station to specialise in soul. Some of the other stations' DJs often sounded as if they were more in love with the idea of illegal broadcasting than with providing a genuine alternative to legal radio. Invicta seemed to command respect within the rest of the pirate radio community because it clung doggedly to its soul music format, and it was so obviously a station run BY soul music fans FOR soul music fans.

Occasionally, other pirate stations helped to publicise Invicta's long running campaign for a soul music radio station to be licensed in London. On one occasion, a DJ on FM pirate station London Stereo was heard to comment on-air to his co-presenter:

"Oh, that's interesting! 'Pirates In Stereo' – this is a newspaper article – 'A pirate radio station will be broadcasting to the Borough on Boxing Day in stereo, and the rest of London will be able to hear Radio Invicta when they defy the Post Office once again and go on the air for eight hours. The small group of do-it-yourself broadcasters.......' Yes, well."[9]

By 1974, Radio Invicta had been operating on and off for four years, but was now limiting its broadcasts to only a few hours each Bank Holiday weekend, which made its handful of broadcasts very special occasions for its audience. Our soul music fan in Camberley would spend all his pocket money on a pile of empty cassette tapes, prior to each Bank Holiday weekend, and would record on them as many of Invicta's broadcasts as he could fit. He treasured those tapes and would play them over and over again until the next Bank Holiday when he could hear the station. Then he would start the process all over again.

Radio Invicta's broadcasts had not always been so sporadic. The station had been launched in December 1970 by soul music enthusiast Tony Johns, initially using a low-power, medium wave, valve transmitter of the 'home brew' type that pirate stations usually built themselves in that era. During its first four years, Invicta had broadcast most weekends for only a few hours, but it had quickly attracted a growing audience. Soon, it became the first pirate station to make the switch to broadcasting on the FM band, pioneering the use of solid