

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 16th August 1987

The high-profile campaign by the DTI against the local pirate stations continues unabated, with Radio Mersey Waves raided yet again at 2:30pm on Friday. Initial indications are that they have lost all their equipment and they don't appear to have attempted to come back on the air over the weekend. Few stations have been heard, but this may partly be due to holidays as well as DTI activity.

Some time ago, the operator of Free Medway Town Radio, a Short Wave station, was in court facing three charges connected with the operation of an un-licensed station. He was fined £200 on each charge plus costs. In a more recent radio club bulletin, I came across the following report. "The FMTR operator had his fine reduced to £300 on appeal. It came to light that the section of the wireless Telegraphy Act dealing with the confiscation of electrically connected items has been removed, so all the FMTR equipment apart from the transmitter and SWR meter had to be returned".

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW
As stated above, this station was raided by the DTI at 2:30pm on Friday and hasn't been heard since then. It is ironical that this week they appear to have solved all the problems that plagued them for the past few weeks, and were putting out a very nice trouble-free signal till the DTI struck. Noted were:-

Mon: ...Phil Davies(from 4am); 8am Mark Palmer; 11am John Cecchini; 1pm DJC; 3pm Paul Woods; 5pm Paul Woods(for Charles Pope); 5:40pm Charles Pope; 7pm Steve Coltrane; 9pm Tony Hollis; 11pm Mark Wright; 12:30am T.P.Toppick; 3am close-down
Fri: 7am Mark Palmer; 10am T.P.Toppick; Noon Paul James; 2pm Brian Johnson; 2:31 raid..

DTI-FM 106.2MHz

This station was noted on Tuesday from 8pm, with an intermittent signal. Later, the music was well heard, but speech was barely audible all evening. The format was:
Tue: 8pm DJ Phil and Hazel(?); 9pm DJ Dave; 10pm DJ Phil and Hazel(?); 11pm close-down.
They were next noted on Saturday night from 8pm again with an intermittent signal. It is a station that is impossible to listen to for any length of time due the sudden differences in signal and modulation level. At one minute the speech will be blasting out and the music barely heard, then a few minutes later the reverse. Then the signal will virtually disappear only to blast out a bit later still. The signal often appears on half a dozen frequencies and at times occupies the whole band between 104.4MHz and 107MHz. When everything seems to be working OK, the DJs don't seem content to leave well alone and the transmission invariably ends up as intermittent crackles, crashes, buzzes and hums, etc till things can be put right again.

On Saturday night all these features were present and by bedtime they seem to have gone off the air. They were first noted at 9:50am on Sunday with DJs Phil and Dave apparently doing one hour on-one hour off with change-over at the half hour. At 2pm close-down they said that they had been on the air continuously for 18 hours with just two DJs and they urged listeners to write to Anoraks UK telling them how good the station is!!

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

This station was on the air on Sunday with a longer than normal broadcast but were obliterated by DTI-FM for long periods. Noted were:
Sun: 9am Adrian Cooke and Paul Gilbert(?); 11am Dean Bartlett; 1pm Neil Frazer; 2:30pm close-down.

The station appears to have been holding a special MOA Anniversary broadcast

RADIO ATLANTIS 936kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW

In his Free Radio Show, Steve Bishop said that the station was experiencing difficulty with staff, location and equipment in addition to those posed by the DTI. On Saturday he closed the station down ten minutes early because of the TV turned full on in the next room, and on Sunday there were many reports of the transmitter "arcing". He said that the station would continue to operate, no matter how many times they are raided, but they didn't see why the DTI should keep removing equipment, and in the next month or two, they are hoping to transfer the operation to Dublin. If this move comes off, there will be a big increase in power and a change to 24-hour, 7-day programming.

Mon: 11am Steve Bishop; 2pm Rick Dane; 5pm Steve Bishop; 6pm close-down
Fri: 11am intermittent music; 11:30am Steve Bishop; 2pm Rick Dane; 3pm Mike Hayes; 4pm Rick Dane; 5pm close-down
Sat: Noon Steve Bishop; 2pm Rick Dane; 4pm Steve Bishop; 4:52pm close-down
Sun: 11am Steve Bishop(FRS); Noon John Vaughan; 1pm Andy Davies; 2pm Steve Bishop; 4:30pm Rick Dane; 7pm close-down