

ON AIR



Issue 125
Winter 2009

HBATM
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

SONIFEX

Manufacturers of Audio Broadcast Equipment



DIGITAL QUALITY WITH ANALOGUE RELIABILITY

The S2 radio broadcast mixer combines all the features needed of a radio broadcast mixer in a stylish, flush-mounting chassis.

- Digital audio quality & analogue reliability in a modular format
- Both digital & analogue inputs
- Simultaneous digital & analogue outputs
- Usual broadcast features - fader start of equipment, monitor muting, PFL, VCA faders
- Modular - any channel in any position
- Chassis sizes from 5 to 30 channels
- Separate 2U power supply



SONIFEX

www.sonifex.co.uk

01933 650 700
sales@sonifex.co.uk

ON AIR™

Winter 2009

Issue 125

The Official Journal of the Hospital Broadcasting Association

in this issue ...

| | |
|--|----|
| Committee Report | 2 |
| Awards Talk | 4 |
| Hospital Radio Awards Short List | 5 |
| Meet the Judges | 6 |
| Hospital Radio Awards Sponsors | 7 |
| Hospedia Update | 8 |
| Mobile Phone Guidance | 9 |
| Hospital Broadcasting Week | 10 |
| Rookwood in Soap | 11 |
| June's Travels and Visits 2008 | 12 |
| View from the Basement | 16 |
| Goodbye To All That | 17 |
| New Studio for HWD | 18 |
| Radio Redhill Roundup | 18 |
| What I've Learnt | 19 |
| Countrywide – News from the Stations | 20 |
| Obituaries | 24 |
| The HBA Grants Programme | 25 |
| HBA Grant Application Form | 26 |
| Regional Rep Details | 27 |
| Who To Contact | 28 |

FRONT COVER STORY:

Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio recently celebrated 30 years of broadcasting to patients and staff at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. See full story inside



hi everyone,

It's Awards time again and after the glitzy Baftas, we now celebrate something closer to our own hearts, the Hospital Radio Awards. Inside you'll find details of those who have been shortlisted and all about the judges.

The date has just been announced for SBES, this year will be a one day event and takes place at the NEC, Birmingham on Tuesday, 3rd November between 10am and 6pm and the good news is that beer is back in the bar and visitors' bags are back too.

I recently received an email from Clive Chapman: 'Hi, I have just had a stay in hospital and realise what a tremendous benefit hospital radio is. The company I work for, George James Business Systems, has asked me to reallocate the money currently spent on advertising in directories and wall planners to run a series of competitions. Best regards Clive Chapman.' How good it is to be appreciated.

In the next issue, we will run a special feature on all the winners of the Awards but please don't stop sending in your own reports.

Michelle

DIARY DATES

2009 CONFERENCE

Hilton Hotel, Blackpool
27th-29th March, 2009

HOSPITAL BROADCASTING WEEK

28th March-6th, April 2009

SBES

3rd November, 2009

2010 CONFERENCE

Normandy Hotel, Renfrew
26th-28th March 2010

2011 CONFERENCE

Ramada Hotel, Maidstone
25th-27th March 2011

On Air is the Official Journal of the HBA which is the trading name of the National Association of Hospital Broadcasting Organisations, a Company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England No. 2750147. A Registered Charity No. 1015501.

Registered office: Mariners House, 24 Nelsons Gardens, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2NE.

On Air is distributed free of charge to all member stations of the Association plus interested parties.

All material is ©2006 of HBA and may not be reproduced in any form without the written authority of the Editor. Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of HBA, or the Editor but are the personal opinion of the contributor. Whilst every effort is taken to ensure the accuracy of the publication, all advertisements and articles appear in good faith and HBA and the Editor accept no responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies.

Address for On-Air: The Editor, On Air, 2 Falkland Close, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 3DD

Tel: 0870 321 6011 Email: onair@hbauk.com

COPY DATE NEXT ISSUE 28th February 2009

Committee Report

Welcome

Once again I'm pleased to say I can start by welcoming a returning member. This time it is Radio Airedale, serving Airedale General Hospital in Keighley, West Yorkshire. The station is run as part of the League of Friends of the hospital and returned to the air last year, after an absence of several years. I was able to visit the station recently to see the studios and hear of ambitious plans for the future from the Station Manager.

Membership Subscriptions

Talking of membership, it's that time of year when I have to demand your membership fee. Invitations to renew will be going out by e-mail and, to those stations who have indicated that they prefer to receive communications in hard copy form, by post at around the time that this magazine is due to be published. I would appreciate it if you could renew your membership in a timely fashion; having to send reminders costs the Association money and me time.

Governing Documents

The HBA's AGM was held during the Autumn conference in October. Thanks to all those stations who were either represented in the room or who submitted proxy votes.

A new Memorandum and Articles of Association and associated Byelaws for the Association were adopted without dissent during the meeting, as a result of which the governing body of the Association has a new name. No longer an Executive Committee, we are now the Trustee Board. The current Trustees were re-elected unopposed and, at a short Trustees' meeting afterwards, Geoff Fairbairn, long-time Technical Adviser and, more recently, Chairman of the Patient Entertainment Systems committee was made the first of the new-style 'Appointed Trustees', appointed by the other Trustees because of the particular skills and knowledge they are able to bring to the Association, rather than nominated and elected by the members. Be assured that the Appointed Trustees will always be in the minority on the Trustee Board. The ability to appoint Trustees with valuable skills or knowledge will, however, help ensure that the Trustee



by Nigel Dallard, Secretary

Board has all the necessary skills.

Further subtle changes mean that Phil is now the Chair of the Association and Iain the Vice-Chair. Both retain, for the moment at least, their previous roles as Chief and Deputy Chief Executive respectively and their contact details have not changed.

Annual Report & Accounts

To the great annoyance and embarrassment of the Trustees, we were not in a position to formally present the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 29th February 2008 at the AGM in October. This was due to the accountants finding, during their preparation of the 2008 accounts, errors in their preparation of the previous year's accounts; a number of transactions relating to the 2007 Spring Conference and Awards were put through the 2007 accounts despite the financial year finishing prior to the conference and awards ceremony being staged.

These issues were eventually resolved to the Trustees' satisfaction (although not before Phil and myself visited the accountants, questioned every line in the accounts and had numerous corrections made) and, at our November meeting, both the revised 2007 and the 2008 Trustees' Annual Reports and Accounts were unanimously approved. These have now been filed with Companies House

and the Charity Commission and circulated to all Full Members. They are also available on the website (from the home page, click on 'About' and then 'Annual Report').

A formal General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday 28th March, at the Hilton Hotel, Blackpool, during the conference, to allow members to quiz the Trustees about these reports and accounts. The Trustees have subsequently decided to appoint new accountants.

Restructuring of the Association

Whilst the adoption of the new governing documents has not meant an immediate change to the structure of the Association, you will be aware that the Executive Committee has been considering the best structure for the Association for the last two years. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association were the necessary first step along the road to an Association better able to serve its members and at the Trustee board meeting in January, unanimous agreement was reached between all the Trustees and Regional Reps present as to what structure we believe offers the best way forward.

We aspire to recruit a paid Chief Executive of the Association, who would be charged with the management of the day-to-day operations of the Association. The recruit would be expected to achieve this through a combination of his/her own activities and those of volunteers reporting to him/her. The new Chief Executive would report to the Trustee Board, which would set objectives and measure performance. The existing ad hoc responsibilities of the Trustees would be transferred to the new Chief Executive, allowing the Trustees to take a more strategic view of the Association and its activities.

We have now started the process of drawing up role descriptions for the Chief Executive and the Trustees, investigating the likely cost of employing an appropriately-skilled person, drawing up a budget and completing the rest of the 'due diligence' necessary before we take any final decision.

We will be presenting our ideas and asking for comment and questions, during an informal meeting following the General Meeting at the conference in Blackpool. Please feel free to contact any Trustee or your Regional Rep if you would like further information or would

Committee Report

like to comment on this restructuring. The Association is here to serve its members; your views are important and will be taken into consideration by the Trustees before any final decision is taken.

For the avoidance of doubt, charity law effectively prevents any current Trustee or any previous Trustee who was in post since discussion on the restructuring started (or, indeed, any close relative of either of the above) from being appointed as the paid Chief Executive. Recruitment would be on an open basis, with anyone from within or outside hospital broadcasting eligible to apply. Appointment would be purely on merit.

Autumn 2009 Training Day

Subject to contract, this event will be held on Saturday, 17th October in Sutton Coldfield, to the north east of Birmingham and close to the M5, M6 and M42 motorways. The nearest railway station is about a mile away

from the proposed venue and it is 20 minutes from Birmingham New Street and 45 minutes from Birmingham Airport.

We hope to offer training from external professionals relating to the roles and responsibilities and committee members and on presentation and programming. The cost of the day, including teas/coffees and lunch will be only £10 per delegate. For those wishing to stay overnight on the Friday and/or the Saturday nights, very competitive dates for dinner bed and breakfast have been negotiated with the hotel. Of course, you are also free to stay elsewhere in the vicinity or simply to come for the day.

We hope to be able to confirm the details and formally 'launch' the event at the conference in Blackpool.

HBA Enterprises Ltd

Those of you with a long memory will remember the on-going saga of the Association's former trading company HBA Enterprises Ltd, over which the

current Trustees have no control. I have further good news to report; in November, a cheque was received from the company for £10,502.36, representing, we are told, the remaining assets within the company. Accounts, purporting to be the final accounts for the company, have also been provided although at the time of writing, the company had not been formally wound-up and removed from the Register of Companies. Unfortunately, recovering this amount has cost us £3,162.50 in legal fees.

The Trustees are intent of seeing this matter through to the end: the dissolution of the company.

Conference and National Hospital Radio Awards

Finally, congratulations to all those nominated in this year's National Hospital Radio Awards. Hopefully we will see you in Blackpool for the Conference and Awards ceremony.

PPL Fees to Increase

PPL has advised the HBA that it will be increasing its music copyright licence fees for hospital radio in 2009.

The licence HBA negotiated with PPL included the right for PPL to increase the fees annually in line with the Retail Prices Index; PPL has previously chosen not to take advantage of this provision in the four years since the licensing regime was put in place.

The 2009 PPL copyright licence fees will be:

- for stations broadcasting via induction loop or bedside entertainment systems: £115+VAT (increased from £100+VAT)
- for stations broadcasting via LPAM / LPFM transmitters:



£430+VAT (increased from £416+VAT)

Our Secretary, Nigel Dallard, has checked the Retail Prices Index on the Office of National Statistics website and between October 2004 and October 2008 (these being the relevant dates according to the licence), the RPI has increased by 15%.

The increase for stations broadcasting via induction loop and bedside entertainment systems is, therefore, the maximum that PPL could impose; that for LPAM/LPFM stations is significantly lower than the maximum.

The cost of the licence covering 'dubbing' of music onto computer-based playout systems will remain at £5+VAT per 1,000 tracks, subject to a £25+VAT minimum.

PPL will, no doubt, be in touch with individual stations in due course, inviting you to renew your licence at the revised cost.

HBA continues to believe that hospital radio stations should be exempt from music copyright fees, and Nigel has attended a further consultation meeting organised by the Intellectual Property Office as part of its review of exemptions to music copyright. And will no doubt report on any results from this in due course.

Phil Moon

**COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 126
28TH FEBRUARY 2009**

Awards Talk

Who'd be a judge? I know I said something similar last year but having taken a sneaky listen to some of the entries for this years Awards, then I can only say it again! It's great being given the chance to hear such a varied selection of programming from the world of Hospital Radio right across the UK – stations big and small. Deciding which is better than the other though is a job I'm more than happy to leave someone else!

For the Specialist Music category we received nominations featuring such diverse programming as Country Music, Jazz, Classical, Musical Theatre, Oldies, Rock, Reggae and even Ukulele!

The Speech and Special Event entries saw programming including specialist documentaries on the 60th anniversary of the NHS, a heart-warming story of a woman surviving after a stroke, Hull City's promotion to the Premiership, a Caribbean Carnival and the devastating fire that struck Weston super Mare's Historic Pier – among others.

Indeed, Sunshine Radio holds possibly the National Hospital Radio Awards record of being short-listed for two separate pieces of programming on the same subject, either side of a disaster – as the best Speech nomination is a piece looking at the Weston super Mare pier's refurbishment and importance to the resort, while the nomination for the Special Event award focuses on the day the Pier burnt down!

Could we have another new record in the Newcomer nominations, as two sisters go head to head – or should that be mic-to-mic - to try and claim the top prize. Chelmsford's Asha and Nita

With the nomination short-list now known, National Hospital Radio Awards co-producer Sean Dunderdale shares his thoughts on this year's entries ...



Jhummu are both short-listed (is this the first time this has happened in our Awards? Someone out there will know the answer, I'm sure!)

We wish them, and the other eight contenders for Newcomer well for the ceremony in March.

It's been pleasing, this year, to see a few new names appearing in the shortlist – I know Grimsby Hospital Radio hasn't put in an entry in a long time, so it's good to have you on board and I'm sure GHR members will be

delighted at their three nominations (in the best Specialist Music, Best Promotion and Best Newcomer categories).

It's also good to see the numbers of entries we received also on the increase (though, this is only our second year producing and organising the Awards, so I can only compare exact numbers to those we received last year!)

For Station of the Year, I notice that last year's Silver and Gold winners are back – with Plymouth and Harrogate both short-listed once again. Diane Clark and Lauren Rich are both featured again in the Best Female Presenter category, having taken gold and silver last year, while they're joined this year by Ellie Jackson who walked away with the Silver prize in last years Best Newcomer Award.

Elsewhere, Radio Cherwell's again in the top ten aiming to hold on to its treasured Best Specialist Music Programme from last year – can Ukulele Bob win it two years in a row? While Hospital Radio Perth will be hoping its special documentary on the Osprey can bag it Gold once again in the Best Speech Package category.

I must warn all of those mentioned above, however, that they face very stiff competition this year – the battle really is on.

Good luck to all those nominated and better luck next time to those who entered but sadly didn't make the final ten in their category! To me, every one of them is a winner!

Thank you to each and every station and individual that entered the awards this year. Iain and I look forward to seeing you in Blackpool at the end of March.

Jon Godel returns to host this years National Hospital Radio Awards



The former Editor of IRN (Independent Radio News) and now a core-part of ITN's Digital content took control of the ceremony in Leeds last year, having previously been a guest at earlier events – most notably appearing frilly pink boots at the Northampton Awards ceremony.

Jon jumped at the chance to present the ceremony in Leeds last year and enjoyed it so much he immediately agreed to get involved in the Blackpool event.

Awards co-producer Sean Dunderdale said: 'Jon was just brilliant last year. It was an enormous risk taking on the role last year, given both Iain Lee and I had never attempted to produce such an event before'.

Jon had worked previously with Dave Nicholson on the Awards and knew Sean through IRN but Sean admits, had it gone wrong last year, it could have been a very uncomfortable night for Jon: 'In one sense, once the ceremony had started in Leeds, I could relax. Well, maybe not relax but there was very little I could do to control events on the stage – so sat up on the balcony – well out of sight. Had things not gone according to plan then Jon would have been the man upfront who everyone would have been looking at, while I would have crept out of the nearest fire exit. Thankfully, he did a fantastic job, everything worked and the fire door stayed closed!'

Jon is bubbling with ideas for this years ceremony and has already been working with Sean on parts of the event in advance of the night itself in Blackpool.

Hospital Radio Awards

Station of the Year

- 1 Basingstoke HR
- 2 Harrogate HR
- 3 Hillingdon HR
- 4 HR Chelmsford
- 5 Radio Fox (Leicester)
- 6 Perth HR
- 7 Plymouth HR
- 8 Redhill
- 9 Sunshine HR (Weston super Mare)
- 10 Whitechapel AM

Specialist Music

- 1 Anker Radio
Jazzbeat
- 2 Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service
Nice & Easy
- 3 Chorley HR
John Craven's Country Music
Round-up
- 4 Grimsby HR
Hit Country
- 5 Radio Cherwell HR
Ukulele Bob
- 6 Radio Fox
Sixties Scene
- 7 Radio Grapevine
Cool Country
- 8 Radio Lion (Guildford)
Rock Extra
- 9 Valley Park Radio
Hart & Soul and All That Jazz (it's
spelt HART cos the presenter is Ian
Hart, by the way)
- 10 Whittington Radio (London
Network Radio)
Reggae Rundown

Station Promotion

- 1 Grimsby HR
- 2 HR Barnet
- 3 HWD Dewsbury
- 4 Radio Cherwell
- 5 Radio Fox (Leicester)
- 6 Radio Glamorgan
- 7 Radio Grapevine
- 8 Radio Northwick Park
- 9 Sunshine HR (Isle of Wight)
- 10 Sunshine HR (Weston Super Mare)



... And this is what you've all been waiting for ... the 2009 Hospital Radio Awards short list ...

Special Event

- 1 Choice Radio
Blood, Bile, Leeches & the NHS
- 2 HR Chelmsford
The Granny Bike Run
- 3 Kingstown Radio
Hull City's Promotional Celebrations
- 4 Radio Fox (Leicester)
The Leicester Caribbean Carnival
- 5 Radio Lion (Guildford)
Guilfest 08
- 6 Radio Northwick Park
The 24 Hour Challenge
- 7 Radio Warneford
35 hour marathon broadcast
- 8 Radio West Suffolk
Margo Down Under
- 9 Rookwood Sound
The Cardiff & Vale Coalition for
Disabled People Conference
- 10 Sunshine Radio (Weston Super
Mare)
the Weston Super Mare Pier Fire

Best NewComer

- 1 Anita Hepple – HWD
- 2 Asha Jhummu – HR Chelmsford
- 3 Ben Richards – Whitechapel AM
- 4 Carl Richards – Harrogate HR
- 5 Gillian Bell – Rookwood Sound
- 6 Helen Prowse – Grimsby HR
- 7 Josh Andrews – Plymouth HR
- 8 Nicola Mills – Valley Park Radio
- 9 Nita Jhummu – HR Chelmsford
- 10 Paul Johnston – Victoria Radio
Network



Male Presenter

- 1 Adam Ravenscroft – HR Chelmsford
- 2 Ben Punter – Radio Northwick Park
- 3 Dave Bee – Northern Air
- 4 Dave Lockyer – Valley Park Radio
- 5 Gerard Conway – HR Hillingdon
- 6 Jamie Stangroom – Whitechapel AM
- 7 Jim Simpson – Grampian HR
- 8 John Murray – Victoria Radio
Network
- 9 Michael Roncone – Bridge FM
- 10 Mike Binns – HWD

Female Presenter

- 1 Alice Corp – Bath HR
- 2 Biba Hunjan – Radio Northwick Park
- 3 Brenda Massie – Grampian HR
- 4 Diane Clarke – HR Tunbridge Wells
- 5 Ellie Jackson – Harrogate HR
- 6 Isobel King – HR Plymouth
- 7 Julia Douglass – Kingstown Radio
(Hull)
- 8 Lauren Rich – Radio Northwick Park
- 9 Lesley Jennings – Rookwood Sound
- 10 Vicky Pinder – HWD

Speech

- 1 Addenbrookes HR
The Clown Doctors
- 2 Harrogate HR
The 60th Anniversary of the NHS
- 3 HR Perth
Ospreys, A Success Story
- 4 HR Plymouth
Shirley's Story
- 5 HWD
Interview with the Trust Chief Exec
- 6 Radio Cherwell
Sunday Matters
- 7 Rookwood Sound
Barry Island Discs
- 8 Radio West Suffolk
Dad's Army's David Croft
- 9 Sunshine HR (Weston Super Mare)
The Grand Pier
- 10 Whitechapel AM
The Foxes of the Royal London
Hospital



Meet the Judges

MICHAEL BETTON

Michael is Chief Executive of the Lincs FM Group, which has radio stations across Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands. He's also a SONY Radio Awards judge and a member of the Radio Centre Board (the national body that represents commercial radio in the UK.)



JEREMY BUXTON

A media expert based in North Yorkshire. He has been working in the industry for 20 years in both the BBC and

commercial radio. He can currently be heard on BBC Radio York. He is the BBC Big Screen Manager for Hull.



IAN CAWSEY

Ian is Vice Chairman of the Labour Party, having first become an MP in 1997. A member of MP4, the

Common's own in-house cross party band who have recently released their first ever album. Ian has performed in a number of other bands before becoming an MP and has also done a stint or two in hospital radio. Last year he spoke up for Hospital Broadcasting during a commons debate on PRS royalty charges.

PAUL DONOVAN

Paul is radio critic for the Sunday Times Newspaper and has also been a past judge of the SONY radio awards.



PAUL EASTON

Paul is HBA's Programming Advisor and provides programming consultancy and monitors

content analysis for licence applications, station launches and relaunched for stations. Clients over the past year include Absolute Radio, Jack FM Oxfordshire, Oxford's FM107.9, Town & Country Broadcasting, The Local Radio Company and Alem FM (Turkey)



JON GODEL

Former Editor of Independent Radio News and now a core part of ITN On (the digital division of ITN) He

started his career in hospital radio and remains a strong supporter. Last year he took over the main presenting role of the National Hospital Radio Awards and will be back at the podium again in Blackpool this year.



HARRY GRATION

Harry presents BBC Look North each weekday from Leeds and is also a regular face to BBC

Sports fan with his weekly Super League Rugby Show. Harry started his career in sports commentary for BBC local radio and previously worked as host of South Today in Southampton

KERRI JONES

Kerri is Managing Director of Radio Scilly and also the breakfast presenter of the station – said to be the world's smallest professional radio station!



RICHARD LYON

Richard is Station Manager of Compass FM, the commercial radio station based in

Grimsby. He too started life in hospital radio and has previously worked at radio stations in Yorkshire.



DUNCAN NEWMARCH

Duncan is one of the voices that pops up just before EastEnders on BBC1. He's been a continuity

announcer for the last five years, having previously work for BBC Essex, Invicta FM, Trax FM and Lincs FM. You may not know the face but you'd recognise the voice!

CHARLES RUNCIE

Charles is the Head of BBC Sport in the English Regions and has previously worked in BBC Local Radio and at BBC Scotland.



DR CHRIS STEELE

Chris is a regular contributor to ITV's This Morning, appearing on the sofa alongside Fern

and Phil. He also runs his own clinic in Manchester and offers advice on his medical website www.thefamilygp.com

CHRIS STEVENS

Chris is a long-term support of Hospital Broadcasting and, with the team at Devaweb and now TM Studios, he's been the brains behind the Hospital Broadcasting Wee jingles, promos, sweepers and idents for a number of years now. He's also no stranger to our conferences and says if he can find a direct flight from Dallas to Blackpool,, then he'll be attending again this year.

PAUL SYLVESTER

Paul runs Absolute Radio's digital content and Podcast service, among other jobs. He's previously worked at LBC in a similar roles – as well both news reading and producing on the London news-based station. Paul started his career, many moons, ago in hospital radio in Scunthorpe.

AMANDA THOMPSON

Amanda is a Senior Journalist for the BBC in Hull, presenting and reporting on both BBC Radio Humberside and the BBC Look North (Hull & Lincolnshire) TV programme.

KIRSTY WARD

Kirsty is Senior Broadcast Journalist at BBC Radio Swindon & Wiltshire, having previously worked for BBC Radio Sheffield and Century in Nottingham.

**Look out
for our special
Awards issue
next time**

Hospital Radio Awards Sponsors

Some of Blackpool's biggest attractions have agreed to play a part in this year's National Hospital Radio Awards and the Spring Conference.

Blackpool Tower, Louis Tussaud's Waxworks and the resort's newest Adventure Golf attraction are to part sponsor the event this year, in appreciation at Hospital Broadcasting's support of Blackpool at a time when many conferences have turned away from the North West.

Leisure Parc's Marketing Manager David Gore was only too pleased to be associated with the ceremony and Spring Conference when contacted, as he himself started his career in Hospital Radio in Chelmsford. He says, 'I have some affection for Hospital Radio and understand that the service you provide



is voluntary and offers great benefit to the patients and staff in the various establishments.'

Awards co-producer Sean Dunderdale told On Air he was delighted that they're offering their support this year, along with our other kind sponsors PPL, West Country Broadcast and Devaweb.

Sean said, 'West Country Broadcast, Devaweb and PPL have always been great supporters of Hospital Broadcasting and it's fantastic that they're back on board, supporting the Awards again this year. To also, this year, have three of Blackpool's biggest attractions offering their support is also great news. We can't thank our supporters enough, without whom we'd struggle to have a ceremony.'

HBA Conference News

Bring Your Partner to Blackpool

- Ever feel bad about leaving your other half at home?
- Got a partner who would like a weekend away but isn't interested in all those seminars and meetings?
- And what about the kids?

We might just have the answer for you. Bring them along and take advantage of some very special deals. Get Bed & Breakfast at the Conference hotel for only £25 per night for adults and £15 for children.

How does it work

You book a single room and pay the single room supplement. Pay £25 extra per night for you and your partner to share a twin or double room. For an extra £15 each per night your children can come and share a family room.

Where's the catch

- Naturally there are a few restrictions.
- All rooms are subject to availability. This is especially true of family rooms.
 - You need to pay the single room supplement (don't ask me why, that's Hilton's rule).
 - Your partner is entitled to bed and breakfast but not dinner or lunch. If your partner wants to join you for Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, the Awards dinner on Saturday or Sunday lunch we can sort this for you.

- If your partner wants to come to dinner on Friday AND Saturday lunch AND the Awards dinner on Saturday AND Sunday lunch then it's cheaper to pay for two normal delegates.

I'm interested, so show me some figures

Two people sharing a room pay
 $2 \times £145 = £290$
 One person in a single room
 + 2 nights B & B for partner
 $£165 + £50 = £215$

I'm still interested, so what do I do?

For more details contact Marie Harper on 0870 321 6017 or e-mail her on conferences@hbauk.com. We will be making a 'partner' booking form available soon.

Blackpool & Beyond

Preparations for the 2009 Spring Conference (Blackpool 27th – 29th March) continue apace and we hope to announce a fairly firm list of seminars shortly.

For those who like such things, yes – we will be organising a tram ride. Add to this all the fun of Blackpool and some special deals and you can see that we're in for another great weekend.

But that's not all. We can now reveal the venues for the 2010 and 2011 Spring Conferences.

Scotland for 2010

In 2010 we will be at the Normandy Hotel in Renfrew. This is close to Glasgow airport and is part of Cosmopolitan Hotels, which includes the Erskine Bridge, which hosted the 2002 Spring Conference.

The hotel is close to the Erskine Bridge, which we will use for overspill if necessary. If you do find yourself in the overspill, life will be much easier than usual as the hotels run a free 24 hour shuttle bus service between the two venues.

There is also a free shuttle bus service to and from the airport. The Normandy has a number of features not normally seen at HBA conferences including free wi-fi in public areas and sensible bar prices.

The dates are 26th – 28th March.

2011 in Kent

2011 will see us at the Ramada Hotel in Maidstone which is close to the M20 and set in 26 acres of parkland with tennis courts, a golf course and a lake. Inside it has a top flight David Lloyd branded leisure centre and some state of the art seminar rooms. Again, bar prices are on the sensible side (no hotel has bar prices that can be described as 'low').

The dates are 25th – 27th March.

For further information please contact Marie on 0870 321 6017 e-mail conferences@hbauk.com

Hospedia Acquisition of Premier Abandoned

Soon after the sale of Patientline UK Ltd was announced, as reported in the previous issue of On Air, the HBA was invited to a meeting with the new owners, Hospedia. The HBA Chief Executive, Phil Moon and I travelled to Hospedia's – formerly Patientline's – headquarters in Slough to meet with the Chairman of Hospedia, Tim Sherwood and with Ben Packman, the Commercial Director of Premier Telesolutions, the rival to Patientline that Hospedia planned to acquire subject to clearance by competition authorities.

We were assured that Hospedia will continue to be open to hospital radio.

Tim and Ben gave us an insight of Hospedia's plans and prospects. Hospedia's bankers had committed, subject to approval by the OFT of the takeover of Premier, to further investment of £12m over about eighteen months, during which time it was planned that 'T1' BSUs would be replaced at sites where the Trusts committed to using additional services. Working T1 BSUs made redundant on those sites could be redeployed at the sites where the Trusts were unwilling to make such commitment. The extra investment would also have allowed Hospedia to seek contracts at hospitals where there are currently no 'patient power' systems and incumbent hospital radio stations would have been offered a channel on the system.

The 'Patientline' branding will gradually be removed from BSUs.

Regional quarterly review meetings



by Geoff Fairbairn
Chairman
HBA Patient Entertainment
System Subcommittee

with 'stakeholders' will be convened, at which hospital radio representation will be welcome.

Hospedia might sponsor one of the HBA Hospital Radio Awards, although the company emphasised that the priority was to improve the service and systems.

The HBA told Hospedia that Patientline's patient registration is a barrier to usage and therefore to

earning revenue. We suggested that the arrangement was less than optimal but Tim's opinion of it wasn't as high as ours and described it in somewhat stronger terms.

'Self-registration' (by patients using keyboard and monitor) had been withdrawn at 24 sites the previous week. Hospedia is considering introducing 'reverse registration': patients wishing to register would be called back by the call centre rather than waiting in a queue.

More flexible pricing arrangements are being considered, including different tariffs in different hospitals and even in different wards within same hospitals – for example, an hourly rate for TV in dialysis units.

Ben Packman offered to address delegates after the HBA AGM in Solihull on October 11th.

On October 7th, the Office of Fair Trading referred the anticipated acquisition to the Competition Commission. Ben was unable to come to Solihull because of the workload imposed because of the referral.

Following the referral to the Competition Commission and subsequent discussions with the company's advisors and backers, Premier concluded that the merger could not proceed. The Competition Commission cancelled its investigation on 30th October after assurances had been received from Hospedia and Premier that the proposed acquisition had been abandoned.

Ofcom Reviews 070 Numbers

The deadline for responses to an Ofcom consultation on 070 personal phone numbers passed on 7th January, 2009.

Amongst the recommendations in its review of telephone numbering in 2006, Ofcom stated its intention to close the 070 range and migrate users to the 06 range. This was because of the very high level of complaints in late 2005 that arose from significant scamming activity on the range.

In the current review, Ofcom's analysis of the consumer detriment and of the costs and benefits of different options to address this has lead the regulator to conclude that closing the 070 number range is not a proportionate response and that the costs associated with migration

significantly outweigh any benefits gained from closing the range.

Ofcom's consultation included a number of proposed measures. One was removal of the requirement for pre-call announcements (PCAs). Ofcom had imposed these in September 2007 but – because of the impact of PCAs on alarm systems and associated risks to life and property – has not enforced them since December the same year.

Another was whether providers of specific services using 070 numbers such as Hospedia and Premier should continue to be permitted to use 070 or required to use another range. If these providers wished to continue earning revenue from incoming calls, this change would dictate the use of 09

'Premium Rate' ranges. Ofcom believes that this would result in a 10-20% reduction in call volumes.

Few responses to the consultation published to date on Ofcom's web site have expressed strong views on whether Hospedia and Premier should continue to be allowed to use 070 ranges, though there is reason to believe that not all responses have been published.

Ironically, the response believed to have been submitted by FlexTel – the major supplier of 070 numbers including those used by the HBA but not of those used by Hospedia of Premier – to the consultation includes the opinion that Hospedia and Premier should be required to use 09 ranges.

Geoff Fairbairn

Trusts Responsible for Contingency

One of Radio St Helier's local MPs tabled Ordinary Written questions to the Secretary of State for Health and received the following answers.

19th June 2008

Mr. Burstow (Sutton & Cheam): 'To ask the Secretary of State for Health ... what assessment his Department has made of the contingency arrangements NHS trusts have made in the event that the supplier of their telecommunications infrastructure for patients is unable to fulfil its contractual obligations.'

Mr. Bradshaw (Health Services Minister): 'The Department is not party to the contracts made with any of the companies that provide the bedside telephone service to patients and it has not made an assessment of the contingency arrangements national health service trusts have in place, should their service provider be unable to fulfil its contractual obligations.'

'It is the responsibility of the NHS trust to consider contingency arrangements, should it wish to continue to provide this service to its patients.'

'The bedside telephone is an additional service to that which existed

by Geoff Fairbairn Chairman HBA Patient Entertainment System Subcommittee

in the past so alternatives already exist in hospitals. It is still possible for relatives and friends to contact a hospital via its main switchboard, and then be transferred to the nurses' station on a ward to inquire about their relative's health, as they have always been able to do in the past.

'Mobile phone usage is allowed in specified areas of the hospital and payphones also exist as an alternative for patients.'

2nd July 2008

Mr. Burstow: 'To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, Official Report, column 1160W, on NHS: telecommunications, what assessment has been made of the impact on the provision of radio and entertainment for patients in the event of the contractor ceasing to support the contracted for service.'

Mr. Bradshaw: 'The Department has not assessed the impact on the

provision of radio and entertainment for patients in the event of the contractor ceasing to support the contracted for service. The Department is not party to the contracts, which are made between the national health service trust and its chosen provider.

'It is the responsibility of individual NHS trusts to assess the impact of its provider ceasing to support the service and have in place a contingency plan should this happen.'

'The bedside entertainment systems are additional to the provision of services that existed in the past and alternatives could be made available, such as hospital payphones and free televisions in day rooms.'

The advice from the HBA to every station that relies on a bedside entertainment system is still that you should engage with your hospital trust.

- Does your trust have a contingency plan in case of the bedside entertainment service being withdrawn for any reason?

- Can you assist the trust by advising on a contingency plan?

- What steps would your trust take to ensure the continued provision of radio – at the least – to its in-patients?

DH Issues New Mobile Guidance

On 6th January, the Department of Health issued new best practice guidance on the use of mobile phones in NHS hospitals, offering an evidence base for each NHS Trust to use when compiling its mobile phone policy. It supersedes previous guidance.

The DH says it wishes to reflect the rapidly developing principles of patient choice in the matter of mobile phone usage and that the working presumption should be that patients will be allowed the widest possible use of mobile phones in hospitals, including on wards, where the local risk assessment indicates that such use would not represent a threat to patients' own safety or that of others, the operation of electrically sensitive medical devices in critical care situations and levels of privacy and dignity.

Hospedia had warned the HBA that relaxation of the restrictions on the use of mobiles in ward areas would adversely affect the company's revenues, and that its service would have to be withdrawn at 'marginal' sites.

The DH guidance provides background information on legal considerations including patient privacy and dignity, patient confidentiality, child protection, nuisance and health and safety risk from unapproved devices; for the use of NHS Trusts when conducting their local risk assessment and formulating their own mobile phone usage policy. Trusts are advised to have a written policies regarding the use of mobile and camera phones, cameras and video recording devices.

Concession agreements entered into by patient entertainment systems

providers and hospital trusts in England under the Patient Power Project require trusts to prohibit the use of mobile phones within their hospitals in circumstances where it is lawful and there is proper reason to do so, including but not limited to the risk of interference with the functioning of medical equipment or the care of patients.

Few Trusts appear to have made immediate decisions about whether policies will be changed. Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and Scunthorpe General are reported to be continuing to ban mobiles in ward areas, whilst Mayday Hospital in Croydon is now allowing the use of mobiles in the entrances of wards, hospital corridors, the maternity department, reception areas, lobbies and the hospital grounds.

Can You Help?

Whipps Cross Hospital Radio desperately needs an Echo MIA Soundcard of the older design – before the Midi option. It will only have one slot on the edge connector. We need one to match the card we have but they seem to have been phased out some years ago.

Has anyone got one for sale or swap? Please contact Phil Hughes on 07740 466973

Hospital Broadcasting Week

Hospital Broadcasting Week is fast approaching – and this time it's even longer! The actual 'week' will be launched with the National Hospital Radio Awards on Saturday, March 28th and will run through to Monday, April 6th.

Chris Stevens and the team at Devaweb are again busily preparing sweepers, jingles and promos for the week. TM Studios, based in Dallas, are also supplying a couple of extra sung jingles too this year.

Devaweb and TM Studios have long been supporters of Hospital Radio and we again thank them for their support. The jingles, sweepers, idents and promos will be available soon via the Devaweb website. Keep checking the official HBA website and HBA Announce for confirmation once they're available.

The aim of the week, as usual, is to raise awareness of the good work being carried out by volunteers right across the UK. Last year, as well as plenty of local media coverage, the week also attracted national newspaper attention and is a useful reminder of the work that we're all doing. Many stations use it as an additional push to attract new members, or for fundraising or for other special programming.

A Few Tips to make Hospital Broadcasting Week work for you:

1 Some station's invite in local dignitaries (the Mayor, Hospital Chief Exec, MPs etc) to co-present their nightly request show – if you're lucky they might even be willing to go out on the wards with you, collecting request.

2 It's a good time to arrange a street collection or a display about your station at a local supermarket – celebrating the week and the work of your volunteers.

3 Contact your local newspaper to see if they'd consider doing an article on you, promoting your work and appealing for new members.

4 If your local football club is playing at home during the week itself, ask them to give the station a couple of mentions through the tannoy – every little helps raise your profile.

5 Many stations already produce marathon broadcasts, the Easter weekend is a good opportunity to do something extra.

6 Organise an Easter Egg Hunt or a charity 'pub quiz' type night in a local

pub or the hospital club.

7 Link up with a local shop and give away Easter Eggs either on air or on the Children's Ward – make sure you tell the local newspaper you're doing this, or take your own photos and send them a copy afterwards.

8 Some stations produce a chart of their most request artists of all time – again the Easter Weekend is a good opportunity to run the chart.

9 Why not produce a documentary about Hospital Radio and specifically about your station – running the programme a couple of times during Hospital Broadcasting Week itself.

10 A live OB from different parts of your local area always helps raise the profile, if you have the resources and manpower to do it.

... and there's that old favourite of linking up with other Hospital Radio Stations across the UK, highlighting the work of volunteers across the country.

Finally, don't forget as well as telling you local media what you're up to, remember to also let us here at On Air know about them too. Take plenty of photos too and send them to us for a later edition.

CAPTION COMPETITION



Hospital Radio presenters are never lost for words, so I am sure you can come up with a super caption for the above photo of Steve Caddy, which was taken by Alistair MacDonald at the last Autumn Conference. We will print the most amusing caption but the Editor's decision is final.

Thinking Pink



Jeff Kirby of Radio Calderdale is pictured with one of the patients at the Calderdale Royal Hospital in Halifax during Think Pink Week. Jeff, by the way, is pictured on the left!

Rookwood Sound in Soap

When is a Hospital Radio Station not a Hospital Radio Station? The answer in Wales is when it is Cwm FM.

For almost ten years, the popular Welsh language soap opera 'Pobol y Cwm' has used the Rookwood Sound Studio complex at Rookwood Hospital in Cardiff as the home of its Community Radio Station 'Cwm FM'.

Pobol y Cwm in Welsh means 'The Valley People'. The fictional village of Cwmderi is located in the vicinity of Cwm Gwendraeth near Carmarthen in South Wales. The first episode was broadcast on BBC 1 Wales on 16 October 1974, making it the BBC's longest running television soap opera. In 1982 the programme transferred to S4C with the BBC still producing.

Originally, broadcasts went out just once a week but from 1988 it followed the 'soap' trend and went to five nights a week. At the same time, an English subtitled omnibus edition was also introduced. Today there are 260 episodes broadcast each year.

Filming is carried at the purpose built set situated at the rear of BBC Wales building in Llandaff, Cardiff. However, location shooting, such an important part of the production, utilises various sites in or around the Welsh capital.

The process from script to screen usually takes about six months. For Rookwood Sound, this usually entails



several visits by the various directors the programme uses to consider the camera angles and scenarios. Usually the main Studio 1 is used; this means that prior to filming copious instructions have to be given to ensure our 24 hour output is not disrupted. Recent episodes have featured Studio 2 and the Record Library – even the corridor and Foyer areas have featured.

Many of the well-known faces in British drama have been involved in the programme through its history; perhaps the most famous is Iwan Gruffudd who started his acting career on the series. It is also little known that Rookwood Sound's Chief Executive Steve Allen

spent numerous stints as an extra on the show.

If after reading this, your life desires another piece of 'soap' that goes beyond Albert Square and Coronation Street those of you with SKY digital can watch it Monday to Friday at 8pm on Channel 134. The English subtitled omnibus edition is broadcast every Sunday from around 4.30pm.

Those of us in Wales have numerous options on Freeview, Satellite and Cable to follow the events that can only happen in the world of 'soap' or that is what we like to think. As long as one day we are not involved in a plot to blow-up the studios!



June's Travels and Visits 2008



Being the last On Air of the year combined with the first of 2009, I thought it might be nice to do a June's travels in pictures. I have had probably the busiest year ever and in particular since September, which is fantastic and important both for me and the HBA as we believe that we should be out seeing you all and hearing about what you are doing in your communities. I apologise that it has not been possible to include photos of each and every station that I have visited but I am sure you appreciate it is difficult to fit all of them in and unfortunately I do not have photos from all the visits.

Thank you to everyone who has invited me and I am sorry that in some cases it has not been possible to get to you – purely because they have clashed with other things going on but hopefully I will be able to put that right in 2009.

Since the last On Air, I visited several stations up to the end of the year including Mid Downs, Valley Park Radio, Dartford, Hospital Radio Bedside, Borders Hospital Radio and Stoke Mandeville. Regrettably I missed out on a visit to Guildford to celebrate their 40th anniversary, something I was looking forward to but unfortunately like so many people I managed to get the dreaded flu bug. I already have some visits booked for 2009, so if you know any dates you would like me to come along then please let me know just as soon as you can.

I was delighted that I could spend a few days in what I still regard as home and our station of York and my Christmas programme included a link up with Barnet, Guildford, Clwyd and

Melrose – that was absolutely fantastic and I am grateful to you all for taking part.

In the mean time, the requests for Long Service Certificates are coming thick and fast and the total for 2008 was 414 – magnificent by any standards and the years accumulated from all those certificates was 8,030 – a record! (In 2007 I produced 278 certificates) – I have been asked to record those certificates issued in On Air by number of years served which I think is a good idea. I will start to do that in the New Year when I start my new set of records. It is so important for the HBA and for me to recognise the wonderful work everyone is doing in the name of

Hospital Radio and I will continue to aim to publish the names of all those in receipt of an award. I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work, dedication and commitment.

I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and I wish you all a really good New Year 2009. I hope that 2009 brings us all a better and more prosperous year than 2008 has been too.

I look forward to seeing many of you as is possible in the coming weeks and months

Sincere best wishes to you all

June

January 2009



Phil Moon and I visit Sir Terry Wogan in his BBC Radio 2 studio

June's Travels and Visits 2008

Here are just some of the Long Service certificates I presented over the last year ...



Rookwood Sound



Mike and Ann Manley with their 30 year certificates



Presentation at Hospital Radio in Grimsby



Radio Isca in Exeter with their long service certificates



Hospital Radio Hastings pose for the camera



Hospital Radio in Worcester proudly displaying their certifi-

June's Travels and Visits 2008



The conference visit to Radio Aire



Certificate presentation at Radio Huddersfield



Visiting Mid Downs Hospital Radio for presentations



Hospital Radio Barnet's 30th anniversary quiz



Presentation at Borders Hospital Radio



Radio Glan Clwyd Open Day

June's Travels and Visits 2008



Visiting Radio Allerton



A visit to Radio Allerton from Spring conference attendees



Doing the honours at Radio Cherwell



Jan and Andy man the HBA stand at the 2008 SBES Exhibition



Smiling faces at Radio Royal in Bradford



Seaside Hospital Radio in the spotlight

View from the Basement

Our columnist, Brett Ellis and his unique view on life ... it's no laughing matter



Scripting shows never worked for me. I found the process time consuming and ultimately unsatisfactory. Stuttering and spluttering my vocabulary on the road to divulging information left me feeling linguistically inept and the listeners devoid of feeling for my abilities behind the mic.

I now go into the studio unprepared and write down single words linked to current stories. 'Madonna divorce', 'Transvestites', 'Chas and Dave' were all used last night in the ingeniously titled 'Brett Ellis Show'. Note the three are not linked. Madonna never divorced Chas and Dave and they are not transvestites ... to the best of my knowledge anyhow.

I find my best links are true life yarns relaying others misfortune. The enthusiasm of a truism told from the horse's mouth is so much funnier as it is primary, first hand information. The listener appreciates the personal touch and it can be a catalyst for further mirth making debate.

My favourite witness of misfortune took place in a Hastings nightclub called the Crypt about 15 years ago. The Crypt does what it says on the tin. Located in a sweaty basement/ cave below street level it is wasteland of moshers, emos and rockers with a dance floor that can get slippery within a nanosecond of a punter jumping on board.

I was 'dancing' with some fellow drunkards as I glanced over to the raised floor in the centre of the club. People were slipping and sliding all over as the bouncers waded through and created a human cordon to allow the maintenance staff to hoist up a flooded manhole in the centre of the floor. The music was blaring and strobes were causing fits as I watched a teenage girl, obviously in love with herself preening and dancing evocatively to any guy who glanced her way.

The security 'cordon' temporarily broke and as if in slow mo, Ms. Lovemyself stepped back and one leg disappeared violently down into the urine flavoured waste. Her other leg ended up by her neck as she was dragged soaking wet and in agony from her potential watery grave. The ambulance arrived shortly after and those who witnessed the event were still wiping tears from their eyes as she was carried out on a stretcher. The accident didn't kill her. The shame sure as hell did.

Only last week I floored a seven year old after punching him at the mighty Barnet/ Accrington Stanley (who are they?) match. Picture the scene. It's 1-1 with 15 minutes to go and we are awarded a penalty. Our star striker duly misses and the Accers fans are quick to point out our misfortune. Then two minutes later we score a cracker from open play. Being the wind up merchant I purport to be, I run along the terrace to cheer toward the away fans. A number of others join me. At the end of my celebratory jig, I heartily punch the air in jubilation before connecting mid flow with something boney. Turns out it was a seven year old child's chin. To say his father was unimpressed by my accidental KO would be fair. Others around me found it hilarious so at least something good came of it.

My wife cleaning her car with a Brillo pad as she 'thought it would take the dirt off'. A drunken friend smearing half an industrial sized tube of Deep Heat (when drunk and attempting to 'impress' a local Spanish girl) around his flatmates cat's backside. The cat then attempted to rub it off by lifting its hind legs over its head and careering at 20mph around the front room on a marble floor in an attempt to clean its posterior. It didn't work but the marble floor sparkled for weeks afterwards.

As a child in Italy, myself and my brother dug a huge hole in the sand on Bologna beach then covered the cavity with a piece of newspaper and some thin sand. We then watched with hilarity as an Italian woman fell into said hole and sprained her ankle. I still deny it was me to this day. My brother took the rap due to my ability to lie with more aplomb than he.

So we go full circle. Your listener will number many within their ranks those who are in hospital through such unfortunate acts. Some self inflicted like the man who became impaled 'downstairs' on his Henri Hoover. That cheeky smiling face with its 'come to bed' eyes can be persuasive ... so I hear.

Is it right to laugh at others misfortune? Probably not. Would others laugh at me should I ever conjoin man with machine and become acquainted with Henri Hoover as someone accidentally punches me and I then collapse down a manhole? You're damned right they would. Make the most of it while it happens to 'them'.

One day it will be you ...

www.brett-ellis.net
brettellis99@yahoo.co.uk

COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 126 28th February, 2009

Goodbye To All That

'Goodbye To All That' is the title for the final programme to the Royal Hospital Haslar from our studios at Radio House, which has now been put back from 22 November 2008 to 21 February 2009 and there is still doubt about our proposed opening date to start broadcasting from our new studios adjacent to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

We aim to commence broadcasting to the War Memorial Hospital three weeks after closing the doors at Radio House but with all of the work still to do that date could slip.

Did we really think it could have been easy to build a new studio in an old building and everything go to plan!

When you look to having a working party every other Saturday it seems a long time but it means you only get two days of work a month and when you fill two rooms with all of your tools and materials, there is not a lot of room for the willing volunteers to show off their building and electronic skills.

We are moving from a three storey cottage into what was three rooms before we started work.

We have transformed those three rooms into a racks room, two studios, an office and a CD library – at least, that is what the empty spaces are for.

At present, we have one nearly working studio and a room full of lots of electronic equipment, which I am assured will allow the patients at the War Memorial Hospital lovely and relaxing music.

Meanwhile at Radio House, vinyl has been put onto CD and computers to save on space – it seems a shame but



that little box called a computer can do wonderful things. If only all members could be convinced of the convenience of 21st century technology.

Our new studios will be leaner and more modern than those we have been used to and if the engineers have soldered the right wires together the patients should have better service with no squeaky chairs in the background nor the booming voice coming from the next studio – there is enough insulation in the new studios to sink the proverbial battle ship.

And there are several members who will be glad to say 'Goodbye to all that' and have to go back to going shopping every other Saturday but they will miss the camaraderie and the breakfasts!



Glan Clwyd Open Day

In October 2008, Radio Ysbyty Glan Clwyd held an open day. The last time we held an open day was 2006 it was disappointing but undeterred, our volunteers pulled together and worked hard to create a day that was exciting, eventful and enjoyable for all.

The purpose of the day was to raise awareness of the hospital radio service, attract new members, invite people to visit our newly refurbished studio and recently installed Myriad system in action. The climax of the day was the annual grand raffle draw, which was held in the hospital foyer, and a record breaking 4000 tickets were sold!

We were live on air from 10am until 8pm, with Brenda Jones starting proceedings with a special edition of her



Sunshine Hours show, followed at midday by the 'Loose Women of Glan Clwyd', Carol Nesbitt and Hazel Lynes. Presenter Mel Smith presented a special 'Magic of the Musicals' programme in the evening.

Visitors were met by our OB vehicle outside the hospital entrance and displays with photographs and information filled the hospital foyer. Guests included our local assembly member Ann Jones, Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain Jones (Mayor of Rhyl), Richard Smith (A to Z of Pop), local singer Mick Edwards and June Snowden who was interviewed on air by Andy Hayes, who asked her why she became involved with hospital radio on a national level. June then chose some of her favourite records to be played.

It was a great event and much more successful than I was expecting – it is surprising what you can do with an enthusiastic committee and some very dedicated members!

New Studio at HWD



HWD in West Yorkshire, opened their newly refurbished studio at the end of last year. Pictured (left) Steven Webb cuts the ribbon to officially open the new studio at HWD Hospital Radio in Dewsbury, which has been named in honour of his late father, Stan. He is assisted by HWD Chairman, Mike Binns and Chief Nurse, Tracey McErlain-Burns. Pictured (right) Steven Webb and volunteers toast the success of the new studio at HWD Hospital Radio

Radio Redhill Round-up



For the past 25 years, Nigel Gray has been Radio Redhill's Chairman and under his leadership it has become one of the UK's leading hospital radio stations.

Nigel was recently presented with an award for his long service to Radio Redhill by station co-founder, Andrew Fowler. In an entertaining speech in front of the station's members, Andy remembered that when Nigel first took over Chairmanship of Radio Redhill, Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister, Ronald Reagan was US President, the famous racehorse Shegar had just been kidnapped and BBC Breakfast Television had only recently been introduced, swiftly followed by ITV's TV-am. Andy praised Nigel's total commitment to

Radio Redhill as a trainer, programmer, broadcaster and as Chairman over a period of a quarter of a century.

A collection organised by station Secretary, Sue Mason-Brown, who through the auspices of the Executive Committee, managed to collect a considerable sum whilst keeping Nigel out of the picture and with Nigel known for keeping an eye on everything that goes on at the Radio Redhill, that was no easy task!

.....

A record number of Radio Redhill Long Service Awards were announced recently and members were presented with the certificates during a ceremony at the East Surrey Hospital.

Vice Chairman, Alan Stidder and Secretary, Sue Mason-Brown, were presented with 30 year certificates. Station Engineer, Ian Wilson, received his award for 15 year's service while Head of Fundraising, Dave Francis, was presented with his five year certificate.

Nicky Quantick, who takes on the arduous task of the charity station's mailout every month, will be presented with her 20 year certificate and broadcasters Colin Hastings and Carolyn Howie will be given their 10 year certificates later. Last, but certainly not least, Madeleine Goumas will also

receive five year award shortly.



BBC Newsreader, Nicholas Owen, was the special guest in Holmwood Ward at the East Surrey Hospital recently. He presented gifts to patient Mrs Freda Smith who had passed a musical milestone when she selected the 200,000th musical item to be played on Radio Redhill's patients' request programme.

Freda from Warlingham chose the Daniel O'Donnell number 'Footsteps' and received a special certificate and gift vouchers from Nicholas and discovered that she had much in common with the popular broadcaster. They both love the classical music of Rachmaninov.

What I've Learnt

Matthew Hulbert

Vice Chairman of Castle Mead Radio

Make Good Use of Your Local Newspaper



I remember exactly when I first saw the by-line 'By Mathew Hulbert' on an article. It was December 1995, I was a mere slip of a lad aged 15 and it was in my local church magazine 'Parish News' in Barwell, Leicestershire. I'd not long come back from a visit to see my sister at her new home in Bahrain (she now lives in the wonderful city of Dubai, also in the United Arab Emirates) and I'd written a short article about the trip and the Christian lessons I'd learnt on it. On seeing that article published in that magazine I decided, on the spot, that I wanted to have a career in journalism. I'd always thought the idea was romantic.

I think it's due to me being a big fan of Superman as a kid ... OK and now as well. Not so much all of the flying around and wearing figure-hugging tights you understand but rather, his being a reporter at the gloriously titled 'Daily Planet.' He and Lois Lane were the star reporters, always chasing a story, always where the action was, always competing for the front-page by-line.

The road to a career in journalism isn't and I believe, should never be, an easy one. You have to earn your stripes (oh my goodness I sound just like my dad – how did that happen?)

In 1997, aged 17, I joined Hinckley's own hospital radio station, Castle Mead Radio.

At my Further Education college in Hinckley I wrote articles for its magazine (including an interview with the librarian; yes, this was truly Pulitzer Prize winning stuff) and later, at Nottingham Trent University, where I was studying Broadcast Journalism, I wrote a weekly column for the student newspaper and read the news on the student radio station. Somewhere in between all of this I also fitted in two work placements at my local weekly newspaper The Hinckley Times.

Not only was this an eye opener (to see the great work done by a small team in getting loads of great local stories and putting together something that was always worth reading) but it also set me up well for when I became

Castle Mead Radio's Publicity Officer. I got us in the paper on a number of occasions because I knew how to write a good press release and I had good relations with the staff on the paper.

About four months ago I received an e-mail from the Editor of The Hinckley Times, a great guy called Simon Holden, asking me if I'd like to write a monthly column for the free weekly paper they also produce, called The Hinckley Herald and Journal – which is delivered to more than 30,000 homes in South West Leicestershire. Of course, I jumped at the chance! What a fantastic way of promoting the great work of all of our wonderful volunteers at Castle Mead Radio and of Hospital Radio in general.


I look forward to writing it each and every month.

Imagine how surprised I was when, a month or so later, I received another e-mail from Simon telling me they were revamping The Hinckley Times website and would I consider writing a regular blog for it? Is The Pope a Catholic? My answer to Simon was Yes, Yes, Yes. Well, not literally as I would've sounded like a bit of a prat saying that but you get my drift.

(You can read my blog here: www.hinckleytimes.net)


The fact that all of this, as well as a career as a Broadcast Journalist in Commercial Radio, sprung out of a small article I wrote as a 15 year old is a testament not to any extra special talent but rather to hard work, perseverance and, yes, luck.

Over and above that I believe all of us involved in Hospital Radio should get to know the editorial staff at our local newspapers. More often than not they are decent, hard-working people who, given the chance and the right material, would love to promote Hospital Radio within the pages of their publication. Go on, give them a call.




quality digital audio

levellers via local dealers




**Who controls
your audio levels?**




**Not something
Audessence customers
worry about!**

Automatic gain control over incredible capture range of +/-20dB and 'brick wall' limiting provides consistent great sound.

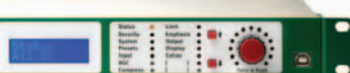


PodBlaster –
super price; up to 4 channels in 1-µ


ALPS-3 – with IP, GPIO control



ALPS-2 – front panel control



ALPS-1 – tamper-proof, failsafe

Call your local dealer for immediate trial of our  **compliant range with models to suit your need and budget!**

www.audessence.com

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Wycombe HR Celebrate



Jenny and Em

It was on a Monday evening, 2nd October 1967 to be precise, that a group of friends gathered in the radio room at Wycombe Hospital to launch the first programme. It was to go out at 8pm and they called it 'Monday Date At Eight' borrowing the title from an old BBC Home Service programme of the 1960s.

In 2007, Wycombe Hospital Radio celebrated their 40th anniversary broadcasting from the same room as they did all those years ago but the system by which they distribute the programmes has undergone a radical change from those early days.

It is 40 years on from the very first programme on Wycombe Hospital Radio but some of the original members can still be heard on the airwaves at Wycombe today! Dave Rimell broadcasts a Sunday morning show, whilst Ray Wingrove still presents 'Monday Date at Eight' and finally Keith Bowden can be heard every morning from 7am to 10am. To mark the occasion, Keith presented a 40th anniversary show on 30th November. Congratulations go to all three DJs for their commitment to the station!

Over the past year Wycombe Hospital Radio has had a flurry of new members joining and hope to soon be able to fill the whole week with presenter-led shows!

Patients Didn't Miss Out On Christmas

Patients in Warrington Hospital didn't miss out on Christmas events. Radio General, Warrington Hospital's radio station, were out and about over the Christmas period broadcasting live events back to the patients.

On Friday, 19th December patients were able to listen live from the Parr Hall, to the Christmas Concert by the Warrington Male Voice Choir with their guests the Bactiguard Wire Brass. On the following Saturday, Jim Jefferies' People & Places programme came live from the Winter Wonderland at Walton Hall Gardens.

On Sunday 21st, they were back at the Parr Hall for the Warrington Light Opera's Christmas Gala Concert.

On Christmas Eve 'The Glory of Christmas', a concert of seasonal carols and music was broadcast live from Bethesda Evangelical Church Stockton Heath.

Special programmes were broadcast on Christmas Day and Boxing Day and on the following Sunday rugby fans didn't miss out when they had live coverage of the Warrington Wolves v Wigan Warriors.



Jim Jefferies interviewing Santa whilst broadcasting his 'People and Places' programme live from Walton Hall Gardens Winter Wonderland

Keith Inman, Secretary, said 'Christmas is a difficult time if people are in hospital. By presenting these Outside Broadcasts and extra programmes over Christmas we hope that the patients can feel be part of what's going on around the town.

If you wish to pass on your best wished to a patient in the Warrington Hospital the Radio General's Request line is 01925 662122'.

Two Shows, Two Stations

Have you ever broadcast two different radio programmes on two different radio stations at the same time? Well on 4th April, local commercial radio station presenter Ian Dore did just that; he broadcast the last two hours of his Bath FM breakfast show from the studios of Bath Hospital



Pictured, from left, Tim Lewis, Ian Dore, Alice Corp and Chairman, Ray James

Radio and presented a separate show to the hospital at the same time. The two stations simulcast links so listeners on the FM station heard the same as listeners in the Royal United Hospital for Hospital Broadcasting Week. Ian Dore said this is 'a technical nightmare, I've never seen this many microphones, it's like a press conference'. His co-presenter and Bath FM Programme Controller Tim Lewis said 'It was fun'. They played an interview of Jack Douglas from the Carry On film series especially for the patients in hospital, spoke to Alice Corp from the Wednesday Request team about her success at the National Hospital Radio Awards where she was commended in the Newcomer category. In the picture from left, Tim Lewis, Ian Dore, Alice Corp and Chairman Ray James

Darran Huish
Bath Hospital Radio

20th Birthday Celebrations

Spire Hospital Radio were 20 years old last August so old and new members met up to exchange tales.



Past and present members of Spire Hospital Radio meet up

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Murder Mystery Night Raises Funds for GHR

NHS Grampian Sports Committee organised a Murder Mystery evening on 22nd November 2008 which was attended by 104 would be detectives – the proceeds of which were to be donated to Grampian Hospital Radio (GHR)

The venue for the event was the Health Service Social and Recreational Club in Aberdeen. Participants ate a two-course meal before settling down to the detective work.

The theatre group, Murder Most Fowl, led by Anne Douglas, brought the story to life. A man had been stabbed and the perpetrator had to be found. There were a number of suspects each of whom had their own motive for killing the victim and as the evening went on the motives multiplied as money, sex, property deals and wicked rituals began to link all of the suspects, all of them of course protesting their innocence. The 'police' led by DCI Helen Moron and her two feckless helpers questioned each suspect thus providing the assembled teams with many red herrings and the vital information needed to solve the crime.

Once the teams had deliberated and made their choice of who done it, there was a short intermission while the winning team was identified and then the explanations given to the assembled amateur detectives.

The interval provided an ideal opportunity for the raffle. The ticket sales squad, made up of GHR members, quickly set to work to ensure the evening's participants parted with their hard earned cash, which they very generously did and whilst the tickets were being prepared for the grand draw our very own treasurer weighed in with a last minute sales pitch which raised another £30.

Following the raffle draw, DCI Helen Moron (Anne Douglas) returned to reveal the culprit and announced the winning team. 'I have a cunning plan', the team led by Gerry McEneny and Richard Morrison were declared the winners having identified both the murderer and the motive.

The evening was then rounded off with music until midnight supplied by Grampian Hospital Radio.

Over the course of the evening in excess of £400 was raised for Grampian Hospital Radio. A big thank you to the teams and Nigel Firth, chair NHS Grampian Sports Committee for

their kind and valued support.

Brenda Massie

Secretary, Grampian Hospital Radio

Barclays Bank Doubles Money

The annual carol concert took place at the St Leonard's Social Club, Stafford on Wednesday 17 December. The Alstom Singers, with their musical director Cathy Garside and Stafford Orchestral Society, leader Peter Norris and conductor Paul Nevins provided the festive entertainment.

As with previous years Hospital Radio Stafford was invited to record the concert and conduct a raffle.

The amount raised was £219 and this amount has been matched by Barclays Bank, Stafford through their 'Pound for Pound' charity award scheme, thereby increasing the total raised to £438.

The recording of the concert was played to the patients in Stafford and Cannock Hospitals on Christmas Eve and repeated throughout the festive period.



The HRS raffle team, from left to right: John Portman, Celia Portman, Bob Seaton, Alan Morrall and Richard Ellison

Update from MDR

Mid Downs Hospital Radio, which provides musical entertainment and information to patients and visitors at the Princess Royal Hospital complex, has a new website www.mdr.org.uk

The website tells you all about the station, its programmes and the activities that the Station is involved in around Mid Sussex and within the hospital

Sarah Melhuish, MDR Secretary in launching the new website said 'As a charity involved in entertaining members of the public using the hospital it is important that we provide a facility where people in the community can find out who we are and what we do'. She added, 'The website will also facilitate recruitment of new volunteers as the station is growing and we still want more people

to join us not only to play music but also to be part of the team which we need to run the Station'.

• • • • •

A special party was held to celebrate the commitment that many MDR supporters have given to the station. One of the highlights of the night was the long service awards presented by June Snowden to MDR Presenters Ann Bird and Mavis McLaren for 30 years of service. Peter Towner also received a 20 years service award. Long service awards for periods ranging from 5 to 20 years were also given to 26 other presenters and supporters of the station, all of whom received certificates.

In addition to the presentations, this celebratory event held at the St Francis Social and Sports Club involved raffles, music and dancing and games (including Pass the Parcel). Guests included Tim French from Its Magic Promotions.



Pictured, left to right, Julie Mewes with Ann Bird and Mavis McLaren receiving their 30 year certificates from June



June Snowden presents Peter Towner with his 20 year long service certificate

**COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 126
28TH FEBRUARY 2009**

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Celebrating 30 Years

Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio recently celebrated 30 years of broadcasting to patients and staff at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

To mark the huge milestone in the station's history, current and former members gathered for a special celebration and presentation of awards at 7.30pm on December 4th, exactly the time and date that the radio station started broadcasting to the patients of the hospital back in 1978.

Former members Cllr Dave Ralph and Cllr Denise Summers were present as was Mayor of Aylesbury, Penni Thorne and members of the Hospital Trust and the voluntary services department.

Members took a trip down memory lane as they shared some fond memories of their time at the station and some received long service awards from June Snowden.

June presented a 30 year certificate to the station as well as to Cllr Freda Roberts who was instrumental in getting the station on air.

Also receiving 30 year long service certificates were Dez Kay and Martin Kinch.

Mark Withey and current Chairman Matthew Nash received certificates for 20 years, Nick Sievwright for 15 years and Steve Andrews, Roy McNabb, Ralph Chadwick and Dave Gamage received 10 year certificates.

Presenters Faye and Mark Grantham presented a special request show during the evening and also interviewed some of our guests including June Snowden, Graham Ellis, Chairman of The Bucks Hospitals Trust, Ian Garlington, Director of Facilities and estates and former SMHR Chairmen Chris Long and Terry Meades.

Martin Kinch, who joined the station in January 1979, said 'It was a great to meet up again with some former members and members of the Hospital Trust. It was good to see June again and we are grateful to her for coming and presenting the long service awards. It was a lovely surprise to see DLT at the event. Dave gave a speech in which he pointed out how important he thought hospital radio was, he also remembered me interviewing him in our studio back in 1980 during a 50 hour sponsored programme.

'He reminisced about myself and Mark Withey going to Radio 1 back in 1993 to sit in with him while he presented his weekend show just a few

weeks before he resigned from the station.'

DLT came as a guest of Aylesbury Vale District Councillor Janet Blake, who recently donated £10,000 from the Community Chest fund towards the cost of the new studios.

Since 1978, many thousands of requests have been played not only for patients but also staff at the hospital.

It has attracted some high profile names into the studio along the way including the likes of Sir Jimmy Savile, Noel Edmonds and Conservative MP Norman Tebbit, who was interviewed by Martin in 1985 during which time his wife was receiving treatment at the hospital after being left disabled and wheelchair-bound for life following the IRA bombing of the 1984 Conservative Party conference in Brighton.

With the station set to move to its new studio in the near future, SMHR President Cllr Freda Roberts said it seemed a fitting time to celebrate such a noteworthy anniversary.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day seven days a week to patients and staff of the Hospital on 1575 am.

The radio station has its own website www.smhr.co.uk and in the early part of the year will be moving into new studios due to the redevelopment of the Hospital.

During the past 12 months nearly £40,000 has been raised to build the new studios. Chief fundraiser Stella Withey said that the money raised will go towards providing furniture and equipment for the new radio station premises and to help maintain the round the clock radio broadcasting facility for the benefit of the patients and staff of the hospital.

Valentine Celebrations

A Broughton man who has devoted over 25 years of his life to supporting hospital radio was presented with a certificate to thank him for his long service and continued support by the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire.

Wally Valentine, 57, from Broughton, received the award to mark his achievement from the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Lady Juliet Townsend, in October, in the hospital's staff restaurant.

Mr Valentine, who is married to Jane, is the fifth person to achieve the 25 year service landmark in Kettering Hospital Broadcasting Association's 31 year history.



Wally Valentine is presented with his 25 year long service certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Lady Juliet Townsend

Mr Valentine first became involved with hospital radio because he was interested in music and wanted to do something to help the local community.

Soon after joining the station in July 1983, Wally was invited to join the management committee and over the years he has played out most roles including Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Vice Chairman and Chairman, the position he currently holds.

He has presented a wide variety of programmes, assisted with the very popular two-way request programme with BBC Radio Northampton and provided commentary from Kettering Town Football Club games. Wally also launched Radio Diamonds at Rushden and Diamonds Football Club in 1995 which ran until 2004 with himself as its main presenter.

Throughout his time with hospital radio, he has motivated and supported a variety of fund raising ventures; be it seeking donations, organising raffles, running a tombola at a carnival stall, rattling a collecting tin in the rain or simply lying back in a hospital bed being pushed around the town collecting money in a bucket.

Kettering General Hospital's Director of Estates, James Hayward, said that Wally had been the driving force behind hospital radio for 25 years and his work has benefited countless thousands of patients.

**COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 126
28TH FEBRUARY 2009**

Countrywide ... news from the stations

New Studio for 2HR

After a hectic weekend of activity, Huddersfield Hospital Radio 2HR have a newly fitted studio using Sonifex S2 mixer and S2 solutions furniture to give a more open feel to the studio.

The equipment comprises of two CD players, two grams, two minidisk, Myriad plus four new AKG C3000B microphones. We now have a dedicated mix/minus fader for our link to the Glapham stadium for football and rugby commentary using an ISDN line.

.....

Huddersfield Hospital Radio, based at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, held a Presentation Event to recognise Long Service by its Volunteers when 18 members received certificates boasting a shared total of 370 years' service! Certificates were presented by June Snowden, who also presented to Chairman Ken Rafferty a plaque to mark 55 Years' Service by 2HR to the Hospitals of Huddersfield. 2HR currently broadcasts seven days a week to patients of the Royal Infirmary and provides a service to visually impaired matchgoers at the Glapham Stadium.

HRB's Annual Quiz Night

Thursday 19th February is the date for Hospital Radio Bedside's 2009 Quiz Night, hosted by Radio 2's Alan Dedicoat. It's at the Wessex Hotel in Bournemouth, with all proceeds going to support Hospital Radio Bedside, the local station which broadcasts to five hospitals in the East Dorset area.

Tickets cost £5 per person with a maximum of six people per team. For more information or to order tickets, please contact Juli Brown, via our website www.hospitalradiobedside.co.uk.

Zip Over the Clyde

Looking for a summer's day out with a bit of a thrill? Why not take part in a courageous event for charity. Radio Lollipop (Glasgow) is looking for brave people to join in the fun and Zip Slide over the River Clyde and raise money for children in hospital. The event will take place on 21st June next to SECC and will run from 10am until the last person does the slide. There will be a live road show with our regular presenters and live performances from a local dance group. For more information or to take part please email [zip@radiolollipop.org] or phone 07824612732.

Emma Wins Val Brown Award



Radio St Helier presenter Emma Haran is this year's winner of the hospital radio station's Val Brown Award, in recognition of her dedicated work for the charity.

Emma, who lives in Mitcham, was nominated for her work as secretary to Radio St Helier's executive committee over the past two years and for supporting the hospital station as a request collector, programme presenter and fundraiser. Emma has presented Smile, the station's programme for younger listeners, since 2006.

The Val Brown Award is presented each year in memory of a dedicated listener to the station. It is awarded, after a vote at the station's annual general meeting, to the member who has contributed the most to the station over the past 12 months.

Emma said, 'I was so surprised and delighted when they announced that I had won the award. I have been a member of Radio St. Helier for four years and it is such a rewarding experience. I joined to meet new people and help make a difference to the community while boosting my self confidence with a new hobby. I have never regretted it. There is a wonderful team of people here who help and support you and make it fun. I love meeting the patients when request collecting and knowing that in a small way you can make their day.'

'Music is a great way to cheer someone up and make them feel better, which is why hospital radio is so important. It is an honour to be recognised for my work, especially as

the award is voted for by fellow members of the station.'

Station Manager Kevin Horkan said, 'Emma has been a dedicated member of the Radio St Helier team. She stepped in as secretary when we needed someone to fill the role and has continued to be part of the ward visiting and programme presenting team as well.'

Radio St Helier broadcasts to the patients in St Helier Hospital. Listeners to the station enjoy a range of programmes, from request shows to specialist music.

New members are always welcome, and can contact the station on 020 8296 2259 or visit the website at www.radiosthelier.org.uk for more information. Minimum age for membership is 17 years old.

Pupils take to the Norwich airwaves

A city radio staffed by school students and youth organisations was back on air for a fifth spell. Exchange Radio 87.7FM, based at Hospital Radio Norwich, was on air from November 3 to November 6, between 9am and 7pm. It is broadcast 20 miles around Norwich but the radio station can be heard throughout Norfolk online at www.exchangeradio.co.uk. 28 schools and youth organisations from around the county took part. Each school or youth organisation had an hour-long slot. The students plan and produce their own programmes and have the chance to broadcast live as well as use some pre-recorded material.

Avenue Junior School, Norwich produced an Exchange Radio show for the first time on November 5. The theme for the hour was a tribute to head teacher Juris Zarin who is retiring soon after 20 years at the helm. Debbie Ridgeon, the teacher co-ordinating the Avenue show said that the children were really excited about being involved. Around 150 students, comprising half the school helped record items. We had a very difficult task choosing the 12 who went to the studio to do the live links.'

Avenue items include spoof Agony Aunts who help Mr Zarin face life after school and a spoof conker match between Mr Zarin and deputy head, Debbie Dinmore. The school's string and woodwind ensembles recorded musical items and two choirs sang Somewhere over the Rainbow and Tomorrow from Annie.

Obituaries

Martha Muir



One of our star presenters at Ayr Hospital Radio, Martha Muir, has died suddenly in Ayr Hospital on 12th December 2008.

Martha was the sister of Radio Manager Mike Manley and presented two programmes every week: a three hour programme on a Thursday and a two hour show on a Sundays. She was also our main Trainer for new volunteers.

Martha, at the age of 73, would go round wards and clinics talking to patients and collect requests, even though she was badly affected by arthritis and would sometimes have to use a wheelchair. But she was so keen on helping others and enjoyed entertaining them with music.

She went into hospital for a routine hernia operation but during the operation, surgeons found more than they bargained for and the family was sent for. Her brother Mike was with her till the end.

Most presenters gave a tribute to Martha in their programmes and many lovely words were spoken about her but one quote from Assistant Radio Manager Chris Berry was, 'Auntie Martha is a legend'.

Martha's Grandson, Jake Muir, has taken over her Sunday slot and said it's something he just had to do to keep her memory in the studio.

Mike Manley, Ayr Hospitals Radio

Reginald Mansfield



Reginald, a dedicated member of HR Maidstone for 15 years, passed away in Maidstone Hospital on 9th December, 2008. During his time at HRM he achieved three posts on the committee. Firstly, as a request collector co-ordinator where he went on to the wards collecting in his wheelchair. He spent hours talking to each and everyone trying to make their stay in hospital more bearable and was finally nicknamed 'Rolling Reggie'.

As Secretary, he was always bringing new members into the service. His attitude may have been a little strict but his intentions were good and always giving his time to new members, showing them what was expected of every member including the Chairman.

He finally obtained the position of Support Services, supporting, encouraging and introducing many new members. His fundraising was second to none; despite his many illnesses and was regularly shaking tins, terrorising members of the public to part with their money.

Reggie presented a Friday night show with his colleague Joyce Francis, playing a wide selection of music from Harry Secombe's Old Rugged Cross to Dick Emery's Willy. His show always seemed to have unofficial sponsored silences where the CD was blamed or the computer failing to work; probably despite having pressed the wrong button.

Reggie will always be a member of Hospital Radio Maidstone sure in the fact that as we continue to broadcast, he will be looking down to make sure we are behaving ourselves and putting the patients of the Maidstone Hospital first.

Phil Still, Chairman Hospital Radio Maidstone

Clive Berridge



Radio Forest Community Broadcasting in Epping is sad to report the untimely death of one of their long time presenters, Clive Berridge, just before Christmas at the age of 52.

Clive was the first presenter on our classic hits service, Forest Gold, placing the groundwork for a highly popular request show which is still running today. Clive was a published author, writing the Almshouses of London and the Layers guide to walking London. He illustrated his works, also being a highly skilled photographer. It was after his brother John, another long term Radio Forest member, passed away in 2004 that Clive's health began to suffer. He spent his last years in BUPA Care Homes. He will be remembered as an excellent presenter and a good friend.

Fellow Classic Hits and Forest Gold presenter Judy Hughes writes, 'I remember Clive for his friendly, gentle personality, his wonderfully relaxing voice and his self-effacing manner which, to some extent, belied the extent of his knowledge on many subjects, including music which he enjoyed so much. When I first joined Radio Forest, Clive presented the programme immediately before min, and he was always willing, when necessary, to stay around to untangle the mysteries of the computer system for me. I miss his chats about music and broadcasting in general and his quiet sense of humour.' Clive will be missed by everyone at Radio Forest but remembered for many years to come.



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.
Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (No. 2750147) and a charity (No. 1015501).
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 |
|-------------------------|--|--|---------------|------------------------|
| Regional Manager |  Dave Lockyer | 54 School Lane Higham Rochester Kent ME3 7JF | 0870 321 6005 | regions@hbauk.com |
| Anglia |  Julie Cox | 37 Alford Street Grantham NG31 8BX | 0870 765 9601 | anglia@hbauk.com |
| Home |  Donald McFarlane | 99 Hughenden Road High Wycombe Bucks HP13 5HT | 0870 765 9602 | homecounties@hbauk.com |
| London |  Ben Hart | | 0870 765 9603 | london@hbauk.com |
| Midlands |  David Tysoe | 51 Woodway Erdington Birmingham B24 OAH | 0870 765 9604 | midlands@hbauk.com |
| North |  Elliot Kennedy | 9 Dipton Road Hardwick Estate Stockton on Tees TS19 8JW | 0870 765 9605 | north@hbauk.com |
| Northern Ireland |  Davey Downes | 19 Collingbridge Drive Glengormley Newtonabbey BT36 7SX | 0870 765 9606 | nireland@hbauk.com |
| North West |  David McGealy | 40 Saffron Drive Moorside Oldham OL4 2PU | 0870 765 9607 | northwest@hbauk.com |
| Scotland |  Jim Simpson | 91 Braehead Way Bridge of Don Aberdeen AB22 8SD | 0870 765 9608 | scotland@hbauk.com |
| South |  Neil Ogden | 63 Franklin Avenue Tadley Hampshire RG26 4EZ | 0870 765 9609 | south@hbauk.com |
| South East |  Dave Abrey | 14 Park Drive Ingatestone Essex CM4 9DT | 0870 765 9611 | southeast@hbauk.com |
| Wales & West |  Steve Allen | 12 Heol Poyston Caerau Cardiff CF5 5LKX | 0870 765 9613 | waleswest@hbauk.com |
| Yorkshire |  Iain Lee | 37 The Meadows Messingham Scunthorpe DN17 3UD | 0870 765 9614 | yorkshire@hbauk.com |

Who to Contact on the Executive Committee



Chief Executive Phil Moon

82 Greenleaf Gardens, Polegate,
E Sussex BN26 6PH
Tel: **0870 321 6000**
e-mail: chief@hbauk.com
Main contact with statutory bodies.
Ambassadors



Deputy Chief Executive Iain Lee

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6014**
e-mail: deputychief@hbauk.com
Sub committee chairman.
Special projects



Treasurer Julie Cox

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6004**
e-mail: finance@hbauk.com
Financial matters (other than
subscriptions)



General Secretary Nigel Dallard

54 St. Annes Close, Badger Farm,
Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4LQ
Tel: **0870 321 6003**
e-mail: secretary@hbauk.com
General correspondence, Company
Secretary, annual review



President June Snowden

P.O. Box 76, Ely, CB6 3WH
Tel: **0870 321 6009**
e-mail: president@hbauk.com
Station visits, represent HBA
publicly, print and present long
service certificates



Regional Manager Dave Lockyer

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6005**
e-mail: regions@hbauk.com
Regional meetings, contacts, setting
up a region etc.



Sales & Advertising Executive Mike Skinner

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6026**
e-mail: advertising@hbauk.com
All Corporate sales for HBA



Programming Adviser Paul Easton

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6002**
e-mail: programming@hbauk.com
Advice on programme content



Technical Adviser Geoff Fairbairn

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6012**
e-mail: technical@hbauk.com
Technical matters



Editor Michelle Newstead

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6011**
e-mail: onair@hbauk.com
On Air magazine



Acting Public Relations Manager Sean Dunderdale

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6008**
e-mail: publicrelations@hbauk.com
Press and public relations,
charity profile



Webmaster Mark Venus

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6018**
e-mail: webmaster@hbauk.com
Maintenance of HBA website



Conference Bookings Marie Harper

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6017**
e-mail: conferences@hbauk.com

Membership Enquiries

Tel: **0870 321 6003**
e-mail: membership@hbauk.com

General Enquiries

Tel: **0870 321 6019**
e-mail: info@hbauk.com



AutoTrack v3

Rotation Evolution

Out now...
Free to all Myriad v3 customers

More power
More flexibility
More AutoTrack

**Myriad v3 customers upgrade
today for free!**

**Contact P Squared
for more details:**



T. 01482 350700
E. Info@psquared.net
W. www.psquared.net

**Myriad v2.6 customers can
upgrade to Myriad v3 &
AutoTrack v3 for £500+ VAT**



westcountry broadcast

for all your Audessence products

We offer the full range of Audessence audio levelling and transmission processors.

Many HBA members have already taken advantage of our **hospital radio discount** on the entire Audessence product range. Why don't you too? **Contact us for a quote now!**



Matthew Tunstill, Chief Engineer at HR Chelmsford said of their ALPS-1:

"...the product is perfect for our applications." ... "Replacing the Behringer unit has made a huge difference!" ... "I'd quite happily recommend the ALPS-1 (or any from the range) to anyone in the industry if they ever mention audio processing".

We have some great launch discounts for all on the latest Audessence transmission products:



RDS-PRO-1, AM-PRO-1 and Modblaster

Westcountry Broadcast also sell Autoplus broadcast software and a full range of broadcast hardware from Sonifex, Prodys, ADRL and many others. We also offer a full studio design, build and installation service. **Contact us now for more details!**

www.westcountrybs.co.uk

sales@westcountrybs.co.uk

Tel: 0845 634 5906

Westcountry Broadcast is the trading name of Westcountry Broadcast Ltd.