

ON AIR



HBATM
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

Issue 124
September/October 2008

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The Official Journal of the Hospital Broadcasting Association

in this issue ...

Committee Report	3
Blackpool Beckons	4
June's Travels	5
Long Service Certificates	6
The Latest from Patientline	8
View from the Basement	9
SBES 2008	11
What I've Learnt	13
All Aboard the Watercress Line	14
40 Years with Chorley Hospital Radio	15
End of an Era for Haslar	16
Bedside Botox	17
Dartford's Quiz Night	17
Countrywide – News from the Stations	18
Obituaries	20
The HBA Grants Programme	21
HBA Grant Application Form	22
Regional Rep Details	23
Who To Contact	24

FRONT COVER STORY:

Simon Field says goodbye to Radio Glamorgan after 16 years.
See full story page 18



hi everyone,

October sees the last ever HBA Autumn conference. It's also the end of an era for Radio Haslar who have been broadcasting to the Royal Naval Hospital in Gosport for the last 15 years. The hospital is now closing, the UK's last dedicated military hospital. Haslar are continuing to broadcast to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and we send them our very best wishes.

And yet another goodbye – this time to Mike Skinner, our Sales and Advertising Officer, who has worked extremely hard over the last few years to gain support for On Air, Conferences and Trade Shows. Thank you for all you've done Mike, and on a personal note, thank you for all your support – it has been very much appreciated.

But it's welcome to Hospedia – who are poised to take over Patientline. See Geoff's report on page 8.

Enjoy Conference and please keep the reports and photographs coming.

Michelle

DIARY DATES

10th-12th October 2008

AUTUMN CONFERENCE

RENAISSANCE HOTEL, SOLIHULL

11th October 2008

HBA AGM

27th-29th March 2008

SPRING CONFERENCE 2009

HILTON HOTEL, BLACKPOOL

HOSPITAL BROADCASTING WEEK

28th March-5th, April 2009

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Committee Report

Welcome

Once again I'm pleased to say I can start by welcoming someone. This time it is our new Scottish Regional Representative, Jim Simpson from Grampian Hospital Radio in Aberdeen. Jim was elected at the recent AGM of the Scottish Region hosted by Radio Heartbeat in Airdrie.

Myself, Phil Moon, June Snowden and Dave Lockyer all found ourselves at the meeting (although only Dave was doing a day-trip from home – the others amongst us being in Scotland for other reasons too) and it was good to meet those present.

Jim would like to hear from all Scottish stations, so that he can find out what they'd like from HBA in Scotland. You can contact Jim via e-mail at scotland@hbauk.com or by phone on 0870 765 9608.



Phil Moon, unknown, Jim Simpson, Michael Healy, Dave Lockyer, June Snowden, Nigel Dallard and Irene Dick

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM, to be held at the St. John's Hotel in Solihull on Saturday 11th October, the Executive Committee will be proposing the adoption of revised governing documents for the Association – its Memorandum & Articles of Association. These were circulated to all members some time ago and are available on the website at www.hbauk.co.uk/agm2008.

The EC believe that the changes are necessary to both bring the documents in line with current legal requirements and to enable to HBA to adapt and develop in ways which were not anticipated in 1992 when the current documents were adopted. The change requires a 75% majority vote in favour of adoption and the EC would encourage all member stations to vote in favour of the change.

Assuming the new Memorandum & Articles of Association are adopted, the EC will be proposing the adoption of a



by Nigel Dallard, Secretary

series of Bylaws that the new Articles of Association require the members to approve.

Whilst the Articles set out the overall framework for the future governance of the HBA, the Bylaws define the details. There will be no immediate significant changes to the management of the HBA following the adoption of the new governing documents but by separating the detail from the fundamentals, we can more easily adapt the precise way we do things in future allowing the Association to react more rapidly to developments than at present.

Please remember that to vote at the AGM, your representative will need to have been authorised by your management committee to vote on behalf of your station. The appropriate form was sent out with the AGM paperwork and can be sent back to me or bought along on the day. If no-one from your station is attending the meeting, you may still vote by appointing a proxy. This can be anyone you wish but would typically be your Regional Representative (if he/she is attending the meeting) or the chairman of the meeting. The same form is used to appoint a proxy as is used to appoint your representative, but in this case, you must also complete the second part of the form instructing your proxy how to vote. Proxy appointments must be sent to me to arrive no later than the Thursday before the meeting.

And whilst I'm talking of AGM voting, following last year's meeting, a number of members complained that

members who were not represented at the 2006 AGM voted for the adoption of the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Whilst there is nothing illegal in this, the EC would ask that if your station was not represented at last year's AGM then you abstain from voting for the adoption of the minutes of that meeting. Thank you.

CRB Checks

Most stations will now be used to their NHS Trust requiring CRB checks on all volunteers. The Government's Office of the Third Sector has recently issued new guidance that reiterates that the blanket checking of all volunteers without a proper risk assessment confirming a real need to do so. The guidance (which strictly only applies to England and Wales) can be found at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/volunteering/volunteering_guidance.aspx. At an appropriate point, you may wish to discuss the new guidance and any impact it has on the CRB checking policy for your station with your NHS Trust's Voluntary Services Manager. For reference, the NHS Employers guidance on CRB checking staff and volunteers can be found at <http://www.nhsemployers.org/primary/primary-3524.cfm>.

Music Copyright

HBA intends to respond to the consultation on changes to exemption to music copyright that was recently issued by the Government's Intellectual Property Office (see www.ipso.gov.uk/consult-musiclicensing.pdf). Thanks to all of you who have updated your station's entry in the HBA membership database with information about your income and expenditure and whether the hospitals, etc you serve are NHS facilities or private. This information is crucial to HBA making a compelling case, as there are proposals to base the exemption on financial thresholds and the NHS. If you have yet to update your station's database entry, please do so as soon as possible.

Charity Law Update

The Charities Bill passed its final stage debate in the Northern Ireland Assembly on 30th June and is now awaiting Royal Assent. The Executive is meanwhile ploughing ahead and has already advertised for applicants to become (unpaid, part-time) Charity Commissioners.

Blackpool Beckons!

It's that time of year again! I am pleased to announce the categories for the National Hospital Radio Awards 2009 to be held in Blackpool as part of the HBA Spring Conference.

I am excited about returning to Blackpool for our second awards ceremony. It is a place that has always been associated with conferences and apparently we are the only National Conference that is being held there next year as most others have pulled out. We are hoping that this will help us to encourage the regional media to support us.

We are making a couple of changes to the line up this year. There will not be a Sport category as we received very few entries for it last year. In addition we are not running the 'Special Award for Outstanding Contribution' as it proved difficult to define what the category offered that was significantly different to others.

Unless otherwise stated, there will be trophies for Gold, Silver and Bronze for each category. Highly Commended Certificates will be awarded for those coming fourth and fifth and those short listed will receive Commended Certificates.

We will, as in recent years, announce those who have been short listed prior to the ceremony and would urge anyone who appears on the shortlist to be present at the ceremony. Please note that if the judges do not feel that a standard has been reached in each category then they may not shortlist a full ten entries.

This year we are planning to make an upload server available for your entries in mp3 format. Details of this will be posted on the HBA Website.

Alternatively you can still enter by post as detailed below:

- Each station entry must be accompanied by the official entry form and must be signed by a senior member of your station, i.e. Station Manager, Chairperson etc.

- Every entry should be accompanied by your station logo. Entries for the audio categories should only be submitted on CD. The CD can either be an audio CD or a data CD with MP3 files on it. Please include a station jingle as the first track. It is not necessary to incorporate a station jingle at the start of the audio on each category. It is also not necessary to send separate CDs for each category. Entries on other formats will not be admitted.

- All material should have been broadcast on your station between the

National Hospital Radio Awards 2009



The 2008 Awards held in Leeds

dates of 1st December 2007 and 30th November 2008.

It is time now to start work on your entries. When you are happy with them please send them in to arrive by the closing date of Friday December 12th 2008. You can download an entry form from the HBA Website www.hbauk.com

Details of the categories can be found below but for now I wish everyone the best of luck. If you have any unanswered questions then you can e-mail me at awards@hbauk.com

Iain Lee

Station of the Year

You are required to submit a maximum 15 minute stand-alone documentary style recording featuring extracts from your station output. The entry should give the judges an insight into your station, the hospitals you broadcast to, style of presentation and programme content. Also include material from any special programmes or events covered during the year.

Presenter of the Year (Male/Female)

You are required to submit a five minute entry showing the judges the diversity of your presentation and your awareness of the listeners. Include as many different on-air clips as possible, not all from the same programme.

Special Event

This award recognises a one off programme broadcast by the station. A 15 minute compilation of the programme is invited, please do not play music tracks in full. It must be a one-off event and not part of the station's normal day to day output. e.g. an outside broadcast or a hospital event.

Best Speech Package

The entry should be a maximum of five minutes taken from a programme or interview that has been broadcast on the station. All music should be edited out of the entry. The material must have originated from station presenters and not from any other source.

Best Specialist Music Programme

The entry will be five minutes and should show the judges the presenter's knowledge of the music in question and should also include any content applicable to the programme. Eg an event guide/what's on feature relating

Awards

to the show. Programmes could include Jazz, Classical, Country etc.

Station Promotion

An entry of up to 60 seconds is required and should be a station promotion or programme trailer that has been produced 'in-house'. The judges will be looking for how well the message is conveyed and whether they feel it will attract the ear of the listener. To be clear this must be a promotion rather than a 'jingle' and must not have been produced by a third party.

Best Newcomer

The award is open to anyone who joined a hospital radio station for the first time during the two years prior to the closing date. It should take the form of a five minute compilation. The judges are looking to hear what you have achieved on air in the short time you have been broadcasting. An individual may only enter this award once.

NB There is only one award in this category.

HBA Volunteer of the Year

This award is open to all members within hospital radio and requires a written submission of no more than 300 words on the station's official letter heading, explaining why the award is justified of actions taken within the eligible dates. It could be for a presenter who has gone beyond the call of duty, a request collector, an engineer or a fund raiser. It is aimed at recognising the hard work that goes on behind the scenes that often goes unrecognised.

NB There is only 1 award in this category.

The John Whitney Award

Open to anyone working in hospital radio. Entries should be written (no more than 500 words) and be on the station's official letter heading.

The award will be made to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to Hospital Radio over a period of years. The winner may be drawn from broadcasting but might equally be found from a technical or administrative background. They may have worked for a single station or a series of stations. The nomination should explain why the candidate has made a real and long lasting impact. NB There is only one award in this category.

June's Travels



I hope you have had a good summer – despite the awful weather!

In my last article I was about to visit Radio Addenbrooke's for their annual general meeting and to Nuneaton to Anker Radio. This was my first visit to Nuneaton and I was delighted to meet everyone at a really excellent evening with a barbecue – though cold, the weather did remain fine.

I was delighted also to have the opportunity to go to Hastings for a first visit to Hospital Radio Hastings and again it was a lovely afternoon and good to meet so many of the members.

A couple of weeks later, I was in Worthing so took the opportunity to visit Seaside at Southlands Hospital in Shoreham just along the road, who I had promised to go and see at my next opportunity.

In August, I was delighted to be able to attend the Scottish Regional AGM held in Airdrie and as well as visiting the station it was excellent to meet members from other stations.

Many congratulations to Jim from Grampian who was elected as Scottish Regional Representative and I wish him well.

That evening, as I was heading back towards Prestwick for my flight home next day, I agreed to visit Ayr Hospitals Radio. What a great evening we all had. It was so lovely to be able to share in their surprise party for Mike and Ann Manley

celebrating their 30th Anniversary with the station which was also celebrating its 30th Anniversary – a good evening was had by all. Many congratulations Mike & Ann.

Since then I have been catching up on paperwork and Long Service Certificates but also have been planning lots of visits. In the pipeline over the coming months I have lots of visits so watch this space – station visits already arranged include Choice Radio Worcester, Radio Cherwell Oxford, Swindon, Radio Brockley, Hospital Radio Exeter and possibly Plymouth, Huddersfield, possibly Halifax, Clwyd, Grimsby, Rookwood, Barnet, Mid Downs, Bedside, Stoke Mandeville and Guildford.

We also have SBES coming up in November and, of course, Conference is just around the corner. It would be good to see many of you at conference but if I do not see you there then hopefully it will be possible to meet at SBES or at your station at some time.

I have been very busy with issuing Long Service Certificates and am delighted to say that over 300 have been issued this year which compares incredibly favourably with other years. In the whole of 2007 – 278 were issued, in 2006 it was 246 and 2005 – 263 were issued.

It is so pleasing to know that so many of you are out there giving your time, dedication and commitment to hospital radio and I thank each and every one of you. More importantly you are receiving recognition for it.

The HBA and I regard it as very important that we recognise this wonderful commitment. Please continue to keep up the good work.

Do remember that your station can apply for certificates of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, etc years service for your members and I look forward to receiving many more requests.

Time is going so quickly. It will soon be Christmas.

Best wishes
June

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**The HBA would like to congratulate and thank all those
who are receiving Long Service Certificates for their service
to Hospital Radio in the near future**

Trevor Simpson	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	25
Ernie Needham	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	25
Steve Corcoran	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	25
Lyndon Hainsworth	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	20
Rachel Fisher-Ives	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	20
Paul Healey	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	20
Tom Horsley	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	20
Barry wadsworth	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	20
Russell Moody	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	15
Daryl Gill	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	10
Malcolm Blunstone	Radio Calderdale, Halifax	15
Margaret Withycombe	Hospital Radio Hastings	10
Derry Griffiths	Radio Halton	20
Jim Wood	Radio Halton	15
Pam Philip	Radio Halton	15
John Graham	Grampian Hospital Radio	10
Graham Rose	Grampian Hospital Radio	10
Jennifer Shand	Grampian Hospital Radio	10
John Thomson	Grampian Hospital Radio	10
Ray Adam	Grampian Hospital Radio	15
Arelene Moir	Grampian Hospital Radio	15
Hamish Wilkinson	Grampian Hospital Radio	20
Neil Fraser	Grampian Hospital Radio	20
Jim Irving	Grampian Hospital Radio	20
Brian Whyte	Grampian Hospital Radio	25
Graham Turnbull	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	30
Alistair Biggar	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	30
Alan Taylor	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	20
Ann Marie MacLennan	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	10
Frank Murphy	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	10
John McGuinness	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	10
Alan Robertson	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	10
John Docherty	Southern Sound Hospital Radio Glasgow	10
Edna Yeates	Choice Radio - Worcester	30
Ken Skillern	Choice Radio - Worcester	30
Dave Webber	Choice Radio - Worcester	25
Tony Deakin	Choice Radio - Worcester	25
Barbara Deakin	Choice Radio - Worcester	25
Peter Phillips	Choice Radio - Worcester	25
John Barnes	Choice Radio - Worcester	20
Robert Godfrey	Choice Radio - Worcester	20
Tony Clay	Choice Radio - Worcester	15
Steve Heywood	Choice Radio - Worcester	15
Richard Green	Choice Radio - Worcester	10
Andy Dean	Choice Radio - Worcester	10
Gerry Taylor	Choice Radio - Worcester	10
Richard Haywood	Choice Radio - Worcester	10
Claire Tufton	Choice Radio - Worcester	10
David Jones	Radio Ysbty Glan Clwyd	10
Tony Mannix	Radio Ysbty Glan Clwyd	10
Melville Smith	Radio Ysbty Glan Clwyd	10
Glyn Evans	Radio Ysbty Glan Clwyd	15
Eleri Wynne Williams	Radio Ysbty Glan Clwyd	15
John Arnold	BHBN Birmingham	40
Robert Bartlett	BHBN Birmingham	35
David Reynolds	BHBN Birmingham	25
Chris Collman	Hospital Radio Exeter	10

Ashley Holman	Hospital Radio Exeter	15
Tarro Greenaway	Hospital Radio Exeter	15
Sue Andrews	Hospital Radio Exeter	15
Tim West	Hospital Radio Exeter	15
Andy Judd	Hospital Radio Exeter	20
Mike Rendall	Hospital Radio Exeter	20
Paul Hayman	Hospital Radio Exeter	25
Doug Parish	Hospital Radio Exeter	25
Pete Harvery	Hospital Radio Exeter	30
Malcolm Mardon	Hospital Radio Exeter	30
Shirley Millward	Radio Mayday Croydon	25
Ann Hammond	Radio Mayday Croydon	25
Paul Temple	Radio Mayday Croydon	35
Bernie Vine	Radio Mayday Croydon	30
David Turton	Radio Mayday Croydon	20
Derek Richmond	Radio Mayday Croydon	20
Phil Brook	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	35
Ian Kilburn	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	30
Mark Hunter	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	20
Ken Rafferty	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	15
Andrew Halmshaw	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	10
Mike Manley	Ayr Hospitals Radio	30
Anne Manley	Ayr Hospitals Radio	30
Graham Smith	Radio Law	10
Bill Kilgour	Radio Law	10
James Ryce	Radio Law	15
Michael Healy	Radio Law	20
Bill Norman	Radio Law	20
Doug Morris	Radio Cherwell Oxford	10
Jason Townsend	Radio Cherwell Oxford	10
Robin Lambert	Radio Cherwell Oxford	15
Michael Reinhold	Radio Cherwell Oxford	15
Michael Clarke	Radio Cherwell Oxford	20
Graham Cook	Radio Cherwell Oxford	20
David Brown	Radio Cherwell Oxford	30
Paul Lucas	Radio Cherwell Oxford	30
Peter Sparrowhawk	Radio Cherwell Oxford	30
Craig Miller	Radio Law	15
Ian Raine	Choice Radio Worcester	10
Dave Morrell	Radio West Middlesex	30
Ann Bird	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	30
Mavis McLaren	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	30
Nick Dunk	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	20
Phil Porter	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	20
Peter Towner	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	20
Adrian Beveridge	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	15
Gordon Duckett	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	15
Steve Watson	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	15
John Joyce	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	15
John O'Sullivan	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	15
Mike Skinner	Mid Downs Hospital Radio Haywards Heath	15

IF YOUR STATION WISHES TO APPLY FOR LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES
PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR APPLICATION ON STATION HEADED NOTEPAPER TO:
June Snowden, President, HBA, PO Box 76, ELY, Cambs CB6 3ET
or SEND IT VIA AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT TO:
President@hbauk.com

We look forward to hearing from you

Patientline: Business as Usual

In On Air issue 123, it was reported that the HBA had met with Patientline but even before it had landed on your doormat came the news of a change of ownership.

The Radio Magazine carried a short item about Patientline plc being put into administration and suggested that this would be a cause of worry to stations. In fact, the opposite is true; stations should already have been worried – Patientline had been ‘in discussion’ with its syndicate of lenders about exchanging some of its £80m+ debt for new shares for more than a year but no news of the negotiations had emerged, although within the company it was rumoured in January that the banks had turned down the idea completely. The news of the takeover was the first for months that inspired confidence that the company is not destined for bankruptcy.

As was reported in issue 122 of On Air, the loan agreements provided secure funding for Patientline until the end of June 2008, except that if certain financial covenants were not satisfied by 30 June 2008, the lenders would be entitled to demand repayment of the entire debt at that time.

We anxiously awaited the company's annual report and preliminary accounts for 2007/08 which were due to be published in June. The non-appearance of the report and accounts suggested that the covenants had indeed not been satisfied, which was unsurprising since the company's financial performance had been in unrelenting decline and the share price had fallen to well under 1p.

Failure seemed almost certain, although why that would be viewed by the lenders as a better option than debt restructuring was a mystery, as Patientline's assets were worth much less than its debt, not only in accounting terms with the equipment and plant being written-down over varying periods of two to ten years but also their realistic sale value in view of the cost of their recovery from the sites.

The announcement on 25 July shows that the banks had other plans that make the survival of the company much more likely and should be a relief to the HBA stations that broadcast to 115 hospitals over Patientline systems, rather than a new source of concern.

The Radio Magazine article reported Patientline going into administration but didn't make it clear that it was the holding company, Patientline plc, that had called in Deloitte & Touche LLP as administrators, the latter had immediately sold the operating



**Geoff Fairbairn,
Chairman, HBA Patient
Entertainment Systems
Subcommittee**

company, Patientline UK Ltd, to Hospedia Ltd and that operations would continue as normal under the new ownership.

Hospedia is a company that had been purchased ‘off-the-peg’ and renamed for the purpose by the banks to which Patientline owes money – principally The Royal Bank of Scotland, plus HSBC, Bank of Scotland and IKB Deutsche Industriebank and they have appointed Tim Sherwood as Chairman.

The intention is that, subject to the approval of the OFT, Hospedia will also acquire Premier Telesolutions and that all operations will be run by Premier's current management, including CEO Tim Weil, who is Chief Executive designate of Hospedia. Premier's major shareholder Milestone Capital LLP will become a shareholder in Hospedia and £12m made available for capital investment by Patientline's banks. Hospedia hopes the OFT will make its decision by October.

It would seem that the banking syndicate was unwilling to do a refinancing deal with the company under its existing management and looked to one of Patientline's rivals to take over the business. The banks, in effect, valued Patientline at £35m, as that is the amount of debt written off in exchange for ownership of the company. Whilst the lenders might be seen as being in a position to dictate

any price, the figure had to be a balance between taking ownership at the lowest possible price and reducing the debt sufficiently to give the company a prospect affording its amortization.

It might be argued that the previous regime would have had a much better chance of turning the company around with the debt reduced by £35m (in exchange for equity) with them still in charge. Conversely, it could be speculated that the lenders were unimpressed with some of the strategies of the previous management to increase revenue, such as introducing a charge of £1 for headphones, which – predictably in our view – caused listening and viewing figures to slump immediately and increasing the cost of outgoing calls from 10p to 26p per minute which, equally predictably, resulted in considerable negative publicity and consequent drop in revenue, which did not recover when the price reverted to 10p.

Hospedia has said that some of the £12m will be used to replace outdated Patientline BSUs (bedside units). The ‘Terminal 1’ BSU, which is installed at 23% of Patientline sites, is obsolete and spare units and parts are unobtainable.

Patientline's supplier, CHH, has developed a new BSU (referred to as T3) that would work over existing T1 wiring infrastructure. But if Patientline and Premier come under common ownership, Hospedia will have the option of deploying Jaotech BSUs, as used by Premier.

Harlow Update

Harlow Hospital Radio broadcasts to the patients of Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) in Harlow, Essex. PAH has 489 beds for in-patients. The station provides a 24 hour service to these patients, using a Myriad system.

At its recent AGM, a Fund Raising Drive was launched, the aim being to raise funds by the 2010 AGM to assist in the purchase of a new mixer and relevant equipment for the studio.

The station celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2010 and the purchase of the new mixer is intended to tie in with this anniversary.

Plans are already in progress to celebrate the station's 40th and the intention is to have three special events, aside from the annual station events, between December 2009 and October 2010.

View from the Basement

Our columnist, Brett Ellis and his unique view on life ... Spanish style!



Standing for three and a half hours in searing heat with my head slowly morphing into a baboons backside was not how I envisaged I'd be spending my Friday morning on my recent sojourn to Grenada, Spain. Being the chivalroutiful husband I claim to be, the wife had expressed a desire to visit La Alhambra, a medieval city perched above Grenada which claims to be the most visited tourist attraction in Europe. Without wanting to admit I had never actually heard of the place, I nodded wistfully and said I would be man-o-hunter and get us the golden tickets to the palace.

Juan, behind reception, gave his usual 'Juan' and only answer upon my enquiring the evening before on how to buy tickets for the cultural feast. With the usual compliment of Spanish vigour and verve he looked me in the eyes, I awaiting him to enrich me with some of his local wisdom, built up over centuries. He shrugged his shoulders in a petulant nonchalance and claimed there was no way to acquire tickets. However, he could help me by phoning 'someone up' who could get face value tickets for only £49. A bargain in any language. Determined not to be beaten and with marital brownie points in mind, I logged on to the internet and found that if you started queuing at 6.30am you could get tickets for face value. An early night was now on the cards.

Arriving at 8.30am after befriending San Miguel until 2am the previous evening did me no favours whatsoever and I was met with a curling, snaking queue which went out of sight around the forecourt, down a dusty hill and back up again to the ticketing Mecca. The first hour was bearable. I chatted to a Gauloises chain-smoking brunette with better English than I, about London, Paris and other notable Euro cities. A sure fire conversation winner when trying to be boho in a foreign land. After a while her bear of a man (with more chest hair than I have body hair)

arrived and I was banished from the Euro chat circle. Feeling like an outcast from the cream of Euro travelling elite, I spent the next three and a half hours making monotonous shapes in the dust with my trainers, watching a dog fight (it's amazing how enthralling illegal sports can be) and listening to the Spanish water torture on the tannoy (1000 tickets left ... 740 tickets left ... 400 tickets left). Throughout this torture however, a wave of excitement washed over me, the voice of the announcer was sultry, seductive, knowledgeable and calming. My feet ached but my ears for those few seconds every twenty minutes drummed for joy!

Although being somewhat melodramatic with my endearment of the tannoy announcer, I couldn't help but think with her multilingual flair, she certainly had a voice for radio ... maybe I could headhunt her for Hospital Radio Barnet, become her svengali prior to her becoming the saviour of Radio 1 ... or something like that anyhow in my sun addled mind. She would invite me to the radio awards and introduce me as her inspiration before my back ached under the pressure of all of the pats from those in the industry know. I would be the radio Simon Cowell and my name would be gold dust!

With every Yin however comes a Yang. Nice as her voice was, two 'queuers' in front of me was a four foot tall, (in his heels), Spanish Graham Norton with a voice like Joe Pasquale on helium. Piercing is not the word I'd use as it really did not do this man's voice justice. Hour after hour passed with the queue trickling along, listening to Joey P. flirting with his boyfriend/ husband who looked a little embarrassed to say the least. Every now and again I'd hear the announcers voice which would arouse me from my sun stroked slumber and re-invigorate me for the next 20 minutes queuing.

After three and a half hours I reached the promised land! I was at the front of the queue and with typical Spanish organisation saw that out of five ticket offices, two were open. Upon enquiring why, I was met with the obligatory shrug of the shoulders. Don't you just love the Spanish customer service! Now, on all my numerous visits to Espana, I have learned one word, the only word you need to understand – 'Manana' – for those of you not in the know, it means 'tomorrow' which is when the next palace tickets would be on sale as Spanish Graham Norton had nabbed the last two! Luckily I consoled myself with two garden tickets which, if not worth the wait, were stunning to see nonetheless.

My bubble was well and truly burst however upon collecting the tickets and raring to leave this place that I had grown to know so well. I saw her. Spanish announcer was sitting there talking into the tannoy microphone. Like a fugly (flippin' ugly) leathery skinned, orangey burnt coloured walrus and the size of a three storey house, she really did have the quintessentially perfect face for radio. I felt at ease. At ease in the knowledge that even as an amateur my face was not out of place and everyone, be they La Alhambra announcers or Barnet Hospital Radio disc jocks have something positive about them ...

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Technology for today and tomorrow

The SBES continues to be the ONLY event where sound broadcasters from commercial, public sector, community and hospital sound broadcasting meet.

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SBES and its Key to Success



The key to the success of the SBES is its exhibitors. SBES attracts many exhibitors who do not attend the major international broadcast shows. These exhibitors often offer special products and services that are not available through the usual major distributors. They can offer products and services that are customised to the specific needs of the customer.

From the microphone to the transmission system there will be exhibitors at SBES2008 with information, advice, demonstrations and products to suit the needs of anyone involved in sound broadcasting and, more especially, anyone wanting to start their own radio station/studio.

Exhibitors like Simon Daniels of Sigma Broadcasting who supplies SpotOn, the class leading audio playback system. Recent projects include BBC Pacific Quay in Glasgow, Teddington Studios and two HD outside broadcast trucks. Sigma Broadcast supplies a wide range of broadcast software and hardware to radio, television and production companies. Glensound Electronics have, for many years, developed and manufactured specialist commentators, ISDN & Communication equipment. Beltpack, desks top or hand-held Glensound's wide range of boxes will suit all needs.

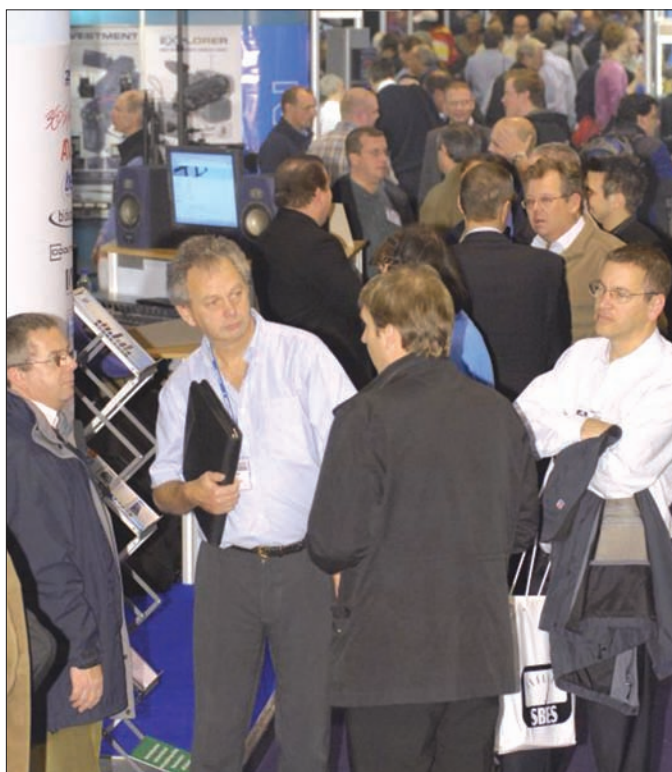
After the introduction of the world's first commercially available PC-based wide-band communications receiver in

1995, WiNRADiO Communications went from strength to strength. Today they are a major international corporation supplying products to radio enthusiasts and large government organisations alike. Innovation and ownership of breakthrough software and hardware technologies make it possible to integrate radio with computing to an extent never seen before.

If it is a complete installation you require there is nowhere better to find all the advice and information you need. Major distributors like PRECO can everything needed. So too can HHB or West Country Broadcasting. To design, build and commission you could go to Oxford Sound and Media, amongst many others, all of whom will be at SBES.

SBES2008 also supports the community broadcasting sector. HBA will, of course, have a stand space as well as the CMA and Student Radio Association. Of particular interest to community broadcasters will be the OFCOM stand where you can ask all those difficult questions to an Ofcom representative.

And so the list of exhibitors and products at SBES2008 continues to grow. Aspen Media, Oxford Sound Co., Reidel Communications, Wood and Douglas, Reinhardt, Nagra, PRECO, HHB, P Squared and many more. A full list of exhibitors, with direct links to their own web sites is on



the SBES2008 web site at www.sbes2008.com

<<http://www.sbes2008.com/>>

If you are serious about sound in broadcasting SBES2008 is the show for you. Like the advice and assistance you can get from the exhibitors admission is FREE.

Once again we are offering FREE parking for the first five stations who register three or more visitors online at www.sbes2008.com

<<http://www.sbes2008.com/>> .

Simply register your delegates and then email sbes2008@pointproms.co.uk with the unique registration numbers (all three) and we will mail you a car park pass a few weeks before SBES. Remember there must be at least three in your car (we are trying to encourage green policies) and we need all three registration references (and do not just make them up, we have ways to check up you know!).

So make sure you put the dates in your diary now, 5 and 6 November 2008 and check out the SBES2008 web site to register for your own free fast-track badge for SBES2008.

The Sound Broadcasting Equipment Show has been organised by Point Promotions Limited for the past 32 years. It grew from the IBS Chief Engineers' Conference which was held annually in Winchester. When it outgrew the Winchester venue it moved to Birmingham and eventually to the NEC.

Audessence ... Making Hospital Radio Better



One of the most important technical parameters for all broadcasters to consider is maintaining consistent high quality audio performance. Although hospital radio broadcasters are no exception, getting the right equipment can however be more challenging for such stations simply because of their typically tighter budget limitations.

Over recent years, the variety of audio processor designs to choose from has increased considerably, each typically offering better performance than can be obtained by using a simple compressor limiter to control overall audio levels. Whilst there's always a trade-off between price and performance, the latest processor designs from broadcast specialists, Audessence have made high performance fully professional audio processing more cost effective than ever before.

The ALPS range of audio level controllers from Audessence, already in use by public service, commercial and community broadcasters in the UK and



elsewhere, is now making a name for itself in hospital radio. Hospital Radio Chelmsford, Hospital Radio Hillingdon and Radio Marsden are just some of the stations already using the ALPS-1 to ensure that their output levels remain constant even when inexperienced presenters are at the controls!

Launched last year, Audessence Limited is run by directors with long-term experience of hospital radio. A familiar face at numerous hospital radio conferences is the company's Sales and Marketing Director, Graham Sloggett. Most recently on the Westcountry Broadcast stand with Audessence Dealer, Nick Beer showing the Audessence ALPS and PobBlaster products at the HBA Spring Conference in Leeds earlier this year.

The Audessence ALPS range of

professional audio levelers currently includes three models. The ALPS-1 unit is tamper proof with all audio control and other parameters being set up via a computer interface and then stored in non-volatile memory. The ALPS-2 adds front panel controls (which can be locked after set-up to avoid tampering), whilst the top-of-the-range ALPS-3 design provides additional full remote control capability.

Matthew Tunstall, Chief Engineer at Hospital Radio Chelmsford, says that replacing their old audio limiter with an ALPS-1 'has made a huge difference!' Describing it as 'a simple to use but really effective audio processor', he explains the station's technical set-up in which 'output is sent digitally to Patientline using the AAC-Plus codec (@128kbps) through Icecast/Oddcast to the winamp player'.

His conclusion is that he would 'quite happily recommend the ALPS-1 to anyone. It's quite amazing how much of an impact it had straight away, even leaving the settings untouched from factory!'

Full details of the Audessence range of audio and broadcasting products can be found on the Internet at www.audessence.com/, or contact Graham Sloggett at the company for more details on 01444-880444.

Sonifex's S2 Radio Broadcast Mixers

Based in Cranfield, Bedfordshire, Trafficmaster is regarded as the UK's leading journey management company, providing high quality satellite navigation, traffic data and vehicle tracking systems including Smartnav, Trafficmaster Monitor, YQ, Oracle and Freeway units. Traffic information from Trafficmaster can also be obtained by phoning the 1740 service, which is run in partnership with the RAC and the UK's main mobile phone operators. The current service allows customers to dial in and get location or road specific information regarding their chosen route.

Trafficmaster have installed two S2 digital I/O analogue radio broadcast mixers, each containing output monitor channels, a mic/line input channel and a 6 way source selector, in order to expand the services that they can offer to customers.

Trafficmaster's objective is to use the new broadcasting studio facilities to add

high quality content and in depth traffic news to existing IVR platforms (mobile phone services). A number of broadcasters have been hired to source additional information from police and CCTV to supply a higher level of incident detail to the customer. The content of the broadcast will be similar to traffic bulletins by major radio stations and should this prove successful, may expand to incorporate quality travel services for the radio industry.

Transplan UK, who installed the mixers, recommended Sonifex equipment as the standard for high broadcast quality and reliability allowing for future expansion should the need arise.

The S2 is a small format, modular digital I/O analogue mixer which uses the latest technology components to offer digital audio quality with analogue reliability in a modular format. S2 has both digital and analogue input

channels, together with simultaneous analogue and digital outputs.

S2 combines all the features needed of a radio broadcast mixer in a stylish, flush-mounting chassis: a wide range of input and output channels, PFL/cue, fader-start operation of equipment, automatic monitor muting on mic-live, light switching remote outputs, optional EQ on input modules, gram amp input options and 2 main audio buses, allowing you to broadcast on the PRG bus while recording on the AUD bus, with bus output selection on each module.

For further information on the Sonifex S2 mixers, please check the following web address:

www.sonifex.co.uk/mixers/s2/index.shtml

For enquiries please contact the Marketing Department, Sonifex Limited, 61, Station Road, Irthlingborough, Northants, NN9 5QE, tel 01933 650 700

website : <http://www.sonifex.co.uk>

What I've Learnt

Matthew Hulbert

Vice Chairman of Castle Mead Radio

Be like a friend at the bedside



THE BEST advice I think I might have ever received as a hospital broadcaster is, when presenting a programme, to be like a friend at the bedside of your listeners.

By and large I agree.

But you know, it rather depends on who your friends are.

I mean I love all of my mates but I'm not sure some of my elderly listeners would appreciate their bloke-ish banter about films, football etc.

Did I just admit to loving my mates?

Aherm ... purely in the platonic sense you understand.

Sorry I digressed there for a moment.

Anyway, I think what the advice giver meant was to be like a good, kind friend at the bedside of your listeners.

I try and remember this every Sunday afternoon when I host 'Live and On Air with Mathew Hulbert.'

It's all too easy to forget the personal touch, especially when broadcasting about current affairs as I do.

This isn't about being twee but just remembering that radio is the most personal and intimate of all the forms of media.

As many of us know, when you're in hospital, feeling at your worst, it can take all of your energy even to switch your bedside radio on, so those of us engaged in hospital radio need to ensure we're being engaging, entertaining and informative as well as playing top quality music.

That also helps to ensure listeners are loyal to you during their stay.

Anyway the reference to my mates earlier has reminded me I must give my friend Luke a call ... I haven't seen him in a while.

See you next time.

E-mail Mathew via: comedymat@yahoo.co.uk

Read his blog at: www.mathewhulbert.blogspot.com

Rookwood Sound Celebrates 21 Years



Rookwood Sound, Hospital Radio based in Cardiff, is celebrating 21 years on 31st October 2008! To mark the special occasion, we have been granted a month long RSL licence which will broadcast on 87.7FM in the Cardiff area. The broadcast will start at 6am on 6th October and continue until midnight on 2nd November!

Sybil Fowler said, 'Who would have thought all those years ago when the founding members took a leap of faith and actually hired Concorde for the day to kick start the fundraising activities to get the station on air, that 21 years on the station is going from strength to strength.'

'Volunteers range from 15-year-olds to the more mature person from various walks of life, so there's a great variety in the broadcasts.'

Over the years, hospital radio has allowed many a DJ to learn their craft and Radio 1's Huw Stephens is an ex-Rookwood Sound rookie.

Huw commented, 'I wouldn't be doing what I do today if it hadn't been for Rookwood Sound. The experiences I had there were priceless'.

You can find out more at our website at <http://www.rookwoodsound.co.uk>

Neil Bailey, Rookwood Sound Hospital Radio

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www.audessence.com

All Aboard the Watercress Line

HRB will be out and about at the Watercress Line Steam Railway on Sunday 5th October and all stations in the southern region are invited to join us.

A Radio Studio will be set up at Ropley station and the whole day's event will be recorded.

Other HR stations are invited to come and join in the fun and have a go at recording a piece for their stations.

HRB hope to have complimentary tickets to ride the trains for all fellow HR Broadcasters.

Members of the Railway will be available for interviews.

The Railway will put a link on their website www.watercressline.co.uk nearer the event.

HRB's Paul LeFeuvre is organising the event following two previous events that he organised with Radio Treloar several years ago. It promises to be a great day out.

For more details please e mail Paul Le Feuvre at paulsuperstar@aol.com



Airing Local Talent

Hospital Radio Yare and the trustees have a policy to support and air local talent. Alan Thompson, a journalist with the Gt Yarmouth Mercury, has a regular Friday magazine programme, 'Afternoon Delight' in which he interviews people in the news and those about to make the news in the area. For over two years Alan has played many local performing artists CDs along with ex-professional musician, Brian Frederick and a few other presenters on the station. He was timely in that his previously arranged interview with a five girls group EFX followed their debut on national TV. The girls had been passed by Simon Cowell and the team of current judges of ITV's 'The X Factor' to go on to compete at boot camp. The ITV show has millions of viewers who avidly watch weekly to follow new talent and eventually be prepared to vote at premium rate over the telephone to be part of the star making process. EFX all attend two High Schools in the area and are between 13 and 16 years of age. They were excited and full of their success and hopes for the future. Alan said they were fun and amazingly mature and interesting to interview: it was hard to believe their tender years. The girls have got further in their quest for national recognition although there are others in the area with equal talent. It is only a matter of time and luck before we produce a star and it will be nice to say we were able to help in a small way by having them on Hospital Radio Yare. **Brian Frederick**



40 Years with Chorley Hospital Radio

When a guest at an informal dinner party asked Ena Montgomery, MBE, JP, President of Chorley Hospital Radio, to recall how she started the service, she modestly glossed over the work she had done forty years ago when she founded it. Instead, she related her memories of the early days and the strength of the wonderful volunteers who supported her endeavours. Clearly, to Ena, the heart of Hospital Radio belongs to those who unselfishly serve it and who are responsible for the growth and reliability of the programming and administration. The voluntary staff who give their time so willingly to improve life for the patients.

As her friends pressed for more she was coaxed into telling of the humour and happiness the voluntary members often encountered in their regular trails from ward to ward, meeting patients and collecting their record requests.

One story enchanted all and this was about a particular volunteer who was a stalwart request collector at the beginning of Chorley Radio. The volunteer was a real lady, gentle, quite non-worldly, which explains why she rushed out of a male ward in the very early Seventies and shouted to Ena that 'I'm leaving, I have never been so insulted before'.

Ena Montgomery was left to calm her down and establish that the cause of the affront was a patient who said to her, 'Leap up and down and throw your knickers in the air'. Ena knew this was not personal but referred to a record of that title, although the hospital had no recording and no-one had really heard the lyric.

This anecdote by chance reached the ears of a present day volunteer, Malcolm Johnson, who after difficulty, sourced this old record and kindly obtained a copy which he sent to the President so that she could, after several decades, hear for herself the cause of the lady's misunderstanding.

Forty years since the birth of Chorley Hospital Radio broadcasting is a twenty-four hour service and is run by 37 people dealing with administration and satisfying patients' requests.

Forty long years of dedicated service by a committed President and equally committed workers. Malcolm's gesture proves that no effort is too much when it comes to sourcing materials although it is sometimes a difficult task. It is shown that not only is it the time spent in hospital which is given but many of their off-duty hours also. As Chorley



Jimmy Cricket takes the mic at the Chorley Hospital Radio 40th anniversary celebrations



Collecting requests at Chorley Hospital in the sixties

Hospital Radio celebrates their 40th Anniversary in September, we give tribute to all who have this total dedication to providing day and night broadcast to the patients.

The Hospital is growing in size and medical provision, being linked to Preston Hospital by both medical and radio interaction and patient appreciation is expressed in many forms, by financial, written or spoken messages and by donation of records, CDs, etc.

Congratulations to all concerned on this Anniversary and our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made it so successful for so long. Best wishes for the future of this wonderful service.

Just for the record, Leap Up and Down (Wave your Knickers in the Air) sold 406,000 singles in 1971. The song also charted in many European and Far Eastern countries. St Cecilia continues to perform in the UK and world wide. They have appeared on the BBC with Noel Edmunds, German, Dutch and Scandinavian TV.

The End of an Era for Haslar

Radio Haslar in Gosport will be marking an end of era later this year, as the station ceases broadcasting to the Royal Hospital Haslar from its studios called 'Radio House' and based in Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. This is due to the impending closure of Haslar, the UK's last dedicated military hospital.

The station will be moving to brand new studios, currently taking shape at Bury House, the home of the Gosport's Community Association and will continue to broadcast to the redeveloped Gosport War Memorial Hospital, providing patients and staff there with our programmes.

Incidentally you can watch our progress via our website at www.radiohaslar.co.uk.

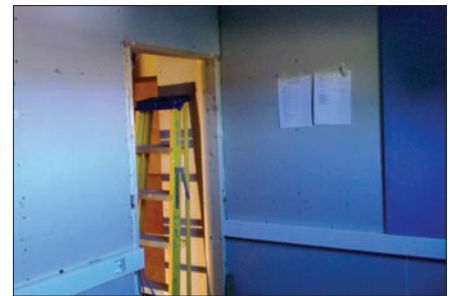
Radio Haslar began broadcasting to the then Royal Naval Hospital Haslar at 10am on Sunday, 14 March 1993 and has over that time adapted with the change to a tri-service hospital in 1996, as well as the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust taking over clinical control on 1st April 2007.

As one chapter closes in the history of Radio Haslar, another one opens and the station will continue to adapt with any future changes that is thrown at it and will provide high quality hospital radio programming which patients and staff of Gosport's hospitals have enjoyed over the last fifteen and a half years.

I'm sure we are not the only station who has had to adapt to changes and we won't be the last! So, as Radio Haslar prepares to say 'Goodbye to all that' to its spiritual home at the Royal Hospital Haslar, here's to the future, at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Opposite are some pictures that were taken recently of our current build in Studio 1 at our new studio complex. The last photograph is of Studio 2.

Work in Progress



If there are any hospital radio stations who may want to send us a recorded message for our last day on air at Haslar, which we are still unsure about, but it's looking likely it will be Saturday, 22 November, then please contact Chris Pearce at Chris.Pearce@radiohaslar.co.uk.

That would be absolutely fantastic and much appreciated. All I would like is to say a good luck message on our last day at Haslar and for the future at the War Memorial with the name of the presenter(s) and the station they represent.

Fifty Years of Involvement with Hospital Radio

On 28th September 2008 it will be exactly 50 years since I first entered the Royal Lancaster Infirmary to take charge of the existing two programme radio system feeding the hospital on behalf of Rediffusion.

Within six months my responsibilities had spread to six more hospitals in the Lancaster and Morecambe area, five in Barrow in Furness, two in Kendal and one in Preston.

At that time I had no idea there was such a thing as hospital broadcasting and it was not for a further 17 years that a chance meeting with Ron Duxbury, Chairman of Radio Lonsdale, that enlightened me. I immediately recognised the value of such a service

to the patients and set about starting a similar service to the patients in the Lancaster and Morecambe area and later to Kendal Hospital.

Two years later I founded what was then only the second Hospital Television service in the country serving 2,000 patients at the Lancaster Moor Hospital. This very successful service continued until only a few years ago when the Hospital closed as did many others in the area, most services being centralised at the R L I.

However, due to new technology becoming available to us, we are considering launching a new television service at the RLI and if successful will role it out to the small Westmorland

County Hospital at Kendal. The new service will be called Morecambe Bay Hospitals Television Service. We will, of course, (along with our associate stations Radio Lancashire and Diversity Radio) still provide the patients at the RLI with their own dedicated 24/7 radio programmes.

It is many years since my wife Cath and I have managed to visit a conference but with a young family and involvement in many other charitable groups, time is at a premium. We do miss your company and will make an extra special effort to attend one in the near future.

Kind regards
From everybody at Radio Royal

Bedside Botox



When Hospital Radio Bedside (HRB) Chairman, Juli Brown and long-time member Jimmy Ross sent out a wish list to several Bournemouth-based grant making trusts for help with a long-awaited studio refurbishment, they expected them to perhaps sponsor a computer or a couple of mics. But thanks to the amazing generosity of one modest mystery trust, which asked not to be named, their 17-year old studios in the grounds of the Royal Bournemouth hospital can finally undergo a full facelift.

Jimmy recalls opening the letter to say that HRB would be getting a full grant for everything on the wish list: 'At first I read it as £220 and had to ask another member to confirm what I was looking at. She said, 'It's not £220 ... it's £22,000!' We just hugged each other! Then I phoned Juli, who had to sit down.'

In the mean time, Chairman Juli, had also applied to the Lottery Fund for some help. It seems that grants are a bit like buses, you wait ages and ages for something with no luck, then two come at once.

HRB were also given an 'Awards for All' grant from the Lottery of £10,000 which means the studio makeover will be more of a full body re-sculpting rather than just some botox to iron out the creases.

It's an amazing success for HRB and its volunteers who usually rely on local fundraising events and the station's two charity shops to raise money for its upkeep.

'New items have usually been purchased to replace broken ones but we'd been falling behind the times with what we could be achieving with new technology,' said a now ecstatic Juli.

The aim is to refurbish both broadcasting studios with new technology including online streaming, so that patients' family and friends can listen to programmes at home. That way, they'll be able to dedicate songs and messages to their loved ones in hospital and hear them being played too.

But the biggest winners of course, will be the patients who will hear the difference in quality. The grant means they can rest assured that the station, which has already been running for over thirty five years, will still be making programmes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, well into the future.

HRB broadcasts to five Dorset hospitals and really hopes this will inspire similar success for other hospital radio stations and small charities.

Elizabeth Reaches Milestone

Radio Glangwili's longest-serving presenter, Elizabeth Rogers, this year celebrated 35 years of broadcasting on the hospital radio service. Elizabeth joined the team just a few months after the station was launched on Christmas Day 1972. From her first broadcast, Elizabeth and her team have continued to broadcast on her regular Wednesday afternoon slot. Also this year Elizabeth celebrated her 80th Birthday and has been described by station founder and president Sulwyn Thomas as a remarkable lady. And how does 80 year old Elizabeth travel to and from the hospital which is some three miles out of town ... on her trusty bicycle, of course!

Dartford Quiz Night



Broadcasting to the patients of Darent Valley Hospital

QUIZ NIGHT

Including entertainment from
Vocalist Emma Goodday
And
Nigel Wright (Excellent Joe Pasquale Impersonator)

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Why not make up a team from your Hospital
Radio station and see if you can become
'Hospital Radio Brain of Britain'?

New Studio for Frimley Park

Patients at Frimley Park Hospital can look forward to company around the clock thanks to a £30,000 boost to the hospital's radio station. About eight years of fundraising by volunteers at Radio Frimley Park has resulted in the unveiling of a newly refitted studio and 24-hour, seven-day-a-week broadcasting schedule. Friends and family can now request a song online to dedicate to patients from the station's extensive collection of tunes via its new website www.radiofrimleypark.co.uk. The new site includes the latest hospital radio news, a brief history on the station and a breakdown of the programme schedule.

Volunteers at Radio Frimley Park, which has been running as a charity since 1996 and broadcasting for the past 30 years, hope the revamp will ease patients' stay.

Station chairman Frank Chambers said, 'Music really can be the best medicine and 24-hour broadcasting is something the charity has been striving towards for nearly a decade. Patients can listen to RFP for free at anytime on the hospital entertainment system. The new website will give the wider community a chance to find out more about what we do and who we are. Not only that but friends and family can request a track or a dedication online.'

Chris Bentley, who has presented at RFP for four years, said volunteers who can spare time during the day are particularly needed to spread the word about the station on the wards.

'We are always looking for people to go round the wards and get patients involved in the quiz nights every Monday and Thursday night. Many patients don't realise radio is free on their Patient Line system and need help registering. Anyone who can help with that or just spread the word about the station would be welcome'.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer should contact Malcolm Treen on 01252 876338 or e-mail secretary@radiofrimleypark.co.uk

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Simon Says Farewell

After 16 devoted years leading Radio Glamorgan (RG), at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, Simon Field said a fond farewell as Chairman. He formally handed over the reigns to new station Chairwoman Clare Sinclair at the charity's AGM in March.

In his final address as Chairman, he described feelings of both sadness and pride in leaving the position. 'I have had some wonderful experiences, seen some fantastic people in action and played a part in RG moving forward a great deal during my time as Chairman'. Simon thanked everyone for the time they have given to RG in his years at the helm.

Clare's first action as newly elected Chairwoman was to present Simon with a custom engraved gold disc from all at the station in respect of his commitment and dedication to Radio Glamorgan. (see front cover pic)

Clare said, 'Simon has been instrumental in the station's success over the years and I can't thank him enough for his enthusiasm and hard work. I'm sure he will continue to be an active member of RG and I'm proud to be following in his footsteps leading the charity into a new phase of development.'

The icing on the cake was yet to come, as Simon's dedicated work for RG was further commended through recent success in BT's Community Champions and Chairman's Award schemes. A BT employee, Simon applied to the company's Community Champions scheme in 2007 and won a regional award and grant of £500 for RG. Recognition as a Community Champion meant the following year Simon and RG were eligible to apply for the annual BT Chairman's Award – a national scheme recognising the contribution made by BT employees to projects in their local community. Entries were short-listed by a global judging panel from across BT and the winners chosen personally by company Chairman, Sir Michael Rake.

In July at the BT Tower, Simon's success and dedication to RG was recognised by BT Chairman Sir Michael Rake, as he presented Simon with an Award for Community and Culture and cheque for £1,000 for RG.

Sir Michael said, 'I am very proud as the new chairman of BT to judge such outstanding applicants. The dedication of BT people is simply inspirational. It is imperative we recognise and encourage our people throughout the UK and across the world and so I congratulate Simon and commend his selfless commitment to Radio Glamorgan'.

Stafford Sign Up MP

David Kidney, MP, became a temporary member of Hospital Radio Stafford (HRS) on Saturday, 23 August. David visited HRS after he had finished his work experience shift between 7.30am and 1.00pm, in the Accident and Emergency Department of Stafford Hospital.

David was welcomed to the studios of HRS by station manager Andy Hill who explained the procedure for collecting requests from patients when making ward visits. Andy and David then visited wards 1 and 2 to talk to the patients and collect requests. After being interviewed on air by Andy and Sheila Yard about his experience of working in the A & E, he then co-presented a programme with Paul Horsley including the requests he had collected earlier in the afternoon.

...



Richard Ellison of Hospital Radio Stafford receives the cheque from Mike Taylor of Penkridge Rotary Club

Hospital Radio Stafford has started an ambitious campaign to raise £20,000.

The radio station started in 1972 and broadcasts 24 hours, seven days a week to the patients in Stafford and Cannock Hospitals. The money is needed to replace equipment in one of the studios, which is 20 years old and well past its sell by date.

The Rotary Club of Penkridge presented a cheque for £600 to the radio station at a recent meeting; the venue was The Moat House, Acton Trussell.

Penkridge Rotary was formed in 1978, has 20 members and in a year donates on average £6,000 to local and international organisations.

Tony's Goodbyes



Choice Secretary Barbara Deakin ward visiting with Tony

Tony Deakin, Public Relations Officer of Choice Radio who broadcast to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital, has had a few goodbyes to deal with lately.

As has become the custom, the departing Mayor of Worcester visited the studio to reflect back on his year in office. This time, it was the turn of Stephen Inman, who popped in with his wife Carol one Saturday morning to chat about his time as the city's Mayor and play some of his favourite music in a 'Desert Island Discs' style special. At the same time, he informed listeners that he would now be saying farewell to politics as he would not be seeking election as a member of the council, deciding instead to return to life as a civilian and taking up his former career.

And whilst Tony himself remains on the committee of Choice, as well as presenting shows on Tuesdays and Fridays, he said goodbye to one of his other passions – football. For more years than he cares to remember, Tony has been behind the microphone of another Worcester institution, the City's football club. He blew full-time on his part-time career as the ground's matchday announcer at a local derby against Redditch United. The St George's Lane stalwart has been a fan of the club since he first started attending matches at the tender age of four with his dad. But he has taken the decision to leave so that he and his wife Barbara (Choice's Secretary) can spend more time together.

Worcester City FC Chairman Dave Boddy paid tribute to Tony's contribution over the years, commenting that he has given the club excellent support as one of the faces and voices of Worcester City and that they are both very welcome at St George's Lane and to the club's future new stadium.

So that frees up a few more hours for programmes, eh, Tony?

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Sunshine's Diana Awards



Award winners Christopher Smith, Ron Walker, Scott Quinn and James Gordon

Sunshine Hospital Radio are delighted to announce that four of their young volunteers have been honoured with the Diana Award.

The Diana Award challenges stereotypes of young people by showing that the Award Holders have the power to be positive role models for an entire generation. They have received this recognition at a time when their life choices are still to be made, encouraging them to develop their full potential.

Christopher Smith, Ron Walker, Scott Quinn and James Gordon all dedicate their spare time to helping the patients of Weston General Hospital by contributing to the voluntary radio service that this year celebrates 30 years of broadcasting.

Award winner Scott Quinn, from

Wick St Lawrence, said, 'I was totally surprised as I didn't know I'd been nominated. I really enjoy helping out at Sunshine Radio because I've met lots of interesting people on the wards and got some requests for some really different music, songs I wouldn't normally get an opportunity to listen to, it's great!'

Sunshine Radio's Public Relations officer, Marcus Tripp said, 'We're all very proud of the hard work put in by these young members and we were absolutely delighted when we heard that they were all going to receive the prestigious Diana Award.'

There seems to be a lot of news recently focusing on young people who cause trouble but hopefully the dedication of James, Scott, Chris and Ron will be acknowledged just as widely'.

NHS@60

During July 2008, Mid Downs Hospital Radio held a range of different celebratory events to mark the 60th birthday of the NHS. At the beginning of the month MDR ran programmes which looked back at all the changes in the NHS since 1948 and there was a Special Show which featured all the Number one hits on 5 July 1948, '58, '68, '78, '88, '98 and 2008.

To finish the month, a special programme has been produced entitled 'NHS@60' which is to be presented by Paul Howard and includes interviews with Piers Morgan (from Britain's got Talent), Duncan Selbie (Chief Executive of the Hospital Trust) plus a range of staff who work at the hospital such as nurses, security staff, doctors and others

Julie Mewes, Chair of MDR, who also participates in the programme said 'This latest programme featuring the experiences of the many different people who work at the hospital plus a well known local celebrity as a user of the NHS, meant that we are able to provide an informative and entertaining programme for the patients and visitors, at the same time as being part of the celebrations'.

Barnsley Hospital Broadcasting's Colin Geldard was one of 5500 people running in the Sheffield half marathon. Colin ran on behalf of Barnsley Hospital Broadcasting and was supported by other BHB volunteers on the day. Colin's training started six months prior with several early morning runs around his home village of Penistone and during the bad weather stints on the treadmill. All the hard work paid off as Colin completed the half marathon in 2 hours 1 minute and 6 seconds. Congratulations Colin, well done – BHB are proud of you!

Barnsley Hospital Broadcasting took part in an open day on 5th July 2008 to help celebrate 60 years of the NHS. Patients, visitors and members of the public were invited to the hospital and were given guided tours of some of the main facilities and given a chance to meet some of the people behind the scenes of various hospital departments including BHB.

Bath Hospital Radio has some equipment it no longer requires.

We would like any hospital radio station to have first refusal, otherwise it will be a trip to the tip.

1 x Sony minidisc recorder/player (working but the screen display is broken)

1 cart machine model S302B holds up to 3 carts (unsure of make)

1 Spotmaster cart machine holds one cart

These were working until 2000 when we computerised.

We also have various carts

1 Ferrograph reel to reel recorder/player (unsure of condition)

1 Tascam 32 reel to reel recorder/player (working, last used 2000)

AVM Ferrograph series 77 reel to reel recorder/player

(working last used 2000)

We are accepting offers for the reel to reels. The cart machines and carts are being offered for a donation. Items must be collected from Bath.

If you are interested please email Darran Huish,

Bath Hospital Radio secretary at bhbs.org.uk

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Obituaries

And the band played on ...



A Memory of Peter Donegan

Peter joined Radio Southlands as it was called then, in July 1986, he immediately felt at home when confronted by a number of fellow British Telecom members; having worked in the Brighton area of BT for many years.

His period of studio training was to allow him to indulge his love of the big band sound, a theme that was to follow him throughout his broadcasting time, he was able to speak about a lot of the bands from personal experience having grown up with their sounds ringing in his ears.

From his first show in December 1986 until April 2001, when a sudden illness overtook him, he was able to bring a lot of pleasure to the many patients and staff, many of whom he got to know very well through his regular request collecting visits to the wards. It must have seemed strange to him when he had to be on the receiving end of the care but at least the staff were able to give him lots of loving care, something he treasured all the way through.

Peter was a man with a very strong constitution and determination and though he had been struck down with something that would have caused many a person to give up, his fighting spirit pushed him on and he returned to broadcasting in January 2002.

Peter made his mark on everyone he came into contact with and made a great number of friends throughout the hospital (mostly nurses I must add), many of whom have often asked after him since he stopped visiting the wards.

His untimely death in March 2008 robbed the station of a very knowledgeable presenter and a good pal to many and in his own words:

Ciao Ciao for now TTFN

Hospital Radio Stalwart Dies



A man who devoted a significant amount of his adult life to furthering the cause of hospital radio has died. Bob Smith, who joined HR Plymouth in its inaugural year in 1969 and spent most of the following four decades with the station, passed away peacefully in Derriford Hospital on 9th July.

He was Station Controller in the late 1970s and most of the 1980s. He presented features on the BBC's Midday Parade and Morning Sou'West programmes in the 1970s and went on to host a weekend programme on the former Radio in Tavistock commercial station in the 1980s.

He subsequently moved to London to manage the community station, Radio Thamesmead and was bestowed honorary membership of HR Plymouth on his departure in recognition of his work for the charity.

He returned to Plymouth in 1993, resuming his involvement in Hospital Radio. He took charge of the charity once more, for what was originally in his plan to be a short period but turned out to be 14 years until ill health caused his retirement at the October 2007 AGM.

Current HR Plymouth Station Manager, Andrew Hill, who knew Mr Smith for 25 years, said, 'Bob was very passionate about radio, both with the hospital radio and other stations he tried to get off the ground in Penzance, the South Hams and here in Plymouth'.

Mr Hill added, 'Bob's vision for HR Plymouth led to it securing an FM broadcasting licence for the Derriford campus in 2000, one of the first hospital radios to get clearance for FM broadcasting. His flare over the years resulted us having a truly imaginative programme schedule.'

Ward OBs, live broadcasts from temporary studios in the city centre shops during Christmas late night shopping, coverage of local and national elections and commentaries of Lord Mayor's Day and The Plymouth Marathon are among the many innovate broadcasts which took place under his stewardship at Hospital Radio. Mr Smith's funeral was held on Thursday 17th July 2008 and many members of Hospital Radio Plymouth both past and present were in attendance.



HBA Grants

The HBA Grants programme was introduced in 2006 following the Executive Committee's suggestion to PPL that a proportion of their donations to the Association in 2004 and 2005 be allocated for grants to member stations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? – Applications are restricted to Full Members of the HBA.

THE PURPOSE – The grants are intended to enable hospital broadcasting organisations to purchase equipment or other materials required by them which they are unable to afford to purchase from their own funds.

HOW DO I APPLY? – Applicants should identify the equipment or other materials that meet(s) their needs and should obtain a quotation (ideally more than one) for the supply. They should then complete the attached application form and it, together with copies of the quotation(s), their constitution (or other governing document) and their latest annual report & accounts, to Julie Cox, HBA Treasurer, 37 Alford Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 8BX.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? – Applications will be acknowledged on receipt. The subcommittee will meet bi-monthly to consider applications. As soon as possible after consideration, applicants will be informed as to the success or otherwise of their application. Successful applicants should expect to receive a cheque within 28 days of their application being granted. Copies of invoices confirming purchase of the equipment/materials should be forwarded to HBA within 6 months of the grant cheque being issued. Failure to provide such evidence of purchase may result in full repayment of the grant being requested.

Applications are judged on merit by the HBA's Grants Subcommittee, which consists of Julie Cox, Sean Dunderdale, Dave Lockyer and Mike Skinner. If an conflict of interest arises between a member of the subcommittee and an application, the conflicted member will withdraw from discussions surrounding the particular application and, if necessary, further temporary members will be co-opted to the subcommittee. The full terms of reference of the subcommittee can be found on the members-only section of the HBA website, or are available on request.

ARE DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS PUBLISHED? – HBA would like to maximise the publicity obtained, both local to the recipient of the grant and nationally, and would expect successful applicants to work closely with the HBA's Public Relations Manager to achieve this.

HBA would anticipate providing details of all grants made in its Annual Report and Accounts.

PLEASE NOTE – The decision of the Grants Subcommittee is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The subcommittee may, at its sole discretion, provide unsuccessful applicants with an indication as to why their application failed - for instance, applicants can expect to be informed if they failed to provide all necessary supporting paperwork, or their application was deemed ineligible in other ways. However, applicants should understand that the funds available are limited and not all applications that meet all the required criteria are likely to be funded.

If you require further information or have any queries about the Grants, please contact Julie Cox by telephone on 0870 321 6004, or by e-mail at finance@hbauk.com.

HBA - supporting Hospital Broadcasting in the UK

For more information see www.hbauk.com, e-mail info@hbauk.com, or call 0870 321 6019.

HBA is the trading name of the National Association of Hospital Broadcasting Organisations.
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Registered Office: Mariners House, 24 Nelsons Gardens, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2NE



HBA Grant Application Form

To be completed by a member of the governing body of an HBA Full Member, with the full knowledge and approval of the governing body.

Name:

Position:

Hospital Broadcasting Organisation:

HBA Membership Number:

Address:

E-mail: Telephone:

On behalf of the above-named hospital broadcasting organisation, I would like to apply for an HBA Grant to cover the purchase of:

The justification for this application is:

(explain why your station needs the equipment/materials and how its purchase would benefit the station and/or its listeners in 200 words or less)














I have attached the following documentation in support of my application:

- ☐ Details of the equipment/materials to be purchased
- ☐ Quotation(s) for supply of the equipment/materials
- ☐ Copy of our station's constitution (or other governing document)
- ☐ Copy of our station's latest Annual Report and Accounts

I understand that any grant awarded is restricted to be applied for the purchase of the above-mentioned equipment/materials. I agree to supply HBA with proof of purchase within 6 months of a successful application, and I agree, on behalf of the above-named organisation, to reimburse HBA the full amount granted if the equipment/materials have not been purchased within this period.

Signed:

Regional Reps details

REGION	REP	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
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