



# RADIO DUBLIN

253 METRES MEDIUM WAVE

20 RANELAGH,

DUBLIN 6.

PHONE: 758684

## STATION HISTORY UP TO DECEMBER, 1977.

THIS IS A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF RADIO DUBLIN. TO COVER ALL IN DETAIL WOULD REQUIRE A COMPLETE MAGAZINE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY ALONE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AMOUNTS TO OVER 40 FOOLSCAP PAGES. THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE APPEARS ON PAGES 6 AND 7 OF THE JULY ISSUE OF SCENE MAGAZINE, THE MOST RECENT BEING ON THE KEVIN MARRON PAGE IN THE SUNDAY WORLD-ON NOVEMBER 13th, AND THE IRISH TIMES OF THE 3RD OF DECEMBER 1977.

RADIO DUBLIN WAS FOUNDED IN 1966 BY KEN SHEEHAN AND OPERATED WITH PRIMITIVE LOW POWERED EQUIPMENT UNTIL 1974. THE STAFF THEN CONSISTED OF KEN SHEEHAN AND PRINCE TERRY (ROGER LLOYD). THEN DR. DON (DONALD MOORE) ARRIVED WITH HIS WIFE DEBBIE (DYMPHNA) AND SHORTLY AFTER THE CAPTAIN (EAMON COOKE) CAME ON THE SCENE WITH THE RADIO DUBLIN JAG. EQUIPMENT WAS GRADUALLY IMPROVED UNTIL IN 1976 THE POWER OUTPUT WAS 1000 WATTS WITH GOOD RECEPTION THROUGHOUT DUBLIN AND PARTS OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES.

IN JUNE '77 A PROTEST MARCH WAS ORGANISED FROM THE GPO TO LEINSTER HOUSE WHERE A PETITION WITH 10,000 SIGNATURES WAS HANDED IN TOGETHER WITH AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE. THE RESULT WAS A FLAT REFUSAL BY THE DEPT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS WHO POINTED OUT THAT THE BROADCASTING ACT OF 1960 GAVE THE SOLE POWER OF ESTABLISHING BROADCASTING STATIONS TO RTE, CONSEQUENTLY AN INDEPENDENT STATION COULD NOT BE AUTHORISED WITHOUT AN AMMENDMENT TO THAT ACT. OFFICERS OF THE DEPT OF P & T VISITED THE STATION ON FOUR OCCASIONS AND REMOVED EQUIPMENT. IN JUNE '77 A TEST CASE WAS BROUGHT TO COURT AND DISMISSED BECAUSE OF A FLAW IN THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT 1926. ALL SEIZED EQUIPMENT WAS RETURNED. THE POSITION THEN WAS STALEMATE; THE LAW REQUIRED AMMENDMENT TO SECURE A CONVICTION AND RADIO DUBLIN WERE PRESSING FOR AN AMMENDMENT TO SECURE A LICENCE. IN JUNE '77 DR. DON LEFT THE STATION AND SET UP AN OPPOSITION STATION CALLING ITSELF ARD RADIO. AT THIS TIME THE RADIO DUBLIN STAFF CONSISTED OF JIMMY ST. LEDGER, THE CAPTAIN, SYLVIA, ALISTER MAC AND JOHNNY DAY.

BEFORE JOINING RADIO DUBLIN SYLVIA WAS A PROFESSIONAL DISC JOCKEY WITH BARBARELLA'S, ANNABELLE'S AND A NUMBER OF THE CITY'S HIGH CLASS NIGHT CLUBS THIS WAS A REAL STEP FORWARD FOR THE STATION SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME ANY FEMALE HAD PRESENTED A PROGRAMME ON PIRATE RADIO. NEEDLESS TO SAY THIS GENERATED A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY WITH SYLVIA'S PHOTOGRAPH APPEARING IN MAGAZINES AND NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS SOMETIMES TWICE OR THREE TIMES A WEEK. SHE IS YOUNG, GOOD LOOKING AND HAS THE DRIVING FORCE NECESSARY FOR THE STATION TO PROGRESS. IN NOVEMBER '77 SYLVIA BECAME SECRETARY OF RADIO DUBLIN. THIS IS A TOUGH, DEMANDING SEVEN DAY A WEEK JOB WITH LONG HOURS AND AT PRESENT NO PAY FOR IT.

AT THIS STAGE THE DEMAND FOR REQUESTS AND DEDICATIONS ON THE STATION WAS SO GREAT THAT OUR PHONE LINE AT 758684 WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO LISTENERS THROUGHOUT PROGRAMMES. ALSO DURING THE WEEK FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES.



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THE STATIONS FIRST SPONSORED PROGRAMME WAS INTRODUCED IN JULY '77 BY SCENE MAGAZINE. HOURS WERE EXTENDED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 8P.M. TO 2A.M. AND ON WEEKENDS BROADCASTING WAS ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS. JOHN PAUL JOINED THE STAFF IN SEPTEMBER '77 AND WITH D.J. SYLVIA HELPED ORGANISE THE MISS RADIO DUBLIN CONTEST WITH THE RESULTS AND PRIZEGIVING AT A MAJOR FUNCTION IN THE ORMOND HOTEL ON THE 15TH OF SEPTEMBER. FIRST PRIZE WAS £50, A TROPHY, AN EVENING DRESS BY ZELDA BOUTIQUE AND A HAIR-DO BY PETER MARKS, PRESENTED BY THE BRANNIGAN BROTHERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS, RECORD COMPANIES ETC IN ATTENDANCE.

AT THIS STAGE THE DEMAND WAS FOR A REGULAR RADIO DUBLIN DISCO FOR OUR YOUNGER LISTENERS. SLACE ALICE IN O'CONNELL STREET WAS ACQUIRED FOR TUESDAY NIGHTS AND REGULAR WEEKLY DISCOS WERE HELD FROM 8 TO MIDNIGHT. WITH EXPENSE RUNNING HIGH AT SLACK ALICE THE RADIO DUBLIN DISCO MOVED TO THE TELEVISION CLUB, HARCOURT STREET WHERE A VERY POPULAR DISCO IS HELD EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM 10 TO 2A.M. WITH D.J. SYLVIA, LARRY GOGAN, GERRY CAMPBELL, JAMES DILLON AND DANNY HUGHES ON STAGE.

IN SEPTEMBER '77 GERRY CAMPBELL AND JAMES DILLON WERE A REGULAR PART OF RADIO DUBLIN WHICH BY THEN HAD EXTENDED ITS HOURS ON WEEKENDS TO 36 HOUR NON STOP FROM MIDDAY SATURDAY TO MIDNIGHT SUNDAY. EXTRA D.J.'S WERE DRAFTED IN INCLUDING KIERAN MURRAY, SECRETARY OF THE FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN IRELAND WHO HAS A REGULAR SHOW FOR FRC MEMBERS EVERY SUNDAY MORNING BETWEEN 11 and 12. WE ALSO HAVE THE VERY WELCOME GUEST APPEARANCE OF THE STATION'S FOUNDER KEN SHEEHAN. THE PRESENT RADIO DUBLIN STAFF CONSISTS OF MYSELF SOMEWHERE IN THE BACKGROUND, SYLVIA, MIKE EASTWOOD, JOHN PAUL, GERRY CAMPBELL, JAMES DILLON, KIERAN MURRAY OF FRC IRELAND, MARTY HALL, DAVE MOORE, ROLAND BURKE, DAVE FANNING AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST JOHN HENNESSY OF THE BAND CENTRE.

WHEN POSSIBLE WE TRY TO BRING OUR LISTENERS INTERVIEWS WITH THE BIG STARS LIKE STATUS QUO AND THIN LIZZY. SOME HAVE COME ALONG TO THE STUDIO FOR A QUICK CHAT OVER THE AIR LIKE DEMIS ROUSSOS, DICKY ROCK AND GERALDINE BRANNIGAN. TWO T.D.'S HAVE ALSO BEEN TO THE STATION TO SEE HOW WE WORK AND HOW BEST TO HELP US IN OUR FIGHT FOR A BROADCASTING LICENCE. SUCH VISITS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

TO BACK TRACK A LITTLE - IN NOVEMBER '77 JIMMY ST. LEDGER, JOHNNY DAY AND ALISTER MACE DECIDED TO LEAVE RADIO DUBLIN AND RE-START PREMIER RADIO IN KILDARE. THIS SHOULD BE ON THE AIR IN THE NEW YEAR.

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE NUMBER OF COMMERCIALS AND SPONSORED PROGRAMMES HAS BEEN INCREASED - MAINLY TO CATCH UP ON EXPENSES. THE MAJOR ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE ARE ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE, TRAVEL TO THE VARIOUS RECEPTIONS AND INTERVIEWS, POSTAGE WHICH CAN RUN UP TO £10 SOME WEEKS, MEAL OVER THE LONG WEEKEND AND OF COURSE TRANSMITTER MAINTENANCE. VERY SOON WE HOPE TO PURCHASE A COMMERCIAL TRANSMITTER WHICH SHOULD SOLVE MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS WITH RECEPTION, IN THE MEANTIME WE CONTINUE WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PRESENT EQUIPMENT.



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THE RADIO DUBLIN CLUB MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO INCREASE. MEMBERSHIP COSTS £1 PER YEAR AND MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO DISCOUNT ON RECORDS, TAPES, CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS IN A NUMBER OF SHOPS IN DUBLIN INCLUDING, DOLPHIN DISCS OF TALBOT STREET (SEE STAN), DOLPHIN DISCS CAPEL STREET, DOLPHIN DISCS MARY STREET, THE CAMELOT TALBOT STREET, SOUND OF MUSIC BURGH QUAY, SOUNDS AROUND O'CONNELL STREET. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ MURRAY'S RECORDS ALL BRANCHES, HECTOR VALUE OF WEXFORD STREET, MAURICE FOR BARGAINS IN SOUTH RICHMOND ST. THESE ARE SOME OF THE PLACES WHERE DISCOUNT IS AVAILABLE TO RADIO DUBLIN CLUB MEMBERS. A COMPLETE LIST IS GIVEN TO NEW MEMBERS SO DONT FORGET TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING. AN ADDED BONUS IS THAT INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL THE RADIO DUBLIN D.J.'S WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FREE TO CLUB MEMBERS.

WELL THAT'S THE POSITION WITH THE STATION IN EARLY DECEMBER 1977. REGARDING OUR BROADCASTING LICENCE - WE APPLIED FOR ONE IN JULY LAST BUT HAVE HAD NO WORD BACK YET.

A PETITION FOR A LICENCE FOR RADIO DUBLIN IS BEING ORGANISED WITH A VIEW TO COLLECTING AS MANY SIGNATURES AS POSSIBLE TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS. SIGNATURES AND ADDRESSES AT PRESENT TOTAL AROUND 14,000 BUT MANY MORE ARE REQUIRED. PETITION SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE FREE BY WRITING TO RADIO DUBLIN AT 20 RANELAGH, DUBLIN 6.

THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN RTE, RECORD COMPANIES AND ALL IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS THAT RADIO DUBLIN IS PROVIDING A BADLY NEEDED SERVICE. ONE HAS ONLY TO LOOK AT THE STARLIGHT SUMMER POLL AWARD 1977 TO SEE RTE VOTED THE MOST POPULAR STATION IN THE COUNTRY, AN UNLICENCED 2 DAY A WEEK RADIO DUBLIN COMING SECOND, AND IN THIRD PLACE DOWNTOWN RADIO, FULLY LICENCED AND OPERATING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. AT THE STARLIGHT AWARDS NIGHT IN THE CHARIOT INN D.J. SYLVIA ACCEPTED THE ENGRAVED SILVER TANKARD AWARD ON BEHALF OF RADIO DUBLIN FROM VINCENT HANLEY OF R.T.E.

SOME HAVE COME OUT OPENLY IN SUPPORT OF THE STATION SUCH AS MR. PHILIP GREENE, RETIRED CONDUCTOR OF THE RADIO EIREANN LIGHT ORCHESTRA, AND MR. JOHN O'CONNELL T.D. OTHERS PREFER TO STAY IN THE BACKGROUND PERHAPS DOUBTING THE SINCERITY OF THE STATION IN ITS QUEST FOR A LICENCE. WE TAKE THE MATTER SO SERIOUS THAT SYLVIA AND MYSELF DEVOTE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK TO PROMOTING RADIO DUBLIN - WHICH INCIDENTALLY IS YOUR STATION. MUCH WORK HAS YET TO BE DONE AND ANY LITTLE HELP IS APPRECIATED, EVEN THE OCCASIONAL LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL T.D. OR THE NEWSPAPERS.

AGAIN IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE STATION DO WRITE TO US AT 20 RANELAGH, DUBLIN 6.

THE CAPTAIN.....