

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 8th February 1987

This week has seen the return of Radio Caroline North under the new name of RADIO MERSEYLAND and more problems for Central Radio, which I understand are due to external influences and not the recent disagreements that threatened to divide the crew.

CENTRAL RADIO INT 1404kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD

This station was not on the air at the scheduled 8am on Saturday and though they have been reported as on the air from 9:50am and weren't checked here till 10:15am, when Jim Lowe's show was in progress. He was still on the air at 11am check, but the station had disappeared by 11:17am. They were not found again for the remainder of the weekend.

RADIO MERSEYLAND 1392kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station was first noted at 1pm on Saturday with a brief Ident and announcement by Jim Browne, followed by a "guest appearance" by Jeff Thompson of Central Radio. Jeff said that Central Radio had closed down because the DTI had been seen in the vicinity. They intended to wait till the DTI men had gone, then open up around tea-time. This re-opening never came about. Radio Merseyland were noted at 2:30pm close-down and said that they had been on the air since 10am. On Sunday, they were on the air from 11am, with Jim Browne and Mark Evans doing partly separate and partly "joint" stints. Personnel are announced as Mark Evans (Manager), Jim Browne and Dave Starr. They will probably "test" again next Sunday and regular broadcasting 10am-5pm on Mon/Tues/Wed will commence on 16th Feb. This Sunday they closed down at 2:30pm, but around 1pm or so, they held a "link-up" with Liverpool Pirate Radio, during which, Phil Davies was invited to say a few words about Central Radio's non-appearance on the air. Phil declined, saying that it wouldn't be very appropriate to say anything over the air at the present time.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO 1325kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD.

This station was on the air on Sunday, but wasn't found until Radio Merseyland had announced the proposed link-up with them. The signal was weak and probably on the very worst frequency that any of the local stations have ever used. Jim Browne tells me that the station had been on the air since 11am, with continuous music till noon, when Phil Davies took over "live" broadcasting. After the link-up, Garry Palmer took over, but ran into immediate problems. The music was blasting out, but modulation on speech was so low that not a word was heard. At 3pm the station could not be found but other sources have told me that they actually closed down just before this time.

RADIO JULIE 104.8MHz FM; "Casita", 78, Barnston Road, Thingwall, Wirral, Merseyside L61-

As reception of this station is still not possible on the pocket-portable, 7AW. large sections of the schedule are missed, and the amount of continuous music played suggests that the announced schedules are unreliable. This week, the station has gone onto stereo broadcasts, but the signal is accompanied by a lot of "hiss" in the stereo mode. On Friday they weren't noted till 4pm. The Saturday schedule was also indefinite with Tony West possibly standing-in for Andy Rogers from 10am, Andy Rogers on the air announcing "till 1pm" and the rest of the line-up not determined till 2pm. The parts of the broadcasts heard were:-

Fri: 4pm Cont. music; 6pm Andy Rogers; 8pm Steve Mason; 10pm Tony West; Midnight Andy Davies;

Sat: 10am Tony West (in for Andy Rogers?); 11:42am Andy Rogers (said till 1pm). 2pm Neil Bishop; 4pm Phil Smith; 6pm Andy Davies; 8pm Steve Mason; 10pm Steve Davies; Midnight Andy Davies (in for Tony West)

Sun: 9am Cont. music; 10am Andy Rogers; Mid-day Cont. music; 2pm Feona Beswick; 4pm Larry James; 6pm COLEY; 7pm Phil Smith; 8pm Steve Mason; 10pm Tony West; Midnight Andy Davies; 2am c/down

I nearly forgot that this station are also on the air on Monday, when they were noted to be on the air by 12:40pm, although they were not found at either 8am or 9am. The schedule proper wasn't heard until 6:40pm, when noted were:-

Mon: Noon Tony West;6:40pm Mark Cross; 8pm Steve Mason; 10pm Tony West; Midnight close-down.

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

This station now operates all day Friday instead of opening at noon. Apart from the occasional "stand-ins" they have operated their normal schedule. Noted were:-

Mon: 8:20am Dave Collins; 10am Jeff Starr; 1pm DJC; 3pm Alan Bates; 5pm Peter Thomas; 7pm Paul Woods; 9pm Mark Newman; 11pm Mark Wright; 12:30am DJ Sidney; 3am c/down.

Fri: 8am Dave Collins; 10 am Mark Palmer; Noon Mad Mike; 2pm Paul James; 4pm Peter Thomas; 6pm Paul Woods; 8pm DJ Sidney; 10pm Kevin Jordan; Midnight Peter Thomas; 2am c/down:

Sat: 8am Mark Newman; 10am Mark Wright; Noon Steve Coltrane; 2pm Paul James and "B"; 6pm Tara; 8pm Dave Benitez; 10pm Paul Jay; Midnight Roy & Billy; 2am c/down(??).

Sun: 9am Mark Newman; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Tony Coltrane; 3pm Mark Palmer; 5pm Peter Thomas; 6pm Dave Benitez; 8pm Don La One; 10pm Dave Collins; Midnight Tony Hollis; 2am(?) c/down.

CDFM : 105.2MHz: Still no mailing address heard.

This station were on the air on Sunday from 7pm or so. Whenever heard they were relaying ILR Radio City, or more likely, Marcher Sound, who were relaying Radio City. They didn't appear to have featured any of their own programming and closed down some time around 10pm.

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Mail on Sunday - 25 Jan. 1987

Irish air invasion

By JOHN WELLINGTON

BRITAIN'S first national commercial radio station is to be launched next year — by the Irish.

Thanks to a loophole in international frequency rules, Radio Tara plans to broadcast pop music, news and advertisements to listeners in Britain from a transmitter in Ireland within 18 months.

That is 18 months sooner than the long-awaited official IBA station will be on the air.

Radio Tara is a joint venture between the Irish national broadcasting network RTE and Radio Luxembourg.

They teamed up after a Radio Luxembourg executive noticed that

And even Radio

Luxembourg

gets in the act

RTE had been allocated a long wave frequency, 254kHz, for domestic use but was not using it.

Now the Irish Minister for Communications, Jim Mitchell, has given permission for the station to go ahead.

RTE spokeswoman Eilish Pearce said: 'We hope to reach around 22 million people.'

The station will cost £3¼ million to set up and hopes to make a profit within two years. It will transmit from County Meath on the east coast

of Ireland. Officials say there should be a good signal through most of England, Wales and parts of Scotland.

Mrs Pearce said: 'We think there is a big potential market for a commercial pop music station. There are a lot of advertisers who will welcome the chance to reach a nationwide audience.'

'And we already know the British like Irish voices, you've already got Terry Wogan and Eamonn Andrews!'

Embattled British independent stations — some have already been forced into liquidation — do not welcome the new contender for their £75 million business.

Brian West, director of the Association of Independent Radio Contractors said: 'We're not exactly overjoyed. 'We think it is unfair as that frequency was allocated for Irish domestic use.'

'But the Home Office said there was nothing that can be done about it.'



WOGAN: Rivals

BBC's divide and rule plan

THE BBC is likely to divide the functions of its next director-general between an executive administrator and an editor-in-chief, an authoritative source revealed today.

The governors see this as the only way to prevent a repeat of the circumstances which led to the sudden resignation yesterday of £70,000-a-year Alasdair Milne.

Mr Milne some time ago conceded that, while the director-general was totally responsible for the BBC, the corporation had become too big for one man to control directly.

He agreed reluctantly and "after a hell of a fight" to hand over the executive work to his deputy, Michael Checkland, while he "ran the journalism".

The BBC source said today: "The trouble was he did not let go. As a result, the journalism was not controlled as and where and how it should have been."

"That led to a series of cumulative cases of mis-judgement and vacillation and inability to control the editorial news output."

"In the end, Milne acknowledge something had to be done and he would have to go. It was sad, but he had lost the confidence of his staff."

Alasdair Milne



Liverpool Echo, Saturday January 31, 1987

Dispute hits Radio City

JOURNALISTS at Radio City in Liverpool today started a work-to-contract following a break down of national pay talks.

Two bulletins were lost this morning as the ten members of the National Union of Journalists worked to the letter of their contract and took a one-hour break instead of a working lunch payment.

IBA puts radio case

The Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday told the Government that it should be made responsible for financing Independent National and community radio.

Speculation that the Government might opt for putting community radio in the charge of the Cable Authority, which oversees cable TV and radio, prompted the IBA to warn against "a battle of the airways."

Radio call-up

RADIO ROYAL, the Royal Liverpool Hospital's radio station, is looking for volunteers, aged over 20. Write to the station manager at the hospital in Prescott Street, with a stamped addressed envelope.

Liverpool Echo, Friday January 30, 1987

THE GUARDIAN
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Putting local and community radio in the IBA's charge would enable it to strike a balance of interests. It pointed to its experience in supervising self-financing local radio at lower cost in money and manpower than alternative regulatory structures.

The IBA also highlighted to the Government a need for commercially financed national radio. Administration by the IBA would be essential in order to complement local independent services.