



John v Thom



STILL CLINGING TO THE HOPE THEY MIGHT WIN A YORKSHIRE PRESS AWARD!

ROUND 36 – HOSPITAL RADIO. Read, watch and listen to previous rounds at www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk

Radio ga-ga!

(John and Thom become Brid's answer to Smashie and Nicey!)

LISTEN TO THEIR RADIO SHOW AT OUR WEBSITE www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk

ROUND 36: Hospital radio
VENUE: Bridlington Hospital
MENTORS: Long-serving radio presenter Ken Nixon and newcomer Luke Sedman
RESULT: Another narrow win for John
JOHN v THOM SCORE: 22-14 to John

BROADCASTING history is full of great double acts.

From Morecambe and Wise to Mark and Lard, there have been some fantastic duos come into your homes over the airwaves,



New recruit Luke Sedman, 16, is looking forward to hitting the airwaves soon.

bringing joy to all their audiences.

But would patients and staff in Bridlington Hospital appreciate the attempts at entertainment from the Free Press' own duo, John and Thom, as they took to the airwaves on hospital radio?

Both were given a 20-minute slot on Ken Nixon's Thursday morning show in which to showcase their radio voices.

As well as lining up tracks (five each, selected from the station's own collection), they had to introduce the show, provide seamless links, time their cuts to advertisements and come up with some funny patter to keep the listeners entertained.

And after a quick gargle of salt water, John kicked off proceedings with a quick introduction, before setting off Mrs Robinson, by Simon and Garfunkel, as his opening tune.

As well as smooth transitions between links, he introduced some of the stories in that week's Free Press, and, like Thom, asked a just-for-fun quiz question.

After a professional showing during his 20 minute stint behind the microphone, it was Thom's turn to don the headphones, and he began in much the same vein, with a solid if nervy opening.

However, Thom's broadcast was let down

when he introduced I Can Hear Music by the Beach Boys as a Beatles track, before completely forgetting to start the record.

Although he followed the song by admitting that it should have been called 'I Can't Hear Music', and linked out well enough, the damage was done.

Thom also spoke about famous birthdays on that day, celebrating the birth of Dracula author Bram Stoker and celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay.

John was declared the winner by Ken and his studio helper, 16-year-old Luke Sedman, although both admitted it was a close-run affair.

Ken said: "It was simply because he was a little bit slicker going from speech to music."

"Thom did hesitate at one point, and missed a link, or was late with it at least, although he did admit it."

"They were both good over the microphone, very literate, and their speech was very clear, which is important in this sort of thing."

"Thom's was a bit more interesting, very witty and on the lighter side. I thought the reference to Dracula was very good and he got out of the clanger he dropped early on."

"But although John's was more basic, he was much better organised between links."

ARE YOU THE NEXT DAVE LEE TRAVIS?!

BRDLINGTON Hospital Broadcasting Service desperately needs more volunteers. It is looking for programme presenters and, more importantly, helpers to go around the wards collecting requests from patients. For details, call Ken Nixon on 423082.



John and Thom get some DJ tips from hospital radio presenter Ken Nixon.

King of the airwaves He's lost in music

THE last song I played during my stint on hospital radio was called 'Good Enough'. And I most certainly was.

In fact, after we'd finished Ken could have played 'The Winner Takes It All' by Abba' or 'You Win Again'.

If Thom, a man with a face for radio, is going to start going on about being robbed of victory every week, I'm going to start putting the boot in.

Who else would have been daft enough to choose a quiz question about Cleopatra where the answer involved reading out the word 'ass'?

Who else would forget to press play when he was introducing a song called I Can Hear Music?

Who else would promise listeners a round-up of news after his next song - 15 minutes after I'd already done it? Only Thom.

The only surprise is that he didn't pick a wholly inappropriate song to play on hospital radio. Everybody Hurts, The First Cut Is The Deepest, Knockin' On Heaven's Door, I wouldn't have put it past him. Although, I must admit I was tempted to see what the patients' reaction had been if I'd played Food Glorious Food.

It's harder than you think being on the radio, at least with the Free Press you can check and double check and hope you don't make a spelling mistake before it is published.

On the radio, stumble over your words, say something silly, get all tongue-tied and everyone hears it.

But I came through it as a pro, with a voice as soothing as Wogan's and guaranteed to give all those feeling under the weather a little lift.

Going on the radio was great fun, and being in a studio meant we were in a hospital and reasonably safe in the knowledge we wouldn't get a superbug.



I, LIKE many other music-mad youngsters of the past 30 years, was a keen listener of John Peel's in my younger days.

So when I left this challenge having started off records at the wrong times, introduced songs incorrectly, and completely missed links, I was left wondering how the great man would have viewed my performance.

And I suspect he would have been very proud that there was somebody keeping his legacy alive - had we been using vinyl I am even confident I would have kicked off a couple of records at the wrong speed, too.

With that kind of influence behind me, I am still flabbergasted that I left this challenge without the John v Thom point.

John's part of the show was simple, smooth, completely professional, and played with a very straight bat indeed - like Noel Edmonds, say.

Meanwhile, I was shambolic, hapless, chaotic yet gentle, and desperately struggling to cover every mistake with an appalling joke - like Peel.

My stint as one of the 'comedy' sidekicks on The Ginger Dave Show on university radio would, I thought, provide me with the advantage going into this challenge.

But it quickly became apparent that this was not a competition based around being funny, or charming, or shambolic, or any combination of the above.

It was about doing things by the book, being professional, and not spending the whole time making rubbish gags about Dracula.

Clearly, neither John Peel nor Ginger Dave did anything to teach me any of this - thanks boys.



You can suggest challenges by sending a text starting BFPEDITOR followed by a space, your challenge idea and name, to 81800, or by e-mailing newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk