

Wednesday night saw the latest meeting of the Merseyside Free Radio Association at the Sessions Hotel in Orwell Road, Waterloo, Liverpool. Attendance was disappointing but many of the local stations did have at least one representative present. The reason for the poor attendance was probably due to lack of advertising, with so few of the stations being on the air over the past couple of weeks. "Unofficial" news from the meeting was that Steve Bishop has joined WIRRAL COMMUNITY RADIO, who have been "testing" with carrier only on 1296kHz, for the past two weeks. This is the carrier that I mistook for a possible signal from Central Radio in last week's notes. In the meantime, it was reported that Steve Bishop and Alan Ross had been operating their own station, EAGLE RADIO, on 1296kHz. It was reported to be on the air on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from about 10pm, when Wirral Community Radio had left the frequency. Eagle Radio were in fact heard at about 9pm on Wednesday night, but on 1242kHz, not 1296kHz. Reception on a small pocket-portable was all but impossible when in competition with the pub's jukebox, but people who had heard the station previously agreed that they were playing an old tape. News from the station representatives is:-

RADIO CATHY are presently off the air for an undisclosed reason. However, they have now changed their mailing address to:- 3, Bank Street, Platt Bridge, Wigan, and they hope to be back on 1403kHz again soon. Neither Tony Fairhurst nor Dave Jackson were at the meeting, and this news comes via Paul Grady.

RADIO FREE LANCASHIRE This station are not yet on the air, as they are still looking for a suitable location. Paul Grady says that when they do come on the air they will probably change the name. Frequency for this station is not known, but they also are currently using the 3 Bank Street, Platt Bridge, Wigan mailing address.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL Jim Brown says the station will shortly be back on the air, but on only one MW frequency. They will probably be on 225m, but announce 227m. With Albania on 1323kHz(227m) and Czechoslovakia on 1332kHz(225m) evening reception of Central Radio will probably be very poor after dark in Europe. Regarding the "raid" on Monday 10th October, Jim Brown reports that the station had been 'testing' for most of the afternoon, and he wanted to call it a day. The station's engineer wanted to try one final adjustment, which was made, then the two of them went up the road to monitor the signal. It seems that the authorities must virtually have come to the front door as they went out the back door, and were waiting for them when they returned. When the Telecom man was prevented from removing items that he was not entitled to remove, he tried to wreck them, and had to be physically restrained. The police officer, after checking with his superiors by radio, reminded the Telecom man of the limits of his authority, and warned him of the consequences of exceeding them. In the end, he seems to have disconnected virtually everything from the transmitter, and Jim Brown was very surprised at how little equipment was taken. So far as I could see, he only took the transmitter.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO have apparently also been visited by the authorities. Phil Davies says that he was on the air last weekend, but only for an hour. They spotted two men in a yellow van on the other side of the road, but kept broadcasting until one of them stepped into the road with a wave-meter. By the time that he knocked on the door, Phil and Chuck Brogan were watching TV. They were asked a few questions about the antenna, but said that it was for listening to foreign stations. Other questions, designed to catch them out were answered with stupid and evasive answers, but before he left, the man from Telecom said "Tell your friend Rick Dane that you have been warned". Phil thinks that they were on their way somewhere else when they came across the LPR broadcast. LPR are still awaiting their new transmitter. In the meantime, Phil Davies is offering to do shows for other stations, and at least one offer had been taken up by Saturday.

RADIO ELEANOR have closed down temporarily. Paul Rogers said that since changing frequency to 1449kHz and moving location, they are causing TVI. Filters have been fitted to all the affected equipment but the TVI persists. Not wishing to antagonise their new neighbours, they considered it prudent to close-down until another location can be found. Hope they find one soon, as they are a really good station

COMMUNITY RADIO WALLASEY Steve West (ex Radio Xanadu, Veronica, Jackie North) told me that he had been on the air with Community Radio Wallasey for the past two weeks. The station had been on 1602kHz, but for a couple of nights before the meeting had moved to 1584kHz. Schedule is given as Monday to Friday from 2pm to 5:30pm, which is probably why I have not heard them. Steve says that he is operating with an indoor ant-

enna, and the signal is not getting out too well. Mailing address is.- 72, Palatine Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside L62 2XL.

WIRRAL COMMUNITY RADIO Jill Sinclair says that Martin "C" has been testing with a blank carrier on 1296kHz for the past couple of weeks, but she insisted on calling the station Storeton Community Radio rather than Wirral Community Radio. I should have added in my "unofficial news" that it was reported that Steve Bishop had joined Martin "C" at Wirral Community Radio. Jill was unaware that Steve Bishop had been calling a station on 1242kHz over the weekend 2nd/3rd October "Wirral Community Radio", or that he had been announcing it as a "Steve Bishop/Andy Davies/Nick Catford" effort. I suspect that events over the past few weekends have made many people change their plans for the future, so we will just have to wait and see. Martin "C" never turned up at the meeting, so I was not able to ask about future plans for Storeton Community Radio. It seems that Tom Lodge forgot that he promised to give the crew of SCR a lift to the meeting, and he came without them!! The carrier on 1296kHz has not been noted since the meeting, but it is a lousy frequency, especially after dark, when it carries the BBC World Service with a very strong signal. However, when the carrier was on the air the Rx tuning diode lit up very brightly, so maybe the Tx is more powerful than any previous SCR transmitter.

KDA RADIO "Keith of KDA" says that the station has been on the air regularly, but it still remains unheard in my location. They still say that they will be on the air with a more powerful transmitter soon, and also hope to broadcast on MW. Problem with the latter is that they only have crystals for two frequencies, one of which belongs to "someone else".

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL were well-represented at the meeting, but the station seems to have settled down to a fairly regular routine and news of new events was virtually nil.

RADIO JACKIE NORTH and RNI were not represented at the meeting

Over the weekend, monitoring of frequencies revealed the following stations:-

RADIO FREE WIRRAL On Saturday, an intermittent signal was noted on 1413kHz. It was playing short tapes of continuous music with "awkward" long gaps between tapes. There were a few "standard, nameless jingles" adopted by most of the local pirate stations, but no identifications. Just before 5:39pm close-down, they played some "named" jingles, but after the word "Radio", they had inserted the words "Free Wirral", the latter being recorded at a much lower level than the remainder of the jingle. The signal was well below the strength of anything that has been heard on this channel for some time, and the alteration to the standard jingle was very "crude" in comparison to anything heard on any of the established stations. On Sunday, an intermittent signal was heard on 1602kHz. At various times they seemed to be relaying Radio Merseyside, Radio City and Red Rose Radio. Later they settled down to playing continuous music, but by 3pm they were suffering tremendous interference from Langenburg on 1593kHz. At 3:32pm, the station ID'ed as Radio Free Wirral with the DAVE McCOY SHOW, and closed-down a few minutes later.

COMMUNITY RADIO WALLASEY were heard shortly before 5pm on Saturday and featuring a guest appearance by Phil Davies of Liverpool Pirate Radio. From announcements, it was clear that Phil was calling the Station RADIO WALLASEY, and didn't know the mailing address, but promised that mail to Finchley Road would be forwarded to Steve West. When Steve West himself closed the station down at 5:42pm he also was calling the station RADIO WALLASEY, but giving out the Bromborough mailing address. He also said that the station was closing down until Monday.

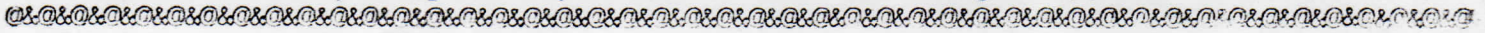
EAGLE RADIO were heard from 12:12pm announcing their very last day of broadcasting! They were on the air initially with an old tape, but at some point in the programme Steve Bishop went "live" to announce the close-down. The station was on 1242kHz. Alan Ross took over at 1:30pm, saying that he would be in the "hot seat" until 5pm. At a 5:07pm check they had gone from the air. Steve Bishop was back on the air again by 7:25pm until the start of a later phone-in. At 9pm, Alan Ross was heard apologising for the break in transmission "due to technical difficulties" and was later heard "talking over" a tape of the Steve Bishop Show broadcast by Merseyside Free Radio on the last Bank Holiday Monday. Steve Bishop was back on the air again at 11:05pm, announcing a midnight close-down, which was not heard.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL seemed to be having problems with the Tx. They were heard from 11:00am but with problems. Each time the modulation was switched on, signal strength drop-

ped drastically. Normal signal strength is S3. On Sunday, the signal strength was $S3\frac{5}{4}$, but BBC Radio Merseyside were heard on frequency. When Station "M" applied their own modulation, the signal dropped to S2, but speech and music were barely heard. Eventually things were sorted out and the station faded in to normal levels with the Phil James Show at 12:13pm. I presume that this programme had been running for some time, as it ended at 12:27pm, when Pete Heaton took over. Heard Sunday were:-
 12:13pm Phil James; 12:27pm Pete Heaton; 1:27pm ????? New DJ; 2:32pm John Freeman; 4:11pm Tom Lodge; 5:11pm Dave Wilson; 6:14pm Roger Dee; 6:45pm Marty Collins; 7:18pm Station close-down by Roger Dee.

The station also had problems with the phone-in, which had to be abandoned. Tom Lodge had to make "live" interruptions to his pre-recorded programme, to ask people to ignore the phone number that was being given out over the air. It seems that British Telecom had disconnected the phone-box

Apart from news of Nova/Kiss FM and Caroline sent in by a listener, Tom Lodge did not give out much news at all, except to say that "we" will be testing on 199m tomorrow.



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