

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 26th February 1984

This coming week sees the Central Radio Listener's night out at the Windsor Castle Hotel in Orrell Lane, Walton Vale, Liverpool (opposite Orrell Park Railway station) on Wednesday. Indications are that most of the local stations will be represented, and the phone-ins to Central Radio seem to show that quite a few listeners will also be attending.

ABC RADIO 96.25MHz stereo FM. 4, Glencairn Road, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 2AL.

This station has now decided to change from Fri/Sat and Sat/Sun operation to mid-week operation on Tues/Wed and Wed/Thur. In spite of a telephoned warning of these changes, I still managed to miss the latter broadcast. For the time being, the schedule on both nights is 10pm - 1am. It seems that Tom Lodge, Eric Monaghan and Kevin Palmer will be filling the majority of the schedule, with occasional programmes by "Keith" and Phil James. Some of station personnel recently visited Radio Caroline, Laser 730 and two radio stations in London, so I hope I didn't miss anything during their "Free Radio News" slots.

CHANNEL FIVE 1242kHz AM: 3, Palm Grove, Cloughton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 1TE.

On Saturday, this station seems to have signed-on at their scheduled 10am, in spite of Pete Williams announcing that it had been "touch and go, as the 'saboteurs' had been round again". Although the station announced a couple of weeks ago that their schedule was "variable", they have managed to stick to their "planned" schedule, apart from the odd one or two minutes discrepancies at "hand-over" time. Schedule is as printed over the past weeks, and was adhered to until at least 9pm on Sunday night, which was the last "listen".

RADIO ELEANOR 1179kHz AM: 16, Stockbridge Street, Anfield, Liverpool L5 6PB

This station were heard "testing" at tea-time of Friday, with a strong but distorted signal. Signal was also intermittent for a while. When heard later, "final adjustments" seem to have been made. Signal was strong, good and steady, but sign-off time was not noted. They operated a revised schedule this week, and heard were:- Saturday; 10am-Noon Nick James (who is acting as a stand-in DJ when any of the others is unavailable), Noon-2pm John Freeman; 2pm-4pm Mark Wright; 4pm-6pm Tony Carr; 6pm-8pm Paul Rogers and 8pm-10pm Pete Davies. The Sunday schedule was: 10am-Noon Tony Reeve; Noon-1pm John Freeman; 1pm-3pm Mark Wright and 3pm-5pm sign-off Paul Rogers. From next weekend, Tony Reeve will back on the air on both Saturdays and Sundays, and if I heard correctly, he will be doing the Saturday 10am-Noon slot, otherwise the above schedule will be operated. The station read out a very nice letter that they had received from Humberside, so it is good to see that signals from this area are being heard at long distances, and are still readable.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL 1386kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station were reported to have been "testing" on Saturday night, but were not noted here. Sign-on time on Sunday was 10am, with Jim Brown doing the 10am-Noon slot. News from CRI is that the long-awaited output valves have now been delivered. One of them has been fitted into a stand-by transmitter and tested into a dummy load. Tests show that the stand-by Tx, with its one valve, is giving more power output than the main Tx, which is now due to be fitted with both valves over the next couple of weeks. When the main Tx has been modified and tested, Radio Atlantis will also appear on the air in midweek.. The Sunday schedule seems to have been:- 10am-Noon Jim Brown; Noon- 1pm Mark Evans; 1pm-2pm Mike Doyle; 2pm-3pm Pete Murphy (a new DJ); 3pm-4pm Jeff Stone; 4pm-5pm Mark Evans; 5pm-6pm Steve Tyler; 6pm - ?? Jeff Stone. Sign-off time was not noted, but the station had gone from the air by 6:50pm, when checked. In the very near future the station intends to tighten-up its schedule, with all DJs doing two hours each. The station is now carrying adverts, but many of these are not very readable, due to the background music

RADIO MERSEYWAVES 94.8MHz FM and 1197kHz AM:- No announced mailing address.

This station signed-on at 6pm on Sunday, announcing a midnight close-down but was not checked after 9:30pm. Paul Jay was away this weekend, and Bert Williams seems to have run the whole broadcast.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 30, Bridle Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43-

This station made a welcome, if somewhat unexpected return 9UU. to the air this weekend. An apparently strong carrier was heard at noon on Sunday, but at 12:07pm, a fairly weak (by their standards) SCR signed-on. Signal strength was down from S3½ to only S2, although the modulation was nice and clear. The unidentified voice (probably either Martin C or Brian C, who both sound identical) said that the station DJs had "clubbed together" for a new set of decks and other equipment. There were many apologies for the distortion on the transmission, which were not apparent to me, and statements that work on the Tx had had to be shelved due to pressure of time in other directions. It would seem from



later announcements that the station was not expecting to be on the air so soon, and appeals went out over the air to station personnel, asking them to "turn up" as soon as possible. At the 1pm check, John Sniff was on the air, announcing that Sandie Babe would be taking over at 1:30pm. She did, and seemed to be announcing a joint programme with Miss Chris Sinclair at 2:30pm, but this later time, Chris operated "solo", saying that she would only be on the air until 3pm, "to get used to the new equipment". "Uncle Ern" was supposed to be taking over at 3pm, and apparently did so, but the station must have run into some difficulty later. At a 4pm check, "Uncle Ern" seemed to just be signing-on, but thanking John Sniff "for getting us back on the air" Brian C took over at 4:30pm, and was still on the air at 5pm, but the station had gone from the air when checked at around 6pm. Let's hope it will not be too long before SCR's signal is once again being heard in Norway (but not on 2056kHz!!). SCR's original frequency of 1296kHz continues to be used for BBC's experiments in community radio, with Radio Trafford commencing operation on 27th February.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz AM: 78 Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW.

This station was not noted until 12:42pm on Sunday, when the Ray Rockford show was already in progress. The station announced later that they had opened up a bit late. Ray Rockford announced that he would be on the air until 2pm, but after this, the schedule was not determined. Both Roger Dee and Dave Wilson were heard at 3:07pm, in what was presumably the Dave Wilson show. Roger Dee appeared to be "solo" by 3:30pm until 5:10pm or so, when John Mitchell took over. At 6:15pm, Roger Dee was back on the air again, when he chose to read out my notes in last week's section on Station "M". Quite rightly, he took objection to some of the remarks, and took time out to present the station's point of view. Firstly he joined the list of people who say that it is impossible for any station to receive 38 phone calls in 30 minutes. He went on to say that the main reason why Station "M" received no calls during their phone-in hour last week was "interference" with the telephone lines, and the need to change the phone-in number a number of times. If this info. was broadcast, then it was missed at this end. Sad to say, the station also had problems this week. Shortly after announcing the number, "Christine" was asked to call the station and let them know what was going on. Whatever it was, it necessitated the disappearance of Roger Dee to sort things out, with Dave Wilson taking over on air. Coupled with accusations of deliberate "jamming" a few weeks ago, this explains some of the station's difficulties. Regarding my comments about listeners being more "selective" than they used to be, Roger says that the station received 15 letters during the week, which was about average for all the stations in the area, so Station "M" know that they are receiving a fair share of listeners! On the format of the station, Roger Dee seems satisfied that the station does have its fair share of listeners, so anyone that doesn't like Station "M"s "alternative" type of programmes can always re-tune to one of the other "alternatives" available on the MW band. In his own words, "if all stations sounded like Radio Eleanor, there wouldn't be much reason to have any other stations than Radio Eleanor". In typical Roger Dee fashion, the above explanation was presented with a few sly "digs", but no apparent animosity. He has always seemed to be a bit of a "lone wolf", going his own way and "doing his own thing", unfortunately expecting "others" to do the same thing, which has rarely turned out to be the case. On Sunday, he said that if I listened to SMT, I would know that the station signed-off at 7pm. The reader is referred to my notes over the past five or six weeks to verify the truth of this statement. Otherwise, it is difficult to do other than agree with his above statements, but to "agree to disagree" with his policy. Hopefully, a good long chat will be "on the cards" on Wednesday night, when a few things can be sorted out with Roger Dee, who first put me in touch with the local "personalities"