

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO have not been heard all week.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1296kHz - are now announcing, and apparently sticking to, a regular DJ line-up. Variations to this line-up are now being announced on certain days of the week, and at weekends, although the variations also seem to be a regular arrangement, but the system still allows for "guest" DJs at weekends. Most of the "silliness" seems to have gone from the broadcasts, and the station sounds much the better for it. On Tuesday night, Paul Woods announced that the station would be closing down to sort out the transmitter and eliminate the second harmonic that it is putting into the shipping band. The station don't seem to have done anything ^{about} it, and the harmonic is as strong as ever this weekend. Later on in the week, one of the DJs seemed quite proud that reports had been received for the harmonic from as far afield as Scotland and London

RADIO ELEANOR were heard on Saturday on their new frequency of 1179kHz. They operated their normal schedule, but the Paul Rogers show was extended from 8pm to 9pm close-down, and the day's broadcasting was 10am to 9pm. They opened very late on Sunday, and were not heard until shortly before 11am, when they were using their old frequency of 1449kHz in parallel with 1179kHz, and possibly 94.8MHz FM. Paul Rogers opened the station and held the fort until Tony Reeve, who overslept, took over at 11am. The day's schedule was completely disrupted, and heard were Tony Reeve (11am to noon); Barry Cullen (noon to 2pm); Mark Wright (2pm to 3pm?); Continuous music to 4pm, then Paul Rogers from 4pm to 5pm close-down. Radio Eleanor were also putting a second harmonic into the shipping band last weekend, but on Sunday, Paul Rogers announced that the station was aware of this, and that the problem would be attended to during the coming week. Today (Sunday) both 1449kHz and 1179kHz transmitters seem to be producing second harmonic signals. A letter from a listener in Ireland asked whether Paul Rogers was the same Paul Rogers who once worked on ABC Radio in Dublin, and he said that it was. The station is promising a full line-up of DJs next weekend, and a full schedule.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES At 6pm, I thought that Radio Eleanor had decided to come back onto the air, as a strong signal was heard on 1179kHz on Sunday night. However, very shortly after this, Bert Williams announced the station as Merseywaves on 94.8MHz FM. A quick check revealed that the station was operating on 1179kHz, 1449kHz and 94.8MHz FM. Announcements made at Central Radio's close-down suggested that Radio Merseywaves would be operating throughout the night, and by midnight on Sunday they were still on 1179kHz and 94.8MHz; 1449kHz having been dropped from about 8pm. Bert Williams and Paul Jay seem to be the only people involved with this station, which is announcing "Engineering test transmissions" and not giving any mailing address.

RADIO VERONICA I am told that the unidentified station reported on 1343kHz last Sunday were identifying as "The New Radio Veronica". They were announcing their schedule as Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6pm till midnight, and that one of the DJs was Dave Walker of North Coast Commercial. The station reportedly came on the air on Friday, but were gone after half an hour or so, and have not been heard since.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL - 1386kHz are a station with a lot of problems. They opened up at 1:30pm on Sunday, after struggling to erect and SWR-in an antenna since 9am. The aerial mast blew down again in Saturday night's gales. The DJ line-up was not established, but Jim Brown, Mark Evans, Jeff Stone and Steve Tyler seem to have operated the station until close-down shortly after 9pm. On Tuesday, Jim Brown was served notice to attend Court to answer charges arising out of the raid a couple of months ago. Before his appearance on Wednesday, he put the transmitter on the air for a short "test", and was "visited" again. At Court he was asked whether he wanted both cases to be heard at the same time, and to save things hanging-on, he agreed. The result was a £100 fine on the first charge, a £500 fine on the second charge, and £50 costs. In spite of the equipment loss and aerial problems, the signal this weekend has increased from S1 to S2, and the modulation was also much improved. From station announcements, the phone-in results were also much better, and everyone was reporting an improved signal. The next Central Radio listener's night out will be on 29th February, and will be held in the Windsor Castle Hotel in Walton Vale, Liverpool, which is very close to Orrell Park Station.

ALTERNATIVE RADIO TELSTAR - 1125kHz At noon on Sunday, Steve Bishop was heard to announce the "first day of broadcasting" of Alternative Radio Telstar

on 1125kHz, 266m. The announced schedule is Noon to 6pm on Sundays, and for the time being, at least, the station seems to be operated single-handedly. The mailing address is:-
15, Cressington Avenue, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 6QJ
The station was still on the air at 5:15pm, but had gone by my 5:59pm check.

CHANNEL 5 - 1242kHz This station was not heard until 5:18pm on Saturday, although I am told that they did, in fact, open at about 11:15am and operate for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before leaving the air suddenly and without announcement. The station was announcing continuous broadcasting until midnight on Sunday, with Matt Black doing the 10pm to Midnight slot in both nights. He was not heard on Saturday night, and Steve West seems to have closed the station down at 10pm on Sunday. They were heard up to about 9:30pm but had gone at 10:04pm check.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL - 1413kHz This station normally puts in a very weak signal, and the direction of the receiver's ferrite rod is critical, if the station is to be heard at all. On Sunday from 11:17am, a fairly strong signal was heard on 1413kHz, but from a different direction than Station "M". The broadcast was taped continuous music, with no IDs heard. At 12:20pm they were playing an old tape of a Radio Jackie North, with Rick Dane IDing as RJN, giving out a 4:56pm time check and wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I suspect that the station putting out the broadcast was Radio Free Wirral. The antenna direction was right; the station has strong links with Rick Dane and has previously been noted on this frequency. By 12:54pm, Station "M" were on the frequency, with the Roger Dee Show in progress. Roger Dee was apologising to listeners for the "jamming" on the frequency, but when I pointed the antenna in the previous direction again, a jamming type noise was barely detectable, even with all the "wicks" turned up fully. Whoever had been on the frequency earlier had definitely signed off, and I could not hear any deliberate jamming of SMI. At various times during the day, the DJs heard on Station "M" were Roger Dee, Ray Rockford, John Freeman (saying that it was good to be back on SMI again), Roger Dee again (still complaining about the jammer at 4:06pm), John Mitchell and Roger Dee again at 5:00pm. At 5:36pm, John Freeman was "on air" while the station was holding a phone-in. The station was still on air at 6:45pm, with Roger Dee thanking the other station that had been helping them out all day!! SMI's signal at my QTH is about $S\frac{1}{2}$, and I never found any deliberate attempt to "jam" them, so I am at a loss to understand Roger Dee's complaints. Close-down time was not noted.

1512kHz and 1611kHz

At 12:42pm on Sunday, continuous music was heard on 1512kHz. Shortly afterwards the station played Ravel's "Bolero", which pins it down very nicely to Radio Free Wirral. "Bolero" is their normal sign-off tune, although in this case the usual "186" IDs were absent. The transmitter was switched off at 12:52pm, and was not subsequently heard. Meanwhile, a station was heard with continuous music at 12:57pm on 1613kHz. Sign-off time was not noted, but the station had gone by 1:34pm, and was not subsequently heard. Announcements made by Jim Brown on Central Radio International suggested that a new station wanted to come on the air, but was having problems in avoiding existing stations. One of the stations involved was obviously Radio Free Wirral, who had asked Central Radio to broadcast a message to the "new" station and offering to help them with the matter of crystals in order to avoid mutual interference and to get both stations on the air satisfactorily. Watch this column for further developments.

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