



September 1st 2021 came the next sad news came from Stella Robinson 'I have to come to terms with the end of a life well lived. I lost my best friend and husband yesterday, **Robbie Robinson**, AKA The **Admiral "Robbie Dale"** he has been my support and rock for 53 years.

He was 81 and lived a good life and thankfully past peaceful after battling Dementia. R.I.P My lovely Robbie.'

Of course I personally answered the e mail and brought my condolences to Stella and the family. Some other items regarding Robbie Dale: Reflections from Enda W. Caldwell: 'In memory of The Admiral Robbie Dale aka "The Generous Mr. Robinson Cu-Cu-Ca-Choo" of Caroline, TROS, Hilversum 3 and Sunshine 101 fame. The interview in 2016 for Radio Today I did with him shall now serve as a tribute to a Gentleman, legend and Friend who taught me a lot.

There were just two men who stayed on board The Mi Amigo to keep Caroline on the air on August 14th 1967 defying the "Marine Offences Act" and creating Rock n' Roll and Broadcasting history in the process Robbie Robinson and Johnnie Walker. Later in the 80's we were inspired by the Red Hot Sound of Sunshine 101 which became the #1 Station in Dublin until its untimely demise on 30th of December 1988.'



In 2008, when Chris Cary had passed away, I received an email from Robbie expressing his sadness at the loss of another friend from the broadcasting industry. It signed off with "we must now focus on our own mortality" Fair, balanced and wise as a judge or barrister would be how I would describe his personality. Incredibly inventive you would have been impressed to see the DIY toolshed and projects he had undertaken at his villa. Generous to a huge degree and a great character with all the eloquence of a poet.

My personal condolences and deepest sympathy and thoughts to Stella Robinson, Elliot, Manon and all Robbie's grandchildren, family and friends. To those who directly or indirectly got their "big break" in radio thanks to Robbie or indeed one of his great team we thank you sincerely. There won't be another like Robbie.. may he rest in peace. May God bless him - and you for hosting Radio Day. Without this I'd never have become his friend and to Stella too. Enda W. Caldwell'

Paul Rusling reflected the same evening with: 'Robbie was my first ever "radio hero". He was the first DJ who grabbed my attention, when I first heard him on Caroline South in April 1966. It was the first time Caroline was really audible in Hull, with the new 50 KW transmitter on 259. So sad, though not unexpected. I suppose we are at that time now where so many are departing so regularly. But still a tinge of sadness.' Paul Rusling



Robbie Dale on Caroline South 1966
Photo: collection Steve Young

Tom Edwards: 'Yet more sad news...our pirate radio dj family gets smaller with each passing year. I've been told that The Captain Robbie Dale has died. This mans 'energy' should have been his middle

name. He, together with Johnnie Walker, defied The Marine Offences Act which came into force in August of 1967. He and Johnnie and others continued to broadcast on board the Mi Amigo ship which of course was Radio Caroline. I loved this mans company. He made me laugh and was one of the best broadcasters ever, R.I.P Robbie Dale...my condolences to Stella his wife and the family..

Shaun Scannell: 'I had to call Robbie a few years ago to tell him of the passing of a mutual friend. Robbie's response was something like "he's a legend I thought he would go on forever". Same to you Robbie. A legend indeed. RIP.'

RadioToday brought the sad news as follows:

<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2021/09/radio-caroline-pirate-robbie-dale-dies-at-the-age-of-81/>

<https://www.hotpress.com/music/radio-caroline-and-sunshine-539-man-robbie-robinson-has-died-22869394>

Here you can find the photos The Admiral Robbie Dale shared with the Pirate Hall of Fame:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/album67.htm>

Steve Young: 'Hello Hans, I'm sure that you've received many messages regarding the recent passing of Robbie Dale (Robinson) and would like to add my voice to those that you've already received. I'm still in a state of disbelief, although it has provided an answer to my wondering why I've not been getting replies to the emails I've been sending to him.

Robbie was one of the first Radio Caroline deejays to welcome me onboard the MV Mi Amigo in August of 1966 and, after completing my first 2-week shift, he was kind enough to invite me to stay in his flat in London. He introduced me to Brian Jones, who we met at the Kensington Garden Hotel, prior to his sad demise. We shared the

stage when introducing the, then, popular group Los Bravos and met the blonde bombshell, Diana Dors, at the same time.

Later in life, Robbie and Stella came over to Vancouver, where Trish and I met up with them for lunch. A few years later we visited and stayed with them at their beautiful home on Lanzarote, we shared breakfast together at the last (final) Pirate Reunion in London in 2017 and then we had lunch together with Robbie and Stella and Johnnie Walker and Tiggy. That was the last time I saw him and never thought for a moment that I'd be mourning his loss today.

Robbie was very much a "free spirit" with a fierce determination to be successful in his career. I don't need to tell you that he and Johnnie Walker were the two Caroline deejays who fought the British Government when the MOA was signed into law. He had a deep, resonant voice and I can clearly remember standing in the main studio watching him do his show....he was "deep into it" feeling the music and charming his audience while remaining oblivious to whatever else was going on around him.'

I will continue to miss Robbie and extend my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to Stella, the love of his life and his partner for so many, many years.

R.I.P. Robbie, you've climbed that stairway to Heaven and I hope your life in the hereafter is shared with the other Caroline deejays who preceded you to that big radio station in the sky.'



Dave Lee Travis, Steve Young and Robbie Dale on stage
Photo Collection Steve Young.

Here are many memories and photos collected by Mary and Chris Payne: <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/jocks/robbie/robbie.html>

And from Ireland an audio tribute to Robbie (Dale) Robinson you will find here:

https://pirate.ie/archive/our-audio-tribute-to-robbie-robinson/?fbclid=IwAR0QG1SKSUvrc2mxvAYPYrhAwTF13bX6H3f21I4oYyW7ii_4AaAFDZCAbCA

And from the Sunday Independent this article: Pirate radio maverick Robbie Robinson changed the country's tune.

Robbie Robinson, who has died aged 81, knew his listeners wanted music rather than dry, dusty fare. When radio maverick Robbie Robinson appeared before the Independent Radio and Television Commission (IRTC) seeking one of the first commercial radio licences in Ireland, he seemed assured of success. His 'super-pirate' Radio Sunshine, run out of portable buildings at the back of a seaside hotel, was probably the most successful illegal station in the country.

But at the presentation in the National Concert Hall, Robinson said his listeners did not want politics, the Irish language or what he called "verbal clutter". They wanted music, and that was what he intended to give them. Read more here:

<https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/radio/pirate-radio-maverick-robbie-robinson-changed-the-countrys-tune-40819124.html>

And for a wonderful tribute go to the Pirate Hall of Fame:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/robbied.htm>

Don't forget to take some time to dive in a wonderful update from Mary Payne at:

<https://www.radiolondon.co.uk/jocks/robbie/robbie.html>

And make sure to have a look at our Flickr photo page „Robbie Dale's Diary“:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720298475224>