

Hans Knot's International Radio Report - December 2003 (1)



Hi and welcome to the last edition of the Radio Report for 2003. Thanks for all the massive response and let's start with the news which came in an hour after I sent away the report to the readers.

The Dutch Minister for Economic Affairs announced that the **last FM package** of frequencies will be going to Arrow Classic BV, which has already Arrow Classic Rock on air. This will be a new station called Arrow Classic Jazz FM which has to play 97% classical and jazz music. The owners of Arrow offered to pay 8.000.111 Euro's for the package. In total there were 7 organisation who had opted for the frequency package. The more regional FM frequencies have gone to Hot Radio, Radio Continue, Freez and Radio Seagull got one of the last AM frequencies, the 1602 kHz. This station is the follow up station for Radio Caroline Netherlands and we may congratulate Sietse Brouwer and his team in succeeding the local AM frequency. The stations who got a new frequency can start this month although most will start later. They can renew the frequencies in eight years time.

From England one of the many Stuart readers wrote me: 'I was very disappointed to find out that the **Marine Broadcasters website** had closed down. This seems a terrible shame. What did you think of this site, and is there any way of preserving the information they had?'

Of course Stuart it was a fantastic site from Paul and Mark de Haan, who I both knew for decades. To be precisely Paul is one of my three best friends for ages. And I do agree it's a pity they closed down. On the subject preserving I can tell you that in the weekend of November 29th there will be talks about the possibilities. As soon as we know we will tell you about it

Another program, which will be aired on December 26th in the evening on **WDR 5** (they've a live stream) is a two hour documentary

on the history of Offshore Radio. Interviews have been done in German but yours truly gave them an enormous amount of hours on high quality recordings so go and have a listen. Also next to some former RNI deejays Martin van der Ven and I will be interviewed in the program.

The same day, November 29th, some strange messages in some newsgroups appeared: 'A vacancy exists for a head chef and cook. The position will be based on the **Radio Caroline** radio-ship that will eventually be on station at a permanent mooring in the Southern North Sea. You will be working a standard offshore shift pattern. Please forward a CV detailing experience and qualifications to radio_caroline@hotmail.com by November 30th 2003. Interviews will take place during December for an immediate appointment that will initially be based in Portugal.'

And the second one: 'A vacancy exists for an Administrator/PA to the Director of Radio Caroline. The position will be based at the Radio Caroline offices in Paris France but will include considerable international travel. For the right individual a fantastic package of remuneration awaits. Please forward a CV and a minimum of 100 words about what you could bring to Radio Caroline to radio_caroline@hotmail.com by November 30th 2003. Interviews will take place during December for an immediate appointment.'

Just wait of this is again one of the many thumb suckers not awakening for reality.

Last issue brought the long e-mail from **John England** from the USA and strange enough one of the readers of the report, who works within the enormous British Government apparatus didn't receive the content but a message in a mail from the technical IT department that the e-mail was refused due to naughty words.

I got many response on the mentioned e-mail from readers who do think John England went too far in last issue. Here's one of the

responses which came in from Eric Wiltsher, who first want to write some lines on another subject: 'Thanks for all your efforts and as you know I rarely respond, but this time I feel I must. On the subject of land-based pirates, I'm sure there will always be those that will operate at levels higher than that needed by licensed stations and those that will simply go on air and not give a damn about who they upset, annoy and/or interfere with. Some on you list of recipients were those that helped my wife and I broadcast an RSL called RNI (Radio for New Infants). Although the project did make a very healthy profit it wasn't due to those damned annoying pirates who flattened RNI continually. At one stage the signal couldn't be heard for more than a few hundred yards. Everyone who worked on the project did so free-of-charge and even paid their own expenses. Did the pirates care about that? NO! All the proceeds from the station went to buy equipment for the Special Care Baby Unit and did the pirates care about that? NO! Well actually that's a lie, one station did care and turned off there transmitter to try and help us. But as soon as they closed down another high-powered bunch of idiots appeared. If supporting free radio is supporting stations such as those that would take desperately needed resources from new born babies then I fail to see how anyone could support them.

Next to Father Christmas. It often makes me wonder who these people are who complain about others with such vitriol? Rarely do they support their arguments with anything that even remotely resembles facts and what they may have as facts are so-watered down by their obvious lack of awareness so much so that even the small aspects of truth they have are lost. We are now 30 to 40 years on from events, but some appear, to me, not to have grown wiser over the years, or maybe the vitriol remains due to them never achieving what they think they had a god given right to have. To those that constantly attack others, including some that can no longer defend themselves being now broadcasters on a higher plain, wake up and smell the coffee. Have you not got a life 30 years on from an event. To those that attack radio people who have gone from this earthly world I have nothing but contempt for you and any moral high ground

you may have had has been totally lost. To those that hide behind lawyers because they know they haven't really got a leg to stand on - I hope the lawyers charged you a lot of money on your wasted efforts. In this area I speak as one who has suffered the time wasting that such legal letters can cause although if I had had my way the originator would simply have been told to sod-off. However, what did happen was a load of paperwork being generated by those then paying me and some very expensive lawyers telling the person to sod-off in legal jargon. The end result was still sod-off, but the only people who benefited were some lawyers in the UK and in another non-EU country. However, what is noticeable by it's absence is the person I am referring to - why? Well to start with I wouldn't give him the pleasure of seeing his name in print as I'm sure that would inflate his ego; secondly I don't have time for his ego to produce even more wasted e-mails as happened before, and thirdly anyone who lowers themselves into the gutter by name calling doesn't have any place in radio. Therefore, taking just the third comment, I can't acknowledge someone who name calls as being in our industry and hence he is a non-person.

I'm sure there will be a continued fight for free spirit radio that will be coupled to sensible/variable business attributes. However, I'm sure it won't be from those who moan and groan. You see those that moan and groan will one day, hopefully, find out that to be a moaner and groaner means you become almost impossible to invest in. And you need many investors to make radio work. Although, maybe if all those that moan were to put their money where their mouths are they might be able to launch a station that would show the rest of the world how free radio can be done. OK Hans, via your fine publication, my challenge to the moaners will be to join forces in 2004 and launch a Free Radio station - perhaps we could both review how it has worked this time next year? And finally, to those that worked tirelessly during the past year to entertain an audience or those working behind the scenes to hopefully start entertaining an audience soon - I hope Father Christmas brings you everything you deserve. Kind regards

Eric Wiltsher'

And indeed there was another mail, which I expected and also I thought on forehand it would be short. It came from John Burch: 'I read John England's comments with interest. I also noted your comments. This is just a quick acknowledgement to say that I will respond at some stage - but not immediately. I am very busy - and certainly the name John England no longer causes me to stand to attention and respond immediately. One day the truth about the "Ross Revenge Mutiny" may be known - or at least my side of the story - but that will be my tale to tell - no one else's ! For now though John England's comments certainly brought a smile to my face.'

Then back to the mysterious voice on the international service of RNI, who did the loop tape in English and sounded like an American and the one who also was on the ship for only one short spell, called **Bob Mackey**. Andy Archer comes with his answer: 'Thank you very much for this months report, as ever, it was most interesting. I'm afraid that I do not remember the American's name. I seem to recall that Larry brought an American deejay out to the ship for a week. I think he was just there for the experience! He had a job on a station in USA. The only other American that worked on RNI in 1970 was Ed Moreno who recorded a few interviews with celebrities. He came out the ship once, but that was in the very early days when Urs Emminegger was the station director.'



Also Paul Rusling came with his answer on the question of the mystery voice: 'Beste Hans, another interesting letter. In about February 1971 I talked a few times with an RNI guy called Victor Pelli, who had worked as a club DJ in Switzerland, and who said he was a director of RNI. I heard his voice on some of the early 'De Mol' era test

transmissions, so I think it would be him. He liked to talk like an American, in many ways. And many thanks for that picture of the lady broadcasters who were their first on the REM Island way back in 1964. Better than looking at those wizened old (male) faces we all get so tired of seeing! Paul Rusling'.

And for those who worked on the Mi Amigo in 1973 a photo memory.

Then a long e mail came in from Alan Hamblin with some interesting information he wants to share with us from 1970: 'Dear Hans, I have been reading the November edition of your newsletter. I remember hearing Bob Mackie on Radio Caroline International from the MEBO II in June 1970, but I do not know anything about him. By the way, Stevie Merike was not on the MEBO II at this time, he did not join the station until 1971. Although I cannot give you any information about Bob Mackie I thought you might like the following programme details from Caroline's week on the MEBO II. The station was on the air from the radio ship from Saturday 13th June 1970 until Friday 19th June 1970. The following programmes were broadcast:

Saturday 13th June 1970

5.30 Roger Day
9.00 Andy Archer
12.00 Alan West
3.00 Mark West
6.00 Larry Tremaine
9.00 Bob Mackie
12.00 Carl Mitchell
2.00 am Closedown - Carl Mitchell

Sunday 14th June 1970

As above except:

Newsbeat every hour on the hour with Alan West and Carl Mitchell reporting

Monday 15th June 1970

5.30 Roger Day
9.00 Andy Archer
12.00 Larry Tremain
3.00 Mark Wesley
6.00 Alan West
9.00 Bob Mackie
11.00 Carl Mitchell
2.00 Closedown - Carl Mitchell

Newsbeat every hour on the hour from 6.00 am until 9.00 pm with Alan West, Andy Archer, Roger Day, Mark Wesley and Carl Mitchell reporting.

Thursday 18th June 1970

General Election Day

5,30 Roger Day
9.00 Andy Archer
12.00 Larry Tremain
3.00 Mark Wesley
6.00 Bob Mackey
9.00 Caroline Election Special - Alan West
12.00 midnight Caroline Election Special - Carl Mitchell

Friday 19th June 1970

5.30 Roger Day
9.00 Andy Archer
12.00 Larry Tremain
3.00 Mark Wesley
6.00 Alan West
9.00 Bob Mackey
11.00 Carl Mitchell
2.00 Closedown - Carl Mitchell

Newsbeat: As Monday.

No further transmissions from Radio Caroline International from MV MEBO II. Transmissions from Radio Northsea International resumed at 12.30 pm on Saturday 20th June 1970. Transmissions were from MV MEBO II anchored five miles off the coast of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, UK, on 1230 kHz medium wave and 100 MHz VHF. Mailing address: P.O. Box 113, CH-8047 Zurich, Switzerland.

I hope you will find the above memories from 1970 of interest. As far as I know this was the last time Roger Day was on the MEBO II, as he was sacked. I have got some your CDs, including the double CD of the sound of Radio London. I also have your book about Radio Caroline. Talking about Radio Caroline, which we were, I must have been among the stations first listeners. The station had only been on the air for just over 4 hours when I heard them for the first time. They only had two deejays on the ship on that Easter Sunday 1964 - Chris Moore and Simon Dee. Best wishes for now, Alan Hamblin.'

Thanks a lot for sharing with us Alan and keep enjoying my work. And do you have a personal memory or photograph, keep it sending in to Hknot@home.nl

Last time we mentioned that Paul van Gelder has to leave VARA radio where he worked for many years due to the fact VARA only wants to play non stop during night hours. That was the first VARA told to Paul. But now he heard that all free lancers have to leave and the work will be taken over by people who have a long contract with the public broadcaster. Hugo van Krieken will present the program in the future.

Mike Hayes, former Radio 270 wrote in about his nickname: 'Thanks for the thick new newsletter. A small correction, my nickname was not 'Mickey-Mo' but Mikey Mo' .

We take a trip to Ireland to get in touch with Kenny Tosh who did write in: 'To round off a great year of Offshore specials I have 2

specials on the cards for December. Sunday 21st December from Los Angeles Emperor Rosko will host the show live from L.A. Sunday 28th December it will be the turn of Mick Luvzit Listeners can log on to www.citybeat.co.uk. I cannot thank enough my guests for this year, namely Ugli Ray Terret, Ben Healy, Mike Ahern And of course Rosko thanks a million guys! Have a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2004 to all readers!' Thanks Kenny Tosh.

And I can tell you, the reader, already that one of Kenny's guests next year will be yours truly!

www.radioronald.tk is the Internet address of a on line station which is run by former Radio Monique deejay Ron van der Plas. Specially for the Dutch and Flemish readers it will be nice to listen in as Ron is playing a lot of Dutch productions. The station where I prefer to listen to a lot lately is the wonderful sound of Prime Time Radio, including presenter David Gilbee who once worked on Radio 390 as well as Radio 355 in the sixties. www.primetimeradio.com

One of the many readers, Alan Porter, is working at a governmental department in London and is reading the report by e mail. It occurred that the last issue, with the angry long story from mr. John England, didn't come in his mailbox. Instead of that he received (as well as I did) the following message: 'Message blocked due to inappropriate language content.' So you see we have still have a go To Fight For Free Radio and Free Press! It's almost 2004 and yet such things do happen.

On the evening of Thursday November 20th I had some very fine moments. First of all did see a video which was sent in by Bert Bossink from the Netherlands which featured Camillo Felgen, one time big hero on the German service of Radio Luxembourg in the late fifties and early sixties and of course in the movie a lot of artist from those days. On the same tape some rare recordings from Chris Howland on German TV where artists from the sixties were re-shown. Including Sandie Shaw, Jan and Kjeld from Denmark, Nana

Mouskouri and Françoise Hardy. Wonderful to see it back with even Garry and the Pacemakers singing in phonetic German.

Françoise of course had some songs in English and due to Radio Caroline still some English people are longing to ever meet the French lady with her soft silk voice and I can understand why. Then the evening was further on filled with watching a VCD which was sent in from England on the 5th of November. This by airmail and took more than two weeks to get to Groningen. Nevertheless also a big thank you to my friend since 1978 Bob LeRoi. He was a very young chap when living in Whitstable and finding out that Radio City had their office in his home town. He did visit regularly and got one time an invitation to do programs for the station. He was brought out to Shivering Sands and made his first experience in the industry. As there are no recordings of his shows from that time in the archives of many anoraks often there is misbelieve, especially with the people from Britain, that Bob ever worked on the station. Well I can confirm he did work on City but also did programs on Radio Caroline. Why?? Cause I do have the recordings in the big archive. Strange that some people, who never made it to the radio themselves, always have disbelieve of certain facts and think they can say every time that they are right.

Well I know Bob quite well and we have gone to bad and good times and through the fact that he told me a lot of insite stories, which I could check out with Mrs. Dorothy Calvert, the widow of the later Reginald Calvert, I believe Bob for 1000 % he worked on the Shivering Sands. Also he did a lot of other radio work, including Invicta Radio, Radio Caroline and starting up and ILR in Rochester in 1997. But going back to the VCD he did sent me I can tell you that it's called 'Sealand the Grand Tour'. Due to the fact that he was one of the people who worked on the forts in the sixties and still brings those to attention of the radio world, Bob was invited to spent some days on Roughs Sands in January from this year, he took a recorder with him and a photo camera. I was excited to see so many inside photographs on the Roughs Tower. Bob did tell us how the

tower was in the past but also in the circumstance it's now. As you maybe know there is an Internet company working from this former British Marine Fort of the coast of Harwich.

Some of the legs are still partly in the old style as we know them from photographs from earlier days. Others are complexely changed into the style of these days. A lot of worked has been carried out to bring it into good ondition again And it was nice to see Mike Barrington, one time Caroline and Laser technician, back on this VCD. In a lot of stories about Roughs Tower and Sealand, as the former platform is also known, always there is a strange input about the owner and his family but by watching the VCD I also learned that Roy Bates and his family finally succeeded in making the money they ever wanted with Sealand.

So may I suggest you to order a copy of this wonderful VCD 'Sealand the Grand Tour'? You can get all information to watch Bob LeRoi's site where you can find far much more on the productions he had made in the past: www.bobleroi.co.uk

Also I want to plug myself as my new book RNI Memories, which is partly in German, partly in Dutch and partly in English and has a lot of photographs and all the RNI Smashplays and Treiterschijven included, can be ordered by sending 10 Pounds or 15 Euro's including packing and postage to Foundation for Media Communications (SMC) PO Box 53121 1007 RC in Amsterdam Holland.

Back to Tel Aviv and some more news on Sunday November 23rd when Mike Brand brought the following in his mail: 'After receiving an e-mail from Arutz 7 last Friday, and having it confirmed by Tim this morning, the Arutz 7 ship has left its anchorage off the Tel-Aviv coast. According to the e-mail, it has gone to be scrapped. If I receive anymore news, or pictures, I will publish it / them on the Israeli Offshore Radio Site. I can add to this that on December 10th we got to see the first photographs to see that it's almost broken up. Thanks Mike, really sad to see them.

Another mail from good old England: 'Firstly thank you as always for your monthly report. I have been away on business, but a nice surprise that it was here waiting when I got home. Do you know what the future of Arrow on 675KHz AM and Radio 10 on 1395KHz Am is? I heard somewhere they had until 1st December before this was reviewed? Thanks as always. David From Newbury Berkshire'.

Thanks David. Well up till today, November 26th, nothing has decided yet so hopefully the Country format will come one day. But first they have to fill FM all over the Netherlands with their new Jazz station. And the question about Radio Ten and their future on AM can either be answered by Ruud Poeze (who lent his frequency) or Tom Mulder (one of the big shots behind the station). So go ahead and have you turn Tom or Ruud. The readers honestly deserve and answer.

In the big pile of mails I found one from a certain Nigel: 'Thank you for your always interesting Newsletter. I have never contacted you before but I'm not sure if we may have met. In 1984 I ran an air charter company at Southend in England and the 'Daily Mail' newspaper asked us to fly one of their photographers out to photograph the Ross Revenge which had just anchored in the Thames Estuary. They were not broadcasting at that time but we found the ship OK. Several times after that we flew people out to the Ross, including Buster and Jean on one memorable occasion. We also flew a Dutchman out to take photographs and I wondered if that was you. What an unpleasant fellow John England seems to be: a good job he's over in Texas and I hope he stays there. My wife Sandy and I met in June 1970 due to our mutual interest in offshore radio and, at that time, RNI particularly. I well remember us both visiting Geoff and June at the FRA several times. We've been married 33 years now so 'thank you RNI' is what I say. With very best wishes. Nigel L Stockwell Norwich, England'.

So that's what happiness is, or not? Thanks a lot the both of you and

try to keep it up for many many years. And I didn't go with a plane to the Ross Revenge but several times by using tenders. Keep enjoying the newsletter.

On June 6th of this year, as we just heard, Edward Cole, died on the age of 63. I did met him some 7 years ago to talk about his time on Radio 390 and talked for many hours. It was if we met many times before and had several memories together. After Radio 390, where he spent a long time, he worked for BBC Radio and some hospital radio stations. Edward seemed to be sad he never got the possibility to go into ILR as many of his former colleagues did. A splendid voice and very good announcer has gone.

It was wonderful to get an e-mail from Dick Weeda. Who does remember him from the mid sixties, while working on the Laissez Faire? It was in June he became 60 years. He wrote that thanks to me he finally found back Harald van Gelder, a former colleague on Radio 227. Even Paul van Gelder, which is Harald's real name, played with his band on the birthday party. Dick also had some update on the nickname list: 'Look, the country man Boden' Harald van Gelder also used Harkie without mentioning 'the Mayor'. And I also do remember that Tony Windsor used 'big Tee Double You'

Thanks a lot Dick and hope you want to share some more memories with us in the future. Always remember a lot of your former fellow deejays are reading the report too!

Good news this time from Fred Bolland whom we know from Caroline in the late seventies, eighties, but also from Radio Monique and other projects. Fred was for a long time in hospital and lucky enough he starts to recover a bit and we do hope he recovers as much as possible so he can enjoy much more years with his wife Gerda and his kids. He did sent us a 'thank you' e-mail for all those people who did sent in an mail to wish him all the best for the future. Fred: "I can't say how important those e-mails where in those very difficult moments we had. I always thought that nobody knows you when

you're down but it was fantastic. I had to write this to all those who sent in best wishes. It goes better day by day but I've to go to many weeks and months before I'm the old Fred B again. Thanks once again."



Sometimes things come from an unexpected corner. This time sent in by Hans Schermer, who I didn't heard off until November 29th. He wrote me he got in the seventies from a friend a photo album with some photos from Martin Green (Martin Groen), the Dutch deejay working on Radio City. The friend he got the album from died many years ago. Hans does not know where Martin Groen lives and as he want to show this photos again to Martin Green. The same day the wonderful news came in from Jonathan from the Pirate Hall of Fame that Martin Groenhorst (as his real name is) did contact him recently and will write his memories about Radio City next year for Jonathan's site.

And the same day we, that's Mary and Chris Payne, from the Wonderful Radio London site, and me had the luck that the corridor with the famous London graffiti, which is in Groningen since 1966, was not closed. And the result is to find soon on their wonderful site, which can be found at: www.radiolondon.co.uk

Next year connected to this site all the original material from the site Marine Broadcasters, which was taken from the Internet in August this year, will be back, too. A fine cooperation between Paul de Haan and Chris and Mary Payne.

Sunday November 30th saw an e-mail in my box from Martin Groenhorst and more exclusive material on Radio City. I will be in contact with him later next month when we're both are back from traveling. On the earlier mentioned site www.offshoreradio.co.uk some new updates can be found on the stations which were on the air from international waters in the sixties. Some rare pictures from

Radio Scotland and the photos I sent in from Radio Caroline in 1966, which were never published before. Exclusive in this set of photos is that it is featuring Norman St. John he worked on Caroline only for a short while, before joining Radio London.

Stuart Aiken sent in a comment on the update to me, the day the photos from Radio Caroline could be seen for the first time: 'Hi Hans, Wonderful photographs of Caroline South! In mid 1968 (age 18) I was so depressed at the demise of Caroline, I got on a ferry in Hull and sailed to Amsterdam. I found Singel 160 (a big black door which you must have walked through) but it was locked. I think I cried. I remember being hungry and had not much money. I stayed for one night in a seedy hotel and had a meal at Central station of ham and eggs. I spent the next day looking for the ships and found them in the harbour. I went back and forth on the ferry just staring at them, parked next to each other next to very large old passenger liner. I have photo which I will send you one day when I have it scanned.'

Wonderful to get, although this is a sad one, all those memories. So please readers let them come to hknot@home.nl

On the very last day of November I heard that there will be some special programs next year on Dutch Radio and television, which will be partly brought from the former REM island off the coast of Noordwijk in Holland. Public Broadcaster TROS will be forty years of age and as the station was the follow up for RTV Noordzee the came to the idea to bring back memories from the very early days.

Advent International is the new shareholder of Radio 538 as they bought 55% of the shares from owners Harding, de Jager and Out. Those three had 98% of the shares since earlier this year. They bought them from Newscorp, which is owned by Murdoch. The later is also owner of Sky Radio in the Netherlands and two radio stations for one owner was not possible under new regulations so the Newscorp had to be bought out earlier in 2003.

Mike Brand wrote in from Israel on November 30th: 'After having a conversation this afternoon with Yoel Tzur, one of the managers of Arutz 7, and one of the Arutz 7 10, awaiting their sentences at the end of this year for illegal broadcasting, he informed me that the Arutz 7 ship has been broken up. He told me that the deal was brokered through a company in Piraeus, and the station got a very good deal. I myself informed the station of two people who wanted to use the ship (for legal purposes !), but my inquiry came too late, as the deal had already been finalized. He also went on to tell me, that the station will, in future, operate only within the framework of the law, and are awaiting for the Knesset to introduce legislation for the station to be legalized. If what Yoel Tzur told me is true, then this is really the end of offshore radio broadcasting from the high seas.'

Sometimes stories you hear get your laughing all over and there's one coming up which will get you a big laugh. There are certain ladies who are addicted to Keith Skues. Some years ago we did play a beautiful video which was done by Ben Meijering from Holland and it was a portrait of one of the London RSL's. This one was held at Clacton Peer. Well in this you could also the fan club of Skues, consisting out of old ladies, mostly senior plus age. But the other memory is that one of the ladies, addicted to Keith, has him in her bed all over again. No, not what you do think but the lady got a photograph with Skues on it and went to a shop to have it transferred to her pillow-slip. So you don't have to be afraid when you still have a poster hanging somewhere featuring your favorite radio ship.

Early December I made a very short visit for my work to England and had the opportunity to have a few hours to meet Peter Moore from the Caroline organization. We do meet up, together with Rob Olthof of the Foundation for Media Communications, once a year to talk about memories, past and present. Sometimes also the future is part of our talks. Peter told that the BBC has plans to make a special documentary about the history, which will be eventually transmitted

during Eastern 2004, when it's 40 years ago the station came on the air for the first time. It was from the MV Fredericia on 199 metres. A long time ago, but I do remember that I recorded the first day on my good old Philips recorder.

Disky records have released already several CD boxes with Caroline music, and have plans to something totally different in the near future. There are talks with the Caroline organization to see if there is a way to bring a DVD on the market with video and movie shots, featuring the history of the station during the past four decades. We will see what will happen. One thing is for sure and that is that next year's RSL from Southend on Sea will not be realized due to too high towing costs. If there will be another RSL it will be probably on AM and from the ship's current anchorage in Rochester.

During our drinks Peter also told that he recently was in contact with Mike Dundee from Australia. This guy worked for 14 years in England, before going back to his native country some four years ago. Mike not only worked for the personal business from Peter Moore but also for Caroline and did very good work for the station, often in the most dangerous circumstances. Dundee nowadays has business as a yacht broker and thinks back with a lot of joy to his offshore days with Caroline.

December 9th saw the program on the KRO on Radio 2 during the evening, called 'Sentimental Theatre' filled with memories to the gold old days of the Mi Amigo in the seventies. A radio station which was run by deejays from Holland and Belgium and owned by Sylvain Tack. On Radio 2 in Holland today Marc Jacobs was invited to tell about his memories from those days. Marc was the most popular deejay from the station and nowadays still works in radio with Radio TV Noord in Groningen. A pity that the line between the studio were Marc Jacobs was sitting and that one of Radio 2 was too bad whereby it was very difficult for Marc to hear the questions from the presenter from Radio 2.

Some 10 years later another station came on the air from the Northsea in Dutch, which was Radio Monique. A female deejay was Elly van Amstel who wrote to me that she also had a nickname on the ship. She was called Miss Ellie (with Miss Ellie of the TV Series Dallas in mind). Elly is still active in local radio in the Netherlands and is a very active licensed wireless amateur.

Many readers are writing me about the AM licenses in the Netherlands, which were given away in June and still are not used. Here's an example: 'Hans, could you kindly clarify something regarding the new AM stations which are eagerly awaited by us over here in the UK. Firstly, what happens if by next year some of the stations do not get on-air. Do the licences go out again for retendering or do they go back to the original stations that used them. Secondly, why is there such a big delay. Surely it is in Ruud Poeze's interest to get the stations up and running!! I would welcome any comments regarding this, Mike.'

Well to all of you I can only say that it is very difficult for all those stations to get good financial backing as well as well paid advertisements. If the organisations, which have got the licences, will not come on air before June 1st, they have to give back the licence to the Dutch authorities. Personally I think that Ruud Poeze will not come on the air with a station. Of course he has rented a frequency to Radio 10 Gold. But I know he has been contacted by several organisations who want to work together with him. I've seen several e-mails, which have been sent to me in copy, and every time he has something negative to declare about prospective organisations to cooperate. A pity. Also it is very difficult to get Radio London on air as backing is difficult to get. Further on we let Ray Anderson speak about this project.

But maybe one day Ruud Poeze will make history as the guy who got those licences in the Netherlands and never brought these on air. So come on Ruud, who's reading this report too and bring something on the air. Cooperation with Look Boden's Radio 227 could be a could

idea and don't think you're only one who knows everything on formats as people are starting to laugh about you now!

We go to Ray Anderson who wrote to one of the regular readers about his Wonderful Radio London: 'Everything is fine, but taking longer to put together than we originally thought. Much of the Legal and Accountancy work is now done, will now be working on the contractual side of things. I will not give a start date, but we will start when everything is in place, I think that is more realistic.'

Frizz is the new name of the former restaurant Phoenix, which was run by two English guy in the main city of Cambodja, Phnom Pnehm. The new name means also that the restaurant has a new owner in the person of Frits Koning, who you do or do not know of his time either on Radio Monique, Radio Unique, Radio M and Business News Radio. Hope the new project will be successful Frits.

Christmas is coming soon and hopefully you will all spent it with you beloved family and friends. May I, together with my lovely wife Jana, wish you a very good time and we do see each other in 2004.

Hans Knot



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY GOOD 2004
FROM HANS AND JANA KNOT**