



# RADIO DUBLIN THE BIG D ITS HISTORY

## ITS BEGINNINGS:

RADIO DUBLIN (THE BIG D) is the oldest free land-based station in Dublin, and also in Ireland. The station began in 1966 when Kenneth Edwards (now station controller) began test transmissions with a very low powered transmitter of under 10 watts. The rig because of its low power, was almost useless for broadcasting and proved effective only for point to point communication. The distance covered by this transmitter was never more than 1 mile.

Modifications to the transmitter over the period from 1966-1969 resulted in an increase in power to 20 watts. The station was now known as Radio Baile Utha Cliath. In 1969 the first transmitter was abandoned and a new transmitter was built, using parts from the first. Test transmissions followed and a regular programme from Radio Dublin was put out every Sunday from 12.30-1.00pm. Programmes were at this time all taped. In 1971 Mark Tee and Stevie I. joined the station and the Kenneth Edwards shows were supplemented by Mark Tee.

In September 1971, Radio Dublin had a change in location and live programmes were instituted. Shortly after this Prince Terry joined the station and took up his role as Disc Jockey, and programme time was extended to 2 hours every Sunday. The station at this time was briefly known as Static Radio. Broadcasting power was greatly increased by a new V antenna, and attained its present power of 60 watts. The station used numerous mailing addresses in Dublin, but despite their effectiveness, these addresses had to be abandoned. The station then returned to the name Radio Dublin, the Big D and an English mailing address was used. The station has continued with regular programmes every Sunday on 1183 KHz. 253 metres until the present.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Besides the Transmitter, Radio Dublin's technical facilities comprise of a TEAC 4-Track Stereo 3 speed Taperecorder which is used for all taped programmes and jingles. A National Cassette Recorder is also used for jingles. The station also possesses 2 Record Decks, a ESR Mono and an HMV Radio Gram. The studio record library comprise of approximately 40 LPs and well over 200 singles, to which new records are constantly added. The station has also recently added an internal Monitoring System, and headphones are used by the DJ concerned during his programme.

In 1972 after 15 months broadcasting the dreaded G.P.O. tracked the station to within 100 yds of the studio. Well the crew decided that it would be safer to close down the station rather than be caught and face a court summons. The plan was to come back on short wave in 6 weeks, but for various reasons this never came to be.

In 1974 the Prince attempted a come back which lasted a couple of months and again fell over for numerous reasons.

In late summer '74 Doctor Don arrived driving an X BMT Van and through his girlfriend was introduced to Prince Terry. (Debbie).

A year later Don and D.J.Debbie, now married were operating Radio Westside on S.W. With Westside organised Doctor Don and Prince Terry were determined to Put Radio Dublin back on the air where it belonged. The T.X. was damaged and Don knew a wizard who could fix it at the right price. So came the cool but capable Captain in his 1958 Jag. The Captain and crew set up several locations with high aerials some as long as 400 feet. The rig was ready to go and programmes began in Oct' '75, with power at 30 watts covering one side of the city only.

In '76 a linear boosted the power to 130watts covering the Dublin area and reports also came from Naas, Kildare town, Carlow, Meath, Droghda, Kilkenny, Newry, etc.

At night the signal was recieved in Cork and across the sea in England.

In early '76 night time shows commenced on 227M.W. and this grew to 4 nights a week from 11-30 till late.

The Captain on impulse put together a second transmitter and so R.Dublin could operate from two locations. Later a third and fourth rig was made for S.W. and V.H.F. all the time making it harder for the G.P.O. to track down the station.

While all programmes are going out a constant patrol using high powered walkie talkie radios <sup>is</sup> in force.

Today the record collection consists of several thousand singles and almost one thou' L.P.s. Equipment also has been improved on and Gerrard Turntables are used.

The station is self supporting and non-profit making.

Radio Dublin on S.W. is the only Radio Station representing this country in Europe.

It is interesting to note that while North, South, and West of Ireland have there own Local Radio station, the nations capital depends on an unauthorised RADIO DUBLIN to bring a very needed service to Dublins fair city.

Radio Dublin Schedule; Tues' Wed' Thur' on 227meters from 11-30 'till late.(P.M.)  
(Fri)

Sun' afternoons on 253meters (Beside Radio One) 1-30 on.