

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

week ending Sunday 26th July 1987

Mike Smith and Gary Palmer of MERSEY FM were in Court on Wednesday to answer charges arising from the DTI raid of 19th Feb. 1987. They were each given a 2-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs of £160 and £60 respectively. The station got back ALL cassettes, tuner, amplifier (another report says ALL of their audio equipment) and 50 of the 175 records that were confiscated. In spite of the recent ruling by the House of Lords, the DTI, who have been very active on Merseyside over the past couple of weeks, still apparently have the power to confiscate records in certain circumstances.

RADIO ATLANTIS 93.6kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW.

On Friday, this station left the air in mid-record at 2:18pm but were noted just coming back again at 4:20pm. Steve Bishop said that they had been visited by the DTI but had closed-down and moved location. The announced FM broadcasts have not yet been heard here. The Medium Wave format was:

Mon: 11am Steve Bishop; Noon Andy Davies; 1pm Rick Dane; 3pm Steve Bishop; 4pm Andy Davies; 5pm close-down

Fri: 11am Steve Bishop; 1pm Andy Davies; 2pm Rick Dane; 2:18pm off....4:20pm Steve Bishop; 5pm Rick Dane; 6pm close-down

Sat: 11am Steve Bishop; 1pm Andy Davies; 2pm Rick Dane; 4pm Andy Davies; 5pm close-down

Sun: 10am Steve Bishop (FRS); 11am Andy Davies(FRS); Noon Steve Bishop; 1pm Andy Davies; 2pm Rick Dane; 5pm close-down

RADIO JULIE 104.8MHz:

This station was re-activated on Saturday night, apparently just to assure listeners that they haven't been forced to close down, as reported elsewhere. They opened at 5pm but weren't noted here till 7:12pm. Format was:-

Sat: 5pm Mark Ross + Ritchie "C"; 6pm Crezzey; 9pm Ritchie "C"; 11pm Mark Ross + Ritchie "C"; close-down time wasn't noted

The station staff said they were hoping to be on the air on Sunday but nothing was heard here. Announcements suggest that the station will be on the air every fourth weekend just to keep things "ticking over" till they make a proper come-back. No mailing address was noted and it isn't certain whether the old 112, Greenwood Road, Woodchurch, Merseyside L49 8HU is still in force.

HORIZON FM 105.3MHz: 11, Massey Street, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 4JU

This station was noted from 7pm on Tuesday, with:-

Tues: 7pm Crezzey; 8pm Tony Hayes; 9pm Neil Bishop; 10pm DJ Trix; 11pm Andy Davies(of Atlantis); close-down time not noted

Their Wednesday broadcast wasn't noted. One source says that they came on air but closed down as they were being obliterated by Slag-Off International, but in the Radio Atlantis free radio news, Steve Bishop reported that they had stayed off the air due to a visit by the DTI on the previous night.

DTI FM 106.2MHz: No mailing address

On Tuesday, this station was heard for the first time, with Kevin Jordan apologising to Horizon FM for causing interference earlier in the evening and also the previous week, when Anoraks UK noted them on Mon/Tues/Wed with early close-down on Wed due to DTI activity. Noted this week were:-

Tues: 8:57pm Intermittant music; 9pm Kevin Jordan; 10pm Angie Cross; 10:30 Rob(Security); close-down time not noted

Wednesday's broadcast, if any, wasn't heard. At various times they have referred to themselves as Decibel Transmission International and said that DJ Coley (ex R.Julie) is the station manager. Jim Browne tells me that in Bootle the signal is being heard on at least six different frequencies along the FM band.

SLAG-OFF INT 105.3MHz: 9, Newell Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 1AD.

This station are now using a different mailing address. They were noted from 6:55pm on Wednesday, when Mike Hughes seems to have been the only DJ. At 9:30pm he announced that they were going off the air "due to unforeseen circumstances" and closed down immediately. They were next noted on the air at 7:20pm, with Mike Hughes and Steve Mason at various times, but change-over times weren't noted. I have a note here that they weren't found at 10:30pm, but I feel sure that they were still on the air much later than this

RADIO VERONICA 104.7MHz: 81, Lark Lane, Liverpool, L17 8UP.

Tom Webb tells me that this station was on the air around lunchtime on Sunday, but they weren't heard here. Neil Frazer tells me that the current format is Sundays only from noon to 1pm (or possibly 1:30pm). On Sunday Radio Veronica held a two-way link up with Radio West in Ireland and spoke to Don Allan, Captain West and Phil Hilton. They are hoping to arrange more of these link-ups with other Irish stations in the future.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW. This station has had many problems and didn't manage to get back onto the air till the early hours of Sunday morning. After the DTI raid on 17th July, they let it be known that they would be off the air for the whole weekend and consequently, nothing was heard on Monday. The carrier was noted at 12:30pm on Thursday but only for a short while and there was no usual "test broadcast" that night. On Friday morning around 8am, an extremely distorted, intermittent signal from one of the legal stations was noted, followed by an extremely distorted, intermittent signal emanating from a police transmitter. The attempts to modulate the signal had ended by 9:30am, but the carrier remained on air all day. From 7:30pm they attempted once again to modulate the signal but the signal remained unreadable. They appear to have given up at about 11pm, and by 11:45pm the frequency was back to carrier only. On Saturday, the carrier remained on the air all day and further attempts to modulate it started at 5:30pm, but with the same results as before. By 7pm, even the carrier had gone, but it had re-appeared by 11:45pm. At 8:30am on Sunday, a "ticking noise" was heard on the frequency till Kevin Jordan turned up for his programme at 9am. It seems that the problems had been solved and programming had begun in the early hours with a joint Peter Thomas/DJC show, then Phil Davies from 4pm-9am. Some time during Phil's show, he had fallen asleep and the "ticking noise" was, in fact, the needle going round and round in the centre of the record. The fact that Phil, the "all-night marathon DJing specialist", fell asleep is probably a measure of the effort that the staff had put in to get the station back on the air. The Sunday broadcast was back up to the station's normal standard and noted were:-

Sun: 9am Kevin Jordan; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Paul Woods; 3pm Peter Thomas; 5pm DJC; 6pm Mark Palmer; 8pm Don La One; 10pm Tony West; 10:40pm Tony Hollis; 2am Brian Johnson; 4am Phil Davies (to 8am)

During his show, Paul Woods said that the station was short of equipment and asked the listeners to donate unwanted mics, decks, etc. He said that the station was currently using his own decks, which he didn't want to lose. He then went on to say "The DTI have raided us so many times over the past three weeks that you just wouldn't believe it" However, some DJs say that a station has been "raided" when they mean that the DTI has monitored or attempted to raid them. Later, Mark Palmer just said that in the raid of 17th July, the station had lost "thousands and thousands of pounds worth of equipment"

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