

Plenty of news this week, but, unfortunately, some of it is only hearsay at the moment.

ABC RADIO 96.25MHz stereo FM: 4, Glencairn Road, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 2AL

This station was well heard on both Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The signal is quite strong but the stereo beacon lights up with very "hit or miss" operation. The fault seems to lie in the receiver, but it doesn't detract from the reception. Heard on Tuesday were:- 9pm-10pm Kevin Palmer; 10pm-11pm Eric Monaghan; 11pm-Midnight BENNY JAMES (ex V.O. Peace); Midnight-1am "Mike"; 1am close-down by Tom Lodge. Heard on Wednesday were:- 10pm-11pm "Keith"; 11pm-Midnight Phil James; Midnight-1:18am close-down Tom Lodge. As usual, there was plenty of off-shore news from both Eric Monaghan and Tom Lodge. The latter announced that Storeton Community Radio had been 'visited' again last Sunday, and that if subsequent rumours about the raid were true, it was "very Good News for the Merseyside Free Radio stations". No other details were given. "Keith" took up part of Tom Lodge's programme to announce that KDA/WAR Radio would be back on the air soon. Hopefully, it would be on 90.3MHz stereo FM on Sunday 1st April, but if not, then at 10pm on Tuesday 3rd April. News from Tom Lodge is that ABC RADIO should be opening their Medium Wave broadcasts in nine or ten weeks, but no further details were given.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz: 78, Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW

Unfortunately, Sunday was another day when this station might as well not have bothered to come on the air. The signal was strong (S3), but so distorted that speech was largely unreadable. They opened at noon with Roger Dee signing-on the station. Roger Dee seemed to be on the air whenever heard until 1:47pm, when Roger Dee, Dave Wilson and Mike Ross were all talking at the same time, but I think that I heard Mike Ross say that it was supposed to be his show. Around 1:30pm-1:50pm the station went off the air a few times, but then seems to have settled down to the Dave Wilson Show. By 4:19pm, Roger Dee was back again. He gave a mention to most of the local stations, but mentioned carriers "testing" on 1512kHz and 1611kHz during the week. Details of these transmissions were not heard, nor were his announcement of a station on 102.7(?)MHz. The station must have realised that they had problems with their signal which had gone from the air when checked at 4:45pm.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 30, Bridle Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside

This station were not heard on Monday, which isn't L43 9UU. surprising if they were raided on the previous day. However, on Tuesday many of the DJs heard said that they had been on the air on Monday. They have had a few problems during the week, when Dave Collins has been replaced by Stevie Sound. Uncle Ern has missed a few shows, and the station say that he seems to have caught the same bug as Dave Collins. Miss Chris Sinclair was not heard on Wednesday, her afternoon spot being taken by Pablo Brad and her evening show by Alan Ross. The latter arrangement seems to be a permanent change. Chris was back on the air later in the week. Another change noted was Phil Davies on the air on Friday at 11:20pm in place of John Sniff. Phil said that he would be back on the air again between 1am and 4am, but I'm not certain that this broadcast took place. When first noted on Saturday (at 10:30am), Alan Ross had taken over from Dave Collins and not Stevie Sound. Normal schedule was followed until 5pm, except that "Little Di" seemed to be solo. Phil Davies signed-on at 5pm, but shortly afterwards the station developed problems and had gone from the air by 5:30pm. They were not heard again until 6:39pm, when Martin "C" was in the process of sorting things out. He said that Phil would be back on the air later, and that either Phil or Alan Ross would be opening up the station at 6am on Sunday. There was no mention of Phil doing a 1am-4am slot. Martin "C" said that Phil was upset at his programme being disrupted for the second week running, and I didn't hear him later on in the evening. On Sunday, the station were not on the air at 9:45am, and were not noted until 10:33am, when the John Sniff Show was in progress. From noon, the station appears to have stuck to its announced schedule, except that Martin "C" featured a continuous music tape from 9pm-9:45pm. The station announced tonight that Chris Sinclair and Martin "C" are to become engaged "officially" on 11th April. Another charity that the station is advertising is the Arrowe Park Sick Children's Holiday Fund, aimed at providing continental holidays, under nursing supervision with their own transport, for children whose illnesses are such that they would never otherwise be able to have a holiday.

CHANNEL FIVE 1242kHz: 23, Rice Hey Road, Egremont, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 ODX.

Another station with problems, but largely of a "staff shortage" nature. They did not sign on at 10am on Saturday, and were not heard until 12:50pm with continuous music during transmitter warm-up. They signed-on at noon with the Pete Williams Show, during which they announced that they had a few problems of a technical and staffing nature. As



the weekend passed, they said that Gary Smith had left "due to work commitments" and Nick Catford announced that this was his last weekend with the station. Matt Black was missing again, and the station announcements that he has 'flu don't seem all that convincing. Pete Williams said that Gary Smith was one of the founders of Radio Veronica and he was "there before me!". Seems that Pete Williams and Gary Smith must be "Mike Campbell" and "Mike Clarke", but their voices sound completely different over Channel Five's transmitter. The station stuck to their announced Pete Williams/Steve West/Nick Catford/Dave Graham schedule, but shortly after 10pm, Dave Graham was still on the air, saying that Matt Black had not turned up and that Pete Williams had gone to collect Frank Xerox for the rest of the 10pm-Midnight slot. Frank Xerox was heard at 11:44pm, announcing that he was standing-in for Matt Black for the second week on the trot. It was announced that Steve West would be on the air from Midnight to 5am, followed by Nick Catford from 5am-10am. The latter was on the air when first heard on Sunday, but he extended his slot to 1pm, to cover for the absence of Gary Smith. They appear to have run their normal schedule on Sunday after 1pm, at least until the Matt Black 10pm-Midnight slot, when Frank Xerox once again deputised. Background comments seem to suggest that the remainder of the personnel are not too happy with Matt Black's excuses, and they would like him to tell them what is going on!! During the weekend, the station have been advertising for two new DJs with their own record collections who can do an "alternative" programme. Almost anything will be acceptable so long as it isn't "Chart Music", which is not 'alternative'. Dave Graham says that the station will have a completely revised schedule next week.

RADIO ELEANOR 1179kHz: 16, Stockbridge Street, Anfield, Liverpool L5 6PB.

This was yet another station with a revised schedule. On Saturday, Tony Carr was not available, and Nick James did not seem to be available as stand-in. Their schedule, when heard, seems to have been:- Saturday: 10am-Noon Tony Reeve; Noon-2pm John Freeman; 2pm-5pm Mark Wright; 5pm-8pm Paul Rogers; 8pm-9pm Pete Davies; 9pm-10pm close-down Paul Rogers. On Sunday, the station deviated from its normal schedule in so far as Paul Rogers presented a tribute to Radio Caroline from 9am - 10am. After this, the station followed its normal Tony Reeve/John Freeman/Mark Wright/Paul Rogers format, with sign-off at 5pm. On Sunday, immediately after announcing the date, Tony Reeve was saying that the station was giving away a prize of a brand-new £5000 Peugeot car for the first correct entry to his very simple competition that was to take place at about 11:45am!!!

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL 1386kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station was not heard during the week, or on Saturday.

The station were not noted on Sunday until 10:16am, when Jeff Stone announced that Jim Browne had not turned up and carried on with continuous music. At 10:20am, he handed over to Mark Evans, who continued with a tape of Radio Caroline extracts, jingles and close-down announcement. At 11:30am, Jim Browne had still not showed up, and Mark Evans continued with his normal Sunday schedule until 1pm. During this time, it was announced that JB was ill, presumably the latest victim of the "bug". The schedule was not determined, but appears to have been:- 11:30am-1pm Mark Evans; 1pm-2:30pm Steve Bishop; 2:30pm-4:00pm Pete Murphy; 4:00pm-5:30pm Ken Woolfe; 5:30pm-7:00pm Steve Tyler; 7:00pm-8:00pm Steve Bishop; 8:00pm Station close-down by Jeff Stone. In view of the station not having any phone-in, it isn't known whether the news about BBC TV visiting the studio was an April Fool's Day joke or not

RADIO MERSEYWAVES 94.8MHz FM: No announced mailing address. 1197kHz AM

The station opened at 6pm on Sunday, with Bert Williams announcing that they were having problems with the FM antenna and that he would be playing continuous music, as he still had a heavy cold. The station seemed to think that the FM signal would be strong in areas where it was not normally heard, and weak in places where it was normally strong. In Liscard, it was the AM signal that was down in strength, the FM signal blasting in. Bert Williams' continuous music was broadcast until 8:30pm, when Paul Jay took over until 11:30pm. Bert then took over again until station close-down at midnight.

BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE's "Streetlife" programme from 8:30pm-10:05pm on Sunday, featured the article on local pirate radio. It consisted of an interview with Paul Rogers, after Con McConville had said what Steve Bishop had obviously "fed him". Steve was credited with organising the interview, during which, Paul didn't really put forward a good case for pirate radio. Con accepted that a "music station" was an alternative to the weekend sports put out by the legal stations, but Paul didn't really come up with any convincing argument that seven-day operation by a pirate station playing mainly chart music was an alternative to them.