

# P5

## The newsletter of the Sevenside Television Group

March 2003

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While not the most inspiring of events in the Clubs calendar, it is nevertheless probably the most important one. Every year, the committee that run STG stand down from their posts and a new committee is elected by the members. It's an opportunity for members to play an active part in running the club and in the decision making that guides us to the future of ATV in the Sevenside Area.

Last year there were **NO** nominations for committee positions whatsoever and the club only exists today because of the goodwill of the previous committee members who kindly offered to stand for one more term of office. Do not take it for granted that this will happen again this year. Officially, in the absence of an elected committee, the club has to be wound up and its assets disposed of. The full explanation of this is in the STG constitution but the bottom line is that both repeaters have to be shut down immediately and all club sales have to cease. The only way to stop this happening is to fill in the nomination form and be prepared to do your bit for the club. None of the committee positions are complicated or particularly demanding of your time. In fact, the time taken on committee meetings works out at less than one hour per month and even the treasurer's and membership secretary's 'book keeping' jobs, involve little more than filling in the blanks on computer forms. It grieves me somewhat that members who are happy to sit for hours watching the repeater output, or transmitting through them declare they have no spare time to devote to keeping them on the air. The subscription to the club is not a payment to use a repeater, it only just covers the costs of dropping P5 on your doormat or in your email. It's the devotion of the committee and a few volunteers that raise the money to keep the repeaters on the air. Please don't shy away from being a committee member, your input counts more than you may think.

The AGM is being held at the repeater site in Filton, starting at about 7:45pm on **MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL**. It only lasts for about an hour and as well as the committee changeover, there is talk about the clubs achievements and aspirations over the past year. Afterwards there is a discussion in which members can ask questions and raise points about the way the club is run and propose changes to the way things are to be done in the coming year. Please do your best to attend, you can bring visitors with you and they are welcome to enter discussions but only members are allowed to vote on club matters. There will be an opportunity to renew memberships and introduce new members at the end of the meeting. *BK*

## Digital ATV via the Astra 1A Satellite.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, SM6CKU made the first digital ATV test transmission in Europe when he (Ben) used the Astra 1A satellite to show a live programme to evaluate this kind of broadcast. Signals were received across Europe and with his camera pointing at the digital readout of a HF rig, amateurs could see which frequency to report reception on. I watched the programme here in Aberdyfi, right on the west coast and on the edge of the satellite footprint. The pictures were perfect on an old 60cm mesh dish, despite the coating of rust on it. However, in very windy conditions and heavy rain the signal was a little hard to keep in lock.

The tests were repeated on March 9<sup>th</sup>, this time I was better prepared and had a 1 metre dish. This was held on the garden fence with cable ties!, hardly the best mounting method but the signals stayed locked this time even though the whole fence was wobbling in the gusty wind. As well as the rig shots, Ben included camera shots of his dish and some unusual musical entertainment. The next tests will probably be on April 27<sup>th</sup> but check his web site [www.parabolic.se](http://www.parabolic.se) for updates as the date may change.

Astra 1A is quite old in satellite terms, launched in 1989 it carried some of the first "direct to home" broadcasts and started the revolution in home satellite systems. Now, its batteries are failing and it is low on the fuel necessary to keep it in geostationary orbit so it has been shifted to an inclined orbit. This basically means it is no longer directly over the equator and although it stays at its 5.2 degrees east position, it wanders slightly in elevation. To receive it continuously you need a motorised dish to track its position but the drift is so slow that little signal change would be noticed in the duration of the test programmes. The only full time commercial broadcast it carries is RTL9 on 11.370GHz, horizontal with a symbol rate of 3260 and FEC of 5/6. It also has one PAL analogue testcard on 11.391GHz, horizontal showing a picture of the dish array at Astra headquarters in Luxembourg.

If you want to look out for the next ATV tests, they will be on 11.323GHz, horizontal polarisation with symbol rate of 6667 and the FEC set at 1 / 2. The frequency is usually dead but shows a colour bar testcard for about 5 minutes before the programme starts.

To receive the signal I use a Humax CI-5100 receiver. This is the baby version of Humax's top range. It is exactly the same as the other models in the 5100 range but is not fitted with internal decryption units. They are the boards to allow scrambled and "pay per view" programs to be seen. They can still be fitted if needed but for ATV purposes I didn't see any point in paying extra for them. Tony Wise at Wyzcom recommended this unit to me because it is the most "tweakable" in the range, making it adaptable to work with all the presently available digital ATV standards as well as commercial TV ones. It can automatically scan the whole 2GHz wide satellite band (including 23cm if the LNB supply is turned off in one of the menu settings) and can scan a long list of symbol rates and all the FEC settings automatically to find any stations that are compatible. It also has an LNB "loop through" outlet so another receiver can be fed signals in parallel, very handy if you want analogue and digital ATV at the same time. I highly recommend this receiver and will be using it for my digital ATV trials in the near future.

*Brian Kelly. GW6BWX*

# Sevenside Television Group

## **Unaudited Statement of Account. Year ending 28th February 2003.**

This is a preliminary report of the clubs accounts.

A full and audited statement of account will be available at the AGM on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Income**

Subscriptions	£216.00
Sales	£1,916.52
Donations	£154.00
Auctions	£83.50
Interest	£0.26
Sundries	£1,203.64
Total income	<b><u>£3,573.92</u></b>

### **Expenditure**

Stock Purchases	£932.11
Stationary/Postage	£303.45
Rent/Hire	£157.00
Insurance	£131.44
Advertising	£75.00
Social events	£9.45
Equipment/Maintenance	£225.41
Sundries	£1,602.82
Total expenditure	<b><u>£3,436.68</u></b>

**Income over expenditure 1st March 2002 to 28th February 2003** **£137.24**

Balance carried forward from year ending February 2002 **£924.93**

**Current account balance** **£1,062.17**

**Value of Assets at 28th February 2003** **£1,131.71**

**Value of Stock holding at 28th February 2003** **£145.60**

Note: the large amount listed under "Sundries" is includes the entire amount in the Clubs old Lloyds-TSB account, which was transferred by cheque to a new account, held with Barclays Bank. Further explanation of this and other items will be made in the treasurer's report at the AGM. Although it is believed the above is correct, the audited version was not available at time of printing, it will be circulated at the AGM on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.