

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO 4PM 15th APRIL 2008

PRESS RELEASE



Winners of IRN News Awards 2008 Announced

GMG Radio leads the pack with four awards

London, 15.04.08 – The UK's leading commercial radio news teams from across the UK gathered in London today to celebrate the annual IRN News Awards. Now in its sixth year, the awards celebrate high quality journalism in UK commercial radio. The awards were presented by *News at Ten* anchor Julie Etchingham.

GMG Radio picked up four of the nine awards, with three of the biggest awards going to 105.4 Century FM (NW) on the back of its coverage of the Rhys Jones murder. The station won *Scoop of the Year* for its interview with a witness who actually saw the gunman open fire. Sean Woods picked up the *News Reporter of the Year* accolade and the station also picked up *Best News Programme* for its Gun Crime Special.

GMG Radio continued its winning streak with Real Radio Scotland picking up the *IRN Contribution Award* for the second year running. This award recognises the local station that has contributed the most stories to IRN's national news desk over the course of the year.

Bauer radio picked up three awards at this year's event. Radio Clyde won the *Best News Coverage* award for its reporting of Glasgow's 2014 Commonwealth Games bid win. Bauer continued the sporting theme with Liverpool's Radio City grabbing the *Best Sports Coverage* for its story on the ticket scandal surrounding Liverpool FC's Champions league final against AC Milan. Finally, Bauer's Magic 999 reporter Dave Easson's took home the *Best Funny Story* award for his coverage of a pie-eating championship.

Capital FM's Matthew Schofield won the *Newsreader of the Year* for his bulletin blend of friendly authority.

Jon Godel, Editor of IRN said: "The entries show that commercial radio journalism is in a great place in 2008. The relationships local radio teams form with the public are key to producing great stories and these awards recognise the important role they play in the local and national news agenda."

The full list of winners is;

Best Sports Coverage

All the Tickets Are in the Wrong Hands

Radio City 96.7

Best Funny Story

Pie Eating Championship

Dave Easson - Magic 999

Scoop of the Year

Rhys Jones – witness interview

105.4 Century FM (NW)

Young Journalist of the Year

Alice Griffin

Trax FM

News Reporter of the Year

Sean Woods

105.4 Century FM (NW)

Best News Programme

Gun Crime Special

105.4 Century FM (NW)

Best News Coverage

Glasgow wins 2014 Commonwealth Games bid

Radio Clyde

Newsreader of the Year

Matthew Schofield

Capital FM

IRN Contribution Award

Real Radio Scotland

For further information or images please contact John Nolan in the ITN press office
020 7430 4216/0777 9329187

Note to editors:**About IRN**

IRN is the major news and content provider to commercial radio in the UK supplying 250 radio stations with a combined audience of 24 million listeners. IRN also distributes a range of other programming to commercial radio stations including the two commercial chart shows Hit 40 UK and Fresh 40.