

The meeting held at the Sessions public house on Wednesday night was very disappointing, due the small turn out. Mike Doyle, the organiser, paid a fleeting visit before shooting off into the City centre on Business. The only station representatives who were present were Chuck Brogan of LPR, Paul Rogers of Radio Eleanor and Lynne Shaw and Jim Brown of Central Radio, that is, until the entire crew of Storeton Community Radio turned up! They were all wearing the station's very smart tee-shirts which were identical from the front (except in the way they were filled) but had the presenter's own name on the back. It is a great pity that photographs are not really part of "free radio". As I am writing about SCR, I might as well put them first on this week's notes:-

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1296kHz; 30, Bridle Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside

This station has been off the air all week, and L43 9UU. the news on Wednesday night was that they had been "raided" by Telecom on the previous Sunday, during the "Little Di and Sandie Babe" show. The authorities timed the raid to coincide with two newest and least experienced presenters operating the transmitter, and that they had virtually removed every item of equipment on the station. It would seem that quite a few of the other presenters were also present in the studio at the time, but it is not yet clear which of them are to be prosecuted. I understand that the station were back on the air at 2am on Sunday, but the broadcast was not heard. A very strong carrier was noted on 1296kHz(?) at 11:02am on Sunday, and "Keith the Chief" opened up programming at 11:06am. He reported on the "raid" and said that his programme was "live", although the remainder of the shows would be taped. He also reported "that today or tomorrow, the station will be changing frequency to 1072kHz". I hope that he really meant 1071kHz, to avoid "hets" from the 16 other Czech, French, USSR and Yugoslav stations on this latter frequency. The station was beset with problems all day, and the use of old tapes (some of them from Christmas broadcasts) only confused the issue even further. Some attempt seems to have been made to adhere to the announced schedule, but time-checks were hopelessly out. Reception was very intermittent during the "Little Di and Sandy Babe" show, and the station had apparently gone from the air at 1:16pm. They were heard again at 1:23pm, but showed up on 1281kHz, where reception was very poor, due to splatter from RTE 2 on 1278kHz. SCR were "murdering" RTE2. At 2:12pm, the reception was still extremely poor, although SCR had drifted to 1281kHz. By 6:30pm, reception was not too bad, but the frequency had moved to 1285kHz, leaving a nasty "mix" noise on 1291kHz. Shortly after this time, Paul Woods said that the station was using a VFO, which had been obvious for some time! A check at 8:57pm showed no modulation, but noises of a VFO being adjusted. They were back on the air by 9:09pm, with the "Dave Collins" show, and had drifted back to 1292kHz. Later checks failed to reveal them, and sign-off time was not noted. The "raid" seems to have had a few worthwhile "spin-offs", as the station now say that they have posted look-outs, and they seem to have gone off the air this weekend to sort out their transmitter problems.

RADIO ELEANOR 1170kHz; 16 Stockbridge Street, Anfield, Liverpool L5 6PB.

This station is still announcing a schedule of 10am to 10pm on Saturdays, and 10am to 5pm on Sundays, although Paul Rogers is working very long hours to ensure that this schedule is met. Present line-up is: Saturday 10am - Noon Tony Reeve; Noon - 2pm Barry Cullen; 2pm - 4pm Mark Wright; 4pm - 8pm Paul Rogers; 8pm - 10pm Pete Davies and 10pm Paul Rogers with the station close-down. On Sundays, the line-up is 10am - Noon Tony Reeve; Noon - 2pm Barry Cullen; 2pm - 4pm Mark Wright and 4pm - 5pm close-down Paul Rogers. This Sunday, it was announced that Barry Cullen would be on the air next weekend, then "away for a few months". The station say that they are short of presenters, and are inviting "would-be" DJs to send in demonstration tapes. On Wednesday night, Paul Rogers told me that the station is now getting round to recording the "History of Radio Eleanor" tapes, and anyone interested should write to the station's mailing address for details of costs and a "safe" mailing address to send money to. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY TO THE STATION WITH YOUR ORIGINAL ENQUIRY, and do include an Sae with it, as none of the local stations make any money from advertising.

CHANNEL 5 1242kHz; 3 Palm Grove, Claughton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L 43 1TE.

This station were announcing another "marathon" weekend, but things did not seem to go exactly as planned. The announced schedule was Saturday/Sunday 10am - 1pm Gary Smith; 1pm - 4pm Pete Williams; 4pm - 7pm Steve West; 7pm - 10pm Dave Graham; 10pm - Midnight Matt Black; Midnight - 1am Frank Xerox; 1am - 5am Steve West; 5am - 10am Nick Catford. The same cycle was the to to be repeated on Sunday/Monday, but with Steve West closing the station down at 3am on Monday morning. They were heard at 2am on Sunday morning, but were just closing down "for a few minutes to make some adjustments". Pete Williams was not available

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on Sunday, and his place was taken by Gary Smith and Nick Catford. By 9pm, the transmission had become very intermittent. A little later, the mic was left open while the DJs were making "on-air" repairs. The rest of the schedule seems to have been filled, and Steve West was heard signing-on at 1am Monday. Around 12:15am, it sounded as though "someone" was sweeping a VFO over the frequency, but this did not persist for very long.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz - 78 Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW
This station signed-on at noon, and the schedule seemed to be:
Noon - 2pm Roger Dee; 2pm - 4pm Dave Wilson. When checked at 4:24pm the station had gone from the air and were not heard again. I should have added that SMI are a "Sundays only" station.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL 1386kHz - 18 Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF
This station was first noted at 10:33am on Sunday. DJs heard at various times were Jim Brown, Lynne Shaw, Mark Evans, Mike Doyle, Jeff Stone and Steve Tyler. From 5pm or so, the station followed its usual practice of acknowledging the day's phone-in requests, with all the DJs "doing a bit" during a fairly loose schedule. This weekend, the phone-in was extended almost to the 9:10pm close-down announcement by Jim Brown. The regular telephone number for the phone-ins, which last at least from noon to 4pm, is 051 922 3414, and the station would welcome some long-distance reception reports. Most of the local stations are advertising Central's night out on 29th February, so there should be a good attendance. For anyone thinking of coming along, it is to be held in the Windsor Castle Hotel, which is opposite Orrell Park railway station. It was nice to hear Mike Doyle back on the air again this weekend, but CRI say that Steve Turner has been "sacked" from DJ-ing, but will remain on the back-room staff.

MERSEYWAVES 94.8 MHz FM and 1197kHz AM - No mailing address announced.
This station was first noted at 7:40pm on Sunday on 1197kHz. The reception was intermittent at times, and the FM transmission was only heard faintly, and in patches. News from the station is that their schedule is currently 6pm - midnight on Sundays only while they are on "Engineering test transmissions", but within the next few weeks, they will operate "all-day Sunday". Later, Bert Williams apologised for the poor reception on FM, saying that the main transmitter was not being used, and that the station was using a number of smaller ones. Paul Jay was on-air at 7:40pm, but at all other checks, Bert Williams was "in the chair". They had gone from the air at 12:15am.

ABC RADIO have not been heard this weekend, and EAGLE RADIO also failed to show up.

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Barrie,

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO were warned about their harmonic, but chose to ignore the warnings, presumably because it was being heard as far away as London and Scotland, but now they have paid the penalty. Telecom took away every single item of equipment, and on Wednesday night, someone, but I can not remember who, said that it was the RAF who complained about the harmonics. SCR have had a lot of problems this weekend with the VFO wandering about all over the place. Letter in today says that they were operating on 1323kHz, but no time was mentioned.

Do you have any details (frequencies, addresses, etc) for the stations CURRENTLY operating in Ireland? I would like to help out a friend, but I don't keep up to date with the Irish scene, and I'm not sure which stations are still on the air

Bob