

"The Bishop" strikes again!! On Saturday 1st October, shortly after 11:30am, a station playing virtually continuous music was heard on 1242kHz. The announcement made by Steve Bishop shortly before noon was missed, and the station went off the air a few minutes later. They were heard again round about 12:50pm, when Steve Bishop was heard to announce it as "WIRRAL COMMUNITY RADIO". He apologised that they were unable to broadcast "live" programmes, and promised a full DJ line-up on Sunday. After announcing it as the "more music - less talk" station, they played "continuous, uninterrupted music" for at least two minutes before leaving the air. They were not heard again on Saturday. On Sunday, they seem to have signed on very early, and were first heard at 9:53am with continuous music. The carrier went off the air at 10:04am, but was back on again by 10:18am when Steve Bishop was announcing WIRRAL COMMUNITY RADIO on 1242kHz AM and stereo FM. The latter was not found on the FM band. DJs were announced as Steve Bishop, Andy Davies and Nick Catford. At 10:20am they were playing a series of taped adverts, including one for the frame antenna available from ANORAKS UK, PO Box 539 in Blackpool. I had the distinct impression that these adverts were played simply for "effect". The carrier went off the air at 10:40am, and was not heard at an 11:30am check. They were not heard again during the day. It is difficult to say at this stage whether Wirral Community Radio has replaced a defunct Merseyland Alternative Radio, whether Steve Bishop was fooling around with old tapes (which I doubt, as Willy Wombat did not become Nick Catford until the latter days of Merseyside Free Radio), or whether Wirral Community Radio is a genuine new station. I must say that Steve Bishop, Andy Davies and Nick Catford really get my goat. They have everything going for them, yet they waste their opportunities. They have a good transmitter with excellent modulation, that seems to beam out very well in all directions, and a collection of DJs with very good "radio voices", all of whom can present really good programmes, yet they choose to fool about on the air, and seem to thrive on mis-leading information to listeners. Potentially they could be one of the best stations in the area, but unfortunately their present antics have turned them into one of the worst, and most unreliable. If Wirral Community Radio is a new station (and I hear over the grape-vine that it might be) then Merseyland Alternative Radio is now dead, and I don't think much of a station that leaves its mail in a PO Box, to be opened by the GPO for "return to sender"

CENTRAL RADIO have now changed their name to CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL, and are using 15 Finchley Road, Anfield, Liverpool L4 2PL, as their new mailing address. They were heard testing on, or about 1355kHz (more like 1359kHz) at 6:15pm on Friday night. Signal was terrible, with a "birdie" very slightly LF. They were playing an old tape of a "Jeff Stone Show" for Central Radio. Later, they played a few bits and pieces of old tapes, before closing-down with their SHADOWS theme tune at 6:45pm. During the close-down theme, the interval signal of RADIO BERLIN INTERNATIONAL and sign-on in Swedish was noted co-channel. My notes for Saturday have disappeared, but I heard Jim Brown on Central Radio International, announcing test transmissions some time around noon. He was giving out a phone-in telephone number, but I was not sure whether he was "live" or playing a tape. Took a chance, rang the number, and caught Mark Evans by surprise. He told me that Jim Brown was not supposed to be having a phone-in on Saturday. The station was not much better than the previous night, and closed down shortly after. On Sunday, the Tx was on-air but without modulation at 10:55am. The theme tune came on the air at 10:56 am and the station opened with the JIM BROWN SHOW at 11:00am. From announcements taken off-air, it seems that the station closed down very abruptly at 4:37pm on Saturday 10th September because their aerial was pulled down. There was not time to re-erect it for Sunday, but it was replaced during the following week. However, come Saturday, it had been pulled down again and the weekend's broadcast was out of the question. By the week ending 25th September, the station had moved to a new location, but the Tx "blew-up" whilst putting out the programmes of LPR. Central Radio International say that they will be appearing in a new format in the future, having got rid of the presenters who "only wanted to fool around. The new schedule seems to be very much "in the melting pot" and heard on Sunday were:- Jim Brown, Phil Davies, Jeff Stone, Mark Evans, Steve Turner, Phil Davies and Steve Tyler. Generally, the DJs did one hour apiece, but Phil Davies' second spot was 2 hours. before noon, reception was quite good, but as the afternoon wore on, the interference from Manx Radio became more evident and by the time the "Steve Tyler Show" came on, reception was all but impossible. Jim Brown is "one of the nice guys" in local radio, but very prone to announcing future developments which fail to become reality. They are announcing that from next weekend they will operate on both 221m and 209m, and shortly on the 41m band SW.. It was also stated that

Central Radio would already have been on 105.2 FM, if it had not been for the troubles over the past few weeks. Announcements this weekend say that the transmitter on 221m is 150W, but will be back to 320W by next weekend. The Tx on 209m is announced as being 200W. The former is beamed to Merseyside and North Wales, and the latter to Lancashire

RADIO ELEANOR Notes for Saturday have got "lost", but the station did come up on 1449 kHz with a 10:00am to 6:00pm schedule. During the BARRY CULLEN Show, BBC Radio Merseyside's sports programme could be distinctly heard during speech and the quieter passages of music. This effect was not noted on Sunday, when the line up was Paul Rogers, Barry Cullen, Tony Reeve, Mark Wright and Paul Rogers. Sunday schedule is 10:00am to 7:00pm, with all DJs doing two hour stints, except for the first Paul Rogers Show, which is only for 1 hour.

RADIO JACKIE NORTH were not heard on Saturday, but appeared from about mid-day on Sunday on 977kHz, with old tapes and "live" announcements prior to Tx adjustments. Steve West was not heard, and close-down time was not determined.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL also operated a very queer schedule from a new(?) transmitter. Reception this weekend was better and clearer than it has been for some time, and they were asking for reception reports from near and far. They seem to have signed-on later than intended, and heard were:-

11:38am Phil James; 12:38pm Pete Heaton; 2:15 Kevin Palmer; 3:15 John Freeman; 4:50 Tom Lodge; Approx 7:00pm Kevin Palmer interview with local group "China Crisis"; 8:35 Roger Dee; 8:35 Marty Collins; 11:07 Phil James phone-in requests and dedications; 11:35 sign off.

Tom Lodge's news was a bit on the negative side, with promises of developments at Radio Caroline/Radio Nova to be announced shortly, and news that MAR may now be defunct. On the positive side, it was announced that the next meeting of the Free Radio Association will take place at the Sessions pub in Kirkdale on 19th November, and all are welcome. Also that the Peanut Kenny station will be on the air in about three weeks time.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO On Saturday, Jim Brown of Central Radio put out an "on-air" reception report to Phil Davies, saying that his signal was bad. LPR were not heard in Wallasey, whether Wirral Community Radio were on air or not.

.....

LIVER  
BLACKBURN  
50 BOX 232  
WIRRAL  
MURRAY INTERNATIONAL