

ALLAN KING

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Allan King is well known as a presenter of award-winning television news, having been a main Sky News presenter for more than 14 years. However, a parallel part of Allan's career has been spent in business and management. At 22 years of age he was running a radio station, and trained a large proportion of the presenters who founded the UK commercial radio network in the late 1970s.

In 1974 he formed Group K Broadcasting Ltd, and is now the company's CEO. Group K provides services to radio and television, and training courses in communication including press, online, and broadcasting to clients such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

During the 1980s the company held the contract to provide newsreading services to LBC Crown FM, a role that involved recruiting, training and employing the presenters. This was followed in 1991 by a contract to supply a full news service for London radio station Melody FM.

In the same decade Allan was also Managing Director of The Complete Radio Company Ltd, a production house making features for the independent radio network.

In 2008 Group K Broadcasting was commissioned by the Government of Gibraltar to conduct a complete review of GBC, the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation, the local equivalent to the BBC. The report is available on the Government's website at:

gibraltar.gov.gi/images/stories/PDF/pressoffice/pressreleases/2011/392.1-2011.pdf

Allan was subsequently appointed GBC's Chief Executive Officer, his present position, as well as remaining CEO of Group K Broadcasting Ltd.

He has been involved in the record industry, releasing Bollywood music before the word Bollywood was invented. In 1986 he formed Yellow Brick Road Ltd and, on the Yellow Brick Road label, charted 'Somebody To Call My Girl' sung by

world champion boxer Barry McGuigan (if that sounds unlikely, remember that Barry was a singer before he was a boxer, and comes from a family of superb Irish musicians!)

At Sky News Allan anchored many major breaking stories, including the terrorist attack on Glasgow Airport, winning a BAFTA in 2008. He was on-air when the Queen Mother's death was announced, and received praise in several newspapers for his sensitive handling of this sad event; please see <http://king.co.uk/press.htm>

In the 1970s and 80s Allan was a familiar voice on national commercial radio as a main newsreader with IRN (Independent Radio News), and in London presented a wide range of programmes on LBC Radio.

His hobbies include cars, a subject on which he is exceptionally knowledgeable, and anything electronic – as he says, 'if you can put batteries in it or plug it into the mains, I like it and understand it!' This love of technology extends to the ancient as well as the modern, as he is an avid collector and restorer of 1920s – 60s radios, gramophones and telephones, and is a licensed radio 'Ham' callsigns G4BKM and ZB2AK.

Allan obtained a Private Pilot's Licence in 1980.

2008	Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) GBC Review
2010-present	Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) Chief Executive Officer
1974-present	Group K Broadcasting Ltd Chief Executive Officer
1993-2008	SKY NEWS Presenter
1991	MELODY FM Head of News
1990	BSB NEWS Presenter/Duty Editor/Chief Sub Editor/Trainer
1988	CHANNEL 4 DAILY Weather and travel Presenter
1987	BFBS RADIO News Presenter/Sub Editor
1982	SSVC TELEVISION - LONDON AND RHEINDHALEN In-vision Presenter/Reporter and Producer
1979	BLUE DANUBE RADIO - VIENNA Music and News Presenter/Interviewer
1979	LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION Continuity Presenter
1978-1990	LONDON BROADCASTING CO (LBC) INDEPENDENT RADIO NEWS (IRN) News Presenter/Producer/Reporter

1974-1978

UBN (Cable Radio Station)

Programme Director

1973

SPOT RADIO PRODUCTIONS LIMITED

Radio Commercial Producer/Director

1970-1978

UBN (Cable Radio Station)

Music and News Presenter

2010-present

Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)

Allan is currently CEO of GBC with executive responsibility for all areas of the Corporation's operations, including an £18m project to re-launch the business:

- Implementing the findings of the 2008 Allan King Report
- Identifying suitable new premises for GBC
- Identifying and liaising with studio installation companies
- Building a digital transmission network
- Overseeing the re-launch of radio, television and online (tri-media) output
- Developing a strategic plan to build the Corporation's objectives and to promote revenue
- Overseeing operations to ensure efficiency, quality, and cost-effective management
- Building an effective team to carry out these objectives.

1993-2008

SKY NEWS

In April 1993 Allan joined Sky News as a Presenter.

The Sky format varies from solo presentation to double-headed and includes sport, travel, weather and business news.

Apart from straight reading from Autocue, the programmes involve live interviews on a range of topics from showbusiness to serious political and international stories, plus telephone and down-the-line interviews.

1991

MELODY FM

In February 1991 Allan was invited to join the presentation team of Melody FM, the easy listening Independent Local Radio station serving Greater London and the Home Counties. On-air work includes MOR and classical music presentation, news reading and presenting complex financial bulletins.

In May 1991 Group K Broadcasting was awarded the contract to provide Melody FM's news service.

The Newsdesk, based at Melody FM in Knightsbridge, was staffed by Group K Broadcasting with journalists writing from PA, Reuters and AP wires and the AA travel service. The company also provided a specialist financial team. As well as managing the team and controlling budgets, Allan had editorial responsibility for the output.

During his time with LBC and IRN (please see below) Allan was frequently involved in the compilation and presentation of the financial news.

The brief for Melody FM news included six financial bulletins a day, at 0630, 0730, 0830, 1730, 1830 and 1930.

The morning bulletins were of 1 to 2 minutes duration, while those in the evening ran for 5 minutes. They included coverage of the UK, US and European markets.

As Melody FM was owned by Hanson plc, the quality of the financial news reflected directly on the parent company. Therefore, it had to be comprehensive, up to date and totally accurate.

The target audience consisted of business people requiring a morning look ahead, and an evening round-up of company news, including share movements, results, bids etc; the state of the major world stock markets, including Wall Street, Nikkei, Hang Seng, All Ordinaries, DAX, CAC and SPI; currency markets, particularly Sterling, Deutschmark, and US Dollar.

Information was compiled from PA, Reuters, Datastream and Topic.

Naturally, familiarity with business events behind the news, and the personalities which make it, were vital to the successful production of these bulletins.

Allan has an excellent knowledge of the business world and financial markets, and a strong interest in reporting on them.

1990

BSB NEWS

In February 1990 Allan joined BSB News, the news division of British Satellite Broadcasting, as a television journalist writing and presenting bulletins in-vision on the five BSB channels, and hosting the morning show "The Day Today."

In addition he was in charge of newsreading style, often having to coax acceptable performances from new and very inexperienced broadcasters.

His work at BSB also involved frequent acting-up into the positions of Chief Sub Editor and Senior Duty Editor, when he would be in charge of the entire news operation with sole responsibility for output of all bulletins, of which there would be forty in an average day.

1988

CHANNEL 4 DAILY

During 1988 he worked on a regular freelance basis as presenter of the weather/travel bulletins on ITN's early morning news show for Channel 4, The Channel 4 Daily. This also involved writing and voicing short (8 -15 second) live links between modules in the programme.

1987

BFBS RADIO

During 1987 Allan freelanced for BFBS Radio in London as a newsreader. BFBS decided they wanted to update their news presentation and move from a Radio 4 style to one similar to IRN. Allan spearheaded this change. The 'newsreading' at BFBS also meant news editing and acting as audio intake engineer as well as on-air engineer, as the entire operation was a very efficient and cost-effective self-op unit.

1982

SSVC TELEVISION - LONDON AND RHEINDHALEN

Allan was one of the regular team of in-vision programme presenters working from the Wembley (LWT) studios of SSVC (formerly BFBS). The operation later transferred to SSVC's own studio complex in Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

At SSVC he was responsible for a number of programmes as a presenter and interviewer. The work involved frequent trips to Rheindahlen in Germany as a reporter/presenter and producer on the locally produced news programme. Amongst

other things this involved writing and voicing scripts to VT.

The duties also included continuity announcing. In this role he wrote his own scripts and operated as transmission controller. This involves driving a Grass Valley mixer to put programmes to air; on news junctions selecting clock in vision, talking over clock while listening to Wembley talkback and countdown on split headphones and switching UK feed to air on the second.

Manual dexterity was also an essential requirement of another programme Allan presented called Birthday Time. This was co-hosted with a female presenter and a robot. Although the lady needed no help, Allan worked the robot's head, eyes, voice etc. with hidden controls while presenting the show.

Other programmes presented included magazine programming where a lighter, friendlier style was required, very much daytime magazine show format, linking into recorded highlights of BBC & ITV programmes.

1979

BLUE DANUBE RADIO - VIENNA

In 1979 Allan took up a contract as a presenter with Blue Danube Radio, a state-run, English language radio station in Vienna.

At Blue Danube he was responsible for both music and news presentation, including a live, twenty-minute interview every evening with figures of local, national or international importance - from Eric Burdon to Kurt Waldheim. He also presented a daily music and feature magazine programme with a style very similar to Radio 2.

1979

LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

During this period he also worked as a continuity presenter for LWT and recorded a large number of promotional voice-overs for the station and the ITV network.

1978-1990

**LONDON BROADCASTING CO (LBC)
INDEPENDENT RADIO NEWS (IRN)**

Allan joined LBC as a presenter and newsreader in 1978, and shortly after was appointed to produce and present the nightly news and current affairs magazine Night Extra. This involved live interviewing, research, scripting, tape-editing and all areas of radio journalism. In addition he was given responsibility for training LBC's newsreaders.

Throughout his association with LBC Allan has presented and produced a broad spectrum of programme output. The following is a selection:

- **AM** - weekday current affairs and news magazine.
- **After Eight** - light show with music and news and an emphasis on the arts.
- **Artsweek** - a weekly review of theatre, cinema, music etc.
- **LBC Reports** - current affairs and news.
- **Weekend AM** - current affairs and news.
- **LBC Reports Midnight** - a review of the main news stories of the day.

His production work with LBC and IRN involved researching stories; finding new angles to the day's news; live and recorded studio, telephone and down the line interviews; writing scripts, stories, bulletins; studio producing programmes.

As a regular presenter of LBC Reports, an afternoon news programme, Allan handled many live interviews including political items.

He was a reporter for LBC during various election broadcasts - getting interviews with winning (and losing!) candidates, feeding back to the studio and reporting live into programmes.

In October 1989 LBC split into two stations - LBC Crown FM (later to become LBC Newstalk 97.3) and London Talkback Radio. The Crown FM service was a direct challenge to BBC Radio 4 in the London area.

Group K Broadcasting was subcontracted to provide a newsreading service for all the shifts which were not covered by a staff presenter. This totalled over 50% of the station's news bulletin output.

He was also given responsibility for overseeing the presentation and reading style on IRN, and training Crown FM presenters.

1974-1978**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, UBN**

In 1974 Allan rejoined UBN as Programme Director. This senior post gave him overall responsibility for all aspects of the station's management and operation, including the establishment of annual budgets, appointing presenters and administrative staff and determining salaries, in addition to his responsibility for the programming of the station's output twenty-four hours a day. Furthermore he established and ran a training course for UBN's presenters.

Throughout his long association with UBN, Allan displayed a real ability to translate the mundane aspects of industrial broadcasting into interesting and highly popular radio.

Here he gained valuable experience in a wide variety of disciplines including subbing, editing and reading news bulletins, music presentation and all aspects of production.

As is widely known, the standards of UBN were such that more than thirty of their presenters went on to become established names in UK radio.

1973**SPOT RADIO PRODUCTIONS LIMITED**

In 1973 he left the station for a year learn more about the commercial and advertising aspects of the fledgling UK commercial radio industry. At Spot Radio, a commercial production house owned by Associated Newspapers, his responsibilities included technical and creative production and direction, as well as the production of commercials and programmes including directing actors and voice-over artists.

1970-1978**UBN**

In 1970 Allan started his broadcasting career with UBN, a cable radio station broadcasting twenty-four hours a day to twenty thousand people working in industrial locations throughout the United Kingdom.