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THE WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE UK RADIO INDUSTRY

NEW BBC RADIO BOSS

Channel 4 TV Programme Director Liz Forgan has been appointed MD of BBC Network Radio by Incoming Director General John Birt, replacing David Hatch who now becomes Birt's Special Assistant. Despite having no radio experience, Forgan will be responsible for the Corporation's five networks and their repositioning prior to the BBC Charter Renewal in 1996.

Announcing the appointment, Birt said "We want an institution in which managers never stifle initiative or enterprise; in which harassment and bureaucracy are dirty words; where funge and fix-it, hostile dealing and secretive and manipulative behaviour

become techniques and tactics of the past."

Forty-eight year old Forgan, described by one commentator as "Birt in a skirt", has in the past defended the BBC's right to compete with commercial radio. "It would be sad to see Radio 1 and 2 on the grounds that the commercial sector provides the same thing," she told a conference eighteen months ago. "A third of the population tunes in every week."

The BBC is expected to have paid £60,000 to release Forgan from her "golden handcuffs" deal with Channel 4, in addition to a salary

approaching £120,000.

Last year, Forgan's predecessor David Hatch vigorously denied an Observer front-page story by Richard Brooks that he was about to be replaced. Hatch argued that Brooks' "proposals that the Director General would leave early and that Radio 2 and 5 were to be scrapped proved to be instantly and laughably inaccurate."

Birt Director General Michael Checkland subsequently announced his early retirement, and now Hatch himself has been replaced. Uncertainty surrounds the future of Radio 1, 2 and 5.

BAKER COMPLAINT UPHELD

A listener complaint against Terry Baker's Radio 5 breakfast show for "distasteful and irresponsible" comments has been upheld by the Broadcasting Standards Council.

In an edition broadcast last August, Long Award Radio Personality Of The Year Baker referred to the possible burning of the American flag at the

Barcelona Olympics, joked about playing polo with a brass band, and invited listeners to phone in with tales of irresponsible violence committed in their youth. The BBC accepted the Council's verdict that some listeners may have been offended by these comments.

But the Council failed to uphold

other complaints against BBC Talkback/London for an afternoon discussion about anal sex; Northwood Radio/Burton for a breakfast show comedy sketch about killing stray cats; and the use of the phrase "I'll have your balls" in Radio 4's play The Broken Horse.

1FM FUTURE DEBATED

Radio 1 Controller Andy Beerling has announced plans for a series of debates to discuss the network's future in preparation for the 1996 Charter Renewal.

On 28 Feb, Liz Forgan makes a one-off return to the network,

launching a "we've debate" about the future of Radio 1. And Heritage Minister Peter Brooke will answer listeners' questions as guest on the Stan Sells and Nick Campbell show.

"As far as the future of the BBC is concerned, there will be numerous

opportunities for the public to participate," said Beerling. "There will be public meetings up and down the country between now and next April where the public can come along and state their views openly."



## RADIO WAVES

Three applicants for the re-advertised  
Shortwave license include incumbent  
Birtleswood Radio \*\*\*\*\* Radio Eye  
wins the new High Wycombe license  
\*\*\*\*\* The Radio Authority votes to  
award for the West Berkshire license  
despite one application from Newson  
Radio \*\*\*\*\* A new Leamington RN  
license is advertised this week \*\*\*\*\*  
RTV Europe and American network  
BBC are planning a pan-European  
radio operation and exploring options  
of syndicated shows, a 24-hour  
satellite radio service and  
investments in individual stations  
\*\*\*\*\* Ocean System is reported to be  
preparing a bid for the regional  
East-of-England license, despite  
retaining 25% of Trans World  
Communications which already owns  
Mermaid/Manchester and Red  
Rose/Wrexham within the same area  
\*\*\*\*\* MP Gerald Kaufman tells the  
Times he despises Radio 3's new  
format: "There is now a high  
proportion of studio chatter, and  
the standard of literacy is falling"  
\*\*\*\*\* Wexley Fifth Radio/Television  
replaces weekend news bulletins with  
producer-read headlines, asking  
redundant two news staff and one  
presenter. Sports Editor Donald  
Fraser, departed to  
BBC/Birmingham, is replaced by a  
freelancer \*\*\*\*\* My new Radio 1 DJ  
Simon Bates allowed to make  
pre-recorded slots about the impending  
announcement of BBC top management  
changes in his Monday morning show?  
"I think it's a terrific idea," Bates  
told a baffled audience unaware what  
the idea actually was \*\*\*\*\* Virgin  
Radio appoints Zetty Leppard as  
Radio Industry Consultant "handling a  
special pre-launch advertising sales  
package" \*\*\*\*\* A demonstration march

on Broadcasting House is re-scheduled  
for April by The Sun Radio & Co  
Long News Campaign, launched last  
year by Winchester schoolteacher Nick  
Rackham and now co-ordinated by  
Rachel Rowland \*\*\*\*\* Jazz  
FM/London's smallest sales Heybo  
evening show Mazon Jazz has secured a  
six sponsorship deal \*\*\*\*\* TV  
presenter Rowmi is piloting the  
Radio 1 version of Dance Energy  
later this year \*\*\*\*\* But is it  
ethicist Spectrum Radio/London  
introduces daily early morning  
bulletins for the securities industry  
in conjunction with Retail Management  
magazine \*\*\*\*\* Hospital station  
Radio Brockley/Stoneham raised £100  
in a hour effort to improve its  
studio at the Royal National  
Orthopaedic Hospital \*\*\*\*\*  
SLR/London's Sam Freed replaces  
LPM's holidaying Ricky Campbell for  
two weeks \*\*\*\*\* Radio Crocker is  
not repeating its fundraising network  
of restricted service licenses next  
year \*\*\*\*\* Trans World  
Communications appoints The Radio  
Sales Company to handle its stations'  
sponsorship and promotions \*\*\*\*\*  
Accountability or farce? Radio 2's  
annual opportunity for listeners to  
have their say was killed by Radio  
Times in small print under the Jimmy  
Young show only as "Radio 2's  
Customer Service Line answers  
listeners' questions." No mention  
that it was part of the BBC's Call  
The Controller series, no address or  
phone number for questions, and line  
chose not to speak directly to a  
single caller. She did say that the  
Dept of National Heritage is  
"particularly keen" to hear from the  
audience for Radio 1 and 2  
because "sometimes our listeners are

a bit quiet." Sir Poyne could start  
by asking why, in London, the  
station's share has "plummeted" by  
50% in six years \*\*\*\*\* BBC/London  
phone-in anchor Steve Oakes writes  
an advice column in his magazine Top  
Band Health & Beauty \*\*\*\*\* 21-year  
old Classic FM presenter Trevor  
Trelvey admits to The Sunday Times  
"I had never introduced classical  
music before and did make horrendous  
mistakes. In all did." \*\*\*\*\* This  
year's Sound Broadcasting Equipment  
Show is held 4 Nov at the Metropole  
Hotel, Birmingham (0451-35375) \*\*\*\*\*  
BBC World Service is recruiting for  
its two-year Production Trainee  
scheme (081-749-7000) and needs a  
Deputy Section Head for its Brazilian  
service (071-240-3456 x2514) and an  
assistant to the Small Section Head  
(0110 x2374) \*\*\*\*\* BBC Radio  
Scotland needs a Finance & Business  
Planning Manager (081-749-7000) \*\*\*\*\*  
BBC Radio Sussex needs a Programme  
Assistant to replace its driveline  
presenter who moves to BBC Radio  
Sussex's breakfast show \*\*\*\*\* BBC  
Sports Hall needs a Radio Producer  
(071-580-4468 x5953) \*\*\*\*\* Radio  
4's Women's Hour needs a Production  
Assistant (0110 x778) \*\*\*\*\* How to  
turn a negative into a positive?  
Radio Mercury/Crawley/Sidford's  
stalwart anonymous on-air music  
between Sunday Day and the New Year  
was killed proudly as "the UK's  
longest continual music special"  
\*\*\*\*\* Sunlight on the broadbeats?  
The Observer's Russell Turk  
proclaimed "last year belonged to  
Classic FM." Noting this, The  
Guardian's Michael Wellington  
responds that "Classic FM, by and  
large, is awful." \*\*\*\*\*

# RADIO DIARY

- 24/26/77 **THE KINGS SIGHT** at Palais Des Festivités, Cannes, France. Info: International Exhibition Organisation, Metropolis House, 22 Percy Street, London W1P 3PP tel: 071-528-0086
- 25 **J&M** **ELITE** first audience research figures from Joint BBC/ITB system released publicly
- 27 **J&M** **W&V** **FUTURE FOR RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING** debate at Abbey Centre, London SW6 10.30am-4.30pm. Voice Of The Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Grosvenor, East D12 5HQ tel: 0474-352835
- 9 **RA** **LEAVE** closing date for license re-applications for AM & FM licenses serving 1.25m & 770,000 adults respectively, starting 1 Sep 1994. Info: Radio Authority
- 9 **RA** **CONFERE/CHANGES** closing date for license re-applications for AM & FM licenses serving 1.53m and 770,000 adults respectively, starting 12 Sep 1994. Info: Radio Authority
- 10 **RA** **LICENS** TO FILL conference on applying for Radio Authority licenses at The Roof Gardens, 99 Exnington High Street, London W6 5ED. 170-35 members/150-13 non-members. Info: The Radio Academy, PO Box 462, London W18 4SL Tel: 071-323-3637
- 10 **RA** **W&V** **FUTURE FOR RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING** debate at Committee Room, House of Commons 6-7.30pm. Voice Of The Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Grosvenor, East D12 5HQ tel: 0474-352835
- 15 **RA** **RA** **ACADEMY** **MEMBER** in the company of John Innes with introduction by David Peller at The Council Chambers, Broadcasting House, London W1. 6.30pm. 135.25 members/247 non-members. Info: The Radio Academy, PO Box 462, London W18 4SL Tel: 071-323-3637
- 14 **RA** **FOCUS** **ON** **RA** (1) debate on BBC Green Paper at RSA, 6 John May Street, London WC2R 6EL. 11.15. Info: The Radio Academy, PO Box 462, London W18 4SL Tel: 071-323-3637
- 17 **RA** **W&V** **FUTURE FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES** debate at Abbey Centre, London SW6 10.30am-1.30pm. Voice of the Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Grosvenor, East D12 5HQ tel: 0474-352835
- 2 **RA** **LEAVE** closing date for license re-applications for AM & FM services serving 1.05m and 6.69m adults respectively. Info: Radio Authority
- 2 **RA** **CONFERE/CHANGES** closing date for license re-applications for AM & FM services serving 540,000 and 320,000 adults respectively. Info: Radio Authority
- 2 **RA** **LEAVE** closing date for license re-applications for AM & FM services serving 510,000 and 220,000 adults respectively. Info: Radio Authority
- 3 **RA** **RA** **ACADEMY** **MEMBER** **COMPANION** at the Newway, London EC1. 11.15-12. Info: The Radio Academy, PO Box 462, London W18 4SL. tel: 071-323-3637
- 3 **RA** **W&V** **FUTURE FOR LIVE RELIGIOUS** debate at Committee Room, House of Commons 6-7.30pm. Voice Of The Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Grosvenor, East D12 5HQ tel: 0474-352835
- 9 **RA** **SCANDINAVIAN** closing date for new licenses serving 85,000 adults on AM or FM. Info: Radio Authority
- 10 **RA** **W&V** **FUTURE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING** debate at Abbey Centre, London SW6 2-4.30pm. Voice Of The Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Grosvenor, East D12 5HQ tel: 0474-352835
- 10 **RA** **W&V** **FUTURE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING** - 2 **ELITE** **DEBATE** **FOR** **LISTENERS** & **VIEWERS** conference in London. Voice of the Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Grosvenor, East D12 5HQ tel: 0474-352835
- 6 **RA** **CONFERE** closing date for license re-applications for all 5 FM services serving 620,000 and 530,000 adults respectively. Info: Radio Authority
- 6 **RA** **CONFERE/CHANGES** closing date for license re-applications for AM & FM services serving 280,000 and 240,000 adults respectively. Info: Radio Authority
- 19/20/21/22 **RA** **RA** 50 organized by the National Association of Broadcasters at the Las Vegas Convention Centre. Info: 202-479-3326

## AIRMAIL - PRINTED PAPER