

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 16th February 1986

Some of the FM stations that were on the air before the recent ITI raids have begun to appear again, but not all have been heard here.

WFM 90.3MHz FM (s): 3, Wareing Avenue, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 6QH

This station had failed to appear on the band by 10:46pm on Tuesday and were first noted at 11:42pm with Phil James signing-on and thanking Kevin Palmer for the previous hour. As most of the programmes appear to be taped, and Kevin Palmer wasn't available for his Wednesday night show, it isn't known whether he did a programme on Tuesday or not. Close-down time was not noted. On Wednesday the station opened at 10pm with Steve Davies in the chair, followed by Keith from 11pm-1am close-down. The station has a generally high standard of presenter but reception is somewhat spoiled by the "hiss" over everything.

MERSEY FM 103.8MHz stereo FM: Flat B, 42, Aspen Grove, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 0ST

This station were first noted at 1:10pm on Sunday, although announcements suggested that they had opened at 10:30am. Reception was very variable and programming consisted largely of a Mike Smith/Dave Ross joint show with many on-air adjustments to equipment. They say they are now operating in stereo, but the stereo beacon on the receiver didn't light up till adjustments near to 2pm. They mentioned other DJs as Pete, Kevin Brown and Little Sue. Kevin was supposed to be on the air from 3pm but hadn't showed up by 3:25pm, when they held a phone-in using a Stoneycroft number. Little Sue took his place, but at 4:20pm they appeared to have closed-down and have not since been noted.

RADIO VERONICA 104.8MHz

From about 5pm on Sunday a very weak station was noted on 104.8MHz but it was too far into the background noise to be identified. At 7:30pm, when Concept Radio signed-on, Tom Webb said Phil Davies had rung to say that Radio Veronica was being strongly heard on 104.8 MHz at his location. Here, the station on this frequency was wiped-out by Concept when the latter opened.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.

This station say that from this weekend they will extend their hours to "All day" Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon, but this extension seems to have coincided with some of the DJs going missing. On Monday they were noted from 5pm with 5pm-7pm Dave Collins and Hayley, 7pm-9pm Tony Coltrane; 9pm-Midnight Tara; Midnight-1am KtC and 1am-2am Mark Newman. On Friday they again opened at 5pm and noted were:- 5pm-7pm DJC; 7pm-10pm Dave Collins; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman. The latter said that they would be closing down at Midnight as no-one was available beyond that time. On Saturday they were particularly short of DJs. Dave Collins was on the air from 8am, but no-one had turned up at 10am and Dave said he could only hold the fort for a short time. When checked at 10:40am, the frequency showed only a carrier, till 11am, when Barry Noble turned up one hour early and did the 11am-2pm slot. The missing DJ was Mark Wright, who later said his car had broken down. DJC didn't turn up at 2pm and Barry Noble was unable to extend his hours beyond 2:30pm. It isn't known whether Mark Newman took over straight away, but he was standing-in when the frequency was checked at 3:13pm. 4pm-6pm had Paul Woods without KtC, followed by Tara with a marathon 6pm-10pm stint. Mark Newman then did 10pm-Midnight with Dave Collins and Hayley doing Midnight-1:30am close-down. Sunday has seen a near-normal schedule, but with Mark Wright standing-in for Wayne Scott from 11am-1pm. Heard have been:- Dave Collins/Mark Wright/Paul Jay plus "Fuji"/Burt Williams/KtC/Peter Thomas/Mark Newman doing two hours each, except for Peter Thomas (7pm-10pm). The remainder of the schedule is announced as Midnight-1am KtC and 1am-2am close-down Mad Mike. On Sunday, Burt Williams said that the ITI were tending to concentrate their raids at the weekends, so there did not seem to be much point in the station staying off the air during the week. Consequently, they had decided to stay on the air all day on Friday and Monday in the future.

COMMODORE RADIO 103.8MHz FM

Mark Newman said over Radio Mersey Waves that Commodore Radio had been heard through the week with "test" transmissions on 103.8MHz although nothing has been heard at this location.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.4 MHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station was noted with a test transmission at 12:15am Saturday morning, with Tom Webb in the hot seat, but they closed-down at 12:25am. On Sunday they were on the air

