

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 11th December

Quite a lot happening this week, so straight on with it:

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO

were heard at 8am on Monday, but up to 9am all that had been noted was continuous music with a few pre-recorded station IDs, mailing address and appeals for advertisers. They were still on the air with continuous music at 1:12pm, and again at 5:30pm. The close-down announcement was missed, but the weekday format seems to be nothing but continuous music and no DJs. Listening is normally confined to the last 1/2 hour, if I am lucky, but the signal is rubbish. The "het" apparently from BBC Radio Merseyside refuses to be looped-out, and is really nasty to listen to. Signal is quite strong, but so is the "het"!! "Test transmissions" were very good, so why is the actual signal so poor? It doesn't even sound like the same transmitter. Weekend reception has been quite good, until about 4:45pm, when the "het" became a nuisance. Dj line-up announced last weekend seems to have been adhered to, except that Steve Bishop continued until 5:30pm on Saturday, with Tom Lodge just doing the final 1/2 hour to close-down. On Sunday, Tom Lodge was not noted, and the voice of the very inexperienced person who closed the station down was not recognised.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO

seem to be another station with problems. They were not heard at all on Monday from 6:20pm onwards. On Tuesday, Paul Woods said that would only be on the air until 6pm as he was going to make some tapes. Miss Chris Sinclair took over from 6pm to 7pm, then handed over to Norman Ward, who said that he would be doing the 7pm - 8pm slot. However, he was still on the air at 10:25pm. Chris Sinclair was supposed to be on the air again until midnight, but it was announced that Paul Woods had not turned up to do his show, so I think she carried on in his place. It was also announced that Miss Jill Sinclair would be doing a 1am to 4am slot, but this is past my bedtime. On Wednesday, a young inexperienced DJ, "JOHN" was heard until 6:30pm, but via the open-mic between records, there seemed to be quite a row going on in the background between other members of staff. At 6:30pm, Chris Sinclair announced that the station would be continuing with "continuous music", and shortly after 7pm, the Norman Ward Show was in progress. The station was still on the air at 11:30pm. Thursday, they were on the air with yet another line-up: Paul Woods & "The Chief" to 7pm, Norman Ward to 9pm, Brian "C" to 10pm and Chris Sinclair to midnight. On Friday night they were not heard at all, and have not been heard over the weekend.

CHANNEL FIVE

decided not to be Radio Veronica this weekend! They say that they were on the air on Thursday night from about 5:30pm to 2:00am, but they were not noted. This special broadcast was a tribute to John Lennon. The weekend's broadcast was another marathon, running without a break from about 10:30am on Saturday until 9pm on Sunday. The "sleep" rosta seemed better organised this week, and the DJs didn't sound so tired over the air. The four DJs, Steve West, Nick Catford, Gary Smith and Pete Williams kept the whole thing going, and heard were: Saturday, Gary Smith to 1pm, Pete Williams to 4pm, Steve West to 7pm, Nick Catford to ??, then Gary Smith at 11:28pm. Sunday; Nick Catford to 10am, Gary Smith to 1pm, Nick Catford to 3pm(?); Pete Williams to 6pm(?) and Steve West until 9pm close-down.

RADIO ELEANOR

are another station with problems. On Saturday they came on the air at 10am, but operated a revised schedule. The line-up was as usual, but with Barry Cullen doing only a 1 hour show, Nick James doing 2 hours instead of one, and the station closing down at 5pm, without the Paul Rogers Show. They were apparently having problems with some of their equipment, and had conducted "Test broadcasts" on both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. During the course of the Mark Wright Show on Saturday afternoon, it was announced that the station's mailing address has been dis-continued, and that for the moment the station does not have any mailing address. On Sunday they signed on at 10am, and schedule was supposed to be as Saturday, "for this week only". ie 10am - Noon Tony Reeve; Noon - 1pm Barry Cullen; 1pm - 3pm Nick James; 3pm - 5pm close-down Mark Wright. The station operated as planned and the first couple of records on the Nick James Show were heard. However, they had gone from the air at 2:26pm, when next checked, and have not been heard again. In apologising for Saturday's shortened broadcast, the reason given was "problems beyond our control".

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL

opened at noon on Sunday with the Mark Evans Show. Line-up was noon - 1pm Mark Evans, 1pm - 2pm Jim Brown, 2pm - 3pm Mark Evans and Steve Tyler, 3pm - 4pm Lynne Shaw, 4pm - 5pm Steve Tyler, 5pm - 6pm Steve Tyler standing in for Rick Dane, who never turned up, and 6pm - 6:14pm close-down Jim Brown. The station was supposed to be broadcasting on both 217m and 317m, but the

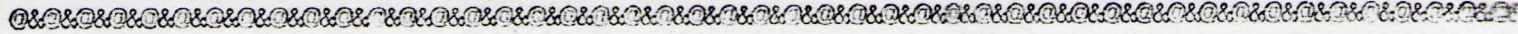


latter was not heard. Later in the day, Jim Brown announced that the station was not on 317m, but that they hoped to be by next weekend. Apparently Norris Green Pirate Radio were on the air last weekend, but only for a limited time.

RADIO JACKIE NORTH It was announced just after the start of the Jim Brown Show on Central Radio International that Rick Dane was "testing" a transmitter. I assumed that this would be the Tx on 317m, but couldn't find it. Later, I think that Jim Brown said that Rick Dane was testing "next door to us", but once again I couldn't find him. Maybe it isn't Jackie North that is being tested!

STATION "M" or a new version of them, was back on the air today, after some strange goings on on 1413kHz and 1611kHz. At 1pm, a strong signal was heard on 1413kHz. The broadcast was basically continuous music, but obvious "186m" jingles and "Radio Free Wirral" IDs that were on the tape, were attempted to be cut out of the broadcast by stopping the tape. It was all done very clumsily, and sufficient got through to be identified. However, at 2pm, Dave Wilson came up on the frequency announcing the return of Station "M" under new management. He said that it was a "test transmission", and that Station "M" would be back on the air next weekend, at noon or thereabouts. The mailing address is still 78, Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW. Phil James did the 3pm - 4pm slot, and was followed by Roy Rockford. Thereafter there seemed to be two people running the show until 6:19pm close-down. Station Manager is now said to be Roger Dee.

RADIO FREE WIRRAL/RADIO FREE LIVERPOOL A blank carrier was heard on 1611kHz at 12:08pm. By 1pm it had gone, but Radio Free Wirral were operating on 1413kHz, and trying unsuccessfully to hide their ID. By the time that Station "M" came on 1413kHz, Radio Free Wirral had reverted back to 1611kHz. There were no IDs on these transmissions, and no DJs, but plenty of "186m" jingles. The continuous music was still going strong until 6:09pm when the transmitter closed down. However, the station was back on the air again on 1611kHz, when the Chris White Show was in progress. At 9:17pm, Dave Mc.Coy was running things until close-down at 10:55pm. Just before close-down, Dave Mc.Coy said that he would be back on the same frequency with Radio Free Liverpool, which commenced operation at midnight. The modulation stopped at 10:55pm, and the carrier went off the air at 11:10pm. However, a few minutes later it was back on again, and Radio Free Liverpool commenced broadcasting at midnight on the dot. By 12:40am there have been two station IDs, but no DJ names and no mailing address



Most of the local stations have announced their intention to operate over the Christmas holidays, but no definite schedules have been announced. The "Sunday" stations seem to be aiming for normal broadcasting hours, with additional programmes being thrown in on Christmas ~~day~~. EVE.