

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 15th February 1987

At 7:50pm on Sunday night a large squad of DTI officials accompanied by police officers carried out simultaneous raids on Radio Mersey Waves and Radio Julie. Reports indicate that both stations have lost everything. At the time of the raids, I understand that six persons were present at the Mersey Waves studio, but just one at Radio Julie, who had been playing "taped" shows for at least part of the day.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES: 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UM
Apart from a couple of "stand-in" spots, some unexpected, some not, the station operated a pretty normal line-up, but with one new DJ noted. Heard were:-

Mon: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Jeff Starr; 1pm DJ SIDNEY; 3pm Alan Bates; 5pm CHARLES POPE(new); 7pm KtC & Paul Woods; 9pm Mark Newman; 11pm Mark Wright; 12:30am DJ Sidney; 3am c/down

Fri: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Mark Palmer; Noon Mad Mike; 2pm Dave Benitez (for Paul James); 3pm Mark Palmer (in for Paul James); 4pm Mark Palmer; 6pm Paul Woods; 8pm DJ Sidney; 10pm Kevin Jordan; Midnight Peter Thomas; 2am(?) c/down

Sat: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Mark Wright; Noon Steve Coltrane; 2pm Paul James; 4pm KtC; 6pm Tara; 7pm Mark Palmer (for Tara); 8pm Mark Palmer; 10pm Paul Jay; Midnight Roy & Billy; 2pm(?) Paul James & "B" (?); 4am(?) c/down.

Sun: 8am Dave Collins; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Tony Coltrane (- interview with John Cecchini); 3pm Burt Williams; 5pm DJC; 6pm Dave Benitez; 7:50pm DTI raid.

It seems ironical that the DTI should raid the station on the very day that Burt Williams chose to give a short documentary of previous raids and attempted raids.

RADIO JULIE 104.8MHz: "Casita", 78 Barnston Road, Thingwall, Wirral, Merseyside L61 7JW

There has been quite a bit of speculation recently that this station was somehow a prelude to the return of Storeton Community Radio and reports say that at approximately 8pm on Sunday, a brief SCR identification was noted on FM. Although not heard here, Julie were said to have been on the air on mid-week evenings, with announcements to the effect that from this weekend they would be operating Sat/Sun only, as they didn't have sufficient DJs to maintain a Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon schedule. Noted this week were:-

Mon:1:30pm (on air but no DJ name heard).... 6pm Larry James; 8pm Steve Mason; 10pm Tony West; Midnight Andy Davies; 2am(?) c/down.

Sat: 8am Tony West; 10am Andy Rogers; Noon Steve Mason; 2pm Neil Bishop; 4pm Phil Smith; 6pm MIKE STAND (ex-MAR??); 8pm Andy Sloan; 10pm Steve Davies; Midnight Andy Davies;

Sun: 8am Tony West; 10am Andy Rogers; Noon Tony West (for Kerry Gee); 1pm KENNY GEE; 2pm Feona Beswick; 4pm Larry James; 6pm COLLEY; 7:50pm DTI raid

CDEFM: 105.2MHz

This station was noted on Sunday from 8:45pm to 10pm close-down with Eddie Lamb in the hot seat. They seemed unaware of the raid on the Merseyside stations and for the first time ever they were using a mailing address. This was /o ANDY DAVIES at Radio Julie's mailing address.

WIDNES FM: 103.4MHz

This station was on the air around 8:30pm on Sunday, but wasn't heard at this location

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO: Various frequencies: 30, Elkstone Road, Liverpool L11 2TD

This station was noted on Saturday from 11am on 1323kHz with a "test" broadcast by Phil Davies till noon. On Sunday they were noted around 11am, but on 1386kHz. The VFO seems to drift, or was being retuned, and reception was grim at times; clear at others and later station appears to have been re-tuned to 1404kHz. With the continual drifting, LPR and Radio Merseyland were alternately being heard. Phil Davies was the only DJ heard and he seems to have closed the station down some time around 1:20pm

RADIO MERSEYLAND 1395kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station was noted from 11am sign-on on Sunday with:-

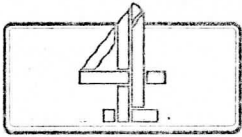
11am Mark Evans; Noon Jim Browne; 2pm Browne & Evans: 2:25pm close-down.

Around Noon in particular, Liverpool Pirate Radio kept drifting over Merseyland with both stations sharing predominance at times, but general just causing problems for each other. With working on adjacent channels, their proposed link-up had to be cancelled as neither station could hear the other due to the strength of their own signal.

Plans to come on the air on Monday 16th Feb will probably be cancelled in the light of Sunday's raids.

A couple of interesting items have come to my notice this week:

7 FEBRUARY SATURDAY



7.30 Bandung File

International current affairs magazine featuring South Asia, the Caribbean, Africa and the black communities in Britain. Tonight's edition has a report on West Bengal, the only state in India run by a communist state government. Plus a special report on pirate radio.

EDITORS DARCUS HOWE,
TARIQ ALI
Bandung Productions

On Saturday 7th Feb, the CHANNEL-4 TV programme, BANDUNG FILE, advertised a special report on pirate radio. It featured some of the ethnic stations from London, such as RJR, JBC and London Creek Radio. I understand that while filming at JBC, the radio station was raided by the DTI and that the infamous ERIC COTTS was seen leading his troops into battle. When he realised that the whole thing was being filmed, the latter put his right hand over the camera lens. It will be interesting to see if the TV crew find themselves in Court alongside JBC. The reaction of the IBA should also be interesting as they, together with the AIRC and the ILR stations are responsible for most of the complaints to the DTI about ^{the} pirate stations that their TV stations are actively publicising!!

JOHN CECCHINI is in the news again, but this time for the wrong reasons. The one-time Radio Mersey Waves DJ, who won the DJ of the Year title, has been criticised as his act is just too "Blue". He was interviewed at length by Tony Coltrane on Sunday, when it became evident that in spite of his crazy antics at work, he knows exactly where he is going career-wise!



TEENAGER Angela Morris saw red over a zany DJ's blue jokes.

The Kirkby receptionist says she and her pals were disgusted at the show at a top Bootle club.

Angela, 19, of Boyes Brow, Tower Hill, saw DJ John Cecchini at the new Quadrant Park club in Derby Road.

The Merseyside jockey recently won the national Nightclub DJ of the Year award.

But Angela says his act featured near-the-knuckle jokes about Aids and condoms, and involved a woman from the audience taking a balloon out of John's tights with her teeth.

Gags with a blow-up doll were the final straw for Angela, who says she asked for her £3 entrance fee back.

She hit out at club bosses, and said: "I am no prude. I can take a laugh.

"But that show went too far. We should have been told when we went into the club that the act was blue."

Quadrant Park manager Peter Woods said the DJ was a regular act at the club, and had won popularity with thousands of people.

He said: "One can't please everyone all the time, and if we have upset anyone we are sorry.

"But the act that he did that night was an exact copy of the act that won him the DJ of the Year title."

Liverpool Echo,

Thursday February 12, 1987