

ariel

BBC NEWS SPECIALISTS SET OUT
THEIR STALLS FOR 2010
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A critical year ahead

◆ **MARK THOMPSON** is sticking
to his guns on executive pay as
he contemplates a year in which
technology, economics and politics
will all loom large

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TOP
SALARIES



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DG talks pay, content, funding and IT failures

Yes, there's noise around the BBC – but I'm confident

◆ **MARK THOMPSON LOOKS AHEAD** to a year when the size and shape of the post-switchover BBC will emerge; the Canvas internet tv partnership should forge ahead; some question marks over Worldwide may be removed, and a new government could be calling the shots on how the BBC of the future will be paid for

CANVAS

Thompson has no doubt that the joint venture to bring catch-up tv into the living room via broadband will be one of the biggest developments and challenges. 'Canvas has the potential to transform the way people think about broadcasting, the internet and universal take-up of broadband, with BBC iPlayer, itv.com and 4oD accessed by millions of households via their main tv set,' he says.

FUNDING

Expected any day, Greg Dyke's heavily leaked review for the Conservatives will almost certainly call for the licence fee to be scrapped and replaced by funding from central taxation.

But Thompson would be surprised to see any great change this year. '[Culture secretary] Ben Bradshaw has said he believes in the licence fee and [shadow] Jeremy Hunt, that the Tories will abide by the multi-year settlement.'

Meanwhile, Worldwide – restricted to a tighter remit by the commercial review – may be heading for a record trading year, the dg says. And World Service will talk to the government about grant-in-aid, amid big pressure on public spending, ahead of its next settlement in 2011.

STRATEGIC REVIEW

Thompson plans to publish his first proposals in February. He has already suggested that the BBC website might be trimmed back and that there will be fewer acquired programmes.

'For the public, the biggest question marks are always around programme quality and distinctiveness,' he notes. 'So our focus is on big impact, quality content that makes a difference. In 2010 that will include R4's *A History of the World in 100 Objects* and content around the Year of Science.'

What about the onward march of bbc.co.uk? 'The website is an amazing media success, with 27m users a month, but it has grown like Topsy and some parts are less focused than others.'

Is it inevitable that broadcast services will close? 'There is not one service that's not there for a good reason, but when there are lots of ways to get quality content, it's reasonable to ask whether there are other ways to access that content.'

On Worldwide: 'It's right to keep an open mind [on ownership] but continue to look at all the opportunities to develop BBC intellectual properties, not just simple privatisation.'

And the proposed joint venture with Channel 4? 'A partnership around secondary exploitation of great programmes makes good sense. I hope we

can make progress. That will depend on Channel 4's new chief executive.'

SALARIES

On the continuing pressure over executive pay and star salaries, Thompson – grilled on the subject by *Today* guest editor PD James – says: 'We've been tougher on bonuses and executive pay than any other public company or broadcaster.'

'The public sector pay debate will continue... but we're not a county council. If you want someone to run BBC One or develop iPlayer, you need the very best people in the world. And they're paid much less here than they would be at ITV or Sky.'

He adds: 'The public has every right to know what we spend on stars' salaries as a whole, but there is no public interest served in revealing individual [details].'

OUT-OF-LONDON

'There were,' says the dg, 'dire predictions that no one would want to go to Salford [46 percent have said yes]. We'll soon be recruiting new talent in the north west. Salford is looking good.'

The commitment to base 50 percent of network tv production out of the capital will be 'one way we add value': 'You've only to go to Glasgow and see the critical mass that is developing along the Clyde.'

IT SYSTEMS

The dg is candid about lessons to be learned from recent massive IT failures affecting phones and PCs.

'The frailty of our overall systems has been exposed. We have a legacy of IT systems which we've been trying to do more and more with, and we've now had a series of warnings. We're working hard to minimise the same thing happening again – thinking strategically to make sure we've got the infrastructure we need.'

CONTENT

The World Cup and another F1 season will make it a great sporting year, Thompson says, and drama highlights will include Patrick Stewart's *Macbeth* at Easter.

'Radio 4 is on amazing form and internationally, Persian TV will continue to have huge impact.' At home, the general election promises to be 'one of the most interesting in my time in broadcasting'.

CONFIDENCE

Given everything on the horizon, can the BBC feel confident at the start of the new decade? 'There was an interesting moment in 2009, after James Murdoch's MacTaggart lecture. Yes, there was criticism of the BBC, but did people want to lose it? No, and that includes most politicians. There won't be any less noise around us in 2010, but yes, we have room to be confident.'

Mark Thompson was talking to Cathy Loughran

NEWS BITES

FOR A second consecutive year BBC One had nine of the ten most popular shows on Christmas Day. The biggest audience was for *EastEnders*, with an average audience of 10.9 million (11.9m peak), followed by *The Royle Family* with 10.2m (10.8m peak) and *Doctor Who* (average 10 million; 10.4m peak).

TESTS BY Which? Magazine have found no decline in the quality of BBC HD pictures, despite claims by some viewers. Which? said its expert viewing panels compared archive BBC HD broadcasts from before the bit-rate change with live BBC HD broadcasts and concluded that any difference in quality was 'insignificant.'

PAT YOUNGE started on Monday as new chief creative officer of Vision Productions. Formerly a BBC sport executive, he left to run Discovery's travel channel in the US. On January 15 he plans to take part in a live Q&A web chat on the Vision intranet.

RADIO 4 controller Mark Damazer has paid tribute to *Gardeners' Question Time* panellist John Cushnie, who has died aged 66 following a heart attack. 'He knew a tremendous amount about a tremendous amount of horticultural life,' said Damazer, pointing out that Cushnie's answers were 'laced with acerbic wit and warmth'.

A NEW declaration of personal interests policy took effect on January 4, as part of which all individuals engaged by the BBC must declare any personal interests that could potentially conflict with their duties. They must complete a form on joining, reconfirm annually, and if their business or personal circumstances change.

RADIO 5 live listeners have chosen Steve Redgrave's fifth Olympic gold rowing medal as the greatest sporting achievement of the past decade. The other shortlisted contenders were cyclist Lance Armstrong, tennis player Roger Federer and England's 2003 World Cup rugby team.

COMPOSER GUSTAV Mahler will be celebrated in a major concert series, in a collaboration between the BBC Philharmonic and other Manchester orchestras and the Bridgewater Hall. The series, which starts on January 16 and ends on June 5, will include all Mahler's symphonies.

GABY ROSLIN will start on January 11 alongside Paul Ross as co-presenter of BBC London 94.9FM's new look breakfast show. Previously she has deputised on the programme, as well as standing in for Lesley Joseph and Vanessa Feltz.

KAYE ADAMS is to present a new daily morning discussion programme – *Call Kaye* – on Radio Scotland starting in the spring. It will be a mix of phone-in and guest interviews discussing issues such as politics, health and education.

Big hitter who smoothed the way for radical change

by Claire Barrett

BOB PHILLIS, who died of cancer before Christmas at the age of 64, was not a BBC man; he was a likeable media big hitter with a visionary business sense, who held top jobs at Central, Carlton Communications, ITN and the Guardian Media Group. As he admitted, on joining the BBC in 1993 as director general John Birt's deputy, he just couldn't resist a challenge.

He was presented with any number of them during his four years with the corporation – not least in helping Birt and his board to secure a new Charter and licence fee settlement for the BBC via a massive overhaul of its structure and practices. Phillis was tasked with forming a new World Service directorate in which radio and television operations – with their different funding arrangements – were integrated. During his tenure, global audiences grew despite dire predictions about short wave listening.

He was also key in taking the BBC to a new commercial level, as BBC Enterprises became BBC Worldwide, and of steering it into the digital age with some pioneering new ventures. As chief executive of BBC Worldwide

in 1997, Phillis sealed the groundbreaking 50/50 joint venture partnership with Flextech which saw the launch of a string of digital television channels – niche channels that would earn income for the BBC's public service core through subscription and advertising.

'The corporation was undergoing radical change as it began to come to terms with the digital revolution,' said Liz Forgan, who was recruited alongside Phillis onto Birt's first management team. 'While Birt, as dg, drove relentlessly through the organisation rooting out traditional practices, it was often left to Bob to smooth ruffled feathers.'

She added: 'In a sector where modesty is not a common fault, he [Phillis] stood out as warm-hearted and self-effacing'.

This inherent decency is a recurring theme, with Ronald Neil, former chief exec of BBC production, calling him 'one of the most highly regarded and well liked people in our industry'. Mark Thompson remembered Phillis – who chaired the Royal Television Society Cambridge Convention in September despite his treatment for bone marrow cancer – as 'an inspirational leader, but also a warm-hearted, loyal, friend and colleague'.



Bob Phillis: inspirational leader and loyal friend

Economic impact study due

THE BBC HAS confirmed that it has commissioned accountancy firm Deloitte to assess the amount the corporation generates for the UK economy – £7.6bn, according to a detailed report in Monday's Guardian.

While not denying figures quoted in the newspaper – including that a privatised BBC would cost the country £4bn and that production companies would be £1.4bn worse off without BBC business – a spokesman said the Deloitte study was part of ongoing strategic review work, rather than a knee-jerk reaction to criticism of the organisation's income and spending.

'We are reviewing our strategy to reinforce our core mission and focus on delivering quality programmes. As we do this we want to measure the wider economic benefits that our strategy brings,' he said.

In 2008, a BBC Trust-commissioned report by PWC showed that the BBC added £6.5bn to the British economy, including £5bn to the creative sector.

The full Deloitte report is due to be published in the next few months.

EastEnders' Facebook generation belongs online

by Clare Bolt

'I SAID TO THEM, just write the *EastEnders* you want to watch,' John Yorke shrugs.

The controller of drama production and new talent was handing the reins to a group of 17-22 year old writers who were chosen to create the latest *EastEnders* spin off – one with new faces and new scripts which would shed a fresh perspective on Albert Square.

EastEnders' regular audience will already have spotted three of their characters, who pitched up in the 'real' Square shortly after Christmas. But ZsaZsa, Leon and Fatboy are only visiting: come January 8, they will slip out of the tv plot-lines and cross into the parallel online world of E20, where they will be joined by fellow squatter Mercy. With a little help from the multi-platform team, they will reappear in E20 webisodes, streamed live on the *EastEnders* site every other day until January 25.

Green lit by multiplatform commissioning exec Rosie Allimonos, the process of shifting the soap online proved surprisingly painless.

'I've never known something to go from idea to realisation so quickly,' Yorke says. 'We went to multiplatform and said, can you help, and they said, yes please.' It was, he reasons, 'obvious that the best way to be in the vanguard is to adapt an existing brand'.

Two things had been preoccupying him about the soap. 'Having a younger generation of characters is an incredibly important access point for new viewers. And secondly, we'd made significant strides in diverse representation with the Masood family, but I felt we could go a lot further.'

The new characters may bring youth and ethnicity to the Square, but do they add anything new to the established dynasties of Butcher, Beale and Mitchell? 'They're four, fresh London voices,' E20's producer Deborah Goodman insists. 'Most of the young people in *EastEnders* now are part of a family, whereas these four are escaping their families. So you see young people in their own environment, speaking in their own language.'

Finding strong writers with authentic voices was critical. Santer



E20's new faces: Zsa Zsa Carter (Emer Kenny), Fatboy (Ricky Norwood), Mercy Olubunmi (Bunmi Mojekwu) and Leon Small (Sam Attwater)

was keen for them to 'create a whole new Walford, infused with their experiences of London life', so Goodman set out on a recruitment campaign, targeting further education colleges in Lewisham and Greenwich, youth theatres and performing arts courses, as well as running an online Facebook campaign.

Thirteen London-based writers who made the shortlist were invit-

ed along to a summer school where they would be trained to create an online drama. Goodman, a former theatre producer, asked them to write a monologue or a blog for a type of character 'you don't normally see on tv'. Once they had a character in mind, they were asked to write a script, introducing their character to one of the soap's mainstream characters – confessing love.

'There were some very funny ones involving Tamoir and Denise and Jane,' she recalls.

'They weren't what you would expect, but there were some brilliantly diverse choices.'

The writers spent two weeks researching the world of E20 – named after the fictional Walford postcode – Goodman sending them out to the east London borough of Newham, to listen in on buses and trains and record snippets of conversation.

'People speak quite dramatically in everyday life, but you don't tune into it all that often,' she reflects. 'We would get the writers to steal a couple of lines and turn them into themes for the show – it was absolutely brilliant.'

The fragments of bus conversation were 'a good basis to teach them how to write drama' and helped inform the four new characters, from Fatboy – who 'thinks of himself as a bit of a gangster and speaks from the street' to tomboy ZsaZsa, Leon and Mercy.

'My ambition is to take the new writers to a second series,' she says. 'So fingers crossed, if series one goes well...'

What Lies Ahead – Predictions for 2010

A General Election, a World Cup, climate change arguments, public and private spending restrictions, the list goes on. What are going to be the big issues of this, the first year of a new decade? Ariel asked some of the BBC's experts to assess what might happen in their specialist fields

Nick Robinson Politics

DONALD RUMSFELD was right. When looking ahead it helps to identify the 'known unknowns' and the 'unknown unknowns'.

We know that we don't know the result of an election that has to be held by June. That's surprising given that we've been in the longest and deepest recession on record, are coming up to 13 years of a Labour government which has fought two increasingly unpopular wars and is led by a Prime Minister who's failed to charm the voters.

The Tories want the electorate to take what I call 'the cereal box test' ie to try (and they assume fail) to complete the following sentence: 'I want Gordon Brown as my Prime Minister for five more years because...'.

Labour knows that the electorate are suspicious of David Cameron's slickness and are hazy about what the Tories stand for. They'll try to define their opponents before they can define themselves by labelling the Tories as stand-

ing for the rich and privileged and not for you.

This choice will be personalised as never before thanks to the innovation of Prime Ministerial debates. The experienced, but unloved, Gordon Brown will try to convince people to ignore the charms of the likeable, but inexperienced and privileged, David Cameron.

The man with the most to gain is Nick Clegg. He's sharing top billing with the two men who are actually battling it out to be Prime Minister. He will invite the public to declare 'a plague on

both your houses'? If he succeeds the election could produce an uncertain outcome and a minority government, which would have to be maintained in power by the support of smaller parties – but at what price?

So far so predictably unpredictable, but recent years have been defined by what was simply not foreseen – the unknown unknowns. Terror attacks, floods and disease shaped the first few months of Gordon Brown's premiership. The collapse of the banks and of faith in MPs' probity dominated the last 12 months.

With the escalation of the war in Afghanistan, a confrontation with Iran looming and warnings of a double dip recession, only a fool would say they know what the next year will be like. We do know one thing, though. It's sure to be interesting.



Torin Douglas Media

2009 WAS A YEAR most media groups would prefer to forget, as the economy and the internet played havoc with their traditional business model. Advertising, which for years has sustained a range of public service tv programmes and newspaper content – notably local news – can no longer do so.

In 2010, broadcasters and the press will be grappling for solutions, online and off, while newer ventures such as Google continue to storm ahead. ITV and Channel Four will both have new chairmen – Archie Norman and Lord Burns – whose first task will be to appoint chief executives who can lead them out of their current difficulties. With ITV



unable to fund its own local news programmes, other groups are forming 'Independently-Funded News Consortia', in the hope of filling the gap. A handful of pilot schemes will test out the concept.

The Times is due to implement the Murdoch's grand plan to charge for newspaper content on the internet. The industry

is deeply divided – with niche publications such as the Financial Times and the Economist in favour of charging, and general titles such as the Guardian totally opposed.

And the whole country will be waiting to see what happens if the Conservatives win the General Election – not least the BBC.

The shadow culture secretary Jeremy Hunt has backtracked on his suggestion they might 'rip up' the BBC Charter, but they still think the BBC is 'bloated' and should be slimmed down. The BBC is conducting its own review, and Mark Thompson says we can expect 'reductions in some kinds of programmes and content'.

Hugh Pym Economics

IF 2009 was the year of recession, 2010 seems set to be the year of sovereign debt. Households have struggled through the economic contraction which began in the first half of 2008. Recovery is on the way in the shape of a resumption in economic growth, albeit a fragile and anaemic one. Now it's the turn of governments, in economic terms 'sovereigns', to start feeling the heat. Public sector debt in leading economies has ballooned during the recession. Someone has to pay the bills.

Dubai creaked, Greece wobbled and Spain shuddered. All faced the possibility of an investor strike, with their debt losing popularity fast on international markets. The credit rating agencies will be key players in 2010. They judge



a nation's credit worthiness. Triple A is top mark. If the rating drops below that, investors will demand higher interest payments to compensate them for the extra risk.

The UK still has its cherished triple A and the agencies have made clear there is no immediate threat to it. But, along with the US, our public sector finances are very much under the microscope. The British deficit in 2010 is set to

be the highest among leading economies. Whoever wins the election will have to unveil the bleakest budget in a generation. 2010 will be dominated by headlines about tax rises and spending cuts.

So what about UK companies? Those still with their heads above water after the recessionary tidal wave are looking at a brighter horizon. Many employers have held onto staff on lower pay and hours. If they lose patience unemployment could surge again. Exporters will hope to benefit from the weak pound and growth in emerging economies. Here's another prediction – expect more takeover bids. Cadbury is already facing one hostile US bid. Its chances of remaining independent by the end of 2010 look slim.

Richard Black Environment

THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE SUMMIT ruled the lives of environment journalists for months. Most of us, I think, expected it to produce a conclusion that would allow us to resume the more balanced offering of previous years.

As the world now knows, its extraordinary denouement brought nothing of the kind. Why it didn't, who screwed up, and what happens now are questions which mean we'll continue to live in Copenhagen's shadow for the entire year.

The issue likely to miss out on major coverage if climate change continues to dominate the agenda is global biodiversity loss. In 2002, the world's governments pledged to reduce



significantly the rate at which we're losing nature's richness by 2010. It's a goal that isn't going to be met. The UN has declared 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, and in October the UN biodiversity convention will look at what's going wrong and how it can be put right.

We know the most important issue already: the ex-

panding human footprint. But do governments have the capacity or the cojones to tackle the growth of the human population, the rate of resource consumption, the spread of agriculture, and so on – all (as some will see it) to save a few birds and trees?

These are the biggest environment-related issues of all; but finding time and space to cover them properly is going to be a real challenge.

As far as national issues are concerned, 2010 is the year by which the amount of biodegradable waste going in to landfill is supposed, under EU legislation, to be at least 25 percent lower than it was in 1995. The government reckons the country is more or less on target – we'll see.

Mark Easton Social Affairs

THE PREFACE TO AN ELECTION is the frantic territory of the lobbyists. As the parties prepare their manifestos and we head for the ballot box, every interest group worth its salt will be bombarding journalists with evidence as to why their policy issue should be uppermost in the public's and the politicians' minds.

Be prepared for a blizzard of data-packed reports, cliché-packed speeches and alarm-packed news releases. The clatter of political ping-pong will become almost deafening as the PR and media teams go into overdrive. Control of the

agenda is everything. Then we enter that strange Saturnalian festival in which the natural order of things is reversed – the election campaign itself. The Westminster bubble pops and the fallow villagers of SW1 are confronted by the real world and real people. Power roles are reversed in pantomime fashion.

The rules of the game change; the simple tensions of government and opposition are abandoned. Within this unfamiliar anarchy, disorientated editors can find it hard to keep a grip on what is 'important' or even 'news-

worthy'. Something crazy, which everyone later regrets, comes to dominate the headlines.

And then, after the ritual of soundbites and smiles, a queen and a News Channel helicopter, the reality of 'tough decisions' will bite. The second half of 2010 will be about pain, protest and political unpopularity. Britain's resilience will be tested. The risk is that in telling the story we mistake political saliency for what matters, self-interest for genuine need. The voices of the weak are easily drowned out. The most vul-

nerable are certain to suffer the greatest. We will need to show our mettle.



Fergus Walsh Health

THE WORLD'S MOST eagerly awaited clinical trial of 2009 never actually got under way, and there must be some doubt as to whether it will happen in 2010. I'm referring to the first properly regulated clinical trial of human embryonic stem cells. Californian biotech firm Geron intends to inject them into the spine of paralysed patients. Experiments with rats showed a small but significant improvement. Geron hoped to begin the trial



last year, but the US drug authorities raised fresh concerns.

2010 could be the year when genome sequencing becomes within the reach of the individual. Up to now just a few dozen people around the

world have had it done, (the genome is the entire genetic code found in each of our cells and represents the blueprint of life itself). What used to cost millions and take years, is now down to weeks and costs thousands. Personal genome sequencing will not really be of much use until tens of thousands of people are able to compare their genetic code (for example, showing the common links between groups with one particular disease) and the tech-

nology will remain in the hands of researchers for now.

Irish surgeon Peter Butler, at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, is hopeful that 2010 will see him realise his long-held ambition to carry out a complete face transplant in the UK. He's been planning the operation for 15 years and has seen teams in France, China and the US forge ahead of him. Despite not being the first, an operation on a British patient would attract much publicity and

debate about the ethics of changing someone's face.

Remember swine flu? The first pandemic of the 21st century turned out to be mild for most but a deadly threat to a very small minority. We should be over the worst of the pandemic now, and by next autumn the H1N1 pandemic strain will be part of the normal seasonal flu vaccine. That means millions of us who have not yet got infected, can be protected.

Kevin Gearey Sport

THE SPORTS DESK is absolutely confident that 2010 is going to be a 'telly-zapper year'. And with good reason, looking at the potential clashes thrown up by the sporting calendar.

July, in particular, looks like being extremely hot domestically with arguments over what to watch set to match any Christmas when the in-laws have popped over. Never mind *Strictly* against the *X Factor*, July 11 will be in a different league with the final of football's World Cup up against the British Grand Prix when two home grown World Champions, Jensen Button and Lewis Hamilton, might be going head-to-head for the Formula 1 title while competing for the



same McLaren team.

Nor is that July's only possible trigger for household strife and schedulers' nightmares. On Friday the 2nd, England could be facing Germany at the World Cup, while Andy Murray might well be battling it out in the Wimbledon semi-finals. At least the men's singles final, though, will have the stage to itself as July the

4th is scheduled as a rest day at the World Cup.

Remarkably, the bickering over who has control of the tv remote will last all the way through to October when the start of the Commonwealth Games in India coincides with the climax to golf's Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor in Wales, when Europe's finest bid to wrest back the trophy from the Americans.

As for my predictions, well they will be as far wide of the mark as usual. For what it's worth, I would take Europe to beat the Yanks in the Ryder Cup, but I won't be wasting any beer money on England to lift the World Cup, or Andy Murray to win Wimbledon. Here's hoping that, as usual, I am wrong.

Early days: Gareth Edwards, David Coleman and Emlyn Hughes in 1979



Today's line-up: Matt Dawson, Sue Barker and Phil Tufnell



40 not out – what a result

With athletes lining up to appear on it and studio audiences sometimes having to wait four years to get tickets, **A Question of Sport** has maintained its winning form

by Sue Llewellyn

FOR 40 YEARS *A Question of Sport* has amused and entertained audiences – from the days of wide lapels and long hair, to collarless shirts and a sleeker look – and that's just the panellists.

The show's producer, Gareth Edwards (coincidentally he shares his name with former rugby playing captain Gareth Edwards), says the cast and crew have been just as entertained by all the fun and foolery. He cites the time that Sue Barker was a Mystery Guest, long before she became the presenter.

'One team thought she was Alan Minter, the heavyweight boxing champion, and the other side guessed that she was England goal keeper Ray Clements because they said she had very big hands, which isn't true at all.'

It is therefore a certain irony that the Mystery Guest round is not Sue's strong point. 'She's excellent at sporting knowledge,' says Edwards, 'but she just can't recognise people, even if she knows them really well.'

And she's not alone. Former *Question of Sport* team captain Ally McCoist once failed to recognise himself, and during the picture round

Emlyn Hughes mistook Princess Anne for a jockey called John Reid.

Mistakes like these and good-natured banter are all part of the fun of *A Question of Sport* which celebrates its 40th birthday with a special show on January 8.

Since the early days some of the biggest names in sport have appeared on what is now the longest running tv quiz show in Britain – if not the world. Athletes are said to regard an invitation to appear as recognition that they have somehow 'made it'. Even Princess Anne, as a former Olympic equestrian and BBC Sports Personality of the Year, was keen to take part for a special 200th edition.

While sporting stars line up to appear on the show, studio audiences, who may have to wait up to four years to get tickets, go to extraordinary lengths to watch their heroes. 'People fly in from all over the place,'

says Edwards. 'There's a phenomenal love for the programme and viewers will drive from Scotland to London just to sit in the audience for an hour.'

So what is the enduring appeal? Edwards believes sport is a family affair that appeals to everyone from eight to 80. It might be surprising, but the largest part of the *QoS* audience are women over 50.

'Whether you are a sports geek or not there are always elements you can play along with, like the Mystery Guest or What Happened Next?,' says Edwards. 'There's something for everybody and people like seeing their heroes and idols out of their sporting comfort zones.'

Being naturally competitive means that nobody wants to look like a fool so, for professional pride, many of the competitors do their homework before the show.

'Every Christmas Matt Dawson is given a sporting almanac by his parents,' says Edwards. 'And he openly admits that he goes home and reads lists of who won this or that and he tries to memorise it all.'

Sometimes, however, no amount of homework can help. When Frankie Dettori was captain there was an anagram round and he failed to recognise his own name. 'But then,' says Edwards laughing, 'Frankie didn't get a lot right full stop. He is a lovely bloke and very funny but sporting knowledge wasn't high on the list of his priorities.'

Naturally, in a quiz like this, there is a lot of giggling and numerous outtakes, many of which would never make it to air in a pre-watershed family show. These clips are compiled into two additional programmes, one for family viewing and one late night version which Edwards admits is 'slightly ruder'. Viewers love it, he says, because they see Sue Barker in a totally different light. 'She's a fantastic broadcaster and seems very prim and proper but there is a very funny side to her and she's up for a laugh.'

After 40 years, 900 shows and thousands of games there have been numerous team captains and hundreds of guests but still only three question masters: David Vine, David Coleman and Sue Barker.

So, as the hosts might say: what happens next? 'We want to keep moving with the times,' says Edwards excitedly, 'so in October and November we're going on the road with a live tour in big venues across the UK. It'll be a chance for *A Question of Sport* viewers to come along and see how it all works.'

YOUR CHANCE TO CREATE A GAME FOR THE SHOW

'WE ARE ALWAYS on the look out for new games and for ways of keeping the show fresh and fun,' says *QoS* producer Gareth Edwards.

'We've got 40 shows a year and seven games per show so that's 280 games per year that we need to find. Those that work best are where Phil and Matt do things like charades or have to guess who they are in The Rizla Game. I get my inspiration and ideas watching other quiz shows and have adapted quite a lot of pub drinking games, parlour games and fam-

ily games. After 40 years there isn't much that we haven't done on *QoS*.'

So, to mark the 40th anniversary, we are laying down the creative gauntlet to Ariel readers and asking if you can come up with a new *Question of Sport* game. Cast your mind back to games you have known and loved and see if you can adapt one or, better still, can you think up a new one?

It's a tricky challenge but there's a fantastic prize. If you can come up with something fun and original you could see your name

and game in lights because the winner will be invited to join the *QoS* audience to watch their game being played by the teams.

Just send the name of your game with a brief description of how to play it and any supporting details on an email marked **GOOD GAME** to Arielteam@bbc.co.uk by February 1 and we will notify the winner – if there is one. Good luck.

Good sports: former captains Cliff Morgan, David Vine, Henry Cooper, Willie Carson, Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont



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Chiswick. Lovely, light double room in friendly flatshare by Stamford Brook tube. 2 professional flatmates (one BBC). £620pm plus bills. Available immediately. Emily ejekerr@gmail.com Telephone 07808 268202

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E C 18-Jan-10 A 06 months

Assistant Producers, News-round
London
7P/Ref: 242054
C 13-Jan-10 A 06 months

Production Co-ordinator Pool
Birmingham
5D/Ref: 23501309
E C 12-Jan-10 A Various

Production Management Assistant
London
TV Centre
3D/Ref: 23790809
C 12-Jan-10 A 06 months

Upfront Presenter (Broadcast Assistant) Part Time
Liverpool
3/4D/Ref: 22618209
E C 17-Jan-10 A 12 months

JOURNALISM

Deputy Editor, A&M Factual
Birmingham
10D/Ref: 23703209
C 18-Jan-10

Sport Archive Manager
London / Salford Quays
9D/Ref: 24020209
E C 18-Jan-10

Broadcast Journalist, Live Political Programmes
London
Millbank
7D/Ref: 23878309
C 11-Jan-10 A 06 months

Political Researcher/Producer (Broadcast Journalist)
London
Brock House
5/7D/Ref: 23734409
E C 10-Jan-10

Broadcast Journalist (Producer/Presenter) BBC Radio Gloucestershire
Gloucester
5/7D/Ref: 23655009
C 18-Jan-10 Continuing Various

Broadcast Journalist (Sport)
Truro
5/7D/Ref: 22802609
C 12-Jan-10 A 12 months

Senior Monitoring Journalists, Delhi
Delhi Bureau
N/A/Ref: 23806609
C 10-Jan-10

Editorial Production Assistant, Delhi
Delhi Bureau
N/A/Ref: 23804409
E C 15-Jan-10

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT

Director of Marketing and Fundraising
London

White City
11D/Ref: 23957309
E C 18-Jan-10

Country Director, Nigeria
Nigeria
10D/Ref: 23907009
E C 17-Jan-10 A 3 years

Manager, Production Talent
London / Salford Quays
10D/Ref: 21895409
E C 18-Jan-10

Trainer/Editor
Kathmandu
9D/Ref: 239858
C 17-Jan-10 A 09 months

Business Requirements Manager
London
Henry Wood House
9D/Ref: 23964309
C 19-Jan-10

Marcomms Co-ordinator, Future Media & Technology
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
5D/Ref: 23901909
C 10-Jan-10

Team Assistant, Knowledge MC&A
London
TV Centre
4D/Ref: 24210609
C 14-Jan-10

Learning & New Media Assistant
Manchester
4D/Ref: 24023909
C 11-Jan-10 A 09 months

Broadcast and Online Assistant
London
Bush House
4D/Ref: 23681509
C 12-Jan-10

International HR & Development Manager
Delhi Bureau
N/A/Ref: 24175109
E C 17-Jan-10

NEW MEDIA

Programme Manager A&Mi
London
Henry Wood House
10D/Ref: 23638309
E C 18-Jan-10

Assistant Content Producers, A&Mi
London
Yalding House
6D/Ref: 23964209
E C 18-Jan-10 Various

SPECIALIST TECHNICAL AND DESIGN SERVICES

Technical Assistant, BBC Tees
Middlesbrough
4D/Ref: 23613109
E C 17-Jan-10 A 06 months

TECHNOLOGY

Creative Director, Canvas
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
9D/Ref: 23747109
E C 10-Jan-10 A 12 months

Senior Application Support
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
8D/Ref: 18173109
E C 11-Jan-10

Research & Development Technologist
London
7D/Ref: 23883209
E C 18-Jan-10

Test Engineer
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
7D/Ref: 23401409
E C 18-Jan-10 A 12 months

Systems Administrator
London
Broadcasting House
7D/Ref: 21302009
E C 11-Jan-10

Systems Administrator
London
Broadcasting House
7D/Ref: 18660209
E C 10-Jan-10

Technical Analyst/Engineer
London
Bush House
6H/Ref: 23841109
E C 10-Jan-10 A 06 months

Junior Java Developer
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
6D/Ref: 23754709
E C 11-Jan-10 A 12 months

Senior Broadcast Engineer - Radio Cornwall
Truro
5/7D/Ref: 23655109
C 12-Jan-10

BBC WORLDWIDE

Group Management Accountant
London
Media Centre
SENEX/Ref: 23921609
E C 10-Jan-10

Senior Communications Officer, External Affairs
London
Media Centre
2W/Ref: 241903
C 10-Jan-10

TRAINEESHIPS

BBC Trainee Technologist - Manchester
Manchester
5D/Ref: 22735209
E C 18-Jan-10

BBC Trainee Technologist - London
London & Kingswood Warren, Tadworth, Surrey
5D/Ref: 22569709
E 18-Jan-10

FULL DETAILS AND HOW TO APPLY

Full details and how to apply are on Gateway at: https://jobs.bbc.co.uk/fe/tpl_bbc02.asp
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C Date which applications are to be received by

E External applicants considered

A Attachment/contract

the **green room** guide to 2010

Let's face it, you've got enough on at work this year without also having to worry about where to go on holiday, what to eat, what gadgets to get, and which albums to... 'purchase'. So how about we do the thinking for you, in the form of handy five-point lists compiled by industry experts (and, cough, ourselves). **The Green Room guide to 2010** – helping you greet the year ahead with a hearty slap on the back of familiarity rather than the limp handshake of the unacquainted

PETER GRUNERT, EDITOR OF LONELY PLANET MAGAZINE, RECOMMENDS FIVE DESTINATIONS FOR 2010:

GERMANY 2009 was the year of the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, but attention shifts to the rest of Germany in 2010, with the 20th anniversary of reunification. Germans have long held their coastline in affection, but we think the time is now ripe for British travellers to find out what all the fuss is about.

GREECE Look at the cultural delights of the mainland. As well as this year's opening of the New Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece has much to offer: incredible historical sights, fantastic food and a beautiful coastline all the way down through Corinth and Sparta to the east.

NEW ZEALAND With stunning natural beauty and fantastic local produce and wine, New Zealand is a perennial favourite. It was ranked second in the 'dream trips for 2010' category by our readers in a recent survey, only pipped to the number one spot by the USA. It seems to be the country that all our readers promise themselves that they'll visit one day – so why not make that trip in 2010?

MEXICO Visitors stayed away from Mexico when news of swine flu broke but are now starting to return, and are being welcomed back with open arms. We're advising people to delve a little deeper and, rather than stick to the more familiar coastal destinations, travel south to the little-visited region of Oaxaca, with a culture, food and people unlike that anywhere in central America.

UK One benefit of the recession is that many of us are now choosing 'staycations' and discovering the delights on offer in our own backyard. Whatever the economy has in store for 2010, we think the UK will remain a top destination.

The January issue of Lonely Planet Magazine features 'Perfect Trips for 2010'. On sale now.



Draughty: Apollo's temple at Corinth, Greece



Popular: Korean spiced chops

CHRISTINE HAYES, EDITOR OF OLIVE MAGAZINE, PREDICTS FIVE FOOD TRENDS FOR 2010:

STREET FOOD Cheap and delicious, look out for a van near you selling everything from tacos to porridge (and can we encourage them to come to the Media Village, please?).

MORE MEAT-FREE COOKING as we try to lower our carbon footprint – see www.bbcgoodfood.com for hundreds of inspiring recipes.

WINE EXPERIMENTATION Is this the year we stop shovelling safe-bet Kiwi sauvignon blanc into the supermarket trolley and try experimenting with closer to home European whites such as English bacchus, Spanish verdejo and Italian fiano?

KOREAN CAFES will gain popularity, joining Thai and Vietnamese as the inexpensive option when eating out.

MASTERCHEF MANIA Cooking shows don't get bigger than this. Watch out for MasterChef supplements with Good Food magazine, an olive MasterChef special issue and three new series of the show next year.

TOM CRANSTOUN, TECHNICAL SPECIALIST, PICKS THE TOP FIVE GADGETS ON HIS SHOPPING LIST IN 2010:

PURE SENSIA DAB RADIO A revolutionary internet-connected digital audio system with a large colour touchscreen. It gives you a unique way to enjoy internet radio content and podcasts, DAB and FM radio stations, your own music collection via Wi-Fi, online apps and unique broadcast material, plus Twitter. It also runs the Windows CE operating system.

'ITABLET' (or whatever it's eventually called) The long rumoured tablet device from Apple. I really want this one to succeed. The rumour-mill says it has two screen modes – e-ink and video capable – so you can use it to read e-books or watch iPod video.

SONY XPERIA X10 Sony's first Android [an open mobile phone platform developed by Google] phone – an alternative to the iPhone from a top class company. It includes an 8.1 megapixel autofocus camera with LED flash, face and smile recognition, image stabilisation, red-eye reduction and geo-tagging from its GPS receiver. You also get dvd-quality WVGA video recording at 30 frames per second. Then there's the 4" touch-screen with a 16:9 aspect ratio, which makes movie watching on the road a real pleasure.

VIEWER The new internet capable, iPlayer capable, direct-connected [doesn't require a separate box-set] tv from Cello Electronics, which will sell at Marks and Sparks for £399.



Sony Xperia X10

SAMSUNG SHOW Currently only available in Korea, this phone features a built-in projector for video and games, as well as an OLED screen, five megapixel camera and haptic feedback [where the phone vibrates in response to the user pressing an on-screen control, making up for the lack of a normal tactile response experienced when pressing a physical button].



'I told you not to lose that cloakroom ticket': Warpaint



MGMT: Stands for 'management', apparently

GREEN ROOM'S TOP FIVE ALBUMS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2010 WILL BE MADE BY:

SLEIGH BELLS Ex-guitarist from hardcore punx Poison the Well meets girl-group singer turned school teacher. They make beautiful music together, combining poppy playground melodies, simple drum machine beats and big fat vibrating slabs of distorted noise. Currently re-recording their eviscerating demos for a debut album.

THE NATIONAL Fifth album from Brooklyn's finest exponents of country-tinged literary indie rock. Expect more delicately anthemic tales of social awkwardness and doomed romance from gravelly-voiced vocalist Matt Berninger and co.

A GRAVE WITH NO NAME His hair is long, his guitar is loud, but his voice is oh so quiet. That's Alex Shields, the no doubt intense young man (Sample lyric: 'Pleased to meet you, I'm so sad') behind sensitive London grunge-gazers AGWNN, whose debut album is out in January.

WARPAINT LA residents, filmstars (original drummer Shannyn Sossamon starred opposite Heath Ledger in A Knight's Tale), and a Dazed and Confused band of the week – but don't let all that put you off. Laid back Cat Power-style vocals, dreamy guitars and loose percussion marked out last year's EP as something special, so prepare to hear the debut album soundtracking many a trendy dinner party later this year.

MGMT Performance art noise terrorists turned psychedelic saviours of pop return with a follow up to 2008's sublime Oracular Spectacular. But will it contain anything as mind-numbingly catchy as hit single Time to Pretend, which inveigled its way on to tv series, trails and adverts across the world?

> IF YOU HAVE A STORY FOR THE GREEN ROOM, CONTACT ADAM BAMBURY