

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENEWeek ending Sunday 29th April

On Friday night, BBC TV's long-awaited programme on pirate radio in Merseyside and Manchester was finally shown. It featured the DJs at Storeton Community Radio, with Paul Woods broadcasting, and interviews with two of SCR's younger listeners, Martin "C" of SCR and Simon Richards of KFM Radio in Stockport. Overall, BBC TV seem to have given the local stations much more opportunity to present their case than BBC Radio Merseyside did when they interviewed Radio Eleanor, and the people interviewed did not waste their chances. A spin-off from the programme was that viewers were invited to write to "Postbag" and air their views on the whole subject of "pirate" radio.

Storeton Community Radio have finalised details of their "under 18" night out. It will take place on 10th May at the Old Instonians Rugby Club, Woodchurch Road, Prenton. Unfortunately, there will be an admission charge of 50p, and the fire regulations limit the attendance to 200. In addition to disco and videos, there will be a demonstration of "body-poppin'" by a group from Harlem, USA, who are currently in the Merseyside area. What's been happening radio-wise?

RADIO ATLANTIS 1242kHz: 23, Lambeth Walk, Kirkdale, Liverpool L4 1UU.

The station appears to have operated its announced schedule, and has been heard most evenings to 9pm close-down. The signal remains weak, but readable, in the Liscard area of Wallasey.

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

This station operated a completely revised schedule this week. Heard on Tuesday were: 9pm-11pm IIAN JOHNSON; 11pm-Midnight Benny James; Tom Lodge closed the station down at midnight. Iian Johnson, of South East Sound, was making a "guest appearance" on ABC. During his programme he mentioned having previously worked for the BBC and various Irish and off-shore pirate stations. He gave out lots of information on the current London stations and plenty of news of the off-shore stations, including the way to set about visiting Radio Caroline. On Wednesday night the station came on the air at 7pm, after making some adjustments to the transmitter. They played continuous music, interspersed with appeals for reception reports until 9pm, when regular programming started. Heard were: Eric Monaghan, "Keith", Kevin Palmer and Tom Lodge.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 74, Big Meadow Road, Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead,

Merseyside L49 9AQ
The station has been operating a revised schedule this week. The main differences are that John Sniff and Brian "C" are each sharing half of their shows with "Little Di" on Mondays and Wednesdays and Martin "C", the boss, has been given two 2-hour slots per week, with the other DJs moving over to make room. Also Sandie Babe is still on holiday. The full schedule is now:- MONDAY 8am-10am Dave Collins; 10am-1pm Uncle Ern; 1pm-3pm Stevie Sounds; 3pm-5pm Paul Woods; 5pm-7pm Allan Ross; 7pm-8pm John Sniff; 8pm-9pm John Sniff/Little Di; 9pm-10pm Brian "C"/Little Di; 10pm-11pm Brian C; 11pm-2:30am Pablo Brad; TUESDAY 8am-11am Dave Collins; 11am-1pm Stevie Sounds; 1pm-3pm Uncle Ern; 3pm-5pm Paul Woods; 5pm-7pm Allan Ross; 7pm-9pm Dave Jones; 9pm-11pm Brian "C"; 11pm-12pm Chris Sinclair; 12pm-1am Keith the Chief/Paul Woods; 1am-2am Stevie Sounds; WEDNESDAY 8am-11am Dave Collins; 11am-2pm Stevie Sounds; 2pm-4pm Paul Woods; 4pm-5pm Mad Mike; 5pm-7pm Allan Ross; 7pm-8pm John Sniff; 8pm-10pm Martin "C"; 10pm-11pm Brian "C"; 11pm-12pm Chris Sinclair; 12pm-1am Keith the Chief/Paul Woods; 1am-2am Mad Mike; THURSDAY 8am-10am Dave Collins; 11am-1pm Stevie Sounds; 1pm-3pm Mad Mike; 3pm-5pm Uncle Ern; 5pm-7pm Edward Bear; 7pm-9pm Dave Jones; 9pm-11pm Brian "C"; 11pm-12pm Paul Woods; 12pm-1am Keith the Chief/Paul Woods; 1am-2am Stevie Sounds; FRIDAY 8am-11am Dave Collins; 11am-1pm Stevie Sounds; 1pm-3pm Paul Woods; 3pm-5pm John Sniff; 5pm-7pm Edward Bear; 7pm-9pm Martin "C"; 9pm-11pm Brian "C"; 11pm-12pm Chris Sinclair; 12pm-1am Keith the Chief/Paul Woods; 1am-2am Keith the Chief; SATURDAY 8am-11am Stevie Sounds; 11am-1pm Uncle Ern; 1pm-3pm Little Di; 3pm-5pm Paul Woods; 5pm-7pm Phil Davies; 7pm-9pm John Sniff; 9pm-11pm Brian "C"; 11pm-12pm Phil Davies; 12pm-1am Keith the Chief/Paul Woods; 1am-4am Phil Davies; SUNDAY 8am-10am Phil Davies; 10am-12am Stevie Sounds; 12am-1pm Little Di; 1pm-2pm Sandie Babe; 2pm-3pm Chris Sinclair; 3pm-5pm Pablo Brad; 5pm-7pm Phil Davies; 7pm-9pm John Sniff; 9pm-10pm Brian "C"; 10pm-12pm Keith the Chief; 12pm-1am Mad Mike; 1am-2am Stevie Sounds;

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

The station opened at 10am on Saturday and operated their announced schedule until 9pm. After this time they seem to have played continuous music, but his close-down announcement at 11pm, Paul Rogers credited the 9pm-11pm slot to the "Pete Davies Album Show". The station opened earlier than scheduled on Sunday and were already on the

air by 9:50am. They probably opened at 9am, with Paul Rogers doing the 9am-10am extra hour. They adhered to their announced schedule until 5pm. Paul Rogers' Free Radio News programme seems to get more popular each week and the station well over-runs its scheduled 5:30pm close-down time. This week they signed-off at 5:43pm. Paul's programme contains weekly news of the free radio events in the West Midlands, North Wales and Dublin. There is also publicity for free radio magazines and publications together with listener's letters. Also featured this week were the IBA test transmissions on 196m, the jamming of Sunshine Radio in Ireland (with "off-air" recordings) and a tape of the sound-track of the BBC's interview with SCR. At the end of the latter tape, Paul asked "was it all worth-while?" and invited listeners to write in and tell him what they thought of it.

CHANNEL FIVE 1242kHz: 23, Rice Hey Road, Egremont, Wallasey, Merseyside, L44 0DX.

This station seems to have had a lot of problems over the weekend. They were not heard until 4:49pm on Saturday, when the Pete Williams show was in progress. The schedule for the rest of the day was not noted but heard were:- Steve West at 6:26pm, Dave Graham at 9:35pm and Frank Xerox at 10:45pm. When checked at 11:15pm, the station was not on the air. On Sunday they were not noted until Noon, when the Pete Williams show was again in progress, but he handed over to Nick Catford at 1pm. Nick thanked Pete for the "last two and a bit hours", so they must have opened shortly before 11am. Once again the schedule was not determined but heard were:- Nick Catford at 2:34pm, Steve West at 4:20pm and 5pm, Dave Graham heard later but time not noted. By 10:30pm, during the Frank Xerox show, the transmitter seems to have drifted and was causing slight interference to Radio 3. The signal strength seemed to have dropped and there was a heterodyne whistle over them. During a break between records, "time pips" were heard co-channel. This was the last time that the station was noted.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz: 61, Sandhurst Street, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 7BU.

This station have not been heard at all this weekend.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 94.8MHz FM & 1197kHz AM: 23, Birnham Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside

The station signed-on at 6pm on Sunday, with apologies for L44 9AY the transmission on medium wave, which wasn't too good. The format used for the past few weeks seems to have become permanent. The signal strength is excellent in Liscard on FM, and it is a great pity that the transmission isn't in stereo.

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

This station have not been heard at all on weekdays, and may be signing off early. The weekday schedule is announced as:- 10am-12noon Jeff Stone; Noon-2pm Mark Evans; 2pm-3pm Jim Brown; After 3pm ??????. The Saturday schedule is the same, but with Ian Phillips doing the 3pm-5pm slot. This weekend the station was not found at 5:50pm check.

The Sunday schedule was:- 10am-Noon Jim Brown; Noon-2pm Mark Evans; 2pm-4pm Jeff Stone; 4pm-6pm Ken Woolfe; 6pm-8pm Ian Phillips. Between 1pm and 2pm the station were announcing 103 MHz FM, and asking for reception reports. The signal was blasting-in on a small pocket portable, but whenever I tried to contact the station, during their "phone-in", I could not get through. At 2:34pm, there was no sign of the FM signal, and Jeff Stone was reading out the results of the calls. Strange, but nearly every caller reported the FM signal as "rubbish" and the medium wave signal as good!

News from Jim Brown is that the station will very soon be changing frequency: probably on 30th April.

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