

Subject: Radio Heatherwood Presenters Newsletters
From: "Secretary" <Secretary@radioheatherwood >
Date: 09/09/2005, 07:32
To: Radio Staff



The Radio Heatherwood staff newsletters took many styles and methods of production during its publications.

We have recreated an issue distributed by email to radio staff and also posted on the staff noticeboard.

This newsletter originally published as above date.

The only changes made to these emails have been the removal of personal phone numbers and email addresses.

Background Story to Email:-

PJ You Have Been Tango'd

PJ Davidson-Smith Former Secretary

Subject: PJ You Have Been Tango'd
From: "Secretary" <Secretary@radioheatherwood >
Date: 09/09/2005, 07:32
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Hi Guys

What a pleasant surprise last night. Thinks I shall have to write a new rule for the blue book. No reminders or surprises for the older members of staff, could be detrimental to their health.

If I had to say PJ you have been here 25 years I would think to myself it can't be, it seems like only yesterday that I joined. then I realize and start thinking about all the events which have taken place and yes the reality hits home. 25 Years This is more than the great train robbers got!.

Having been surprised last night and gobsmacked, Yours truly stuck for words (Never). I'm not sure I said all the things that perhaps I should have said. It's like watching the Oscars when you go to these events you think what would I say?

When I joined all those years ago, it was a very different place to today. I would like to think that for the newer members of staff we are actually giving them a much better grounding in the art of being a hospital radio presenter. My training buddy(Roge) has worked really hard and on occasions gives me the reality check and that keeps me sane for another week. Thanks Roge for all your stonkers and to Ada and even your late father, you have all contributed to Radio Heatherwood and encouraged me to stay.

Why do I stay ? I can't answer that question. If there is an easy answer someone let me know. Over the years all the aspects of the radio doing the engineering, meeting the patients and having a joke, doing the secretarial bit have all kept me out of mischief and have contributed to why I enjoy doing the radio. If I just had to do a program I think probably I would have left some years ago. More often than not as the older guys will tell you I have had to forgo doing programs whilst I wrestle with some new task.

In more recent years I have thought about calling it a day, but then something happens to lift the spirits and we move onto the next phase of the radio. In hindsight what have been the most memorable events for me, Hindsight is great thing why can't we have it before we make a pigs ear of something. Yes it would be nice to think we have been perfect in everything we have done and we know what we are doing. But as 25 years service we are still a new boy and yes we have made some good calls and some bad ones.

When David took over as manager in the early eighty's, the introduction of the no wards, no program set the wheels in motion for our blue book today and the need for a set of rules and discipline that was previously lacking. Our old friend hindsight never told us the aggro which would ensue over the years as we catalogued various misdemeanours and implemented rules to prevent further bad practice. The blue book has been the backbone of our service and has projected a better image of the station as presenters past and present adhere to a code of conduct.

Our image of a professional or semi professional outfit has made it easier for us to secure funding from the various sponsors over the years. We had fifteen years of selling Grand Draw tickets on the high streets throughout the summer month's and I was happy for this to end. We could have not envisaged asking the league to grant aid us each year if we were the station prior to the blue book. In the early days presenters more often than not would not go round the wards. Excuse me for stating the obvious here, but hospital radio is for patient and staff not for the individuals personal broadcasting aspirations.

Returning to our old friend hindsight the next big miles stone in our history has got to be the introduction of the AM service. Still working today and providing the service for the ward radio's it's been our lifeline. Had we not introduced this and raised the money at the time we did. radio

Heatherwood would definitely not be here today. During the years when there was not a bedhead service and our loan radio's were out on the wards. we were able to deliver a service not perfect and yes patients did have to buy batteries for their radio's it kept our service alive. No Am Service no radio it was as simple as that. This was one of our good calls and although I came close to chucking in the towel at the end of the fundraising for this, I'm proud today to say what a godsend this service has been. It was Windsor and Maidenhead council who put up 66% of the cost. At that time I was doing everything on a typewriter so having submitted a project folder to the council to ask for assistance I was overjoyed that they would put up £6,700. but it did mean it had to be spent in the same year as application which meant we had 9 month's left to raise the rest, but that's another story

Over the years our interface with the hospital has had varying degrees of success. On a ward level with staff on the wards and various departments we have had a good relationship. The administration staff of various management structures over the years has been a different story. I still believe to this day that the admin staff of the hospital don't realize the asset they have in the radio service we have. To this day despite numerous attempts at getting them to participate and use the radio for promoting aspects of the hospital we are still treated with contempt and response to any request to them can fall on deaf ears a lot of the time. Which I think is a great shame.

The statement above is in here because in 1998/9 we were getting feedback from the works dept staff who knew us that they had seen plans that the studio was going to be shifted to another part of the hospital site. After a number of denials by the admin we were subsequently called to attend a meeting in December 1999 that yes we were to be moved. I sat there at that meeting and no planning whatsoever had gone into the move and they didn't have a clue about the technical aspect and the costs involved.

Well the rest is history In April 2000 they were working on moving us to the summer house. It did however give me the opportunity to design the whole layout of how we would like the new studio's. After some frantic weeks putting together a set of professional looking drawings and dealing with the technical bit. I am very pleased with our studio set-up and I think it has made a great difference to the staff who have been working here. Our old friend hindsight said to us yeah would you have done things differently, yes we would have we would have picked a building that doesn't have a leaky roof.

In the production area of the studio's is a poster on the wall in a frame. The next time you are at the studio's read what it says and then reflect on my earlier statement about the admin.

After the studio move and 1 year on from the move date, I had completed the additional work on the studio complex. Within weeks my health took a tumble and I was not at the 25 years celebrations of the studio opening or for the next 6 months as I recovered from a crushed disc in my back. It was during this time having spent a week and a bit in wexham that this gave me the drive to push for the 24 hour service delivered by a computer system. On returning to reasonable health I put together a new project and costed up the Rhapsody service for £9000. We did our promoting bit with a number of sponsors we had not contacted for a number of years and we secured the £9000 plus a further £1400 from the league to purchase an additional computer and the atomic clock.

The rhapsody service has changed the way the radio is perceived by the wards and today over two years on we are able to develop and deliver a service with the type of music and info which is entertaining and informative.

During the introduction of the rhapsody service we have had the major change on the wards with the removal of the loan radios and the addition of the hospicom service and a stereo signal. I won't dwell on this, like my earlier statement about admin. They deemed it not important for us to be at the meetings prior to the introduction of the system, subsequently we are paying the price a year on from this service being introduced, we still have no meaningful dialogue with this company and the admin have just ignored an email which I know they have received earlier in the year.

What of the future I don't know? In all honesty there are a number of ideas that we would like to implement, but at the moment I'm concentrating on proper training for all newcomers and the development of the league and radio websites.

I have rambled on a bit here, but 25 years and at my time of life I'm entitled.

A Big Big Thankyou to everyone for turning up last night, I have counted the kisses on my card and their is 25 so I think it's only right and proper for the female members of staff to start issuing them every time they see me. I'll keep the count and let you know when we have reached the twenty five. (An old man has got to have some dreams at this time in his life).

Finally the word "Bar steward" to my brother for making this all possible!!!

Regards

Peter J Davidson-Smith

Radio Heatherwood & League of Friends

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