20 FOR A=1 TO 6 : READ A : PRINT A : NEXT
21 PRINT "-----"
25 XX=90 : GOSUB 60000 : REM Set pointer to line 90
30 FOR D=1 TO 5 : READ D$: PRINT D : NEXT
40 PRINT "-----"
90 DATA THIS,IS,A,TEST,PROGRAM
95 PRINT "-----"
100 DATA HOW,ABOUT,THIS,FOR,A,TEST
215 XX=90 : GOSUB 60000 : REM Set
50000 STOP
60000 L=1231
60010 NXT=DEEK(L) : IF NXT=0 THEN RETURN
60020 IF DEEK(L+2)=XX THEN 60050
60030 IF DEEK(L+2)>XX THEN RETURN
60040 L=NXT : GOTO 60010
60050 IF PEEK(L+4)=145 THEN DOKE 187,L-1
60060 RETURN

```

This has been quite a large 'Hints & Tips' section - keep the contributions coming and similar sections will follow.

OUM products

- 'The Haunt' - an Oric-1 48k/Atmos machine-code adventure - £ 1.99
- 'League Soccer' - an Atmos only football managerial game - £ 3.99
- 'Cricket' - the only game of it's kind for the Oric - £ 2.99, Atmos only
- 'The Oric Games Guide' - a booklet containing 27 software reviews - £ 1.00

All prices include P&P.

If you are a user of the music utility 'Composer' and would like to receive some music tracks arranged and entered by me then send a blank tape and an s.a.e. to OUM. There is alot of original work within the 40 or so pieces I've done, and some tracks by Debbie Gibson, Erasure, Depeche Mode, Pet Shop Boys, and many more. There are also a number of classical and traditional pieces.

~ FOR SALE/WANTED ~

If you wish to advertise in this OUM classifieds section then write your ad. clearly in no more than 40 words (exc. name+address) and send it to:
OUM, 10 Thomson Ave, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38, 8YD.

The service is free to all readers.

For sale: Oric-1 keyboard / case (no internals) - £ 5.00 inc. P&P

Contact: Mr P. Farnese, 5 Southchurch Hall Close, Southend, Essex, SS1, 2TE.

Wanted: 'Scuba Dive' by Durell, for Atmos.

Contact: Mr Matthew Beales, 1 Friends Field, Cuckoo Hill, Bures, Suffolk,
CO8, 5LH.

For sale: Oric-1 (boxed), including '3D Maze' game, offers.

Contact: Mr J.Yee, 638 Green Lanes, London, N8, OSD.

Free: Original Oric tapes to any OUM reader(s), all that is required is return postage and packing. Anyone interested should write or telephone for availability, the list:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Producer</u>
Optimum	Accounts	NML
Space Mission	Arcade	CRL
Invoicing	Financial	NML
Account Book	Financial	Softbacks
Super Advanced Br'kout	Arcade	Tansoft
Breakout	Arcade	Express
Bank Account	Financial	NML
Krillys	Arcade	Orpheus
Galaxy 5	Arcade	Durell

nb. not all games on 'Galaxy 5' are Atmos compatible.

Contact: Mr P.Canning, 1 Murrell Lane, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts. , SG5, 4PP.

Tel: (0462)-730067

When writing to place an ad. in this section, please state if you want your own address printed or if you would like OUM to pass on enquiries, freely.

Issue 27

For a copy of issue 27 (November 1989) send 65p + A5 s.a.e. or £ 1.00 without
A five month sub. is £ 3.25 + 5 A5 s.a.e's or £ 5.00 without them.

A years sub. inc. P&P is just £ 11.00.

When P&P is included in price (when you don't send s.a.e's) OUM is posted by 1st class postage.

Cheques/postal orders (cash is accepted): " O.U.M. (R.Cook) "

For back-issues, OUM software and other products, write for details.

Other countries, the subscriptions inc. P&P are: Europe = £ 14.00

World = £ 15.75

RAMbling in the ROM - 7Envelope

Well, I did have to think of a name for the bit where I respond to your letters! A big thankyou to all who have written. First off is Robin Kimberley from Leamington Spa, who is indeed still using his Byte Drive 500 disc drive. This is largely thanks to the efforts of Dr. Ray McLaughlin (address below), who has rewritten and updated the BD500 DOS through versions 3.2, 4.0, and 5.0 to the present 6.0. According to Robin, the latest version puts the Oric on a par with the BBC as far as Basic is concerned. Dr. McLaughlin has also written an impressive word processor, 'Word-Speed', and an EPROM programmer which uses the BBC 'Multiprom' hardware. A macro assembler and disc doctor are also available. Finally, it seems Dr. McLaughlin has a new disc interface ready, to replace the old ITL Kathmill 'Hybrid' system. I wonder, will this enable those of us with a slave drive to hook it up to the interface and run BD500 DOS software? If you are interested, or have got a Byte Drive gathering dust, the address to write to is:

Razorsoft, 28 Farmfields Close, SHEFFIELD S19 6LR.

A letter from Judy Simms contains a desperate plea. She has a disc editor program called 'DiskEd', written in Basic (lines 10 to 65 are function definitions if that helps you recognise it), but has mislaid her manual. Can anyone help?

Jean Marie Da Silva from France (yup, OUM reaches the parts, etc...) has the old problem of the Oric not loading from cassette when the disc drive is connected. There is an answer if you're handy with a soldering iron - to fit a buffer to the 02 clock line on the expansion port, and David Wilkin of Sunbury-on-Thames is the man who's actually done it. If anyone else has this problem, drop me a line and I'll put you in touch with David.

Now that little lot doesn't seem to have left me much room this month. I'll hold over my planned piece on the meaning of 'RAM overlay', so those who queried the sub-title 'Overlay' a couple of months ago will have to wait a little longer. Following that I thought it might be interesting to look at just how a disc drive connects to the Oric and boots up its own control system, so there's plenty in store. I'm going to resist the temptation to expand RAMROM any further!

Finally....

Of bugs and bytes

We're not finished yet. The V1.1 EDIT command (routine at #C692) has a curious feature. When the line to be edited has been printed on screen, the cursor is returned to the start of the line - on screen! So if the line is more than one screen line long, the cursor ends up below the start of the Basic line. And a bug common to V1.0 and V1.1 - the command does not test to see if a line number is the only parameter entered. Thus EDIT 10, AAAAAA gives no error message!

Jon Haworth

Finally after a couple of months of asking questions, applying for various fliers and reading copies of O.U.M. and I.O.U.G. I now present the following article. It is meant to be informative and will (hopefully) raise a number of questions that could improve the state of things Oric at the moment. It is meant to be easy-reading and I'd just like to thank Matthew Shakeshaft and Robert Cook for all this help with this article. The article is to be split up into 4 parts, these being 'software', 'hardware', 'miscellaneous', and addresses. So, onwards ever onwards, let's begin.

(i) Software

Contrary to popular belief in the computer press, there are outlets for Oric software and new software is still to this day being released. Both O.U.M. and H.G.C. are producing software of very high quality, and there are also a number of small independent people striving to get their own works recognised. As well as the new software, there is a very large existing software base, and many titles can be picked up at competitive prices from HGC and Wolsoft to name but a couple. If you are looking for an "oldie" then be sure to write to these respective companies.

Having said that new software is still being released, there seems to be a somewhat state of apathy on the purchasing of this new software. Sales are very low, and if this continues then perhaps the companies will be forced to pull out of the Oric market. This would be a terrible blow and perhaps the downfall of all things Oric, as no-one wants to not have new software for their computer. This type of situation has been the downfall of many computers in the past, so let's have some buying, it's not as if the prices are expensive!

There is also a large French software-base as the Oric was a popular computer over there and it would be nice to see some of these titles more widely available over here. How about getting in touch with the Club Disc-Oric about importing some of these French titles.

Moving on, perhaps a sort of public domain/shareware facility should be set up. I do know that Allan Whitaker of H.G.C. has something on the go, so see him for more details. Still, it wouldn't hurt for someone else to set one up, and I think that a lot of people have programs they might want to donate.

(ii) Hardware

Both of the Oric computers are available through the retailers at very competitive prices compared to what they were when they were released. Along with this there is an abundance of other hardware such as disk-drives and controllers, drum-machines, light pens, modems, and printers. This all adds up to the fact that there is the opportunity to expand your system at cheap prices if wanted. Think of the advantages of having disks, not cassettes, or having a modem!

Perhaps it would also be a good idea for OUM to set up a sort of hardware helpline service where readers can write in with their problems in using or obtaining hardware, etc. Also this could pose as a sort of forum and could get many people involved.

I also think that many people would be delighted to see new hardware being released, and thinking along these lines, how about a mouse or memory expansion? I think these would be most welcome!

(iii) Miscellaneous

One idea that has been knocking-around is the idea of an Oric User show. I think this must first be thought about long and hard due to the fact that many micro shows in the past have been failiures and meant the end of this type of thing. Perhaps one of the most restricting things about the show is the numbers of users still using their Orics - you can't have a show and only 50 or so users turn up ! Also, where would a show be held ? In London the rates are too high, but this is probably the most accessable of places for everyone...it goes on, but if someone were to organise a show I think they must think about it first. Perhaps the Alternative Micro Shows are the way ahead ??

Moving onto French users, there is another magazine called "Club Disc'Oric" and it would be great to see an English version of this (which there now is - Ed) and it would undoubtedly show support over the channel. However, as I understand it the magazine is only available on cassette or disk (hence the name), but I also think it would be a wise move to print-out the magazine and make it available as text like OUM. Still, with magazines, there were a number of other Oric magazines, such as I.O.U.G. and Your Oric. Wouldn't it be good if the owners of these magazines offered to loan them out or photocopy them (for a price) for people who haven't got or seen these magazines ??

(iv) Addresses

Software & Hardware

- Wolsoft, 27 Dore Close, Northampton, NN3, 4PZ.
- R & AJ Preston, Kings Hall Court, St. Brides Major, Mid. Glamorgan, CF32,0SE
- H.G.C. Mailorder, 8 Staley Hall Rd, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15, 3DT. *
- Software Cellar, 1a Hightown Road, Luton, Beds, LU2, 0BW. *
- Capri Marketing Ltd, 9 Dean Street, Marlow, Bucks, SL7, 3AA.
- Gilsoft International, 2 Park Crescent, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6, 8HD.
- * Has been used, and is approved by OUM.

Repairs

Phil Blythe, 7 Mandeville Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21, 8AA.

Publications

- Oric User Monthly, 10 Thomson Ave, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38, 8YD.
- Club Disc'Oric, 58 Rue des Sculpteurs, 93240 STAINS, France.
- Matthew Shakeshaft, 47 Newton Road, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, Lancs. PR2, 1DY. (IOUG Back-issues)
- Mr J. Chaplin, 208 Dereham Rd, New Cotessey, Norwich, NR5, 0SW. (Oric BBs)

As you can see the Oric is a far from dead computer, and with continued support we can keep the flag flying way into the 1990's ! Oh, I forgot to mention there are a number of independent people writing software, so check out OUM for details of that.

- MATT -

I'll probably discuss the article with you next month. There were some very interesting ideas brought up there - more next issue.

NEWSFLASH *** - All copies of 'Cricket' will contain Oric soundtracks to listen to, they'll be audio recordings on side 2 of the tape, they have never been heard before (arranged by me) and there is no extra cost.

DAVE'S DATA

9

This month we continue where Dave left off last month with his mini-reviews:

"Oric Golf" - R&R Software

A nice and simple golf simulation, you have a choice of 9 or 18 holes. Each scenario is drawn rather slowly while you wait. However, if you like golf then swing into action with this.

Rating: 6 out of 10

"Feasibility Experiment" - Channel 8

This is a typical graphical adventure from Channel 8, easy input via 'N', 'S', 'LOOK', 'EXAM', etc. and nicely drawn scenes.

Rating: 7 out of 10

"Scrabble" - WE. Software

If you like the game of scrabble you'll love this, no more worries about losing tiles or who can't add up correctly. It's for 2 to 4 players, a must for board freaks.

Rating: 8 out of 10

Dave Dick

Dave will be back with more next issue, meanwhile as HGC (Mailorder) have just sent out another cracking price-list I'm going to briefly go over the 'musts' in Oric software that are on the list.

Firstly, 'The Quill' is a great text-adventure writer and is the only program of it's kind on the Oric, it's £ 3.25 from HGC, originally £ 17.00. Lone Raider, a great arcade game from Severn can be got for just £ 1.99, a real bargain. Pasta Blasta (a personal favourite) from Softek can also be bought for just £1.99. Wordworth, the pure amazing word-processor from FGC is a bargain at just £ 4.50, don't miss it. Megabase, the Orpheus data-base costs £ 4.50 too. The Last Warrior, HGC's own adventure release is just £ 4.99, Atmos only.

On the hardware side, the MCP-40 4 colour printer is (as mentioned earlier) just £ 45.00. Atmos 48k computers are also £ 45.00, and the classic book 'Oric Advanced User Guide' is just £ 4.99. All those soft/hardware items inc. P&P in the UK, for Europe/World postage rates write to HGC.

HGC (Mailorder), 8 Staley Hall Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15, 3DT. Please note that HGC no longer have the freepost service, so please add the correct postage to your letters & orders. Send a s.s.a.e. for price lists.

Next month

Reviews, news, hints & tips, RAMbling in the ROM, and all the other usual ingredients that make OUM very tasty. However, something to look forward to even more if (at last !) the OUM music section !!! It will, month-by-month (7 to be exact) show you how to make great Oric music soundtracks.

If you like music and want to hear a full 60 minutes of Oric soundtracks all entered by yours truly then send a s.a.e. and a blank tape that is at least a c60, a c90 will also do. No c120 tapes please. Remember, they must be new blank never-before-used tapes or the recordings will be faulty.