

## Chief Executive Report - Steve Allen

Another year has passed yet it only seems like a month ago we were meeting at the last Annual General Meeting. This past year has seen some successes and some failures; however I feel confident that Rookwood Sound is still head and shoulders above other hospital radio stations.

The year started off with the Hospital Radio Awards held in Slough where Rookwood Sound was Highly commended in the main categories of : Station of the Year (which was the first time since the new format was announced 4 years ago) and Special Event - Queens Jubilee Party for the Patients.

The material was gathered and painstakingly edited together and Ken David and myself finally finished it at 04.40am on the day prior to the closing date. This was mainly due to trying to find enough material with patient contact to use.

Programming took a hit during the year with the departure of Richard Hatcher as programme controller; Richard was getting to grips with the most demanding role within the station but unfortunately he felt that he could not continue due to personal reasons. I wish to record officially the committee's thanks to Richard who played a big part in setting up the computer system; also with his departure he also could not continue presenting his show either. It is hoped that he may rejoin us shortly circumstances allowing. My thanks to Bryn Stone for taking up the mantle during this time.

As normal we loose some presenters due to college or other commitments and recently a stalwart of the station David Meakin requested a leave of absence since the end of January; hopefully he will be back shortly to.

On a plus point we have taken on over 10 new members who have come to us via the website and another hospital radio stations; these members have gone through an intensive training programme and a few have now started broadcasting solo after 4 months of training. They are Mathew Wilson; Mathew Blackhouse; Tim Evans; Ellen Stephenson; I am also pleased to see the return of one presenter Phil Hardy who was with us 4 years ago making a welcome return. We currently have another 5 undergoing training at present and another 2 on the waiting list.

The training of new members was changed this year with a regular Saturday morning sessions planned which has proved itself to be beneficial with the quality and the ability to offer one on one training this training is open to any member of the station.

We undertook a couple of all request days during the year and raised the most ever on the tombola stall; however the support for these events from our members is starting to diminish

something we hope to turn around.

Ward visiting is still a major area we must tackle and over the years we have tried many different methods of encouraging ward visits and patient participation something that is fundamental to our existence; this area is dealt with within the new training sessions however established presenters are still failing to carry out any ward visits; whilst I accept some members may not like ward visits or cannot find the time to undertake them; then I would ask why you are on air is it for your own gratification and self esteem; if so then I feel the day is dawning when your show could be axed in favour of those who want to carry out ward visiting. I remember my first ever report when I was Patient Liaison Officer at Llandough; if you sat in a room talking to yourself then you can be certified under the mental health act and that is as true then as it is now and without anyone listening then you are speaking to yourself.

With that said unfortunately; one of our disappointments this year is the ongoing headphone situation at Llandough added to this the poor state of repair of the bedside units; we have written to the Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust regarding this matter and basically received a holding letter; 3 months on we are still waiting for a definitive answer to our concerns this has been followed up and hopefully at this meeting I may be able to pass on further information. However with this said there is no reason why ward visiting cannot continue at Rookwood.

Our Vice President Julian Brinkworth has offered to undertake running an appeal to raise funds to replace the mixing desk in studio 1 and other equipment to make outside broadcasting more professional. Should any member have a contact of someone who they feel should be approached then please pass these details onto myself.

We were fortunate to receive a donation from News International via Charlie Brown totalling £300 due to his work at the Football; along with other donations from Tim Evans £200 and Lesley Jennings. However fundraising is another area we need to deal with all members have a responsibility to ensure our fundraising activities are well supported; should you have any fundraising ideas then please contact the Committee Member so they can be organised.

You may be aware that the Charity Act is undergoing an overhaul at present added to this the introduction of Ofcom who replaced the Radio Authority and the Licence issue with PPL this has been a busy year administratively, ensuring we keep up to date with developments to help this the outgoing committee has requested the new Executive Committee undertake a review of all procedures on how Rookwood Sound is administered to ensure we meet the requirements of the new regulations while these have little impact on air. There are some areas of development that we as a station must consider and have plans in place; while ensuring that the organisation is run according to the rules.

With this in mind we have been looking to seek lottery funding; however; it appears we were

lacking in some procedures that are now required such as a volunteer policy, equal opportunities and health & safety policies it is hoped that at this meeting we can adopt these policies and therefore tap into a resource that has been unavailable to us.

Despite all what is mentioned above I feel the station is developing and growing while ensuring we target our audience the patients of the hospitals we serve. This year we have again entered the National Hospital Radio Awards 2004 to be held in Leeds the categories entered are Station of the Year, Special Event and 2 Presenter of the Year. This was finally finished at 02.20am one day prior to the closing date. To help Ken and myself not loose any further sleep, I would ask that during the course of your programme any patient or ward involvement be recorded and left for me so we can start compiling our entry for next year now.

May I thank the Executive Committee for all the hard work over the last year; I am pleased that all present committee members are happy to re-stand for election; however the webmaster has decided to step down from the co-opted position may I on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Membership pass on our thanks to Graham Allen for all the work undertaken in setting up our presence on the web, which has already proved its worth due to the new members we have attracted. I am also pleased to announce that Neil Bailey has agreed to be considered for this post and will be considered by the new committee for continued co-option.

And finally, may I thank you the members of all your support for the Executive Committee and Myself as Chief Executive over the last year and I hope that the next is bigger and better and I am sure with your help it will be. If I could be granted one wish to come true for the next 12 months; that would be to fix the headphone problem at Llandough once and for all so we would have a solid listener base.