

South-Eastern Air Power

by

Bernard

Phelan.

ABC RADIO - "THE SOUND OF THE SOUTH"

IN A SENSE, ABC Radio are everything Suirside Radio have wanted to be - a very professional, commercial, low-key community, independent radio station. Staffed by vastly experienced broadcasters, the majority of them are Englishmen who have worked on well-known, foreign radio networks such as Radio Caroline and the Voice of Peace.

ABC's decision to choose Tramore as their base may seem odd, when taking into consideration the presence of two other radio operations within eight miles of the studio. The station was originally planned in January 1982, when Kevin Turner (one time station manager at Suirside and former Top 40 presenter on the legendary Radio Caroline), Clive Derek, Andy Ellis and Stuart Clark agreed to establish a Radio Station in Tramore because of the town's economic potential and expanding population. By March 2nd ABC was broadcasting a daily schedule, complete with news service.

Since then, Kevin Turner has left over disagreements with the other three directors on how the station should be run. Nigel Roberts was brought in from Sunshine Radio in Dublin, to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Turner.

Stuart Clarke says ABC are operating a different service than WLR or Suirside. "Our policy is to provide a good music and information service, without the mane garble one finds on other local stations."

The day time schedule is very much pop-rock orientated - a Radio Luxemburg type "rip-off", but as ABC generally aim to capture the under-25 listenership bracket, the owners feel the introduction of long community programmes could prove unsuccessful and adversely effect the strong popularity of their so-far, successful venture.

All programmes between 7 a.m. are presented by the English staff, with local personalities manning their own shows from 6 until midnight. At weekends, many of the programmes are presented by some ex-Suirside disc jockeys, Paul Dower, Mike Kenny and Martin Kelly now host regular shows on Saturday and Sunday.

Most of the money earned from advertising is re-invested in the station itself. New studio equipment has been installed and improvements to the station's wave range is now said to be approximately 10 miles, although reception in parts of Waterford City is frequently inaudible. Their F.M. Range reaches about 3 miles from the studio. Station engineer Nigel Roberts proudly points out that ABC are the only local radio network in the South East to transmit in F.M. stereo.

So what does the future hold for ABC? "Naturally, we would wish to better our present standard. However, we don't intend to encroach on WLR or Suirside's territory. ABC have a very good relationship with our two neighbouring stations and we plan to maintain this" said Clive Derek.

Indeed, Des Whelan, manager at WLR, expressed the view that ABC could provide his station with very stiff competition if it were to move from Tramore into Waterford, or increase transmission power to cover the whole of Waterford city.

ABC does not pretend to be a "community" radio, hence my reason for not lavishing criticism on their lack of topical programmes. What ABC is, is a commercial music station - well planned and well presented. For the moment ABC have no plans for breaking into the city, but if they do Des Whelan and Michael Daly, could have reason to worry.

Next week: The Overall Picture - General Round-up.

ABC Sounds Like Big News

A.B.C. RADIO in Tramore have recently invested in new high technology equipment for transmitting purposes. This equipment has been specially imported from Japan and it is at present being tested at low power. The engineering section of A.B.C. are delighted with the performance of the new gear. Reports of excellent reception have come in from Kilkenny, Wexford, Dungarvan and even as far afield as Britain. A.B.C. are now the proud owners of the most powerful transmitters outside Dublin. They also have the largest coverage in the South.

Although the station does broadcast a lot of local information and community news their programmes are so relevant to listeners in Dungarvan and Kilkenny as they are to local listeners in Tramore and Waterford.

The personnel of A.B.C. are aiming not to copy our other local radio stations - W.F.R. and Suirside but to present their audience with a mainly musical format which they feel is more suitable for people at work and in shops who prefer mainly non-stop music with short bursts of lo-

LIVE LINES by "The Head"

"DOWN UNDER" the new single from "Men At Work" which is currently in the nether position of the charts in both England and America sounds very like what "Stockton's Wing" or early "Horslips" might have done. Let's hope "Stockton's Wing" release their excellent "Skidbo" single in England - it might cash in at the moment.

Dave Hunt, longtime DJ with Suirside Radio has offered them to join the progressive ABC Radio in Tramore. He should be a big asset to them. Speaking of ABC reminds me to tell you that popular DJ Paul Dwyer presents a very good oldies show every Sunday and lunchtime, well worth a listen. Paul has been known to sing a song or two at the Abbey Bar. I hear Jean Atkins put on a very good show at the Cosy Trench on Saturday last, where she and the very talented

IN these days of recession and unemployment, many young people are turning to music, using it as a form of escapism. The group Madness, has a big following from the unemployed youth mainly due to their songs, "Tomorrow's Just Another Day" and "Another Weary Day". Young people feel that the words of these two songs in particular, express their resentment and lack of enthusiasm due to the fact that there are no jobs available.

A few young people voice their feelings of frustration by following heavy metal groups, such as "Iron Maiden" and "AC/DC". In Waterford, the rock show on ABC radio on Monday nights gets a great response, but it is always the same people who ring asking for requests.

The majority of teenagers are retaining their interest in the charts as proved by ABC Radio's chart shows in particular the American Top 20 and Top 40 shows. Waterford's local Radio also prove this fact by having an increasing amount of young people ringing for requests to be played, "Billy Jean", the latest single from Michael Jackson being a particular favourite.

ABC Radio

ABC RADIO, based in Traamore, has become the first radio station in Ireland to carry the high-rating, syndicated radio talk programme, "How Your Mind Can Keep You Well in a Moment of Truth." The programme is produced in America by the Foundation of Human Understanding and is carried by stations all over the States and now by ABC.

The host is Roy Masters and there is no real way to explain his name. As a call-in show he has the amazing power to penetrate the deepest problems in minutes. You listen, fascinated, often identifying with the troubled caller. Suddenly your own problem surfaces. You cry. You laugh. You find yourself gaining calmity at what you have never seen before. You see the way clearly. Your problem is gone.

Roy Masters' programmes are no ordinary programmes because the host is no ordinary man. To say his conversations is an understatement. He has a profound effect on an audience and the audience will love him or hate him; there is no middle ground.

ABC explains that the programme in America is very popular because it is so controversial and they hope that their audience will find it as

Radio Runnings

THE GOVERNMENT would prefer an agreed blackout by the pirate stations in advance of any broadcasting legislation appearing before the Dail this autumn. But to judge from the comments we've received from pirates, such a co-operative outcome is unlikely. The scheme doesn't suit pirate interests.

The matter first surfaced on "Tuesday Tonight" last month when Minister of State, Ted Nealon was bantering words with Fianna Fail spokesman, Tony Leyden. Nealon's suggestion that those pirates who voluntarily ceased broadcasting would receive most favourable treatment when it came to granting licenses for the later legal stations. Those that didn't cooperate wouldn't be in the running.

In the "Evening Press", Sunshine (radio's fictitious name) was initially reported as responding sympathetically to Nealon's suggestion, but he's definitely changed his tune since. Now he says it would be very unlikely "that Sunshine would accept any voluntary blackout deadline".

For Sunshine, the licenses are against them. Blacking out before any legislation, disarming the station would mean losing advertising revenue and the break-up of their staff, which numbers 43 according to Dale, since they couldn't afford to keep it all on as they awaited the possibility of legal status.

"Ultimately" says Dale "would be losing our one asset, our audience and creating a vacuum that would be filled by RTE".

But Dale does confirm that if a Sunshine would bow to the law and close down once any binding legislation was passed, the most pressing concern is what would be the spin during any transitional phase after legislation.

What's forgotten is that though the two bills, one setting the planes, and the other setting up a legal Radio authority, will pass through the Dail simultaneously, that doesn't mean that legal Radio will spring up instantly.

"The Law is an isn't about immediate legalising legal radio, it's about setting up a radio authority," Dale points out. "Even before that Bill is passed, it will take some time to appoint the members of the authority. Then after that, they could spend six, nine months deliberating before any license is given out". The passage of any binding legislation as delayed until now licenses had been obtained "it would be the worst way to run an illegal thing" to do to wait till the licenses were allowed and then the new licensed stations were about to start.

But as he has said, Dealing Sunshine won't defy the law. Donegal Waterford, ABC aren't making ANY such concessions and are waiting to their spokesman, Dave Hunt.

We certainly won't be co-operating with any black-out" he says. The Minister's comments, "are a very clever thing to say but they won't work".

On Hunt's judgement, co-operating with the Minister wouldn't be in their interests. "The Thursday seems to be about giving licenses to community stations which I think won't work. Since we're an all-music station, I don't think we'd go for license. We'd prefer the American system of free competition".

So any blackout deadline seems a non-sense, particularly in Dublin where the stakes are highest. The real war overing will only begin when Nealon's legislation reaches the Dail and he will hardly achieve the tidy solution he desires. The police they set back knocking on the doors of the pirate stations.

For the topics of this column are only one issue in the radio debate. Keep firing it, it's still looks as if they'll run and run.

Pill Graham

abc RADIO

102.6 AM (STEREO 101)

ABC RADIO
Tramore
Co Waterford
Eire

Tel (051) 86571

"24 Hours-a-day"

"Summer Programme Schedule"

Monday to Friday

07.00 Clive Derek's Breakfast Show
10.00 Robin Ross's Morning Show
13.00 Stuart Clark's Afternoon Show
(Fri. 13.00 - 14.00 US Top 20)
16.00 Dave Hunt's Drive Time
(Fri. 18.00 - 19.00 New Records Reviewed)
19.00 Non-Stop Music Hour
20.00 Monday: Rock Show with Kieran O'Connor
Tuesday: Folk Show with Billy Cowman
Wednesday: ABC Top 30 with Clive Derek
Thursday: Country Show with Billy Power
Friday: Bouncing in the Bed with Robin Ross
22.00 Late Night ABC

Mondays: Stuart Clark

Tuesdays: Robin Ross

Wednesdays - Fridays: Andy Ellis

01.00 - 07.00 Night Flight with Pete Harris

Saturday

07.00 Breakfast Show
10.00 ABC Top 30 - Clive Derek
12.00 Featured Artist Hour
13.00 C.J. O'Keefe
16.00 Paul Scanlon
19.00 Saturday Special
22.00 Late Night ABC
24.00 Romantic Hour
01.00 - 07.00 Night Flight - Pete Harris

Sunday

07.00 Breakfast Show
10.00 C.J. O'Keefe
13.00 Golden Years - Paul Dower
15.00 American Chart Show - Andy Ellis
17.00 Featured Artist Hour
19.00 ABC Request Show - Robin Ross
22.00 Dave "The Nutter" Windsor
22.00 Late Night ABC
01.00 - 07.00 Night Flight - Pete Harris

ABC WORLD NEWS:

Mondays - Fridays every
hour between 08.00 & 20.00 inclusive.
Saturdays and Sundays every two hours



abc RADIO

1026 AM/STEREO 101

24 Hours-a-Day

Tel. 351 - 87571

Summer Programme

Schedule

Monday - Friday

09:00 The News at Radio 101
 10:00 Ross Ross Morning Show
 15:00 Steve Clark's Afternoon Show
 (17:15-18:00 US Pop 20)
 16:00 Dave Hill's Top Ten
 17:00-18:00 New Records Review
 18:00 Alan Slop Music Hour

20:00 Monday

Robson with Sean & Gerry

Tuesday

Pop Show with Billy Downes

Wednesday

ABC Top 20 with Chris Blair

Thursday

Country Show with Billy Fowler

Friday

Robson, in the UK with Peter

Ross

22:00 Late Night ABC

Music Start 101

Tues: Ross Ross

Wed - Fri:

Chris Blair

01:00 - 01:00 Night Flight

with Peter Blair

SATURDAY

11:00 Breakfast Show

10:00 ABC Top 20 (Chris Blair)

12:00 Festival After Hour

13:00 DJ O'Kaffe

15:00 Paul Scanlon

18:00 Sunday Social

22:00 Late Night ABC

24:00 Records Hour

01:00 - 02:00 5 of 10

with Peter Blair

SUNDAY

07:00 Breakfast Show

08:00 DJ O'Kaffe

09:00 Ross Ross - Paul Blair

12:00 Afternoon Chat Show

with Alan Blair

15:00 Festival After Hour

18:00 ABC Records Show

with Ross Ross

20:00 Dave Hill's Top Ten

22:00 Late Night ABC

01:00 - 02:00 Night Flight

with Peter Blair

ABC WORLD WIDE

Monday - Friday only see between

10:00 & 10:15

abc RADIO

1026 AM/STEREO 101

ABC RADIO - THE SOUTH EAST'S LARGEST
 POWERED COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION
 BROADCASTING AS FAR APART AS WALES AND
 WESTERN IRELAND AS WELL AS LOCALLY TO
 COUNTRIES SUCH AS WYFORD, TIPPERARY, CARLOW,
 KILKINNY AND OF COURSE, WATERFORD.

ADVERTISING RATE CARDS NOW AVAILABLE
 WHERE TO FIND US:

RTÉ 1	RTÉ 2	RTÉ 1	WLR	Subsidiary

ABC Here
 1026 AM.

A.B.C. RADIO & THE PRESS.

Page One - Waterford Post 20/7/83.

Page Two - Waterford Post 28/8/83.

Waterford Post 28/2/83.

Waterford Post 0/7/83.

Page Three - Waterford Post 29/3/83.

Hot Press 1/4 - 14/4/83.

Page Four - Waterford Post 15/3/83.

Page Five - Wexham - Waterford's new monthly

"Who's On" Guide - May 1983.

Waterford Post - On Page 1 by ex-

Radio Caroline DJ Kevin Ross,

celebrity revealed each week.

Guide Page - the ABC Radio programme schedule,

is printed each week in the Waterford

Post and the new monthly Wexham.

From June 1983 in the new Danganryon

Page.

The above ABC Radio publicity ad. appears

in most local newspapers and directories.

"ABC Radio and The Press" - continued by ABC Radio
 May 1983.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN O'BEIRNE

Clive Derek



Clive Derek gets up bright and early every morning to present the station's fast-moving breakfast programme. He previously worked on hospital radio and "The Voice of Peace" off the Inself coast. Clive is 21 and has been with ABC since it started eighteen months ago.

Stuart Clark



Stuart Clark is ABC's youngest presenter and hosts the afternoon show which includes his "Sixties Sedgeway" at 2.30 p.m. He was previously involved with alternative radio in England and was responsible for the infamous "Monday Rock Show."

Andy Ellis



Andy Ellis handles "Late Night ABC" from Wednesday to Friday and the "American Top Forty" every Sunday afternoon. He also worked for six months on "The Voice of Peace" and joined ABC at the very start.

abc DEEJAYS

Dave Windsor



Dave Windsor filled the vacancy left by Robin Ross on the "Up to Lunch" programme. His show features half-an-hour of classic oldies every day from 11.30 a.m. till noon. You can also experience the man's unique style of presentation on Sunday between 8.00 and 10.00 p.m. during the "Nutter's Golden Nuggets."

Dave Hunt



Dave Hunt came to ABC in January after a successful run on the city-centre station - Subside Radio. He's the man who drives you home every night from 4.00 till 7.00 p.m. Dave is twenty and is famous for his alleged sense of humour.

"Nobody Does It Better"



abc RADIO
 SUMMER PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
1026 AM/STEREO 101

Monday to Friday