Community Radio Awards – Outside Broadcast of the Year

The Source FM Christmas Party

Source FM is an open-access Cornish community radio station for the 40,000 residents of Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding rural areas. Source FM provides a social gains radio service, which places strong emphasis on reaching out with information and training to all members of the community, especially those who would find it difficult to locate avenues for participation inside traditional media outlets.

Every year, Source FM has a get together for the presenters, and a couple of years ago we decided it would be great to share the fun and festivities with our community. This offered great opportunity to the following:

- Source FM and non-Source FM volunteers a chance to help setup and run the show
- Valuable promotional airtime to the various musicians who all willing supported the event.
- A great party atmosphere where Source FM listeners could come and meet the presenters and enjoy a fun evening with them.
- The ability for people at home (or in different parts of the UK or world) to listen to some of their favourite bands and enjoy the atmosphere.

Inspires by the Jules Holland show, we decided to do a live broadcast from 5pm till 11:30pm in the Jacobs ladder pub in Falmouth. This was chosen for a number of reasons.

- It is very central in Falmouth
- it is a popular music venue
- it has two enjoining public rooms allowing us to create two separate stages which could be easily accessed by the visitors to the pub.
- It has good quality broadband, essential to relay back to our studios!
- It is run by a great group of people who are strong supporters of Source FM, so no charge!

As he had produced a number of Outside Broadcasts for his show 'Inside Local Music', production of the show was taken on by Simon Neild. He duly booked 11 acts dividing them into 'Main stage' and 'acoustic stage' performances. The acts were all very keen to support the event as it gave them the opportunity of playing their music to a wider audience, and as the event was recorded, it gave them access to free recordings.

That was the easy bit done!

Now we had to put the show on. Fortunately, Source FM are blessed with a very experience production crew as a

result of the summer Parklive concerts (see separate application).

We have sound engineers Carey Davis and Paul Buzza running each stage, each using its own PA system. The two stages were linked back to a broadcast mixer, which in turn was linked to a laptop using (xxx) software. The laptop was connected back to the studio via broadband.

We had 4 'duty presenters' who each had a radio mic and wireless headphones enabling them to hear the broadcast mix. Their mics were connected via a splitter to both PA and broadcast.

The show started as exactly 5pm where the main studios handed over to the pub and the evening was introduced and the first band 'Horses on the Beach' played their set.

The show then runs continuously from stage to stage with each act playing for

30 minutes, thus allowing the same time for the engineering and stage crew to get the other stage setup. The presenters do a short piece between each act, thanking the previous act and introducing the next. Sometimes if there is a slit overrun on setup time, they might interview a performer or member of the audience, but as the crew are so professional and run a very tight ship, this almost never happens!

An important part of the show is the annual award ceremony where the golden mic award is presented to the presenter who makes the biggest contribution during the last 12 months

We also have the Sam Bradbury awards (named after the artist who created them and who is also a presenter!) for specific outstanding contributions made by individuals during the year.

So, in summary, a very good night was had by all the people in the pub, the listening audience (from as far away as New Zealand!) and all the bands and crew.

One outstanding example of just how a community radio station can reach out to and serve its community!