

A Now Radio Communications Publication



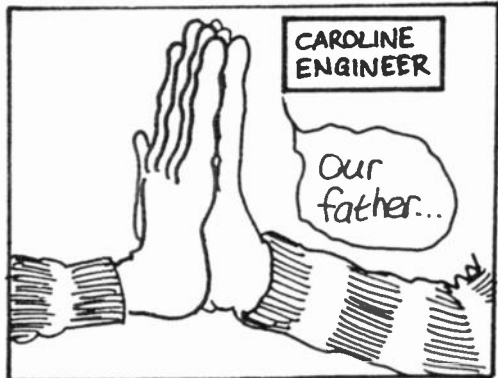
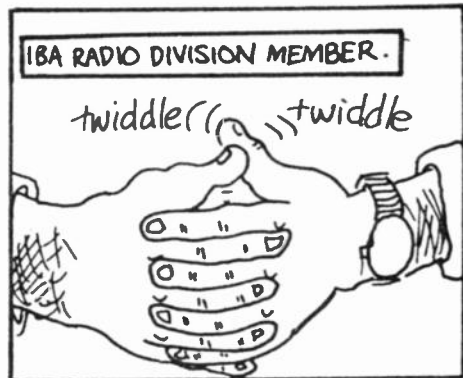
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NEWSLINE  
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ADVERTISING  
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# Now Radio

The Magazine for Today's Radio Industry

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# Now Radio

THE Magazine for Today's  
Radio Industry

EDITOR: Howard G. L. Rose

## CORRESPONDENTS

Steve Merike - Chris Andrew

John Lewis - Paul Easton

Gavin Cooper - Lawrence Hallett

Leo N. Brightstar - Clive Glover

Rob Chapman - Tracey Power

## UNITED STATES

Graham Kennedy

## TECHNICAL

Norman J. McLEOD

ISSN 0951-7901

Telephone:

(0536) 51 44 37

## U.K. ORDERS

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# Now Radio

NOW RADIO is published  
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NOW RADIO provides a full  
service of news, information  
and features for and about  
today's radio industry. It is  
the only all-radio trade  
journal for Britain.

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# Now Radio

THE Magazine  
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## Editorial Comment

At 11pm Monday night the adrenaline was well and truly flowing! Inside fifteen minutes I had puffed away no less than 3 Marlboro (I guiltily counted the stubs during the first commercial break) and drank two of the strongest cups of coffee of my life. I had a feeling that I was not alone! I wasn't. But did she really understand? I knew that she understood the kind of magic I was experiencing, but with her it was 21 years ago. I felt that she thought I should have 'grown out of it'. I hadn't. Neither, I am pleased to say, had the person causing all of this excitement. It was this very same person who made me understand the magic of radio - and communications. Yes. I was listening to JOHNNIE WALKER. On Radio Radio - The Super Station. Of course, I wasn't alone. I knew that from one end of this country to the other (with the notable exception of Aberdeen...Chris) radio professionals, anoraks and ordinary Joe Publics were tuning in.

Hearing *Because They're Young*, talk of *Frinton Flashing and Kissing in the Car*, brought it all back. Was Ronan able to hear it? I hoped so. So many of us 'got off' on listening to this guy back on *Caroline*, 21 years ago, and we all knew that given a night slot (and the ability

to be alone in the studio...) we could have the excitement brought back again.

I was told it could be a severe case of 'living in the past'. I responded by almost screaming, "No! There was just a bit of a break...this is what we've been missing all these years!" The music, the talk...even that outrageous spoof 'phone call from Julie-Anne (Sybell Fannell, we knew it was you! Chris must have been wetting himself!)...it was just great radio...JOHNNIE WALKER - welcome back to the night! At last!

(PS: She did love it. I know!)

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*[Norman McLeod is in Dublin this week. His column will appear again next week.]*

## BROADCASTING BILL AGREEMENT

The recent feud between the Dti under Lord Young and the Home Office under Douglas Hurd appears to be over and broad agreement has been reached on the content of a Broadcasting White Paper which is being scheduled for publication this autumn. It should pave the way for legislation to be presented in Parliament in the autumn of next year, which will also cover radio development plans.

## C. R. A. TAKE TO THE AIR AT WEEKEND GATHERING

This years COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting takes place next weekend (July 23/24) in Bristol. The South West group of the C.R.A. have obtained a Home Office licence to operate a Special Event Radio station, VOX POP, which will operate throughout the weekend.

The AM station has invited contributions, in the form of prerecorded material, or personal appearances for programme production or general assistance at the venue.

## RADIO LONDON RE-LAUNCH

BBC RADIO LONDON is preparing for a 48-hour closedown followed by a relaunch, a new name, and a programme policy targetted towards the adult 25-45 year old age grouping.

Until recently RADIO LONDON has become a top station amongst capital soul listeners: 58% of its audience has been from the 16-34 age group.

The managing editor of BBC RADIO LONDON is former CAPITAL RADIO staffer MATHEW BANNISTER. He will be guiding his station to target the same audience as CAPITAL GOLD, at

present only weekends, but later this year/early '89 - planning a week-long service on 1548 kHz, and playing classic gold hits.

More music will be played by the revamped RADIO LONDON. Sources indicate a rise from 40 to 50% of total average output. The remainder will be taken up by speech, including news and information.

Several well-known name presenters are being hired for the station.

It is believed that the station will rename itself GREATER LONDON RADIO - G.L.R. after the down period of two days ahead of relaunch.

## LGR TO APPEAL

Unlicensed station, LONDON GREEK RADIO, is to appeal against the decision of Magistrates at a North London Court to fine the station and order it to pay costs totalling more than £24,000. (see # 65)

LONDON GREEK RADIO has been hit by raids from the Dti more than 250 times in the last five years.

After the recent case the station continued broadcasting.

## CAROUSEL TARGETS MID-AUGUST LAUNCH

The CAROUSEL CABLE RADIO NETWORK, based in Hounslow, is planning to launch its service as from August 15. Presenters signed-up, according to DAVE SCOTT, include KEVIN SPECTOR, PAUL ALLEN and MICK WEST. Advertising is booked from the start date on the BT landline-delivered service which will be sent to a number of factories in the West London region.

Again, according to SCOTT, the service will be heard by "50 to 60,000 listeners each week..."

## NOW RADIO NEWSLINE

The latest radio industry news is available on 0898 654383 around the clock. Premium Rates Charged.

## RADIO RADIO THE SUPERSTATION LAUNCHES ON 16

### ILR STATIONS

16 ILR stations began taking the overnight sustaining service, RADIO RADIO - THE SUPERSTATION, from Monday evening (July 18th).

For the last couple of weeks RADIO RADIO has been used by only five commercial stations, HEReward, PENNINE, VIKING, HALLAM and GWR, and it has been sent down mono BT landlines.

Now RADIO RADIO has installed the up-graded PANDA 11 system which meets with IBA specifications.

Tests using the satellite-delivery began on July 12 and were completed successfully last Friday.

In September RADIO RADIO plans to introduce the Dolby Digital system to its transmissions.

The stations taking RADIO RADIO are: RADIO FORTH (Edinburgh), GWR RADIO (Bath, Bristol and Swindon), RADIO HALLAM (Sheffield), HEReward RADIO (Peterborough), LEICESTER SOUND, PENNINE RADIO (Bradford), PICCADILLY RADIO (Manchester), SOUTHERN SOUND (Brighton), RADIO TAY (Dundee/Perth), RADIO TRENT (Derby and Nottingham), RADIO 210 (Reading), VIKING RADIO (Hull) and RADIO WYVERN (Worcester).

Belfast independent station DOWNTOWN RADIO will be taking RADIO RADIO in a couple of weeks.

RADIO RADIO is transmitted on a sub-carrier of SUPER CHANNEL TV and originates from the BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) studios in Paddington, London. RADIO RADIO - THE SUPER STATION - provides programming from 2200 - 0600 nightly.

Some stations will take the entire feed, whilst others will vary the amount they re-broadcast.

Shareholders in RADIO RADIO are VIRGIN BROADCASTING, GWR RADIO, HEReward, YORKSHIRE RADIO NETWORK and RADIO FORTH/RADIO TAY.

## PREVER SETTLES AT METRO

A presenter who got his first break at the age of 13 on CAPITAL RADIO's children's show *Hulabaloo* as guest 'young jock' and who hosted the HEReward RADIO breakfast programme at the age of only 17, after gaining experience in hospital radio and at London's RADIO TOP SHOP, has landed a new post with *More Music METRO* in Newcastle.

DAVID PREVER joins METRO from GWR RADIO in the West Country where he spent a year on the breakfast programme.

He is taking on METRO's Saturday morning (0900 - 1100) airshift and carrying out a wide range of summer relief shifts.

## BBC HEAD WRITES TO MPs OVER CUTS

GERAINT STANLEY JONES, Managing Director of Regional Broadcasting at the BBC, has written to MPs setting out the Corporation's position over its 10% cuts in local radio services. He explained the BBC is completing its chain of local stations in England, and that no further cuts, beyond the current ten percent, are planned within the next five years.

## CHRISTIAN RADIO COURSE IN SEPTEMBER

"The expansion of Radio - an opportunity for Christians" is the title of a special one day course being organised by CACL B.

It will be on Saturday 10, September from 1000 - 1630. Cost £8 per person.

It will be at the Selly Oak Colleges, in Birmingham.

Further details from CHRIS WRIGHT, CACL B, PO Box 38, Newmarket, CB8 7EG. Telephone (0638) 730696.

## RADIO FAX RETURNING

RADIO FAX, the engineering and information radio service, is to return within the next few weeks with transmissions from the Irish Republic.

Equipment has been delivered by the originator of the project and an assistant engineer to the broadcast facilities of ABC RADIO in Waterford and tests are likely to commence shortly on 6205 kHz shortwave.

## SPECIAL EVENT TCR

TURKISH COMMUNITY RADIO, claiming to be the first ethnic group broadcasting legally, started transmitting last Saturday (July 16). TCR started as a London pirate station. Just when they attracted advertising and were earning about £1,000 per week the operation was closed down by the Dti. TCR decided to go 'legit' and a two-day special event broadcast at Enfield in September '87 proved successful. A home-built, Dti-approved, transmitter covered more than an 8-mile radius using just 50mW.

Station owner and manager E.M. ALI has since worked on a concept for community radio and is seen to be looked upon quite favourably by the Home Office. This years broadcast is from the London Festival at Alexandra Palace, North London lasting until August 7th on 1503 kHz (199 metres). TCR is allowed to use 1 W transmitter power and Mr ALI and Co-Manager C HUSSEIN believe they'll cover a great part of London. Other ethnic groups have been invited to use the facilities of TCR and the 14 hours of daily programmes are divided as follows:  
0700 - 0900 English; 0900 - 1100 Turkish; 1100 - 1300 Hebrew; 1300 - 1500 Turkish; 1500 - 1700 English, 1700 - 1900 Arabic and 1900 - 2100 Italian.

Sponsorship and spot advertising

bookings have been disappointingly low, according to ALI. But he still hopes to attract more advertising once the station is underway to recover the estimated running costs of more than £6,000.

Future plans include getting TCR on to Cable networks and obtaining a test licence to operate TCR until the new Radio legislation comes into force.

*Report by PETER HESSINGFIELD*

## RADIO NOVA - ON YOUR 'PHONE!

RADIO NOVA INTERNATIONAL can now be heard live by calling 0898 400 200. The special inter-reactive programme on the line (hosted by PAUL BURNETT) asks the caller to say certain words at the start of the call so as to identify answers to what they would like to hear. Then, by answering 'yes' after being offered the choice of hearing NOVA, the station is relayed live. Calls are charged at 38p per minute peak and 25p per minute standard time.

## NEWSLINK SALES ON OFFER

NEWSLINK, the prime - time spot commercial package carried by ILR, may be sold by a company other than INDEPENDENT RADIO SALES.

The contract to sell the airtime is being put out to tender, following a decision by the Board of INDEPENDENT RADIO NEWS.

The aim of NEWSLINK is to cover the costs of the IRN service to ILR stations. At the moment sales are improving. Sales in the current year are believed to be standing around the £1,000,000 figure - whilst the IRN costs are about £2,300,000.

## NOW RADIO NEWSLINE

0898 654 383

Dial and Listen to the latest  
Radio Industry News, Anytime!

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## NOVA RETURNS TO DUBLIN

RADIO NOVA INTERNATIONAL has returned to the air in Dublin and is being broadcast around-the-clock on 94.5 MHz (stereo) FM.

NOVA is being received off satellite and re-broadcast by a commercial station in that city which is not connected to the now Camberley-based operation.

The station is SOUTHSIDE RADIO, and it decided to take NOVA in order to win a bigger share of the Dublin market - where market leaders, at present, are Q102 and SUNSHINE RADIO.

At press time talks between RADIO NOVA are at an advanced stage with another United Kingdom ILR station. The station, would, like NORTH SOUND RADIO in Aberdeen, take the NOVA OVERNIGHT NETWORK, as a sustaining service.

MARCHER SOUND, ILR Wrexham, has officially announced that it has abandoned plans to take NOVA OVERNIGHT and has shelved ideas of using a sustaining service. It will now carry only its own programming. NOVA is on 9 United Kingdom cable systems, 1 in Amsterdam and 1 in Bergen, Norway. It is also broadcast over commercial radio stations in Ireland (ABC RADIO in Waterford and COAST HOT HITS in County Galway), RADIO NOVA and 4 other French stations, 1 radio station in Norway (VLR), 1 in Milan, Italy and on RADIO SOL in Mallorca.

ROBB EDEN at RADIO NOVA says he expects the service to be on six United Kingdom ILR stations by around September.

## FORMER CHILTERN PD JOINS NOVA

PHIL FOTHERGILL, who recently quit as Programmer at CHILTERN RADIO has joined RADIO NOVA.

He is presenting two programmes at

present, Saturday 1400 - 1800 and Sunday 1000 - 1300 hours.

## RADIO AT SHOW

Special Event Radio station RADIO THAMESMEAD will be broadcasting this weekend during the Town Show at Thamesmead, London.

The (normally cable only station) RADIO THAMESMEAD will broadcast 0700 - 2400 on Saturday and 0700 - 1900 on Sunday.

The station will be using an FM transmitter for its broadcasts.

Further information from BOB SMITH Station Manager of RADIO THAMESMEAD on (01) 311 3112.

## JONES EXITS CRA CHAIR

At this weekend's C.R.A. national conference in Bristol, BEVAN JONES will step down as Chairman of the organisation after 3 years in the post. A new Chair will be elected as per the Associations constitution.

## KINDERADIO

The CHILDRENS RADIO WORKSHOP is operating a Special Event Radio station at this year's Buxton Arts Festival, starting 30th July. Head of the project is PRINCE HOLMAN, the former offshore radio (ATLANTIS) presenter.

## PPL LATEST

Last week's meeting between AIRC and PPL over needletime agreement has been met by a counter-proposal being placed before AIRC this Monday.

It has yet to be discussed in detail by the AIRC Copyright Committee, which is headed by RADIO CLYDE managing director JIMMY GORDON.

Another meeting of the two organisations is scheduled for the first part of August.

**GWR Radio is the West's most listened to radio service. Through a network of seven transmitters GWR Radio broadcasts separate programming at peak times in Bristol and Avon, Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire serving a population of 1.75 million.**

**This Independent station is part of the GWR Group which underwent a hugely successful public flotation in March and recently announced record interim profits. Recent developments in Independent Radio have allowed GWR to plan a totally new service to complement its existing programmes.**

**Opportunities now exist to join one of Britain's most successful radio companies. GWR is now looking for:**

### PRESENTERS

You must have had at least three years broadcasting experience preferably on a daily show. Ideally, you will be aged over 25 and have a strong interest in news and current affairs. A wide knowledge of music is essential. Some daytime programmes on GWR involve a high degree of speech and the ability to handle difficult topics with sensitivity will be an important attribute.

Salaries will be according to experience up to £30,000 p.a.

### DEPUTY NEWS EDITORS

Two Deputy News Editors are required by GWR for our Bristol and Wiltshire Newsrooms. The GWR Newsrooms are responsible for the breakfast, lunch and drivetime sequences as well as hourly bulletins. These important posts will involve a large degree of responsibility for the output as well as helping to plan and operate one of Britain's first full split frequency news services.

Both positions offer first class opportunities for experienced broadcast journalists who wish to make a first move into management.

The package includes a company car and negotiable salary according to experience in the £17,000 - £25,000 range.

### SENIOR JOURNALISTS

If you are a radio journalist or newspaper reporter with a good microphone voice we are looking for seniors for our Wiltshire and Bristol Newsrooms. If you have at least three years journalistic experience and are looking for a step into exciting news programming on radio we have the job for you. You may be a newspaper journalist wanting to make the important move into radio. If so, we would prefer you to have daily or evening newspaper experience. You must be able to drive and have a strong clear voice.

Salary will be according to experience but not less than £13,000 p.a.

### TRAINEE RADIO JOURNALISTS

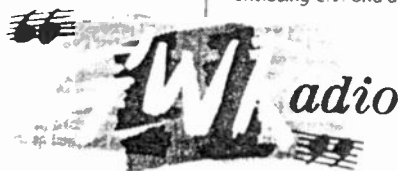
If you are a graduate or if you have a good background in local newspapers we may be able to offer you a position as a trainee radio journalist.

Ideally, you will have had some relevant experience although this is not essential. You should be aged 21-25 with a good microphone voice. An interest in current affairs is important.

Salary is in the range £6,000 - £9,000 p.a.

*The company operates profit sharing and share options schemes*

*Please apply to: Group Managing Director, GWR Radio, PO Box 2000, Swindon SN4 7EX enclosing C.V. and demo tape where relevant*



**MORE TO SAY. MORE TO PLAY.**

**July 20, 1988**

**Now Radio**



## CHILTERN INCREASES NEWS

Following earlier reports in NOW RADIO, CHILTERN has said it is increasing the number of news bulletins for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. With current recruitment plans, the station will have a newsroom staff of 12.

## £250,000 STUDIO BUY AT FORTH

RADIO FORTH (Edinburgh) is spending £250,000 on a new digital sound production studio. It will be built at the station's Edinburgh base and will include the latest digital recording and production equipment, including a Fairlight Music computer.

While the studio will be used for in-house commercial and programme production, it is estimated that for 35% of the time the facility will be used by corporate video production companies.

## STUDENTS SIGN-UP FIRST BIG DEAL UNDER NEW AD MANAGER

Student Radio stations have clinched their first big advertising contract under their new Advertising director, ADAM WOODGATE.

NASB ADVERTISING Ltd has signed a contract with HARRISON & COMPANY, an Oxford insurance company specialising in student and university policies.

A 14-day saturation campaign will be aired on campus radio stations across the country in the first fourteen days of the autumn term.

## SPONSORED SPORT FOR CAPITAL

LONDON CAR TELEPHONES is sponsoring a new weekly sports report on

CAPITAL GOLD between 1500 - 1700 starting August 20th.

The programme will preview London area soccer games, half-time score-lines and second-half coverage (live) of 'The Golden Game' which will be announced at the start of the show.

Other sports, including tennis, rugby, golf, cricket and motor racing will also be featured.

## FINLAND EXPANDS

The Finnish Government has granted nine new local radio licences, bringing the total issued so far to 42.

## MINISTER ADDRESSES CHRISTIANS

TIM RENTON, Broadcasting Minister, outlined the future of UK radio to 80 Christian Broadcasters at the recent annual conference of the Churches Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting. "It is vital that Christians know about these developments, pray about them and get involved in the applicant groups for new franchises", said CACLB Chairman, IAN GALL.

## RADIO AD SPEND UP

According to figures just released by the ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION, advertising expenditure on commercial local radio in the United Kingdom was up by 33% between January and March, compared to the same period last year.

## IBA MEMBER QUILTS

The Home Secretary, DOUGLAS HURD, has accepted the resignation of SIR ANTHONY JOLLIFFE as a Member of the IBA owing to "other commitments". He had only been appointed a Member of the Authority last year for what should have been a 5 year term.

## BBC LOCAL RADIO STRIKE HIT NEWS SERVICES

Around 600 staff at the BBC's 32 Local Radio stations in England went on strike last Wednesday (July 13) in protest at Corporation plans for cutting costs by 10%. They were also protesting at the more than one hundred job losses so far as a result of the move by senior BBC management.

Many stations had to rely on senior management to maintain a service.

At BBC RADIO NORTHAMPTON, where 10 NUJ and BETA union staff walked out, the station's Manager PETER DAVIES produced and presented news bulletins. In his own words he "limped through" the day. No local news was covered because of the strike.

Programme Organiser at the Northampton station, NIGEL DYSON, was called in to present the afternoon programme in place of a striking staffer.

The unions claim that the ten percent reduction in Local Radio budgets is unfair, saying that Local Radio only accounts for one percent of the BBC's annual expenditure.

The strikers organised pickets outside their stations across the country, handing out stickers and pamphlets explaining their actions and claiming that the cost-cutting could result in the loss of vital local news services.

In London a Lobby of MPs was headed by ROY HATTERSLEY and AUSTIN MITCHEL.

In recent months MPs have written to the BBC protesting at the cuts, but MICHAEL CHECKLAND, Director General, has refused to back down from the decision.

Many BBC Local Radio stations feel that there local news provision will become even more important following deregulation of United Kingdom independent radio when stations may cut back their news.

## DIARY DATES

*The section where NOW RADIO lists the important forward dates of interest to radio broadcasters:*

Sept 2 - 3. R-EX'88 (Radio Exhibition 1988). Organised by the ASSOCIATION FOR BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT. Westminster Central Hall, London, SW1.

Sept 14 - 17. RADIO '88. Sponsored by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS (NAB) Washington, D.C.

Sept 22-25. SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS 3rd annual convention. Convention Centre, Denver.

Sept 23 - 27. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING CONVENTION. Metropole Centre, Brighton, England.

Sept 24. COMMUNICATE '88. North West Free Radio Convention. Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

November 16. RADIO JOURNALISM. Organised by THE RADIO ACADEMY. Portman Hotel, London, W1.

Jan 28 - Feb 1, 1989. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS. 44th annual convention. Sheraton, Washington, D.C. and Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington.

April 29 - May 6, 1989. HOSPITAL BROADCASTING WEEK. Information NAHBO

April 29 - May 2, 1989. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS 67th annual convention, Las Vegas Convention Centre.

# 10

## A. NOID OPENS ANOTHER CAN OF WORMS

### TUNED IN AND TURNED OFF

There was a time, and not so long ago at that, when Caroline was permanently tuned into my radio. Occasionally I would station hop around the bands hovering on a pirate station on FM for five minutes, then moving on to Invicta, Radio One, Radio Four and even dear old Radio Mercury (only to see how many records they could get in between commercial breaks) but always I would return to 558.

But now things have changed. No more do I listen to those never-ending Lotto commercials, that dreadfully sung Caroline 558 jingle or that hotch-potch of music that made Caroline unique. Why? Because (and I cannot think of a nice way of putting this) Caroline is now the pits!

The good and sometimes great presenters have all departed leaving, I am afraid to say, a team of jocks most of whom, but not all, would be hard pressed getting a job on a third rate hospital station!

So how is it that Peter Moore in his letter (NOW RADIO 64) can say that his 'listeners are lenient if they hear a presenter suffering from first time nerves or who has not yet got the hang of the technical operation of the studio?' Nerves is one thing but lack of experience in technical operation invariably means lack of experience full stop! So the question must be asked "What the hell are they doing out there in the first place." To say that listeners are lenient is utter rubbish. Anoraks maybe, listeners most definitely not!

So come on Ronan I know times are hard and the technical difficulties at the moment are many but for goodness sake get yourself some good, competent jocks, PAY THEM and make Caroline great again.

### WOBBLY WAVES

Listening to the excellent Nick Abbott the other weekend on Radio Luxembourg I was suddenly and spectacularly reminded of the one thing I hate about the station - That Bloody Awful Signal! A megawatt of sky wave, ground wave, bounce and skip all mixed together turned what could have been a pleasurable listening experience into a cacophony of unpleasant noise.

So what about Radio 5/Tara? Well what about it and what's it got to do with Luxembourg? Well quite a lot really. You see when the RTE/Luxembourg joint venture station takes to the air "sometime next year" at around 7pm we will all be told to retune from 254kHz to the Luxembourg transmitter on 208. Great, but who in their right mind would want to bother retuning to a signal like that?

A statement issued last year by the RTE MD suggested it will be difficult for them to predict whether the Long Wave transmissions will reach London. I would have thought it vitally important in that case that the one transmitter that is capable of reaching the capital is sorted out quickly. So come on Luxy get your engineers on the case now before it's too late.

### Old, Gold and Boring

Reading the inevitable comparisons being drawn between County Sound Gold and the ex-Twickenham based Radio Sovereign I decided to spend a bit of time giving County Sound Gold a listen - but oh dear I wish I hadn't.

What Sovereign did was undoubtedly unique. What County Sound Gold is doing is unique as well, but there any similarity ends. Sovereign had life, soul and sparkle, County Sound Gold by comparison is flat, dull, lifeless and utterly boring! So come on chaps, we know you can do better and you know it too. At least if you're gonna do it do it with feeling.

## IT IS A 'SELLERS' MARKET

RON COLES, managing director of RADIO TRENT/LEICESTER SOUND, spoke of the worrying lack of professional air talent and engineering skills recently, and described the industry as being a seller's market.

What a turn around!

Not so long ago, it was a buyer's market - and the money paid to even the most experienced broadcaster was pitifully low. Token payments were made at many stations, where management expected presenters to 'make it up' by doing PA's and Disco' and the like.

The position has changed, and with deregulation (some time in the future...) and more split-frequency services being planned all the time, station's are beginning to become more than a little concerned. Even if £30,000 is offered, because soon there will be a choice of employment for many air people, a station can no longer expect every jock offered a job to take it.

Already some stations are paying top presenters salaries which are almost level to that of top management. But there is coming a day when the management will expect more. Especially those who 'know the business' and produce results.

The existing system has somehow believed that the future development of radio means scores of community radio stations. Stations not interested in market shares, audience ratings, professional standards, and certainly not looking at paying top wack to top jocks.

But there is much more to de-regulation, or whatever you want to call it, than community radio in the CRA definition of the term.

Already there is Head Hunting going on in ILR. And the BBC. Not all Head Hunting is being carried out by existing radio services. Some is being done by the broadcasters of tomorrow who are just itching to file their licence applications the moment the Radio Authority is established by legislation.

Salaries up to £30,000 for the right person may just do it at the moment, but that, or damn well near it, will perhaps soon become the bottom figure for almost any presenter who can pull in, or maintain, an audience.

As for stations who are hiring totally inexperienced air staff for overnight airshifts, and pay them next to nowt, that'll have to end if such stations wish to maintain any kind of traceable audience figures when competition arrives.

Yes, RON COLES, it is a buyer's market!

And congratulations on doing something about it.

Ron is running a couple of courses. One, starting September 4, will be a course for journalists, and another, on October 11, is aimed at managing directors of commercial radio stations. That will be a one-day seminar.

Other courses, including for presenters and in production are also in the pipeline.

One might hope that such courses, for presenters, will bring about an end to the dreadful 'ILR-clone' saga, and encourage the individual to emerge from the cliché's, whilst enabling the individual to 'fit-in' with the station sound and format.

A darn lot of training and hard work might just help...a little.

L O O S E  
E N D S

MOVER: BARRY 'The Beard' ELLIOTT is the new head of the BBC's Central European Service.....

THANKS: Not only do we at NOW RADIO receive responses from WLR, but it would also appear that the ABD does too. PAUL BOON told us he's had a couple of enquiries as a result of broadcasts by the shortwave station. Well done, lads!.....

ON-AIR: NOW RADIO commercials carried on SIBC last week.....

RIGHT, AGAIN!: As we reported CAROLINE would have to drop its daytime programming in favour of Dutch output, we were again right in stating that the pressure from (fee paying) American evangelists would force the station to reduce hours even further by reviving VIEWPOINT on 558 at night. We were right, as you will no doubt hear very shortly! .....for our next prediction - watch this space!.....

METRO COUNTRY: Friday night Country Crowd dj BRIAN CLOUGH recorded a cover-version of Country singer LYLE LOVETT's track *Further down the line* to raise money for the *METRO Christmas Appeal* and recently LYLE LOVETT appeared at the Newcastle Playhouse and invited the METRO presenter to join him on stage for a duet.....

HOME AGAIN: MARK GOODIER has returned to METRO!!! That's official!! However, he is, in fact, back as the 'voice' on HANSA Lager commercials.....

THANKS: To the staff of a certain Beeb Local Radio station for helping us out last week.....

HELP: DAVID PRESTON, who has a weekly spot for the disabled on LEICESTER SOUND, would like to continue receiving material for his feature. Written or recorded material is welcomed. Discuss the issue further by calling him on Leicester 312220.....

MOVEMENTS: ERNEST REA has been appointed Editor, Network Radio at BBC Bristol. He has, for the last 5 years, been senior religious broadcaster for the South and West region.....GEOFFRY TALBOT, Manager of BBC RADIO LEEDS, has been appointed editor, television features for BBC North East in Leeds. He's been on attachment to the regional tv centre since last Autumn. Lets hope he'll be using the talent of PETER LEVY in the future. He's the former PENNINE & AIRE presenter who is now with RADIO LEEDS .....

NEWS: RADIO NOVA has a special agreement to carry IRN news on-the-hour.....

MAGGIE'S CALL-IN: The BBC Russian Service received more than one hundred and fifty telephone calls from listeners in the Soviet Union attempting to ask Premier MARGARET THATCHER a week ago last Monday. Jamming of the service by the Russians only ended last year.....

DEE END: Sad to see SIMON DEE has been dropped from *Sounds of the Sixties* on RADIO 2. It's the same old story.....which is very upsetting as so many people really thought that this time he finally had 'got his act together'.....Now SPENCER DAVIS is hosting the show. Now our Editor has a few great memories of that guy - ask him!.....

GOT NEWS!!!! TELL IT THRU' NOW RADIO!!!

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# LOOSE

## ENDS

ME AND MY CONTRACT: PETER McFARLANE of OCEAN SOUND wishes to point out that he has not signed any contract with another station, and as he has a further month to run on his current OCEAN SOUND contract, any decision on his future moves are not being made 'just yet'. We apologise to Peter and Ocean.....

SURVEY: We are currently putting together all the responses to the recent NOW RADIO Readership Survey. In the meantime, here are a few of the comments some of you have made in reply: Lets have some European news or even shortwave topics.....what about some interviews.....more news about Ireland.....The Newline goes on far too long.....Like to see a Music Section, but only if related to Programming.....Not too many pages for Openings, more for news, please.....Would like to see Golden Oldies chart for same week in previous years.....I would like to see a feature on Sunday 48m shortwave stations....More news, please, about Roy Bates' venture.....Carry more letters from readers.....Could there be one or two photo pages?.....I preferred the fortnightly issue - half the price! ED: No it wasn't! We still cost only about 92p per week!.....More on formats and programming.....Keep up the good work.....How come I can get Radio Moscow all over my FM band?!.....How about a series of articles about Ronan O'Rahilly.....Overall, very interesting, especially talk vs don't talk debate.....At times, opinion is threaded into 'newsy' items.....would like to see Presenter Profiles/Station Profiles and Hospital Radio news.....Is Address Guide necessary every week?!.....Long

may you reign!.....

DALLAS: Another LUXEMBOURG voice - and a giant, at that, - BOB STEWART left these shores to make the grade in the USA. News from Texas is that whilst his wife is working, BOB still has to make it and get a regular full-time airshift. Let's hope.....

NOW RADIO reader DAVE SCOTT called us within minutes of arriving back from a holiday in France to say that ALAN WEST is still on-air (breakfast show and Sunday news-shifts) with RIVIERA 104. A couple of strange things though: they re-broadcast a recording of CAPITAL RADIO (London IR) for an hour the other morning, and they have been heard to relay other stations by simply putting a microphone against the speaker in the studio!.....

MARCHER: GODFREY WILLIAMS, managing director of MARCHER SOUND (CLR Wrexham), says he thinks LOOSE ENDS tends to take the Presenters (as opposed to the Management) point of view. He claims that the source of the snippet we ran about Presenters on night shifts being fined after the station received a massive 'phone bill was "undoubtedly one of our ex-presenters recently persuaded to move elsewhere - who chose to ignore all pleas to limit personal calls and exhausted their quota of written warnings..." He went on to say that DAVE COLLINS did not depart the station and, "he was fired for insulting a caller who was slightly retarded, but not it seems, as retarded as Mr. Collins himself.".....ouch!

VENUE: Next year's venue for the RADIO FESTIVAL has not yet been finalised (it could be in Bristol), but there is pressure on the RADIO ACADEMY to have a new location - for example, Sheffield. The decision will be made shortly.....

L O O S E  
E N D S

**MONEY:** Ever since OWEN OYSTON regained control of RED ROSE RADIO, we are informed, the station has seen constant increases in airtime sales.....

**LYING IN THE SUN:** The SUN news(?)paper carried a brief report, adjacent to a nipple, last week claiming that DOUGLAS HURD was making plans to "tow in pop pirate radio ships..." He didn't. He won't. He can't.....

**3 MEN ON A ROOF:** 3 people, who the Dti allege were involved with unlicensed broadcasting, were arrested atop a tower block in London last week. Meanwhile, the London raids just go on...and on...and on.....

**PINK:** BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE has a new presenter at The Pink Palace in JOHN RYAN. He's on drive (1500 - 1800). He joins the PINK FM from BBC RADIO YORK.....

**AIRPORT RADIO:** RADIO MERCURY are planning a radio service of continuous information for the 12 million people using Gatwick Airport annually, but they are not actually looking at a network of such systems across the country. These kinds of stations are commonplace in the USA, and MERCURY believe that they will not require the same kind of licence as do ILR/Community Radio services.....

**YOUNGEST PROGRAMMER:** Following our recent call to find the youngest Programmer in UK radio - after the claim that RADIO LUXEMBOURG's JEFF GRAHAM was the youngest - brings news that the "shy and retiring" MICHAEL BETTON of OCEAN SOUND was

appointed to the post at the tender age of 24 - and he's now still only 26. Anyone beat that?!

**SWEAT SHOP:** We hear there's a lot of Banging going on at MANX RADIO on the Isle of Man! Builders are in making a new roof that both slants and does not leak! Visiting the IOM? Why not pop in and see their great studio (with real windows) and a beautiful view of Douglas Bay.....

**LI-LO PIRATE:** In the book *THE PIRATES WHO WAIVED THE RULES* by NOW RADIO's Editor, it was claimed that if you gave a certain Dutchman, GERARD VAN DAM, £10 and a Li-Lo, he'd go off and set up an offshore radio station on it. We hear that the sum may be more than £10.....!

**AWARD:** Congratulations to ESSEX RADIO! They won an award in the 'Best Special Event' category at the International Radio Festival of New York recently for 'The Hoax' - highlights of their April Fools Day stunt last year to launch the new 'Greatest Memories, Latest Hits' music format. Programme Controller CRAIG DENYER says: "We're delighted!".....

**CHARITY:** BBC RADIO SHROPSHIRE raised £20,000 recently for MENCAP from a special charity weekend. COLIN YOUNG, afternoon (1400-1700) presenter also broke a world record by playing Golf for 7 complete days non-stop.....

**BIAS:** Has anyone else noticed the number of times Palestinians are interviewed on BBC RADIO 4's Women's Hour?? Perhaps we could have a tally of the number of hours they've had in the last couple of years.....

**CAPITAL:** Remember we told you TONY BLEWITT has left LUXY? Well it would appear he's moved down to Southern Africa and CAPITAL RADIO for a daily airshift.....

RADIO FESTIVAL  
'88  
NEWS. WHO NEEDS IT?

PAUL EASTON  
For NOW RADIO

This session (at the RADIO FESTIVAL) also dealt with the possible aftermath of deregulation, this time dealing with the future of radio news and current affairs.

PETER THORNTON, Editorial Director of LBC/IRN, began by pointing out that the Government proposals made no requirements for news. Those who say they will broadcast news appear to have no means of being examined on their promises.

In the Press, the growth of popular tabloids have tended to lead to a situation where serious news coverage seems to be reserved for the 'serious' papers. Was news to be for serious radio services only.

At present there is plenty of news on the radio, and stations can afford to maintain strong newsrooms. After deregulation, there was a danger that the high cost of news gathering could make it an early casualty. BBC Local Radio, he said, was the only source of really local news, but for how long in view of the cut backs?

JENNY ABRAHMSKY - Editor of News and Current Affairs, BBC Radio, said that it is the public's right to be informed. News is important, and people must have access to a wide variety of news, from more than one news agenda, with different approaches and values.

She gave an example of how things might be, with the story of an American journalist who had applied for a job with the BBC. The journalist concerned had been working for one of the major

networks, whose affiliates had said that a 5-minute bulletin was too long, and what they wanted was a 30-second bulletin, with 5 stories! Surely the Public deserve better than this, ABRAHMSKY argued.

News isn't cheap, she continued. Whilst new radio services could simply re-broadcast news agency copy on a 'rip and read' basis, that would simply be using that agencies agenda and editorial approach.

Radio news is popular, and RADIO1's *NEWSBEAT* has the largest audience of any radio current affairs programme. The 1730 edition, in fact, has a high ABC1 profile.

In a survey, 64% of people said that National news was the most important part of their radio listening.

The task, she said, was not to be merely reactive, but to set events in context, to challenge Government.

Amongst the group Working Sessions, the one on *Media Matters* which asked how radio fared in the current surge of interest in media matters, turned out to be highly charged, with several radio critics becoming somewhat 'passionate'. Incidentally, one of the speakers, the *GUARDIAN*'s PETER FIDDICK - was unable to attend. Perhaps he'd been reading NOW RADIO a couple of weeks ago! I'm pleased to report that the other sessions were much more restrained.

If I might make one observation on the RADIO FESTIVAL, it would be to point out that it was as such a social event as a business one, and could, perhaps, benefit from a little more time allowed for lunch and coffee breaks, many delegates I spoke to felt that some of the sessions could have been a little shorter, or dropped (such as the *Me and My Radio* interviews with HARVEY GOLDSMITH and MIKE SMITH.) To resume the afternoon session at 1330 was, they felt, unnecessary.



## COMMUNICATIONS

WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION, PLEASE SEND THEM TO:

THE EDITOR  
NOW RADIO  
PO BOX 45  
KETERING  
NORTHANTS  
NN16 0NW  
\*\*\*\*

FROM PAUL ROBINSON -  
PROGRAMME CONTROLLER  
AT CHILTERN

*Dunstable,  
Beds,  
LUG 1HQ.*

Dear Howard,

I refer to your article in the 13th July (#65) edition of NOW RADIO, referring to CHILTERN RADIO's summer schedule. Let me emphasise that the specialist and community programmes are merely taking their annual summer rest, as they have done for seven years, and will return in an improved, invigorated form on 3rd October, not the date in your article.

*Yours sincerely,*

*PAUL ROBINSON  
Programme Controller  
CHILTERN RADIO*

EDITOR REPLIES: The facts for this story were provided by one of your management team. Therefore we believed what he said....

### MARCHER REPLY

*Marcher Sound  
Wrexham  
LL11 4AF.*

Dear Sir,  
Whilst we enjoy the snippets in NOW RADIO, I wish those responsible

would speak to Management occasionally to produce a more balanced story. It seems that *Loose Ends* takes only the Presenters' point of view and I feel I should enlighten you on the contents of your issue of July 6th (#64).

OUTRAGE "Marcher Sound management have fined all broadcasting staff...." Not true! The source of this story is undoubtedly one of our ex-presenters recently persuaded to move elsewhere - who chose to ignore all pleas to limit personal calls and exhausted their quota of written warnings.

GONE - Overnight Presenter DAVE COLLINS did not depart the station. He was fired for insulting a caller who was slightly retarded, but not it seems, as retarded as Mr Collins himself.

Could I now draw your attention to a previous issue which reported that MARCHER SOUND were taking RADIO NOVA by satellite overnight, and that I, GODFREY WILLIAMS, would be sitting on the Board of RADIO NOVA INTERNATIONAL Ltd. The facts are that we did not take NOVA on 30th June. I am not sitting on the Board of RADIO NOVA INTERNATIONAL Ltd and, to date, we are considering offers from RADIO RADIO and RADIO NOVA.

*Yours faithfully,*

*GODFREY WILLIAMS  
Managing Director  
MARCHER SOUND*

EDITOR REPLIES: Whenever possible stories which we run are checked. The fact that you feel *Loose Ends* takes on a presenters' point of view may appear to be true, but information and material included in that section is often given to us by very senior management! If sometimes the truth hurts.... As a trade publication we can't be expected to take a 'nice-guy' line every time, can we?

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The information about fines on overnight presenters came from at least two different sources - including one person we know to be employed by your station.

The information regarding arrangements with RADIO NOVA was provided by RADIO NOVA on a number of occasions, being backed up several days after we carried the story by press releases from both NOVA and MARCHER SOUND with your telephone number and name as a contact.

We are in communications, so it might help everyone if there could be proper communication between all parties in this industry, would it not.

We look forward to a strong, positive relationship between NOW RADIO and your station in the future...

## FROM RADIO 2

London V. I.

Dear Editor,

Never mind the youngest or oldest programme director (July 6 issue), what about the tallest presenter? Can anyone beat our JOHN DUNN 6' 7" in stockinged feet? Think about it - studio doors are only 6' 6" !

Also CHRIS ANDREW hasn't been doing his homework in his piece on jingles for golden oldies stations. RADIO 2 had the first set of spoof style jingles 2½ years ago - and we still use them. There's a Beach Boys style, Carpenters, Motown, Beatles, Shadows, Ellington, Nelson Riddle, Bacharach, Tom Jones and Glenn Miller, and they're good. Listen out!

Yours faithfully,

PHIL HUGHES  
Senior Producer  
RADIO 2

PS: Ours were made by JAMS not PAMS.

ED: RADIO SOVEREIGN had 'spoof' idents from PAMS in 1983 - to our reckoning that's 5 years ago....

## LOOSE ENDS

BEDS: New programmes have been introduced by RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE following the departure of GAVIN MCCOY to ESSEX RADIO. BRIAN KELLY takes on the 1310 - 1600 airshift, while GARY WHITTFORD moves into the 1630 - 1930 slot. Gary joins from RADIO CORNWALL and Brian has been heard on air before as an astrologer! RADIO 2 presenter PETER DICKSON takes over Gavin's Saturday show.....

PIRATES?: Remember ages ago we asked for suggestions for words to describe, what until recently, were described as *Pirate* radio stations? Well we came up with calling them (mainly) *Unlicensed*. Interesting to note (and thank's to RADIO 4's *The Radio Programme* for pointing this out at the weekend...) that official communications, speeches, etc, now also talk of *Unlicensed*.....

PLANS: When RADIO LONDON relaunches (see news report) it would seem plans to offer split-frequency services on AM and FM for North London and South London will be dropped. As will plans for a 3-hour documentary/features slot. Instead that material will be mixed the the oldies....

PLANS: If and when AIRC reaches agreement with PPL, expect some major developments at TRENT and LEICESTER SOUND. All 3 AM transmitters (Nottingham, Derby and Leicester) will carry a 24-hour oldies station GEM-AM, with three separate FM stations also being offered. In Leicester they have plans to double asian output on 1260kHz to 4 hours. Ivo news services will be provided for the services, 16 presenters will be on the air.....

## THE IRISH PLAN

Legislation to re-organise sound broadcasting in Ireland has been a long time coming, but at least its day has arrived. By the end of the year a new law will be in effect which will both deal with pirate radio - and allow a number of commercial and community stations to obtain licences and get on the air.

Unlike the United Kingdom, the Irish have not allowed a delay in introducing legislation prevent a well-organised yet unauthorised radio industry to develop. From the typical community station, BRAY LOCAL BROADCASTING right through to the super-stations like the highly commercial and competitive Q102, KISS-FM and SUNSHINE RADIO - and a variety of operations, numbering around sixty, they have simply ignored the bit of the law which says operating a transmitter without a licence is an offence. In the main the bigger stations pay taxes, insurance, and their staff.

Ireland's only legitimate broadcaster is RTE. RTE operates radio and television - and is a shareholder in the joint venture (with RADIO LUXEMBOURG) to run the much-delayed RADIO TARA/RADIO 5 long wave station which will beam out commercial radio towards the United Kingdom just as soon as a tangle with planning permission is sorted out. RADIO TARA/RADIO 5 will be managed by TRAVIS BAXTER and its Programme Consultant is JOHN CATLETT, the man who turned LASER 558 into a 5-million-a-day station, just when it needed it most.

The pirate radio situation in Ireland developed large scale towards the end of the 'seventies, becoming big-time, big-money for

some like CHRIS CARY and his original RADIO NOVA and ROBBIE DALE/ROBINSON and his SUNSHINE RADIO in Dublin. Whilst it seems trendy to knock the success of such stations these days, it was NOVA which influenced more than a handful of presenters throughout Ireland and in the United Kingdom. The legend lives on...

Of course, there were up's and down's along the way. But where isn't there? Despite the annual warning from the Dublin Government of impending laws to ban pirate radio, the unlicensed stations continued. There have been casualties, including NOVA, which changed hands and names so many times at one point that even the most enthusiastic follower would have had difficulty in understanding exactly what was really going on.

Now legislation will set up a Commission which will oversee the granting of licences - the first of which could be advertised as early as the autumn, or early winter. The Commission will invite statements of interest from prospective applicants throughout the country, and it will examine these in relation to the Republic's frequency plans for AM and FM services. It will then advertise licences in specific areas and invite applications.

As well as setting up a new national commercial tv channel, the new law calls for the establishment of a new national commercial radio service. At local/regional level there will be as many as 26 "County" stations - a couple each for Dublin and Cork (biggest cities) and one each for the remaining counties. These stations will broadcast on both AM and FM. So much for and end to simulcasting, here at least!

Smaller stations, covering areas described as either Neighbourhood, or Town and Surrounds, or Special Interest services, will not be restricted beyond the reasonable understanding that as many will be licenced as there are frequencies available and interest in running. Quite a fair deal, isn't it? One, we would hope, which could be duplicated here in the U.K.

These Neighbourhood or Town and Surrounds stations will have to operate within quite reasonable power constraints, too. For the Town and Surround stations the Commission will be offering 500 Watts output. The neighbourhood services will be able to use between 25 and 50 Watts e.r.p.

An interesting requirement from both County and Town & Surround stations will be the 'must carry' ruling that they allocate 20% of their total output to news and current affairs programming. As soon as this rule was made public some months ago, some stations, like ENERGY/NOVA, immediately introduced major news magazine programmes during prime time, thus attempting to earn a few bonus housepoints. Special Interest stations will not be bound by this rule.

The new law is a bargain for the new services which will need to sell airtime for their survival. RTE is limited to devoting only 7.5% of its overall airtime to commercials: the new stations will be able to carry 15%, or up to 10-minutes per hour.

It may well have been a long time coming, but at least the Irish have it coming. Like the influence NOVA (Dublin) had here in the UK, we can only hope the progress of radio development in the Emerald Isle can be duplicated here!

## GETTING ON THE AIR

The quite devastating news that radio legislation here in the United Kingdom was being (again) delayed resulted in this particular series of articles being dropped for several weeks.

Now that "the dust has settled" we intend to restart the series, which aims to be a guide through measures prospective, new station operators need to carry out leading up to, and beyond applying for a licence from the proposed Radio Authority.

To assist the direction of this series, we welcome your questions, and contributions.

Please address them:

Getting on the Air  
NOW RADIO  
PO Box 45  
Kettering  
Northants  
NN16 ONW

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**EDITORIAL**  
**(0536) 514437**

---

**BROADCASTING**  
**(0536) 410723**

---

**NEWSLINE**  
*(24 hours)*  
**(0898) 654383**

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**ADVERTISING**  
**(0484) 460088**

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## OPENINGS

*Advertising your vacancies in NOW RADIO's Openings section brings results. For details please write or 'phone NOW RADIO.*

CNFM is the new independent radio station for Cambridge and Newmarket, due to commence broadcasting in early 1989. The company requires a SENIOR ENGINEER immediately to help plan, build and operate this high-tech installation. The position requires a person of considerable experience in broadcast engineering and attracts a salary of £14,000 per annum. Apply in confidence to: CNFM, c/o PO Box 225, Queensgate, Peterborough, PE1 1XJ. Mark letters for the attention of the Group Chief Engineer, or ring JIM WARRACK on (0733) 46225.

RADIO LUXEMBOURG's Head of Programmes, JEFF GRAHAM, wishes to hear from any presenters who feel they are "not comfortable" in ILR and who want more freedom. Though there is no opening at the moment, JEFF is always looking for new and original air talent. He does not want what he describes as "ILR Clones". Aircheck tapes and CV's to: JEFF GRAHAM, RADIO LUXEMBOURG, 38 Hertford Street, London, W1.

Are you experienced, reliable, professional, slick and do you have a voice that will stand-out on the dial? Do you have an interest and knowledge of music from the 50's and 60's? Obviously the kind of person required would have previous broadcasting experience, and this station is keen to find those with additional talents including sales and promotions, production and news compilation, research and reading. No time wasters, please! Applications in confidence to: KNBC RADIO SERVICES, c/o PO Box 45, Kettering, NN16 0NW.

Just finished a training course? Want to get off your 'paper and on the radio? RADIO WYVERN wants a TRAINEE in its newsroom now. You'll learn a lot fast in a friendly, busy atmosphere. NEWS PEOPLE ONLY NEED APPLY. Interested? Call Head of News/Features HOWARD HUGHES on Worcester (0905) 611788.

RADIO GUERNSEY has vacancies for BROADCAST JOURNALISTS. Based Guernsey. £9,778 - £16,080 plus allowances. Further details from the Manager, REG BROOKS (0481) 23736.

RADIO CORNWALL has an opening for a RADIO PRODUCTION ASSISTANT. Based Truro. £6,343 - £8,403 plus allowances. Further information from SALLY WHIDDON at RADIO CORNWALL on (0872) 75421 ext 134.

RADIO MERSEYSIDE has vacancies for 2 NEWS PRODUCERS. Based Liverpool. Non-BBC staffers may be considered on temporary contract basis. Further details from IAN JUDSON (051) 708 5500.

METRO RADIO has a vacancy for an ASSISTANT PROGRAMME CONTROLLER. What an opportunity! Send full cv to KATH HAMILL, METRO RADIO, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1BB

BBC RADIO CORNWALL has a vacancy for a PROGRAMME ORGANISER. Based Truro. £16,080-£20,874 plus allowances. Experience of local radio desirable plus other usual qualifications to the post. Further details from MIKE HOSKIN, (0872) 75421 ext 130.

BBC RADIO 3 has openings for RADIO PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS. Further details from HAZEL GOULD. £8,086-£9,903.

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND has vacancies for an ENGINEER and a TRAVELLING ENGINEER. Contact MIKE JASSINSKI at Broadcasting House in Bristol.

R O S E ' S  
R A M B L I N G S

There is a bit of a myth concerning news provision for ILR. I hope, this week, to explain the actual position. I do this because, over the years, a number of people have believed it would be "a good idea" to see a new news provider, other than IRN, appear on the scene.

The Broadcasting Act (1981) says: *"The contracts between the Authority (IBA) and the various programme contractors shall contain all such provisions as the Authority think necessary or expedient to ensure that there is at all times at least one body or organisation effectively equipped and adequately financed to provide news for broadcasting in the programmes supplied to the Authority by the respective programme contractors."*

So, as you will see, whilst the law says "at least one..." it does not say "just one..."

Around the ILR network you will find management who actually believe that the monopoly of IRN is guaranteed by law.

Of course, what they are thinking about is the part of the IBA contract which states that franchise holders are expected to take the IRN service. This is a condition drawn up by the IBA as a result of their interpretation of the Broadcasting Act (1981) - and that's all.

What would happen if a new news provider were to set-up and walk into the IBA saying, "Here we are! We want to offer our service to your contractors?"

But then, after deregulation, the ILR network stations will be the minority of the total number of

non-BBC services, and any future, newly established news organisation will, I am sure, be looking to those stations to offer its service to.

It will also be interesting to see exactly what the forthcoming legislation will have to say about news provision. IRN's days of being a monopoly as a news-provider seem to be numbered. Wonder whether they can adapt to offer what the new stations want?

There was much talk some months ago about IRN offering 'dedicated' news services to new services - doesn't seem to have happened yet, either for RADIO NOVA INTERNATIONAL - *The Sound of Europe*, or RADIO RADIO *The Super Station*, does it?

Whilst there are those, like JENNY ABRAHMSKY at RADIO 4, who warn that deregulation could mean stations wanting to drop any 'must carry' rules on news and current affairs, and quote 'one-off' stories from the USA, I am sure that most prospective operators of local stations (and I mean local in its real meaning, not that thought of when talking of ILR...), will understand that unless they operate, staff and finance, good, strong newsrooms, their appeal to the local audience will not any greater than a station located twenty or more miles away transmitting the same format.

The new breed of station may also like to look at the duration and quantity of news. IRN may only offer 3-minutes at prime time, and 2 at others; and the same 8, or so, stories rotated at 6 per broadcast - but the new stations will, or should, expect much more.

Yes, some may be surprised to hear that RADIO 1's *Newsbeat* is the most-listened to news programme on the air. It's on RADIO 1...and it is no less than 15-minutes long!

## PHOENIX COMMUNICATIONS

### ***BROADCAST RADIO SERVICES:***

We supply a wide range of professional studio and transmission equipment (including signal processors) as well as manufacturing broadcast transmitters and link systems. In addition, we offer custom design and consultancy services.

If you are planning to apply for a 'third tier' licence when they become available, then talk to us first. As well as meeting your equipment needs, we can provide detailed assistance with the various aspects of planning a radio broadcasting operation. Our consultancy service can produce a complete technical appraisal of your plans and even help prepare the necessary documentation for your licence application.

For more information about our specialist services and the range of professional products we can supply please contact us by telephone or letter.

### ***SPECIAL EVENT RADIO:***

FM and AM transmission systems are available for hire anywhere in the U.K. Our low power medium wave system has been a great success over the last two years and we have added stereo FM and higher power AM now that these are available within the revised licence conditions. All our Special Event transmitters are fitted with Orban audio processing. We will be pleased to advise on which system will best suit your requirements.

The Home Office require *at least* six weeks notice of an intended broadcast. To avoid the possibility of disappointment due to over booking please contact us well in advance of your proposed transmission dates.

### ***PHOENIX COMMUNICATIONS:***

*EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO THE EUROPEAN BROADCAST RADIO INDUSTRY.*

11, Barclay Oval, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0PP, ENGLAND.

Lawrence Hallett and Martin Spencer BSc.

(01) 500-0890 and (01) 506-2318 (ans.)

***PLEASE NOTE: It is a criminal offence to install or operate transmitting equipment in the United Kingdom except under, and in accordance with, a licence issued by the Home Office. WE WILL NOT SUPPLY EQUIPMENT TO UNLICENCED 'PIRATE' OPERATORS IN THE U.K.***

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