

Hans Knot reporting:

Today, Tuesday May the 30rd 2017 the following sad news came in from Mark Sloane (Pat Hammerton) '*Sorry to report Hans my dear chum **David Gilbee, Dave Mackay** died this weekend. He and I met on Radio 390 and worked together on 355. He was also my brother in law, marrying my sister Lis.*'

I'm very sorry to hear this sad news Pat. Of course you know him far much better than I do. Met him on a handful of occasions and was in contact with him by e-mail through the years. Of course it was on some radio celebrations in England we met during the last 20 years, but our very first meeting was one, were we sometimes talked about. It was a very special day just after the official opening of Melody Radio in London. I was there for a special for our magazine and he told me all about the station, the style of presentation but above all how much of the music was transferred to a machine which was just put into the market. It was Dave who brought me to the idea to do the same with my vinyl collection. Just record the items onto CD. Remember the CD-recorders were in 1990 very exclusive and expensive as were the discs in those days. And the sound of that station, which was only on the air for 8 years, did remind me a lot to the days of Radio 390. I wish you and the family the strength to carry this loss. Dave will be remembered in the International Radio Report next month too.



Dave MacKay Radio 355 Photo: collection Pirate Hall of Fame

Let us see what The Pirate Hall of Fame mentioned about Dave's wonderful career:

*'Born in Ilford, Essex, on 8th September 1941 and educated at Warwick public school, Dave got into offshore broadcasting by pure chance. He was working as an air traffic controller at Gatwick Airport and one day went to a pub with some colleagues. The conversation got round to pirate radio and Dave expressed critical comments about a Radio City DJ.*

*A stranger overheard and asked if he thought he could do better. This man turned out to be Eric K Martin, Radio City's station manager. As a result of this chance encounter, in February 1965, Dave was invited out to the Radio City fort to present a few shows. He used his real name of Dave Gilbee. Reg Calvert, the owner, was suitably impressed and over the next few months Dave combined his shifts at Gatwick with periodic trips out to Shivering Sands, although he never joined the City staff full-time.*

*Bitten by the radio bug, Dave sent off applications to all the other offshore stations. In August 1966 he got accepted by Britain Radio but changed his name to Dave MacKay when he joined the station. He stayed when, in March 1967, it became Radio 355 and, in fact, he remained with this middle-of-the-road station right up until it closed down in August 1967.*



Reunion time 2007: Phil Martin, Graham Gill and David Gilbee

Photo collection Pirate Hall of Fame

*Following the closure, he joined forces with fellow 355 presenter Tony Monson to start a mobile disco businesses and in 1971 they opened a record and hi-fi shop in Brighton, Sussex. While living in the town he also broadcast on BBC Radio Brighton using his real name. He has since been heard on Essex Radio, BBC Essex, Melody and Primetime Radio.'*