

RADIO 1 NEWSBEAT

BBC Radio 1 Newsbeat is in audience terms the biggest news station in BBC radio. Their remit is to make sense of the news for a mostly young audience with highly crafted packages. Based on the second floor of Yalding House in Clipstone Street, near Broadcasting House in London, Newsbeat staff work alongside the news team on their digital sister network 1 Xtra, who are based one floor above on the third floor. There are about 60 staff on both networks, with 36 on Newsbeat. Most staff stay a maximum of just two years on Newsbeat. The staff is 60 per cent female, and 30 per cent are from ethnic minorities. The journalists all have to be highly able technically (there are no studio managers).

Newsbeat's audience is 50 per cent male, 50 per cent female, a higher proportion of female listeners than most other BBC News output. Most of the audience are in their twenties, working as sales reps, in supermarkets, the building trade, and the armed forces. Ten per cent of the audience are students. Newsbeat staff write as if the audience are 'mates, who know a lot'.

The Newsbeat newsroom is long and thin, with the editor Rod McKenzie's office at one end and the studio and control room at the other. There is a large plasma screen near the studio, and each work-station has a small screen tuned to either BBC News 24, GMTV, Sky News or CNN. Radio 1 plays constantly in the background.

There are news bulletins on Radio 1 hourly from 4.30 a.m. until 6.30 a.m. After that, they are every half-hour until 9.30, when they revert to hourly. At noon, there is a short entertainment news bulletin, and at 12.45 the 15-minute lunchtime Newsbeat programme. From 1.30 the bulletins are every half-hour until 5 p.m., when there is a short bulletin/trail for the evening Newsbeat. The evening programme runs from 5.45 until 6 p.m. There is an entertainments bulletin at 6.30.

0700

Newsbeat's duty editor for today, Kevin Silverton, arrives and has a brief handover from the overnight team. He starts researching the main leads for the day. Kevin is one of six or seven duty editors on Newsbeat, and is duty editor roughly once a week. The first editions of the morning papers arrive around midnight, and the overnight team have been researching stories. Newsbeat's main rivals are commercial radio and the IRN website. They aim to get a 'national' feel to their output, using BBC regional reporters and sending Newsbeat staff around the country rather than keeping them in London.



Dominic Byrne

In the basement of Yalding House, Chris Moyles and the breakfast team are on air. At this time of day there are between eight and ten million listeners. The early news team is based next to the Chris Moyles studio in the Live Lounge. There are three in the early news team: the news producer, the news presenter and the sports presenter who writes and produces the breakfast sport. Duty news editor for Breakfast today is Adrian Pearce, who has been in since 4 a.m.

The Live Lounge sits in the middle of the four Radio 1 studios with a large window looking into each studio. It is a versatile area used for production, with three newsdesk computers for the early news team. It can also be used – by folding away the desks – as a studio to record bands and acoustic sessions later in the day.

Adrian sits at his work-station and researches and writes the bulletins. Dominic Byrne, Breakfast's newsreader, spends 70 per cent of his time in the studio. He reads the copy Adrian has written (all Newsbeat presenters prefer to read from a paper script). Carey Davis is on sport today. Chris Moyles presents his show standing up, and, when in the studio, newsreader Dominic is perched on the opposite side of the desk with other contributors to the show.

0720

Kevin spends his first hour talking to the reporters already assigned to stories. Hannah Morrison has been sent to Wales where the number of Welsh students staying in Wales to study has increased. He also talks with the political reporter, Rajini Vaidyanathan, who is in Manchester all week for the Labour Party Conference. This is usually the time the duty editor sends reporters out on 'obvious stories' – the ones they don't need to decide upon at the morning meeting. Kevin says waiting till the meeting would be a waste of time, with the first main programme on air just four hours later.

0800

Most of the Newsbeat staff are now in. They are busy catching up on the news, reading the morning papers, checking facts on their computers and watching the breakfast news output on the TV screens on their desks. Radio 1 is playing in the background throughout the newsroom.

0813

The majority of the team start to move downstairs one floor to the meeting room, for their daily morning meeting. It is a large room with black sofas.

0815



The meeting gets underway. It is chaired by Kevin Silverton as today's duty editor. Twenty-three staff from both 1 Xtra and Newsbeat attend, including Rod McKenzie, Editor, Radio 1 Newsbeat and 1 Xtra.

Kevin begins by listing what has already been planned: 'Heather has filed a report from the US on the Colorado siege. Hannah is in Aberystwyth; she went yesterday. New figures show that more Welsh students are applying to Welsh universities. Fifty per cent of freshers in Wales are Welsh because of the tuition fees. Simi is in New York looking at the Virgin Galactic Explorer Spaceship mock-up.

'The Ents team went to the Borat film last night; there'll be a piece on at lunchtime. There's Rio Ferdinand's book launch; the hip-hop weekend on 1 Xtra; Michael Knowles – Beyonce's father – is releasing a hip-hop rap album for kids – with no profanities. And Gordon Ramsay is on Moyles. Steve Irwin's wife, Terri, is speaking – there's some really lovely audio. And finally Pete Doherty and Kate Moss are back in the news.'

0820



Rod McKenzie at the morning meeting

Kevin opens the meeting up, and asks for other stories. Ian offers two technology stories: Microsoft's high-definition DVD drive, and film director Peter Jackson going to work on computer games with Microsoft. He tells the meeting: '*Newsround* are there and I was talking with them late last night co-ordinating with them over the audio.'

A dangerous criminal escaped in transit near Worcester yesterday lunchtime. Audio is available from West Mercia Police.

'The problem with this story is that he'll be found just before we go on air at lunchtime.'

'How dangerous is dangerous?'

'He's an armed robber.'

'I play football with a couple of prison officers and they say . . .'

The meeting is relaxed with a lot of good humour. Rod and Kevin take a back seat allowing the junior members of the team to chip in, discuss stories and pitch their ideas. Rod McKenzie wants others to have an equal voice: 'They argue passionately for their ideas. It's a creative, free-flowing process. It's as non-hierarchical as possible – the orthodox editorial comes later. It needs to be quite open, a safe environment to bounce ideas.'

They discuss a new poll on the best road-works in Britain.

'It's so British – we get something positive out of it!'

'It's so predictable.'

'It would be great for the 5.45 with people driving.'

They move on to discuss a new cure for hay fever – Dr Hilary Jones had been on GMTV earlier discussing it.

They are looking for stories that provoke reaction. A 17-year-old has given birth to triplets and already has a child.

'Do we want it as a positive story?'

'How would the listeners react?'

A discussion takes place about whether their audience would view it as a positive story.

The meeting turns to John Prescott's swansong at the Labour Conference. He is due to give his final conference speech as Deputy Leader at around 12ish. Editor Rod asks the meeting: 'Is it accessible for our audience?'

One of the team says: 'But who knows he is still the Deputy Prime Minister? The story is he's retiring. Oh, sorry, didn't realise you were still there!'

'I think we ought to spend 20 minutes today trying to get the first interview with Richard Hammond [the presenter of *Top Gear* was injured in a 300-mph crash eight days earlier]. He's moving to a general ward today. The BBC have put a bid in. It'll never happen if we go through the BBC Press Office.'

Rod McKenzie says: 'If the BBC have already put a bid in, this comes under the "Big Bid Rules", and we can't do that.'

They discuss a new ring that heats up to remind the wearer of important dates. More jokes.


	<p>The lead on TV's <i>Ten O'Clock News</i> last night was about the Chinese harvesting organs. Ten thousand people are executed in China every year, and 95 per cent of transplants in China are from prisoners on Death Row.</p> <p>'Would our audience be interested?'</p> <p>'We know that ten thousand people are being executed in China, what's new?'</p> <p>'We might know that, but do our audience know it? Not that we have that many Radio 1 listeners in China!'</p> <p>They discuss cricket and bungs in football.</p> <p>'I couldn't give a shit about bungs. It doesn't affect me – I'm not interested.'</p> <p>'If bungs are a scandal, then the fees are a scandal as well.'</p> <p>'Is it affecting fans out there rather more than it affects the news team?'</p> <p>'I'm with Toby on this – it might be big with football fans, but what about the non-football fans?'</p> <p>'It's rather gossipy.'</p> <p>They bounce the bung story around until someone says with a laugh: 'Moving on from the football bung story . . .'</p> <p>'Citizenship classes. These lessons are failing. The majority of our audience would have gone through them. Ofsted officials say that some of these lessons may be dangerous.'</p> <p>Lots of laughter . . .</p>
0848	<p>Kevin closes the meeting. The teams move back to the two newsrooms. 1 Xtra is based on the third floor of Yalding House. The 1 Xtra news team is a scaled-down version of the Newsbeat team situated in a corner of the 1 Xtra production area.</p>
0900	<p>Back in the Newsbeat newsroom, Kevin and Rod discuss the stories they will cover. <i>Rod explains: 'We are very audience focused – it's what the audience care about we'll cover. Texts are important to us. We have a fantastic level of interaction with our audience. They're very interested in sex. We have a lot of ordinary soldiers from the armed forces listening to us.'</i></p>
0905	<p>Newsbeat planner, Karlene Pinnock, leaves to go to Television Centre at White City. She is on the rota to sit on the news planning desk. Newsbeat has a representative on the planning desk each day in the main BBC newsroom in west London. Rod comments: 'They're not really interested in what we're doing; they're telling us what they're doing, but we're not really interested.'</p>
0915	<p>Rod goes into his office for the daily conference video-link with the BBC Radio planning meeting at Television Centre. He dials in.</p>

0918	<p>The video conference call begins. Also on the video-link is World Service News at Bush House. On the large plasma screen in a corner of his office, Rod can see the meeting room at Television Centre, where radio editors and Newsgathering are seated around a large conference table. On the left of the screen, he can also see the news editor from World Service at Bush. The meeting has already started as Rod joins on the video-link. The discussion is about the output over the previous 24 hours. The tone is one of praise.</p>
0920	<p>A voice over the video link asks: 'Rod, how was yesterday with you?'</p> <p>Rod says: 'The best story for us was the sex scandal with the judge.'</p> <p>The reply comes with a smile: 'It was the best story – I reprimand anyone who didn't do that story yesterday.'</p> <p>'It was a very funny day yesterday – we were looking for leads. The China transplant story was pulled forward. It was a stockpile feature that was brought forward because there was no lead. The secret filming in Beijing was good.'</p> <p>'Let's talk about today . . .'</p>
0925	<p>Home Newsgathering go through a list: 'Labour Party Conference. There's the Reid speech this morning and John Prescott's at around 12. Musharraf – no usable audio is expected with Blair. Accident rates are going down. Universities – we've some commissioned stuff there. Seasonal flu preparations, what to expect. Not very exciting, quite boring. New jobs at Swindon are expected to be announced today. There's a presser on the 14-month-old savaged by a Rottweiler, nothing live and we're looking at the anti-Pope demonstrations.'</p>
0931	<p>Foreign Newsgathering are invited to go through their list.</p> <p>'There's been a possible tsunami. The ball-tampering ICC ruling is expected later today. There's a spy row over Russia and Georgia. In St Petersburg, the body of the mother of the Tsar is being buried – some nice audio is expected out of that. At 12 o'clock our time in New York, there's the unveiling of the spaceship. And there are lots of Irishmen in Paris for the Derry match.'</p>
0935	<p>'Rod, what are you up to today?'</p> <p>'We're going to mop up the Colorado shooting. We're doing Terri Irwin. We're in Aberystwyth with some Welsh students – we have Glyn from Big Brother with us. Prescott's in Manchester. We're doing the "best road-works" story.'</p> <p>Rod is told that Five Live have already done some stuff this morning from the M42 near Birmingham. He might want to have a look at it. Rod thanks them and continues: 'We went to the Borat screening last night and will be covering that. There are also two technology pieces, one on HD DVD and Peter Jackson is getting into computer games. And then we're covering the Virgin Galactic spaceship.'</p> <p>It is then Radio Two's turn: they're covering the judge, coughing, dangerous dog, and John Simpson is on the Jeremy Vine show. World Service list what they are covering and then leave the video meeting.</p> <p>Radio Four are then asked what they are up to. The <i>World at One</i> (or WATO as it's known) will be covering Prescott's speech and doing a piece on prisons. <i>PM</i> will be at the Labour conference in Manchester and covering Pakistan, the Zambian elections and the citizenship story. <i>The World Tonight</i> will be covering the conference, and they're doing a piece on Brazilian crime.</p>

0940	The end of the conference meeting. Rod comments: 'Our agenda and the agenda for the rest of BBC radio news is a chasm apart. There was an enormous breadth in that meeting – the complete world of journalism. We are so diverse on coverage.'
0955	Georgina Bowman, Newsbeat's presenter, arrives in the newsroom. She starts getting up to speed with what is happening. Her first bulletin is in 35 minutes at 10.30. Sitting at the next work-station to Georgina is senior broadcast journalist Maddy Savage. Maddy is writing all the bulletins today. It is her job to write fresh scripts and to get fresh audio for each hour. The bulletins are two minutes long and she writes six stories for each hour, with three audio clips. Each clip is no longer than 12 or 13 seconds. Voicers on Newsbeat are under 20 seconds, but if they are political they might be a bit longer. Most copy stories are just a couple of lines, and there is sport in every bulletin.
 Maddy Savage	
1010	Kevin hears from Newsgathering that Richard Hammond is expected to leave hospital in Leeds within the next hour to go to a general ward in Bristol.
1020	Georgina is busy putting the finishing touches to Maddy's 10.30 bulletin script. One of the team is trying to find out which hospital Richard Hammond is moving to. Frenchay Hospital say they are not expecting him.
1025	Georgina prints off the script, and goes into the studio to read the bulletin.
1027	<p>Georgina has no technical help for this bulletin today; she has to self-op. Normally there is a studio broadcast assistant to operate the desk for the bulletins during the day. They concentrate on the sound balance, allowing the presenters to concentrate on their read.</p> <p>Georgina tries to contact Jo Whiley on talkback. Jo's show is now live from one of the basement studios. She is not sure which studio Jo is broadcasting from.</p> <p>'I don't know what studio Jo's in – I don't normally do this.'</p> <p>She calls through on talkback to one of the studios, and asks if Jo is there. She is told she's got the wrong studio.</p> <p>'Who was that?' she asks.</p> <p>'It was Chris Moyles,' says a BJ (broadcast journalist), who is collecting something from the studio.</p> <p>'No, it wasn't,' Georgina sounds shocked.</p> <p>'Yes, it was. Look at the camera.'</p> <p><i>All the studios are linked by webcams.</i></p>
 Georgina Bowman	

1029	Georgina finds Jo Whiley's studio and lets her know on talkback she's reading the bulletin. The 10.30 bulletin is often read by Dominic Byrne, who has been on the Chris Moyles show. He and Georgina work out between them who will read this bulletin, depending on their commitments during the morning.
1030	Music fades and Jo Whiley cues Georgina. She opens her fader and starts reading.
1032	<p>Georgina finishes the bulletin and comes out of the studio.</p> <p><i>Working practices on Newsbeat have changed enormously in the past ten years. They no longer have studio managers or producers. The production and technical operation is done by senior broadcast journalists. Journalists are not only expected to write, research and report; they are also expected to be able to edit their pieces and self-op in the studio to a high level of creativity and competence.</i></p> <p>Newsbeat use a different editing system from the rest of BBC Radio News. They use Cool Edit (now called Adobe Audition) to edit, and Cool Play to play out. Everything is designed to be as simple as possible for the journalists to self-op. They have an Instant Replay system on the studio desk – it plays audio clips and music stabs at the touch of a button.</p>
1040	<p>Kevin and Georgina are reading texts from listeners.</p> <p>'Texts are very, very important to us,' Kevin explains. 'They show listener feedback.'</p> <p>They like to be able to read some of them out, but they discover a lot are abusive comments about the prisoner who has escaped. They won't be able to use them.</p>
1043	<p>Dominic Byrne is checking a story with the Entertainments team.</p> 
1050	News breaks on PA, and the Sky Breaking News strap appears across the plasma announcing that Richard Hammond is due to leave hospital.
1051	Kevin rings Anna Lee, the BBC reporter who is meant to be covering the Hammond story in Leeds.
1052	Georgina and Maddy return to writing their scripts. Georgina says: 'That's the lead for half eleven then.'

1055	<p>Georgina is trying to write the Prescott story for the 12.45 lunchtime programme, but she's struggling. The top line of PA is not written in a way the Newsbeat audience will go for.</p> <p>'It's hard to write when he hasn't spoken yet. Our audience loved the Prescott fling story,' she says, as she writes: <i>Who could forget those photos of John Prescott during his fling with his secretary? Or him parading round that posh ranch . . .</i></p> <p>She deletes it all and tries again:</p> <p><i>It's one of those images from the papers that stick with you . . .</i></p> <p>She deletes the lot and goes to the university story instead.</p> <p><i>Well, its Freshers' week . . .</i> she presses 'delete' again.</p> <p><i>He might not have won Big Brother but he's still doing his bit for his country . . .</i></p> <p>'If you can grab them like that – they'll want to listen.'</p> <p>Sitting next to Georgina, Kevin adds: 'The Newsbeat style is a difficult style to crack. It's basic, but not simplistic, and not patronising. Often the way stories work best for Newsbeat is as eye-witness accounts from reporters.'</p>
1105	<p>Georgina is asked if she has time to take a call from Hannah, the reporter in Wales. Hannah wants to discuss her cue. Georgina goes into the Cool Edit program and checks the out-cue with Hannah over the phone. She then returns to her script and continues writing.</p>
1110	<p><i>There's been yet more amazing news about Richard Hammond and his recovery . . .</i></p> <p>Georgina calls to Kevin sitting next to her: 'I've put a cue in for Richard Hammond – but it might all change.'</p>
1114	<p>Georgina starts writing the John Prescott story again.</p> <p><i>It might be hard to look at John Prescott and think politics, and not about that affair he had with his secretary. But the Deputy Prime Minister's just been speaking at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester. He's just . . .</i></p>
1116	<p>Francis from the Entertainments team calls out: 'There's Richard Hammond sitting up in the helicopter.'</p> <p>The first shots of Richard Hammond leaving hospital are on the plasma. People in the newsroom stop what they are doing and watch these first pictures. Francis says: 'Wow. That's amazing.'</p>
1119	<p>Kevin has written a trail for the lunchtime programme to be read in the 11.30 bulletin. Maddy calls across to Kevin: 'Kev, does that cue work, if we say we'll have a report from our reporter at the hospital after Richard Hammond has left the hospital?'</p> <p>Kevin starts to rewrite the trail.</p>

1126	Georgina picks up her bulletin script and goes into the studio.
1130	Georgina goes on air. This time Derek Knight, one of the technical broadcast assistants on Newsbeat, is there to sort the sound levels out for her. All Georgina has to worry about is her read.
 1133	Georgina returns to writing scripts for the lunchtime programme.
1150	Frances Cronin, the duty editor for the Entertainments team, comes off the phone and laughs with Georgina sitting opposite her in the bank of work-stations: 'My friend has just become Janet Street-Porter's PA. Janet's having a party tonight to launch her autobiography, and she wants us to mention it. But she won't tell us what stars are going, or where it is going to be, and we can't go. It is going to be star-studded, but she won't tell us who is going.'
 1155	'Hannah on two for you, Kevin.' Kevin and Hannah go through Hannah's university script over the phone.
1200	Kevin and Georgina watch Sky's report on Richard Hammond and then discuss what wording to use – they decide upon 'sitting up and smiling'.
1203	Kevin asks one of the team to record the John Prescott speech on their terminal, because he wants to edit the speech on another terminal as it happens.
1205	Kevin and Georgina discuss the timing of the Prescott speech. Georgina says: 'We'll just have to busk it. They'll want to get it in before the one o'clock news, won't they?' Kevin says: 'Blair was half an hour late yesterday with his speech. Keep an eye on the TV screens . . .'

1215	<p>In the studio cubicle, Derek is top-and-tailing some clips. He checks the sound levels. He takes the Borat clip and 'builds' it using music: 'It's a bit of a frantic programme, so I like to get as much down on "tape" before we start, but when you're getting near to the wire, it's often best to take it live.'</p>
1220	<p>Georgina has rewritten her Prescott script again.</p> <p><i>Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott will be gone from his job within the year. A fling with his secretary and visits in cowboy boots to a posh ranch in the States. It's been more about the scandal than the politics for John Prescott this year. But the Deputy Prime Minister's just been speaking at the Labour Conference. He says he's going to quit . . .</i></p>
1226	<p>Kevin comes into the studio cubicle. Traffic buzzes through. Derek is told that regional news reporter Anna Lee from Leeds is coming through on OS2 [outside source 2] for a pre-record.</p> <p>'OK. I'll go and get the presenter. I assume it's a two-way.'</p> <p>Georgina arrives in the studio and starts speaking to Anna down the line: 'I've just listened to you on Five Live.'</p> <p>Georgina and Anna run through the questions for the two-way. Anna says: 'I don't want to say he's still in the air, because he might well have landed by the time we go on air.'</p> <p>They start recording. Anna fluffs and they restart.</p>
1234	<p>Georgina asks Kevin if there is anything she can do.</p> <p>John Prescott gets to his feet to start his speech. Georgina is monitoring it on the screen in the studio. Prescott says he is sorry.</p>
1235	<p>Maddy pops her head round the studio cubicle door: 'I've taken in road-works for you.'</p> <p>Kevin takes a clip from the start of John Prescott's speech: 'I just want to say sorry.'</p>
1239	<p>Kevin comes into the studio to say that there's a new Hammond clip now. He has just added a quote from the doctor to Anna's piece.</p>
1240	<p>Kevin says: 'We've nearly got everything in now. Hannah's piece has a nasty end.' He asks Derek: 'Can you do anything?'</p> <p>Derek listens to the end of the piece.</p>

<p>1243</p> 	<p>Broadcast Assistant Sophie Donaldson hands out the script to everyone. Georgina quickly says: 'Sophie, we have a different news to this one. Has no one told you?'</p> <p>Sophie prints off the new scripts.</p> <p>Jo Whiley buzzes through to the studio on talkback and asks: 'Are you there?'</p> <p>Derek replies on talkback: 'Yep. Standing by with George for you . . .'</p>
<p>1245</p>	<p>The red light goes on, and Newsbeat is on air. Derek thanks Jo on talkback. As each item runs, Derek discards his script page by page on to the floor behind him.</p>
<p>1246</p>	<p>'Out of this at 47.45,' Sophie tells Georgina over talkback.</p> <p>Georgina replies: 'I'm dropping the line after the dog clip.'</p>
<p>1248</p> 	<p>'Colorado in ten,' Sophie calls. It's her job to do the on-air timings. Georgina is watching Prescott on the TV screen in the studio. She calls through to the cubicle on talkback: 'Is it too late to put Prescott earlier?'</p> <p>Derek says: 'Yes.' He asks her if she's seen the cricket news on the screen. The ICC have made their ruling about ball-tampering in the England-Pakistan test.</p>
<p>1249</p>	<p>Sophie dashes out of the cubicle to alert David Garrido at the sports desk in the newsroom. She returns to carry on the timings, and says: 'He hadn't seen it.'</p>
<p>1250</p>	<p>'It's ten to one,' Georgina says on air.</p> <p>'Prescott in ten,' calls Sophie. 'Standby.'</p> <p>Georgina finishes her link into Prescott and cues in Rajini, the political reporter live in Manchester.</p>
<p>1253</p>	<p>David Garrido pops into the cubicle with his sports script for Sophie, and then goes through into the studio to join Georgina. The best road-works package is playing.</p>
<p>1256</p>	<p>Georgina introduces the sport with David Garrido.</p>

1258	Georgina cues in the Borat package that Derek mixed earlier. Georgina quips on talkback to Derek: 'Love the music!'
1259	Georgina is advised by Derek on talkback: 'You've only 20 secs at the end.'
1300	They come off air, and move out of the studio into the newsroom for the post-mortem. Kevin stands outside the studio door, and talks to the whole newsroom: 'Prescott was still talking when we went on air. Well done on Borat. It was all good really, well done.'
1303	The post-mortem ends.
1332	Kevin takes a call from Rajini in Manchester. She tells him she has the chance of a one-to-one with Prescott. She asks Kevin: 'If I have one question for John Prescott, what would it be?' He opens it up to the other journalists around him. Sitting opposite him, the Entertainments duty editor Francis suggests with a naughty laugh: 'Did he use a condom?' Kevin suggests another question: 'Do you think anyone will take you seriously?'
1336	On the plasma, Richard Hammond can be seen on News 24 walking from the helicopter in Bristol. Kevin is still giving suggestions to Rajini over the phone: 'You could ask: "Why did you decide to say sorry? What do you regret most? Our audience find it difficult to take you seriously."'
1338	Kevin is told that Georgina wants to do a pre-record with Rajini in the studio. He says: 'She can't. She's got a one-on-one with Prescott.' In Manchester, the Deputy Prime Minister is ready for the interview. Rajini rings off.
1341	Rajini rings Kevin back. 'Blimey, that was quick,' he says. 'What did you ask him?'
1345	Kevin grabs some lunch at his desk, and takes a look at the lunchtime edition of the <i>Evening Standard</i> .

1400	<p>Becky Clarke arrives in the newsroom. She is a freelance masseuse. She regularly comes in to give some of the staff a neck and shoulder massage at their desks. Entertainments duty editor Frances Cronin is second on her list. The journalists – not the BBC – pay for her visit.</p>
1405	<p>Broadcast Assistant Sophie Donaldson has a technical training session booked with broadcast journalist Gabby O'Donnell up on the roof.</p> <p>Sophie is in charge of the portable technical equipment for Newsbeat staff. They have 12 laptop computers that reporters take out. They record onto MiniDisc recorders and use a GSM card, like a large SIM card from a mobile phone, in the side of one of the laptops to send their reports. The recordings are saved as MP3 files and can be sent via wireless broadband. There are Wi-Fi hotspots around the country: Newsbeat reporters tend to use McDonald's and Starbucks to send their reports. BBC Traffic has a massive server that takes the reports in. To file a one- or one-and-a-half-minute piece on the mobile network it takes about ten minutes.</p> <p>Gabby's training session is on the satellite and ISDN phone kit. Newsbeat have four M4 Sat kits that reporters can take out. Sophie is busy checking through one of the M4 Sat kits for one of the Newsbeat team to take to the Middle East tomorrow.</p>    
1525	<p>Back in the newsroom, Maddy prints off the 3.30 bulletin she has just finished writing.</p>
1526	<p>Georgina goes into the studio. Mark Chapman (Chappers) is already there for the sport. He's dressed in a pinstripe suit today.</p>
1529	<p>Radio 1 DJ Edith Bowman comes through to the cubicle on talkback and checks who's doing the news and sport. Derek tells her Mark is looking very smart in a suit today. She can see him on the webcam, and in her cue into the bulletin says: 'Here's Georgina and a pinstriped Mark Chapman . . .'</p>
1530	<p>Georgina goes on air: 'Two Jags, a few shags and that famous punch during an election campaign. A video montage of John Prescott's most embarrassing moments has just been shown to Labour's Party Conference . . .'</p>
1542	<p>Frances and Georgina go through the entertainment news for 5.45.</p>

1545	<p>Georgina is busy writing her scripts for the 5.45 programme. She asks Maddy next to her: 'What's another word for space?'</p> <p>'Universe,' she suggests.</p>
1548	<p>Kevin asks Debbie, one of the broadcast journalists, to help out: 'Can you write a cue for Anna's piece on Richard Hammond? Listen to Anna's piece and make sure you don't repeat what she says!'</p> <p>Debbie starts listening.</p>
1553	<p>Debbie is busy writing the cue. She asks Kevin what Anna Lee's surname is.</p> <p>He says: 'That's it! Anna Lee!'</p> <p>'Oh no,' says Debbie. 'She must think I'm a right div. I've been calling her Anna-Lee, as if it's her first name, all day! How embarrassing.' Everyone laughs.</p>
1606	<p>Kevin is on the phone. Sitting next to him, Georgina draws Kevin's attention to the TV screen. So Solid Crew's Megaman has been cleared of murder.</p> <p>Georgina calls to Debbie about the Richard Hammond cue: 'Nice one, luvvy.'</p>
1607	<p>Kevin comes off the phone. Newsbeat reporter Toby Sealey calls out as he passes Georgina and Kevin's desks: 'You've seen Megaman's been cleared.'</p>
1630	<p>Georgina is on air again. Prescott is the lead with fresh audio. There's new audio on the Richard Hammond piece as well.</p>
1635	<p>Kevin and Georgina discuss the So Solid rapper's acquittal: 'He's a little bit off the radar now ...'</p>
1640	<p>Frances and the Entertainments team move downstairs for their weekly Entertainments planning meeting. She has prepared a 12-page list of forthcoming events.</p> <p>'Kylie has her book launch this weekend. Can we go on Saturday? Rod is happy for us to bend the rule about submitting questions beforehand if we need to.'</p> <p>'Gary Barlow – well, we'll have to bid for that – I'll do it tomorrow.'</p> <p>'Russell Crowe interview? Nat, that's for you, I think!'</p> <p>'Jack Osbourne – we've got to bid for him ...'</p> <p>'Peter Kay is a "no" now.'</p> <p>'<i>Dr Who</i> set visit. We'll actually get to see real Daleks! We've got to go to that ...'</p>



1730	The weekly Entertainments planning meeting draws to a close.
1732	Kevin goes through the rotas for the next couple of weeks.
1736	The techno fair in New York (with the Virgin spaceship) is on News 24. Georgina asks Kevin: 'Have you seen this on 24?'
1739	Maddy prints off the 5.45 script. Georgina's mobile rings. 'You've done it again,' she laughs. 'I'm going on the radio in five minutes!'
1740	Georgina walks into the studio.
1741	In the cubicle Derek comments: 'We've loads of time ahead of ourselves. Give me some level.'
1742	'I'm just going to listen through the Prescott package again – 'cos I'm paranoid!'
1744	'Here's Georgina Bowman . . .' Newsbeat is on air.
1745	Toby Sealey's cricket-ball-tampering package is the top story in Newsbeat's running order. Georgina reads the cue: 'Such a gentlemanly game – men in white – leather on willow . . . cheating and sit-in protests? It was one of cricket's biggest scandals when Pakistan was accused of ball-tampering last month. Their captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has been cleared of that charge. But he will still be banned for four one-day games for bringing the game into disrepute. Newsbeat's Toby Sealey has more . . .' The ball-tampering package lasts one minute 22 seconds.



<p>1749</p> 	<p>During the Prescott package, sports presenter David Garrido comes into the studio cubicle to speak with sports reporter, Nigel Adderley, down-the-line in Italy. He checks the in and out words and the pronunciation of the local stadium in Italy. He then pops back into the newsroom.</p> <p>David comes back into the cubicle and checks with sports reporter Andy Gilles down-the-line in Prague. He gets him to read the script out and checks the out-cue: 'That's fine. I'll speak to you on air.'</p> <p>He joins Georgina in the studio.</p>
<p>1755</p>	<p>Derek double-checks the sound levels on Nigel Adderley in Italy and Andy Gilles in Prague.</p>
<p>1756</p>	<p>Georgina cues in David on air: 'Sport now with David Garrido . . .'</p>
<p>1757</p>	<p>Nigel Adderley comes off air, and Derek gives him a quick 'thanks' over the line. Georgina cues in Andy Gilles.</p>
<p>1758</p>	<p>Busy doing the timings, Sophie comments on Georgina's heavy use of sarcasm in the script today.</p>
<p>1759</p>	<p>Sophie calls 'ten' for the headlines and weather.</p>
<p>1800</p>	<p>Off air.</p>
<p>1801</p>	<p>The Newsbeat team meet in the newsroom for the regular de-brief. Kevin starts it off: 'There was great scripting in Toby's piece. Generally, a well-rounded programme. I can't think of anything negative to say!'</p> <p>There is a discussion over the placing of the So Solid Megaman story in the running order [it was low down, just before sport]. Editor Rod McKenzie joins in: 'It would be a great story for 1 Xtra, but he's been off our radar recently, so I think it was right to run it where we did. I'd just like to say I think today's programme was absolutely f***ing brilliant!'</p>