

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 13th September 1987

On a weekend when the DTI could reasonably have been expected to turn out in force, more stations than ever chose to come on the air, even though some of the Medium Wave stations near to 1404kHz are very low powered and difficult to pick up. The Court case arising from the DTI raid on Radio Merseyland has been postponed from 17th Sept to some as yet unknown date in October. Noted this week were:-

DTI-FM: 106.2MHz; 23, Stoneby Drive, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 OLG.

This station was noted from 7pm on Tuesday with a good signal till 8pm when it became intermittent. It was poor again from 10pm, when the same DJ tried to make up for the loss of his earlier show. The signal was good for the whole weekend, but wasn't noted on Saturday. Heard were:-

Tue: 7pm Phil Headroom; 8pm Mad Mick (intermittant); 9pm Lisa; 10pm Mad Mick (intermittant) gone altogether by 10:55pm

Fri: 7pm Dave Jordan; 8pm Mad Mick; 9pm Burt Who; 10pm Phil Headroom; 11pm close-down

Sun: Noon Mad Mick + Phil Headroom; 1pm Lisa; 2pm Dave Jordan; 3pm Phil Headroom; 4pm (??) close-down.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L44 1AU.

This station was noted from 11:44pm on Friday, but sign-on wasn't noted. The signal was intermittent with "tests" being carried out utilising a tape of a Paul Jay show. The signal was possibly on the air all night as the Paul Jay tape was still on the air at 8am Saturday, till 10am, when programming proper began. Heard were:

Sat: 9am Mark Palmer; 11am Dave Benitez; 1pm Paul James; 3pm Paul Woods; 5pm Peter Thomas; 7pm KtC; 9pm Paul Jay; 11pm Kevin Jordan; 1am Brian Johnson; 3pm Phil Davies; 5am close-down

Sat: 9am Kevin Jordan; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Don La One; 3pm Mark Wright; 5pm DJC; 6pm Tony Hollis; 8pm John Cecchini; 10pm Tony Marshall; Midnight DJ Sidney; 2am Phil Davies; 4am close-down.

A couple of items of interest have been broadcast by the station. Kevin Jordan refused to read out the full list of DJs in a listener's letter as some of them are no longer with the station. Mark Wright later said that some of the DJs had gone off and formed their own station. They say that they will operate on Sat/Sun/Mon next weekend but hope to revert to full 4-day operation from then on.

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

This station was only noted on Sunday, whwn they either had a carrier or intermittent modulation on the frequency at 2:20pm. By 2:35pm, the station was in full-swing with music and Mike Hughes holding little conversations with unheard people in the background. Close-down time wasn't noted, but the station wasn't found when checked at 4:45pm. Unusual for a Sunday night, but they apparently weren't on the air in the evening.

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

This station was well heard from 11am on Sunday, possibly due to "spurs" in the front end of the receiver in use. The North Coast Radio carrier, which had been "pulling through" the BBC R.Lancs signal before 11am, seemed to be enhancing the Radio Veronica signal till noon, when the former was switched off and Veronica was left to fend for itself. Reception dropped off badly and the promised explanation as to why the station had closed-down early on the previous two weekends wasn't heard. Noted were:-

Sun: 11am Adrian Cooke; Noon Neil Frazer; 1pm (??) close-down

NORTH COAST RADIO 104.8 MHz and 1350kHz 18, Downham Drive, Heswall, Merseyside L60 5RF

This station was first noted with a very weak signal on 104.8MHz at 3:54pm. After a while they announced that they were also on Medium Wave and a very strong signal was found on 1350kHz. They announced a Sat/Sun/Mon format but technical problems kept them off the air for most of the weekend. Noted on Saturday were Neil Bishop to 5pm, DJ Crezzey to 7pm then Tony West till sudden loss of signal at 7:40pm. On Sunday they seem to have had carriers on both bands till noon, but no modulation was noted. They were noted on FM only at 7:30pm, after apparently signing-on at 6:15pm and had the MW service on the air by 7:50pm. Heard were Mark Ross to 8pm then Mark Burgess. Around 9pm the signal became intermittent, but most of the announcements made previously weren't reliable, so it isn't known for sure who was the DJ from this time. Instructions were going out over the FM frequency as they carried out some experiments or tests. These tests consisted of switching the modulation of both transmitters on and off at intervals and broadcasting cryptic messages between themselves. At this point I turned off. Not my idea of entertainment at all, so I hope they soon get the equipment sorted out and the signals back to the old Radio Julie standards.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO 1404kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD

This station opened at noon on Sunday and Phil Davies gave the format as:-

Sun: Noon Phil Davies; 2pm George Jones(Rock prog); 4pm Paul Jones; 6pm close-down.

Two other stations, East Coast Radio and Radio Veronica International, were due on the air on either side of LPR. The local signals are all very weak in Liscard and are all close together in frequency. In the same space there are also two very weak French stations and Radio Berlin International from 2:30pm. With VFOs in use, this part of the band is usually just a mess of "hets" with weak stations difficult to find and even more difficult to hold for any length of time.

Liverpool Pirate Radio was eventually found on 1386kHz at 12:40pm but playing Rock music. Shortly before 2pm, Phil Davies was heard with an "Oldies" show which extended beyond 2pm and at 2:20pm the station was carrying continuous Phil Davies jingles. It is believed that the station may have closed-down after these jingles, but with Radio Berlin International signing-on at 2:30 pm, after running their Interval Signal for more than five minutes, it was impossible to tell. The station is still very short of equipment as a result of the DTI raid on 10th May, which is why the signal is currently so weak.

RADIO VERONICA INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz: No other details

This station was noted very briefly around 12:30pm on Sunday, when they sent greetings to Rick Dane. The DJ was Gary Noble, who had apparently been on the air since noon. The station wasn't found at any later checks.

EAST COAST RADIO No details.

This station wasn't found although it is reputed to be the closest to my location. It isn't known whether or not they were actually on the air, though it should be remembered that last weekend's announcement said that the broadcast was a "one-off" till they were ready to come on the air properly

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