

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 10th May 1987

This week has not been a good one for the Merseyside stations. In a letter to Paul Jay from one of his regular correspondents, it was reported that Widnes FM, who can not be heard at this location, were raided by the DTI on Sunday 3rd May. The authorities have followed up with a raid on Liverpool Pirate Radio at 3pm this Sunday and I understand that they removed all the equipment, but didn't get the records. When word got round, the other stations were put on the alert and both Radio Julie and Radio Mersey Waves closed down at 5pm, when the authorities were discovered in their areas. Some of the stations came back on the air later.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO 1404kHz: 9A, Altfinch Close, Fincham, Liverpool L14 8YG

This station remains un-heard at work except for a short period of outdoor listening during lunch hour. They were on the air from 10am on Friday, apparently with a Phil Davies/Tony Price joint show, which was mostly Phil at some times and mostly Tony at others. The station closed down at 2:15pm, saying that none of the other DJs had turned up. I am told that they were on the air between 12:45pm and 1:30pm on Saturday but closed down after announcing that they were moving location. I understand that they were back on the air again at 5pm, but only for five minutes. The main broadcasting day was Sunday, when they were on the air at 8am, with the following announced line-up:-  
Sun: 8am Gerry King; 10am Phil Davies, Noon Tony Price; 2pm Paul Jones; 4pm Chuck Brogan; 6pm Phil Davies with station close-down.

All went well, with the station opening at 8pm and all DJs doing their allotted shows, but when the frequency was checked at 3pm, the station wasn't found and at 3:15pm, Radio Merseyland announced that LPR had been raided and closed-down themselves. The raid comes on a day when the station was announcing a new mailing address and a new location. At the same time, they had begun to gather a reliable crew of DJs, so the raid comes at a particularly unfortunate time. Let's hope it isn't too long before they make a come-back.

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

This station was apparently on the air between 9am and 10:30am on Friday with Jim Browne and Mark Evans doing a "test" transmission. Mark Evans was also on the air between 11:50am and 2:15pm on Saturday, with a "test" transmission on their new frequency of 1395kHz. Neither of these broadcasts was heard here. Noted Sunday were:-  
Sun: 9:30am Cont. music; 10am Mark Evans; Noon Jim Browne; 2:40pm Mark Evans; 3:15pm close-down after announcement of raid on LPR.

The station was planning to go off the air at 4pm due to a shortage of DJs, with Dave Starr apparently being "sacked". It isn't yet known whether this week's raid will change their plans, but they have announced that from next Sunday their schedule will be 9am to midnight. With Rock Steady Eddie and Lyn Barry back from holiday, and Jeff Stone being available, they hope to extend their hours without any of the DJs doing over-long hours.

RADIO JULIE 104.8FM(s); 112, Greenwood Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, Merseyside L49 8HU

The full line-up for this station remains a mystery as announced schedules seem subject to alteration to cover for "missing" DJs, reception at work is impossible, and this week there have been alterations due to equipment problems and DTI activity. Noted were:-  
Mon: 8am Louise Thompson; 10am The Lone Ranger; Noon Paula "P"; 2pm Crezzey; 4pm Andy Rogers; 6pm Mark Ross; 8pm Carl "W"; 10pm Andy Davies; Midnight Paula "P"; 2am(??) close-down  
Wed: Paula "P"(?) was noted at an un-noted time, saying that it wasn't possible for the station to continue with whatever "experiment" they were trying out, and they closed down a couple of minutes later.  
Fri: .....Noon BJ-the DJ; 2:15pm Andy Rogers; 4pm Neil Bishop(for Carl "W"); 5pm Mark Ross(for Carl "W"); 6pm Mark Ross; 8pm Crezzey; 10pm Andy Davies; Midnight Paula "P"  
2am .....  
Sat: 8am Dave Dee; 10am Andy Rogers; Noon Paul Western; 2pm Larry James; 4pm Neil Bishop; 5pm Paula "P"; 6pm Andy Sloane; 8pm Cressey; 10pm TOM RICHIE(new); Midnight Paula "P"; 2am Andy Davies; 4pm Scott Brennan; 6pm ????  
Sun: 8am Louise Thompson; 10am The Lone Ranger; Noon Kenny Gee; 1:30pm intermittent modulation with tapes(?); 2:53pm Joe Williams; 4pm Peter Johnson; 4:04pm off air because of DTI activity (elsewher??); 4:25pm Peter Johnson; 5pm off air due to DTI activity in the immediate area.

SLAG-OFF INT:105.2FM: 132, Norwood Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 4EG.

This station have been noted only on Sunday this week. Around 3:32pm an intermittent but strong signal was noted on the frequency. It appeared to be playing tapes of CDFM and was thought to be a "test transmission" from the latter station. It disappeared a few minutes later. At 4:05pm, Mike Hughes was heard on the frequency saying that "SOI are

back". He asked "Neil and Tony" for reception reports (via CB??) and I guess that he must have been told about the raid on Liverpool Pirate Radio, as the transmitter was switched off in mid-record. They were back on the air by 8pm, but the DJ's name wasn't noted. Whoever it was had handed over to Mike Hughes by 10:10pm, and the latter was still on the air when the station was last checked at 11:30pm

CONCEPT RADIO 104.3FM: 13, Kipling Avenue, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 2DH. This station signed-on shortly before 7pm on Sunday, with Tom Webb announcing that he wouldn't be doing his normal show because of a sore throat. The schedule noted from that point in time was:-

Sun: 7pm Jim Lowe; 9pm Dave Moore; 11pm Tom Webb; Midnight(?) close-down(?).

RADIO MERSEY WAVES: 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW. Contrary to expectation, this station didn't operate all week because of the Bank Holiday, so previous "all week" operation seems to have been aimed at maximum publicity for the Night-out on Monday 4th May (not 5th May as I mentioned rather rudely last week!!). Some feedback from a couple of local teenagers say that the Night-Out was "fantastic" and I know from previous experience that Keith the Chief, no matter what station he is working for at the time, goes to great lengths to ensure that the younger listeners get good value for their money. I hope everything went off OK for the station on Monday. The latest news from the station is that Dave Benitez entered a competition in Southport to find DJs for stations in Norway, and finished up as one of the four DJs chosen. If he gets there, he will find that wages in Norway are five times the wages in UK, but prices in the shops are four times those in the UK. If he ends up in an "oil town" such as Stavanger, then more than half his monthly wage will be taken up just in finding somewhere to live! In Oslo, the country's capital, he will find himself competing with the American Forces stations on FM, the troops being part of the permanent NATO forces in that part of the world! Details of the station that he is going to (Radio Vest??) and some recordings of their output would be most welcome. Heard this week have been:-

Mon: 7am Dave Collins; 10am Jeff Starr; 1pm Peter Thomas; 3pm Paul Woods; 4pm KtC; 5pm Mark Palmer; 6pm Steve Coltrane; 9pm c/down for Night-out.

Fri: 7am Dave Collins; 10am Tommy White(alias T.P.Toppick); Noon Mark Palmer; 2pm Paul James(?); 4pm Peter Thomas; 6pm Paul Woods; 8pm DJ Sidney; 10pm Kevin Jordan; Midnight Tony West; 2am(?) close-down

Sat: 7am Dave Collins; 10:15am Mark Wright; Noon Charles Pope; 2pm Paul James; 4pm Kay Morris; 5pm KtC; 7pm Tony West; 10pm Paul Jay; Midnight Roy & Billy; 2am(?) c/down

Sun: Dave Collins (all-nighter since 2am); 9am Kevin Jordan; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Tony Coltrane; with "live" phone-in; 3:30pm Peter Thomas, who put the station on a full security alert.... At 4:50pm, the DJ on Radio Julie said that they may not be able to stay on the air for much longer, and at 5pm, both stations had gone from the air...8pm Don La One; 10pm Mark Newman; Midnight Tony Hollis; 2am(?) c/down

.....

ROSS FM continue to be reported as being on the air, but aren't noted here. However, there are conflicting reports of the frequencies from more than one reliable source. One said that ROSS FM was on the air on 102.0MHz last Sunday, while another reported them on 102.7 MHz. Neither mentioned the time that they had been heard.

There are also other Merseyside FM stations reported to be on the air, but these seem to be very low-powered and not heard outside their immediate area, and are most certainly not heard here,

The space below was intended to be filled with a press cutting to the effect that Allan Beswick has had his programme reinstated on RED ROSE RADIO, but the cutting has been lost. As I remember, 38,000 "morons" from Red Rose country wanted him back again, while 10,000 sensible folk didn't. Had the same poll been conducted in the Merseyside area, the opposite would have been the result.