

In the past, the run-up to Christmas has usually been the time for new stations to come on the air. This year is no exception and station personnel have begun to re-group and new stations to emerge.

RADIO VERONICA were heard on Tuesday night on the "temporary" frequency of 1332kHz. Steve West was heard to say on a number of occasions "As we told you at the week-end, we will be moving to 1242kHz on Saturday". It was Channel Five that were giving out this information last weekend, so it seemed reasonable to assume that Channel 5 had changed its name to Radio Veronica. This view was reinforced when Steve West announced that the DJs were himself, Gary Smith and Pete Williams, with station engineer, Nick Catford. As well as changing their name and frequency, they have also changed their mailing address, which is now 3, Palm Grove, Claughton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 1TB. They were hoping to be on the air on Wednesday, but were not heard on 1584kHz, 1332kHz or 1242kHz. They apparently opened at 10:30am on Saturday, and Steve West was heard to say that they hoped to operate all day Saturday, all night and all day Sunday, closing down as late on Sunday night as they could manage. Steve West did the 10:30am - 1pm slot, with Pete Williams doing 1pm - 4pm, when Steve West again took over until hand over to Nick Catford at 7pm. The latter said that he was supposed to be doing the 7pm - 1am slot, but he hoped that someone else would take over before 1am. At 12:45am, Steve West was back on the air. From announcements made on Sunday, it seemed that all went well until about 3:30am, when the modulation transformer gave up the ghost, and the station was off the air for about one hour while it was replaced. On Sunday morning, a very tired Steve West was still on the air, standing in for Gary Smith who had not turned up. Eventual hand-over to Gary Smith took place at 12:30pm, with hand-over to Pete Williams at about 3:20pm, but Steve West was back again at 6:31pm. Later, the station seemed to be having problems with the Tx and all sorts of horrible noises were heard on the frequency. This was at 9pm, and they had gone from the air a few minutes later when checked again. By then, the staff were probably too tired to care.

RADIO ELEANOR were on the air 10am - 7pm on both Saturday and Sunday with the usual Tony Reeve/Barry Cullen/Nick James/Mark Wright/Paul Rogers line-up, although on Sunday the first hour of the Barry Cullen Show was re-placed by continuous music due to "a few problems"

RADIO FREE WIRRAL were first noted with continuous music at 1:39pm on Sunday, after not being heard at all on Saturday, but they had closed down by 4:15pm. They were back again with the Dave Mc.Coy Show at 9:14pm, but they seem to have closed down at 10pm, as they were not heard at 10:10pm. The mailing address is confirmed as:-
150, Rake Lane, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL opened at noon on Saturday. Line-up was Noon - 1pm Mark Evans; 1pm - 2pm Jim Brown; 2pm - 3pm not heard, but probably Steve Turner; 3pm - 4pm Lynn Shaw, a new YL DJ; 4pm - 5pm Steve Tyler; 5pm - 7pm close-down Rick Dane. The signal is still only SL $\frac{1}{2}$ in Liscard, and the first two shows sounded somewhat "muffled", but reception was quite good for most of the afternoon, probably due to the absence of splatter from Station "M". Toward the end of the Steve Tyler Show and throughout the whole of the Rick Dane Show, there was a particularly nasty heterodyne on the frequency which persisted long after CRI had closed down. Mark Evans mentioned that he would be appearing on NORRIS GREEN PIRATE RADIO at 9pm, on 104 MHz FM, but this station was not heard. The frequency is one previously used by Central Radio, so I guess that Sunday's broadcast was some sort of a "test" for the proposed Central Radio/Jackie North combined FM/AM station due on the air in the New Year.

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO came on the air like a damp squib. With all the previous ballyhoo, I expected them to appear on two MW frequencies and one FM frequency with a fanfare of trumpets, and to come belting out of the radio for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week! In the event, they were first noted at 11:45am on 1512kHz, when the Kevin Palmer Show was in progress. They are also announcing 96.25 MHz stereo FM, but were not heard on this frequency. The station is announcing 8am to 6pm on 7 days per week. The 8am - 9am slot seems to be taken up with continuous music, but this was not confirmed. Line-up seems to be:-
8am - 9am Continuous music; 9am - 11am ANDY DAVIES; 11am - 1pm KEVIN PALMER; 1pm - 3pm JOHN FREEMAN; 3pm - 5pm STEVE BISHOP; 5pm - 6pm close-down TOM LODGE. This though, would seem to only be the "weekend" schedule, as both Andy Davies and Steve Bishop announcements

made it clear that they will not be back on the station until next Saturday. Eric Monaghan was mentioned in the list of DJs, but he was not heard. NCCR is announcing "199m" and the mailing address is:- PO Box 199, Chester, Cheshire. They have some very nice "jingles" and pre-recorded announcements, and are seeking advertising revenue. Although the "test transmissions" from NCCR were very good, there has been a lot of side-band splatter on them from BBC Radio Merseyside, and, at times, a nasty net that barely be looped out. This station, from what has been heard up to now, seems to be a combination of the staff of Station "M" and Merseyside Free Radio

SPRENTON COMMUNITY RADIO are not listened to very often. Partly due to their daytime operation, partly due to their long hours, and partly due to the fact that most of their announcements are very unreliable, making it impossible to listen at pre-arranged times. They are currently announcing their schedule as 12 noon to 3am, with the following line-up:-

Noon - 2pm John Sniff; 2pm -4pm Chris or Jill Sinclair; 4pm - 7pm Paul Woods; 7pm - 9pm Brian "C"; 9pm - Midnight Norman Ward; Midnight - 1am Paul Woods & "the Chief"; 1am - 3am either Chris Sinclair or Jill Sinclair.

It has been announced since, that Jill and Chris Sinclair are doing the early and late stints on alternate weeks, ie Jill 2pm - 4pm and Chris 1am - 3am for a week, then vice-versa. Edward Burr seems to have taken over from Brian "C", but Brian "C" took over from Paul Woods on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when PW seems to have either been out of the area or indisposed. On Tuesday night the station had gone from the air when checked at 12:20am. On Friday night, Paul Woods announced that the station would be closing down at 7pm, as the amplifier was required at a local disco. However, just before midnight, Martin "C" was on the air, and supposed to be handing over to Norman Ward at 12:00pm, but from midnight there was only a blank carrier on the air, that was still going strong at 12:20am. On Saturday, things seemed to be running smoothly until it was announced that the station would be closing down at 8:00pm while some new equipment was fitted, and that they hoped to be on the air again by midnight, but they were not heard by 12:45am.

On Sunday, the station seemed very much to be having problems. The station was not on the air at all by 10:14am. Later the carrier, but no modulation, was heard. By 1:32pm there was a terrible noise of frequency, but still no modulation. Programming was first heard at 3:30pm with the Chris Sinclair Show. Later heard was Paul Woods and Edward Burr, but the station seemed to have closed down at 8pm, after the latter show.

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LATEST Monday 5th December.

North Coast Commercial Radio format seems to be continuous music with pre-taped IDs and announcements, but NO DJs.

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NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO came on the air like a deep south. With all the previous stations, I expected them to appear on the 100 frequency and one 70 frequency with a load of tape, and to come belting out of the radio for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. In the event, they were first heard at 11:00am on 12/12/82, when the Kevin Palmer show was in progress. They are also announcing 100m stereo FM, but were not heard on this frequency. The station is announcing 24 hrs a 7 days per week. The 8am - 9am slot seems to be filled up with continuous music, but this was not confirmed. Line-up seems to be:-
8am - 9am Continuous music; 9am - 11am AMY DAVIES; 11am - 1pm KEVIN PALMER; 1pm - 2pm JOHN FREEMAN; 3pm - 5pm STEVE HENDER; 5pm - 6pm about-down FM MUSIC; This though, would seem to only be the "weekend" schedule, as both Amy Davies and Steve Hendup announcements