



**Press Release**

**February 28, 2006**

## **IRN Radio Award winners revealed**

The UK's top commercial radio news talent have been celebrating after winning at the IRN Radio Awards.

Nominees battled it out in nine categories; News Reader of the Year, News Reporter of the Year, Best News Coverage, Best News Programme, Best Sports Coverage, Scoop of the Year, Young Journalist of the Year, Best Funny Story and the IRN Contribution Award.

Paul Lockett from Key 103 in Manchester was named the UK's Best News Reader for the third successive year. The judges said his bulletins were expertly targeted and creatively written to hook in listeners.

Ivel FM's Amy Lewis was named Reporter of the Year for her of the tsunami aftermath. The judges were impressed with her ability to bring a human touch to such a difficult story about human courage and grief.

The award for News Coverage was taken by Capital Radio for their coverage of the July 7<sup>th</sup> London Terrorist Bombings. The winning entry demonstrated the news team's ability to respond quickly to a breaking story of national significance.

Dan Maudsley of TFM was named Young Journalist of the Year for his ability to bring humour and authority at such an early stage of his reporting career.

The Award for Best Funny Story was also picked up by TFM for a report by Dan Maudsley on Naked Ramblers which saw him also shed his clothes.

Real Radio Yorkshire took home the award for Scoop of the Year. The station set the national agenda after getting an exclusive interview with the killer boyfriend of Joanne Nelson. Fiancée, Paul Dyson gave an emotional appeal for her return to Real Radio before being arrested.

The News Coverage Award was won by Beacon Radio for a programme entitled "Caught in the Cross Fire" which looked at gun crime in their community.

The Sport Coverage Award went to GCap Media sport for their lively and memorable reports from the England Ashes victory.

All the winners received a trophy and a cash prize from guest presenter, ITV Newsreader Katie Dereham.

IRN Editor Jon Godel said: "The award winners demonstrate that strong, creative journalism is alive and well in commercial radio. The standard of entries proves that commercial radio news plays an important role locally, regionally and nationally."

The full list of winners is;

**News Reader of the Year**

Paul Lockitt – Key 103

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**News Reporter of the year**

Amy Lewis – Ivel FM

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**Best News Coverage**

Capital Radio

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**Best News Programme**

Beacon Radio

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**Scoop of the Year**

Real Radio Yorkshire

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**Young Journalist of the Year**

Dan Maudsley TFM

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**Best Funny Story**

TFM

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**Best Sports Coverage**

GCap Media Sport

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**IRN Contribution Award**

Hallam FM

**Ends.**

For more information please contact John Nolan on 020 7430 4216 or email [john.nolan@itn.co.uk](mailto:john.nolan@itn.co.uk)