

**MINUTES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CHANNEL FOUR  
TELEVISION CORPORATION**

**HELD AT 124 HORSEFERRY ROAD,  
LONDON SW1P 2TX  
ON 21 MARCH 2005**

In attendance: Sue Ford Finance Director  
John Newbigin Head of Corporate Relations  
Rosemary Newell Controller of Broadcasting  
(for Item 6)

Apologies: None

**Please note that commercially sensitive information has been redacted.**

**2. Directors'  
Reports – C4**

The Chief Executive reported that the Government's Green Paper on the BBC Charter had paved the way for a ten-year Charter, funded by a licence fee with the Governors re-constituted as Trustees.

The sections of the Green Paper devoted to Channel 4 endorse the need for help with costs of transition to digital. The Green Paper accepts that the principle of expanding access to the licence fee beyond the BBC should be considered at the time of switch-over, with the Secretary of State having the power to bring it forward.

The Chief Executive reported that next stages in the Charter Review included an All-Party Scrutiny Committee of the House of Lords, to which he, the Chairman and the Deputy Chief Executive would be giving evidence in April, and a White Paper being published, probably in the autumn.

He reported that a contract had been signed with Crown Castle to give Channel 4 an extra channel on Multiplex C.

With regard to channel performance, the Chief Executive said that **Jamie's School Dinners** had proved a success with audiences of up to five million and an obvious impact on public policy, including widespread debate in the press. He commented that the torture season had also been a

**Reports – C4  
Paper 643 (08/05)**

**Chief Executive**

strong public service series.

The Chief Executive reported a successful public debate with Jamie Oliver, building on the issues raised in his series, and the establishment of the 'Talking TV' club presenting previews and talks to an invited audience on a monthly basis.

The Chief Executive reported that Channel 4 had won nine RTS Awards, a particularly strong performance.

**Deputy Chief  
Executive**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that a contract had been signed giving Channel 4 additional capacity on Multiplex C (Mux C).

The Chief Executive said that a sum had been earmarked in the 2005 Budget for new media.

The issue of the 4 Docs Service was raised. The Director of Television commented that in a more competitive atmosphere in which it was difficult to justify quirky new initiatives on the main channel, 4Docs offered opportunities for training and development and for first-time film-makers, all of which was important to Channel 4.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on enquiries for information in the wake of the Freedom of Information Act.

**Director of  
Television**

The Director of Television reported that February had been a strong month; that peaktime share had also been strong in March. Daytime figures were down.

The Director of Television reported that **Jamie's School Dinners** had been hugely successful as a piece of public service broadcasting.

The Director of Television reported on the outcome to negotiations with PACT about joint rights deals for Channel 4 and More 4.

**Sales Director**

The Sales Director reported that with regard to advertisements aimed at children, there was a three-year timetable with new codes being written for advertisers.

**Finance Director**

The Finance Director reported that March had been

a strong month with regard to both revenues and surplus. Full-year forecasts were being correspondingly updated.

The Finance Director said thought was being given as to how financial reporting might be improved.

### **3. Audit Committee**

Andy Mollett reported that the Audit Committee had met several times and that KPMG had been retained as new auditors.

The Finance Director discussed KPMG's recommendations.

Andy Mollett concluded that there had been no significant problems with the Audit.

### **4. Remuneration Committee**

Barry Cox reported on the Remuneration Committee.

The Committee meets twice a year; in November to set salaries and bonus schemes for the year ahead; and in March to assess the previous year.

The Chairman called for more Non-Executive Directors to join the Remuneration Committee. Karren Brady volunteered to join the Committee and was approved by the Board.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Corporation Secretary had agreed to circulate minutes of the Audit and Remuneration Committees to all Board members.

### **5. Annual Report – C4 Paper 644 (09/05)**

The Chairman reported that two new Non-Executive Directors had been proposed to the DCMS. It was hoped that they would be able to take up their responsibilities on 1 April. The Board approved the Annual Report, with these two Non-Executive Directors to be included if and when their appointments are agreed.

### **6. 2006 Programming (Rosemary Newell joined the meeting)**

The Chief Executive reported on the planned provisional budgets for the 2006 schedule.

The Chief Executive reported on the budgets for More 4 and for E4.

The Controller of Broadcasting said the proposed budget included two key peaktime increases: for

drama, and for comedy and entertainment. There would be four long-running returnable drama series like **Shameless** and **No Angels**, with an additional single drama each month with the level of creative ambition achieved by such recent successes as **Sex Traffic**, **Omagh** and **The Government Inspector**.

The Director of Television said the Channel had bought the rights to all three of the **Lord of the Rings** films for six years.

Ian Ritchie asked if the Breakthrough Fund was in operation. The Chief Executive replied that it was.

**7. Any Other Business**

A paper by Andrew Graham was circulated. Andrew Graham said it would be valuable if, in addition to their Board Reports, Executives would occasionally write discussion papers for the Board.

**8. Dates of Remaining Board Meetings 2004 – Paper 645 (10/05)**

The next meeting of the Board will be held from 3:00 pm to 6:00pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at Channel Four Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX.

Chairman .....

Date .....