



# ON-AIR

The hospital, health & well-being magazine



**AWARD WINNING**  
BHBN NAMED STATION OF THE YEAR

# IP Audio Codecs - Vortex has THE COMPETE SET . . .

## from full-blown multi-streaming ACCESS to low-cost CallMe-T



**ACCESS NX** is the latest incarnation of the Comrex ACCESS industry-standard IP Audio Codec. With CrossLock Multi-Streaming, enhanced processing power and add-on Digital Commentator Mixer, it truly is the **NEXT GENERATION**.



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Comrex ACCESS is the industry-standard IP Audio Codec for Broadcast and can send stable low-delay two-way using the Public Internet even when there is poor connectivity. Because of its use of low-bitrate algorithms (including Opus), clever forward error correction and error masking - and now CrossLock multi-streaming capability when used with another ACCESS or BricLink - audio stability is second-to-none.

Vortex's CallMe Click-&Connect Cloud Service lets the huge installed base of Comrex users get more from their codecs by putting guests and reporters on-air by clicking on a web link provided by the Station. We then found out that some smaller Community and Hospital Stations could not afford even the lowest priced full-blown codec and as a result developed CallMe-TS which is our low-cost back-end for CallMe Click-&Connect with no buttons but a simple web interface to set it all up. After requests to use two hardware CallMe-Ts together as an ISDN replacement, CallMe-TR (Remote Version) was born with four buttons on the front panel that provides 8x quick-dial presets (plus Drop) which can connect to pretty well all IP Audio Codecs using Opus or G.722..

The latest additions to CallMe-T are USB Audio and SmartStream™. The possibility to plug in a USB Mixer or Headset makes CallMe-T an ideal codec for use at a home studio or Outside Broadcast whilst SmartStream™ provides resilience and lets you stream to multiple destinations with selection of which audio channels (L, R or Both) go where. If you would like to try an OB on us, why not get in touch.

**Vortex Communications Ltd - Web: [www.vtx.co.uk](http://www.vtx.co.uk) \* E-Mail [info@vtx.co.uk](mailto:info@vtx.co.uk) \* Tel: 020-8579 2743**

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**SUPPORT  
INFORM  
REPRESENT  
DEVELOP**

Hospital, health  
and wellbeing  
broadcasters across  
the UK.

## Your stories. Your On-Air.

From a list of winners from the National Hospital Radio Awards 2019 to inspiring stories from stations, this is issue 163 of your On-Air magazine.

It's been over two months since our Annual Conference and the National Hospital Radio Awards were held in Stoke-on-Trent, where it was lovely to see so many volunteers from our member stations, including some new faces too.

We hope you had an enjoyable time at our annual conference and picked up our special printed edition of On-Air. Also, congratulations again to those who won or were nominated at this year's National Hospital Radio Awards, what an evening that was!

In this edition of your On-Air magazine, we've got the full list of winners from the National Hospital Radio Awards 2019, plus news from our member stations from across the UK.

Don't forget, if you would like to submit a story for inclusion in the magazine, you can send it us via the HBA website, [hbauk.com](http://hbauk.com), or via email to [onair@hbauk.com](mailto:onair@hbauk.com).

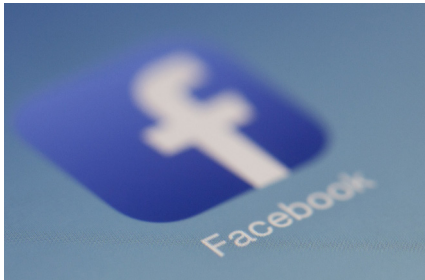
Submit photographs that really emphasise what the story is about too, because with our bold look, they'll stand out.

Your next edition of On-Air is due for release in August 2019, so let's hear about events you're holding throughout the Summer that benefit your station, hospital staff and those in the health and wellbeing community.



# Get social with HBA

We want to make sure you get all the information you need from us throughout the year and beyond. Get news, information and updates from HBA...



## On Facebook

/ukhba

Like us on Facebook for the latest news from our member stations and interact with likeminded volunteers.



## On Twitter

@thehbauk

Follow us on Twitter for the latest news from our member stations and updates from the team at the Hospital Broadcasting Association.

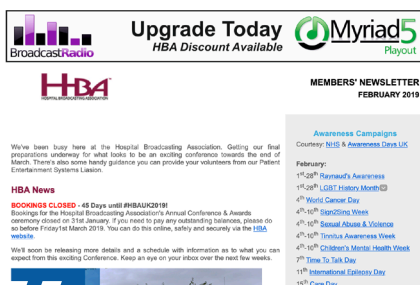


## On LinkedIn

/hbauk

Connect with us over on LinkedIn as we share updates from HBA along with the latest news from our member stations.

And don't forget to subscribe to our publications and find us online.



## Members Newsletter

Sent monthly via email.

Our members newsletter is packed full of useful information to help you run your charities, as well as the latest news from HBA and our member stations.

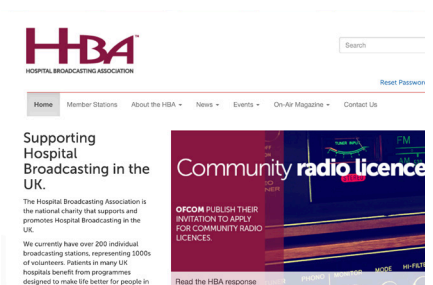


February 2019 December 2018 August

## On-Air Magazine

Sent quarterly via email.

We celebrate the hard-work of our member station and shine the spotlight on their volunteers in our quarterly publication, On-Air. Available via our website & email.



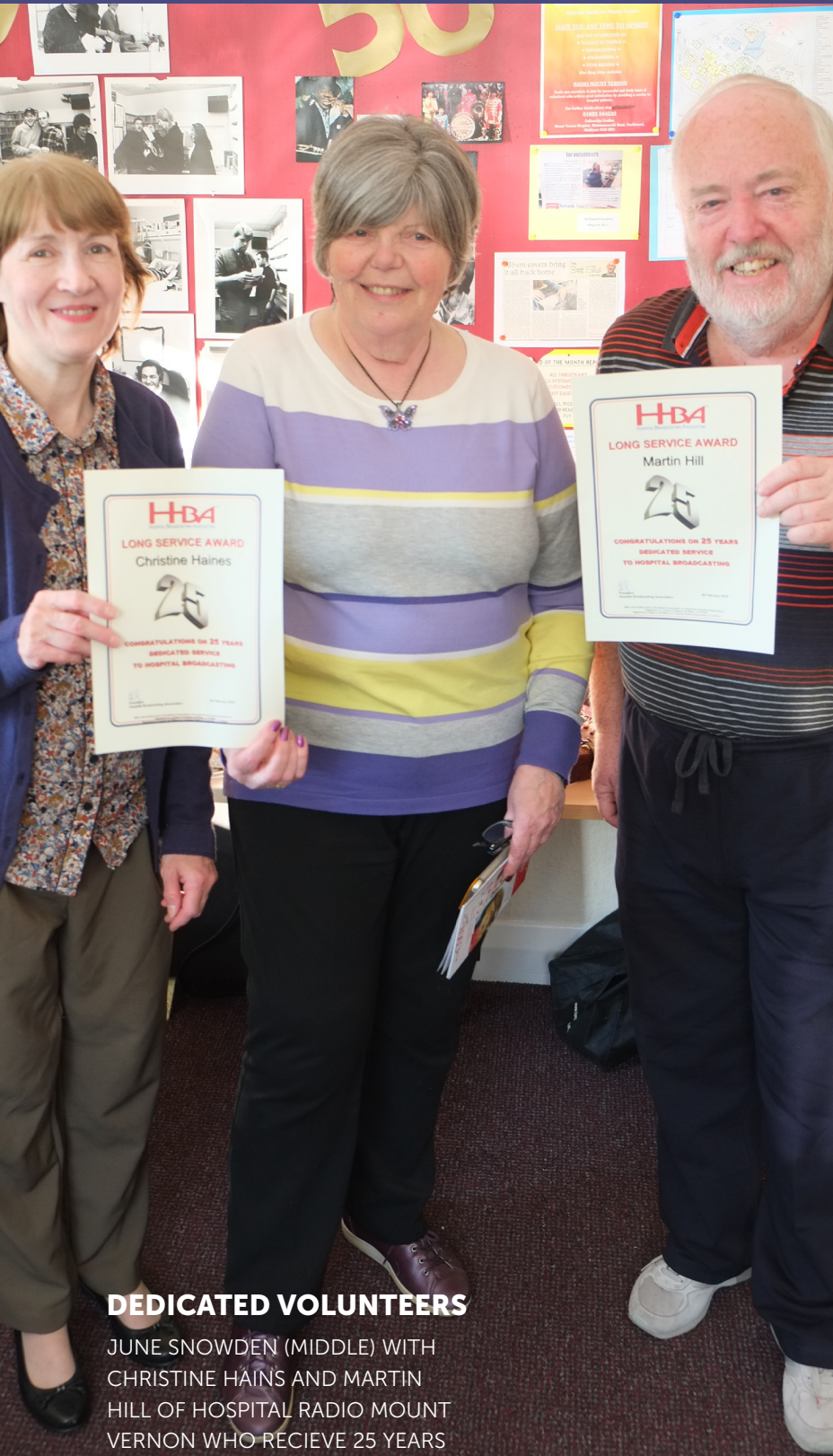
## Our website

hbauk.com

Our website has lots of information about HBA, news from our member stations and is the gateway to the hospital broadcasting community.

# Mount Vernon Celebrates!

Hospital Radio Mount Vernon celebrates 50 years of broadcasting



## DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

JUNE SNOWDEN (MIDDLE) WITH CHRISTINE HAINES AND MARTIN HILL OF HOSPITAL RADIO MOUNT VERNON WHO RECEIVE 25 YEARS LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

## A special celebration took place at Radio Mount Vernon in February.

The station had a visit from June Snowden, President of the Hospital Broadcasting Association, who gave the station a long service award for 50 years of broadcasting.

June said, 'This is a great opportunity to congratulate everyone involved with Radio Mount Vernon on their dedication and hard work. Many thanks for all you do for your hospital community.'

Christine Haines and Martin Hill each received a special certificate celebrating 25 years of presenting live shows from our studio at Mount Vernon. Martin remembers; 'The old studios were so very cold in winter, and leaked badly on every rainy day.' The studios are now located in the 'village' part of the Mount Vernon site, in rooms prepared by dedicated volunteers, who designed the current studio, library and Training Room.

Certificates were also given to John Thompson for 20 years of involvement and leadership, and to Steve Parker for 15 years as engineer for the radio station. There were also for certificates for Andy Stroud for 40 years combined volunteering with Watford Hospital Radio and Mount Vernon, and to Deryk Nicholson for 25 years combined volunteering with Watford and Mount Vernon.

There was recognition of other volunteers with five or more years volunteering. These were Bob Ottewill, Christine Robinson and Jean Gillen.





## GOOD LUCK MAISY-SKY!

The 18 year old volunteer with CHBN in Cornwall has been nominated in two categories at this years Young Arias.

# Volunteer nominated for awards

18 year old CHBN volunteer Maisy-Sky Lumbers shortlisted for national accolades

**CHBN presenter Maisy-Sky Lumbers has been shortlisted down to the final three in two different categories at The Young Arias.**

The Young Arias are the new UK awards for 8-18 year old and schools who love making audio supported by both commercial and BBC Radio.

Maisy-Sky, a student at Penwith College is a finalist in the BBC Sounds Rising Talent Award and Best Factual Show.

She first began presenting radio shows at her secondary school radio station, MBA Live and began working her way up the ladder.

She got her first show at Cornwall Hospital Broadcasting Network (CHBN) at the age of 16 and continues to present her own weekly two hour show, 'Songs from the Shows' every Sunday morning from 10am until 12pm.

Maisy-Sky will be traveling up to the prestigious BBC Radio Theatre in May to see if she has won any of the awards. Winners and nominees will receive priceless opportunities which will help them learn more about media and open doors for their future carers. Prizes include industry mentorship, VIP studio tours and a show on a National Radio Station.

The Young Arias will be hosted by KISS FM's Daisy Maskell and BBC Radio 1's Matt Edmondson.

Matt's co-host Mollie King will hand out the BBC Sounds Rising Talent award.

She said: "From all the audio we've heard, we know there are some seriously talented under 18 broadcasters from across the UK. The future of radio and audio is in good hands with our passionate Young ARIAS nominees."





## The story of Max

**The nine-year-old was desperately ill for months with cardiomyopathy, which enlarged his heart, and kept alive by a Left Ventricular Assisted Device (LVAD).**

He remained on the organ transplant list for seven months at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital before a donor for him was finally found in August 1997.

His operation was filmed for a BBC TV documentary and followed up by the Daily Mirror, who ran a campaign to have the law changed regarding transplants.

This law has since been passed by Parliament and is called Max and Keira's Law, Keira being the young girl killed in a road traffic accident and whose heart Max received.

Radio Tyneside followed the story of Max and last year he called into the studios with his mother, who was to talk about how Max had been since the operation.

That didn't go as planned, as Max took over the interview and talked to Dave Nicholson for 15 minutes about what his life had been like.

Dave said "I was just blown away with his confidence and ability just to talk".

Afterwards, the station decided to enter the abridged version of his interview for the Speech Package category of the National Hospital Radio Awards, which won gold at the ceremony in Stoke-on-Trent in March 2019.

Radio Tyneside follows nine-year old Max, who suffers from Cardiomyopathy and is kept alive by a Ventricular Assisted Device (LAVD).

It had been decided before the awards that should it win, the award would be presented to Max himself.

By luck, Max was back at the Freeman Hospital for a check up on the Monday following the awards weekend.

On the Monday, Dave Nicholson made a surprise visit to the hospital, where he presented him with the award. Max's mother knew this was going to happen and the Daily Mirror turned up to take some pictures and carried the story the following day. This led to Max and his mum appearing on ITV's This Morning programme later in the week.

Max has said he will be coming back for a further interview – a future radio presenter in the making.



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# Radio Brockley's Royal Opening



Keith Reeve writes for On-Air on the opening of The Stanmore Building at RNOH.

**The Stanmore Building, a long awaited new ward facility, was officially opened on Thursday 21st March 2019 by HRH Prince Andrew, Patron of the RNOH, Princess Eugenie, Patron of the RNOH Charity, and her husband Jack Brooksbank.**

For many years, indeed decades, the future of the RNOH had been in doubt, but much hard work by the RNOH Executive, supported by the RNOH Charity and many others, has ensured there is a future at Stanmore, and the new building is the first of a long awaited redevelopment programme. The Stanmore Building accommodates 128 patients in a truly outstanding and innovative facility.

Radio Brockley was invited to cover this very special event by the RNOH Communications Dept, and was

delighted to have the opportunity to bring it to a larger audience. The RNOH Charity, who have provided considerable funding to enhance the facilities in this 21st century care facility, were kind enough to get the approval required from Buckingham Palace so that we could be present.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Keith Reeve and Caroline Keating recorded interviews with key staff members, Richard Scott who was responsible for the construction, and Christine Bows who was responsible for the commissioning of the building, as well as RNOH CEO Rob Hurd and RNOH Chairman Prof Tony Goldstone CBE. Keith Reeve and Ron Laver edited them ready for broadcast.

With support from the RNOH IT Department, we were given network access via an Ethernet port on the

reception desk in the foyer of the new building, which was about 4 metres away from where the opening speeches would be made and a plaque unveiled. We did not want to rely on wifi on the day as we knew it would be heavily utilised and we could not risk the quality of our link being compromised. The Ethernet port would allow us to connect a PC running Linphone, which we use for voice based outside broadcasts (OB) back to the studio, which in turn had a portable mixer and microphones connected. Linphone is opensource, and provided it's configured correctly, has proven to be a very useful tool for either static, as in this case, or roving OB's where the remote end uses a mobile phone connected to wifi or 3G/4G.

Keith, Ron and David Rauch tested and debugged the link in the weeks leading up to the event, and this ensured the



technical aspects went perfectly to plan.

On the day we had a small team supporting the event, comprising of myself, Keith Reeve, David Rauch, Ron Laver, Alan Joyce, Caroline Keating and a colleague from the SCAT Cancer Trust, Sarah Wright, who assisted with the live interviews. SCAT has also contributed to this fine building.

We were even able to help resolve an issue with the event PA, as a mixer had not been provided for it and without one there would have been no PA. Fortunately, we were able to facilitate this on our mixer, as well as still providing the all-important live feed to the studio and ultimately on air.

We broadcast a 3-hour live show between 10am-1pm, which included the pre-recorded and live interviews,

patient requests, live commentary and the opening speeches. In the studio David Rauch anchored the show, supported by Caroline Keating and Sarah Wright, Alan Joyce was station engineer, on the OB we had Keith Reeve providing live updates and commentary, Ron Laver looking after the OB technical aspects, with both Keith and Sarah doing live interviews from the foyer of the building. One very special moment was when HRH Princess Eugenie recognised Christine Bows as one of the care team who looked after her when she had her scoliosis operation at the RNOH as a teenager.

It proved to be another very successful day for Radio Brockley. The OB link was perfectly stable, the audio quality excellent and everyone involved did everything, and more, asked of them.



**ONE VERY SPECIAL  
MOMENT WAS WHEN  
PRINCESS EUGENIE  
RECOGNISED CHRISTINE  
BOWS AS ONE OF THE  
CARE TEAM WHO LOOKED  
AFTER HER AT RNOH AS A  
TEENAGER.**



# 2019 National Hospital

**LET'S LOOK BACK  
AT THE WINNERS  
AND RUNNERS  
UP FROM THE  
2019 NATIONAL  
HOSPITAL RADIO  
AWARDS IN  
STOKE-ON-TRENT**

>>



## ↑ BEST MALE PRESENTER

**Coventry Hospital Radio's Dan Sambell picked up the Gold award for Best Male Presenter.**

Speaking of his entry, the judges said they were a big fan of Dan, he seems to be hitting all the right notes. Another praised how you can hear his smile & warmth.

Silver was awarded too Rajiv Hasan from Nottingham Hospitals Radio, whilst bronze went to Andrew Hill from Hospital Radio Plymouth.



## ↑ BEST NEWCOMER

**Radio Grapevine's Debra Davies picked up the gold award in this hotly contested category.**

The judges said this was lovely to listen to. It Felt like a chat with an old friend. They described Debra's content as relatable to the patients and her style is really natural.

David Stone from Radio Harrow took home the silver and Kate Beatty from Radio Brockley took home the bronze.



## ↑ BEST FEMALE PRESENTER

**Philippa Clarkin from BHBN in Birmingham scooped Gold award for Best Female Presenter.**

Warmth was the word used most by the judges, who said she was warm, clear, friendly and good at describing and painting pictures.

Tamsin Robson picked up Silver for Radio Tyneside in this category, whilst Eileen Thompson from Durham Hospitals Radio picked up the bronze.



## ↑ MULTIPLE PRESENTERS

**Harrow Today from the team at Radio Harrow scooped the gold award in this category.**

Bright, young sounding and fun, is how the judges summed up Harrow Today. One said, while it contained a number of voices, I didn't feel excluded.

Silver went to iKidz from Hospital Radio Bedside whilst Coventry Hospital Radio took home the bronze with Colin and Annette's Music Set.



# Hospital Radio Awards



## STATION PROMOTION

**Tatty Bye to Sir Ken Dodd from Radio Clatterbridge came on top in this category.**

Championing the station's late patron, this promo celebrates the life of Ken Dodd, and has lovely use of archive material.

The New Radio Tyneside, from Radio Tyneside, secured the stations silver award and Hospital Radio Plymouth went home with the bronze for Requestline.



## SPEECH PACKAGE

**Radio Tyneside's Organ Donation Week interview won gold in this category.**

The judges described this entry as an extraordinary piece of radio, produced by a sympathetic interviewer allowing his interview to flow.

Winchester Radio won silver for Hampshire Hospitals NHS Voices and Generation Gains from BHBN took home the bronze.



## SPECIALIST MUSIC PROG

**Fresh Sounds from Radio Grapevine saw the station win gold in this category.**

The judges described Grapevine's entry as an excellent showcase of local music... they loved the likeable presentation.

The Accoustic Hour from CHBN in Cornwall took home the silver and Grampian Hospital Radio took home bronze for their programme, Touch of Tartan.



## SPECIAL EVENT

**It was Alpha Sessions 10th Anniversary that brought Radio Brockley home the gold in this category.**

The judges said this entry was ambitious, professional, knowledgeable, warm and a tremendous listen.

Radio BGM followed with Silver for their coverage of NHS 70 and the Hospital Broadcasting Service picked up the Bronze for their 48hr broadcast for NHS 70.



## STATION OF THE YEAR

**It's one of the most hotly contested categories and in 2019, the Station of the Year award went to BHBN.**

The judges loved BHBN. They said this was a distinctive entry with good listener and hospital involvement, with some relevant and original ideas.

Durham Hospitals Radio picked up the silver with the bronze being awarded to the team from Hospital Radio Basingstoke.



## JOHN WHITNEY & RECOGNISING INNOVATION

**These two categories don't have a shortlist, there are no bronze, silver or gold winners.**

Pictured above left, Terry Clough from Durham Hospitals Radio who was awarded the John Whitney Award.

Pictured above right, Richard Hargrave collects the Recognising Innovation award for Hospital Radio Plymouth.



# We're working for you.

HBA continued making an impact in 2017/18 for our member stations and their volunteers. Here are some highlights from the Trustee's Annual Report, year ending 31st August 2018.

## HELP & ADVICE

We provided information and advice to our members on an individual basis through our website and specialist advisors. Most advice was on **management & charity governance**. Though advice was also offered on **patient entertainment, programming** and **technical distribution**.



**KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT, AND THE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED HAS BEEN INVALUABLE AND HAS SAVED US AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF EFFORT. MANY THANKS**

Feedback from a specialist advisor enquiry.

## WORKING NATIONALLY

We continue to engage with our key stakeholders including **PPL & PRS for Music** as well as **NHS England** and **NHS Digital**.

We've also maintained relationships with programme providers who make their content free to our members.



**HUGELY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUAL. A CREDIT TO THE HBA. THANK YOU**

Feedback from a specialist advisor enquiry.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Our monthly members newsletter is delivered to around **500** inboxes, whilst On-Air reached just shy of **1,000** subscribers.

Our social channels reach **2,500** and **8.5k** people on **Facebook & Twitter** respectively.



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Annual Conference continues to provide an opportunity to offer training and guidance on various aspects of hospital broadcasting & governance.

**97%** of delegates would recommend attending the HBA Annual Conference & National Hospital Radio Awards.



Feedback from a conference attendee  
**A GREAT VARIETY OF SEMINARS,  
COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF  
HOSPITAL RADIO**

## NATIONAL HOSPITAL RADIO AWARDS

Our National Hospital Radio Awards are recognised not only by the media industry, but more so now by the **National Health Service** and **healthcare professionals**.

Our chairman, Grant McNaughton was asked to speak of the benefits of hospital radio on local radio.



Feedback from our Annual Conference  
**LOOKING FORWARD TO  
NEXT YEAR, SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE**

## ROADSHOWS

We delivered 2 Roadshow events. Comparing similar events in the third sector & broadcasting arenas, an estimate of the commercial value of training provided is **£350 per delegate**, whereas delegates were charged **£25 or less**.



Feedback from our roadshow  
**I ENJOYED THE DAY.... I TOOK  
AWAY SOME GREAT TIPS  
AND LEARNED A FAIR BIT,  
ENCOURAGING ME TO LEARN  
MORE**

## CONTACT

If you would like further information, you can contact the Trustees or Executive Leads at HBA via our website, **hbauk.com** or by calling **0300 121 0500**.

**Support • Inform • Represent • Develop**

**Hospital, health and wellbeing broadcasters across the UK**





## DRIVING FORCE ↩

Former driving force of Chiltern Radio, Colin Mason O.B.E, pictured with Hospital Radio Bedford Chairman Geoff Clark.

# HRB appoint Honorary President

Colin Mason O.B.E becomes Hospital Radio Bedford Honorary President

**The Trustees of Hospital Radio Bedford are pleased to announce the appointment of Colin Mason O.B.E. as Honorary President of the charity.**

Colin who has generously agreed to join us brings to the charity many years of experience within the broadcast industry having been the driving force behind Chiltern Radio during its inception, and also having interests in radio stations in other parts of the world.

Colin has recently retired from the position of Vice Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire.

Geoff Clark Chairman of Hospital Radio Bedford said, "At this pivotal time for Hospital radio stations in the UK, listeners have wider accessibility to broadcast output, the Trustees believe that the experience Colin brings will benefit the charity in developing strategies to achieve it's objects of being a "Health and Wellbeing Broadcaster to the residents of Bedford Borough", as well as helping to raise the charities profile locally within the area."

Colin Mason said "I have been involved in broadcasting in Bedford since the early 1980s and I am extremely pleased to be asked to take on the 'Honorary President' role at Hospital Radio Bedford.

As I join, I am delighted that HRB has taken ownership of a particular 'format' in Bedford which is the Health and Wellbeing Station which

makes the service vital to the whole community as well as to those in immediate need in hospital. The Internet has now brought great potential to stations like HRB in the opportunity for widening their audience. As I settle in to HRB I take great pleasure in coming face to face again with equipment donated by my old radio station, Chiltern Radio. It is good to be back.





# Freemasons tune into needs of charity broadcaster

Harrogate Hospital Radio secures £3,000 donation from Harrogate & Claro Freemasons

**Harrogate & Claro Freemasons have tuned into the needs of Harrogate Hospital Radio by securing them a £3,000 donation to purchase hundreds of internet radios.**

Last year, Harrogate Hospital NHS Trust's strategic decision not to renew its contract with the provider of the bedside-entertainment system had a massive impact on the broadcaster.

As a result of the loss of facility, the only way patients can now listen to the in-house radio station is on smart phones and tablets via the internet or an app.

Harrogate Hospital Radio, which first took to the airwaves in October 1977, has had to radically rethink the way it provides its service to patients, and is now looking at broadcasting its services across the wards and public areas through wi-fi radios.

The charity was faced with a dilemma as the cost to achieve this was far outside its budget.

However, John Birkenshaw, Harrogate & Claro Lodge charity steward, became aware of the situation and made an application to the Freemasons Province of Yorkshire West Riding's Provincial Grand Master's Fund, to help purchase sufficient radios for patients within the hospital.

Mark Oldfield, Harrogate Hospital Radio Chairman, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to pieces. This generous grant of £3,000 could not have come at a better time. We would like to pass on our thanks to all the Freemasons involved in this great act of kindness.

"They have certainly tuned into our needs and the needs of our listeners, namely patients within Harrogate District Hospital."

Darren Bush, the Worshipful Master of Harrogate & Claro Lodge, said: "This is exactly the type of local charity that we, as Masons in Harrogate, want to support.

"The purchase of these radios will provide great comfort and support to patients in hospital on their road to recovery and means Harrogate Hospital Radio can continue providing the service it has done for more than 40 years."

## Introducing: *SmartInfo*

You can't know everything about every Artist you play but there is no need for your listeners to know that!

The new SmartInfo tile in Myriad 5 Playout dynamically delivers relevant song and artists location information as you need it including:

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- Weather Headlines (UK only)

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- Studio/CRM Speaker / Headphone etc
- Optional 8 x Stereo AoIP Module (in/out)



For more info visit: [www.broadcastradio.com/capitol](http://www.broadcastradio.com/capitol)





## THOUGHT PROVOKING

Matt Wade hosts a thought provoking seminar at our 2019 Annual Conference in Stoke-on-Trent.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



From guest speakers to a night of glitz and glam at the National Hospital Radio Awards, there's something for everyone.

# Conference 2020

Keep up-to-date with the latest developments of our 2020 Conference & National Hospital Radio Awards.

Our Annual Conferences are a great way to meet likeminded people from stations across the country, learn new skills, hear from professionals from the media industry & health service, visit local media organisations and grab goodies from the tradeshow.

The National Hospital Radio Awards are a great way to celebrate the fantastic work of volunteers both on-air and behind the scenes.

Work is underway on the 2020 Annual Conference and National Hospital Radio Awards.

Keep up-to-date with the latest news via our website, [hbauk.com](http://hbauk.com), newsletter & social media channels.

f /ukhba | t @thehbauk





**Radio  
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# A Game Changer

Audio over IP is a real game changer and Axia have led the development of this technology for broadcasters, producing professional radio kit that networks using standard ethernet for digital audio routing, mixing and distribution. The foundation technology is Axia's Livewire+ AES67 protocol which provides a robust IP network upon which to power your station. There's many benefits of adopting Axia's Livewire network. There's no need to run extensive (or expensive) cabling, just a CAT5 cable will do it, offering savings, and the benefit of being able to network audio around buildings easily.

**When Radio Royal, the station for Forth Valley Royal Hospital came to refit their studios last year, the choice of technology fell to Craig Arthur, the station's engineer and IT manager. The station had a clear vision of what they wanted to achieve:**

**"We started off to try and find the best AoIP console and transmission our budget could afford," Craig explains. "For a charity, it's quite hard to upgrade studio facilities from analog to digital." After a bit of looking around the market, Craig chose the Axia IQ console and Livewire: "It really future-proofs our infrastructure."**

The IQ consoles are robust and easy to operate and the users think they're great. "The presenters come in, they sit down, they do their show, and they don't have to worry about the technology behind the scenes. It leaves them free to produce the best programs they can without thinking about anything overly technical."

From a technical standpoint, Axia studios are easy to support too. The Livewire network means that should a presenter run into any difficulties, Craig can be on hand from anywhere to log in remotely and rectify any errors. Whilst the cost of the upgrade wasn't insignificant, the benefits of not having to support old equipment has made significant savings in Craig's time, so he's more time to spend on other aspects of the station. "The old analogue equipment used to cause a few problems now and again. It was getting to the end of its life and because we're a volunteer organisation that meant that should something go a bit wrong, I'd have to pop in the car and drive to the studio. Now, I can VPN in and fix most problems remotely. That's a big reason why we went down the Axia road. Usually most problems are just software glitches or user errors that tend to be easy to rectify. A lot simpler to fix than it used to be. Axia really frees up my time."

Keeping in the Livewire environment, Craig then selected the Omnia Volt for the station's processing to handle Radio Royal's signal within the hospital, with Z/IPstream X/2 used on the stations webstream and the stations sound fantastic.

Craig suggests that a good way to get into the Livewire environment is to start gradually, as they did with Pathfinder and an Axia Xnode and then build out from their as funds become available.

For further information about Axia or Omnia products, contact Broadcast Bionics: [info@bioincs.co.uk](mailto:info@bioincs.co.uk) or call 01444 473999



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