

2nd April 2005

BBC Charter Review  
Dept for Culture, Media & Sport

Dear Sirs,

What is amiss at the Beeb. Lots of things really. Too much of Anne Robinson for a start, and is not the new ginger make-over awful. But at least the BBC have not engaged Paul O'Grady, so that is one thing in their favour.

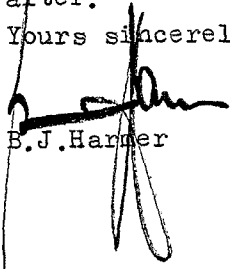
But the one thing that annoys my friends and me is the seemingly never ending burgeoning of the Sports Department. Not the Cameramen and the technicians but the presenters pundits and general hangers-on. For example, there can be no justification for the enormous numbers the BBC take to the Olympics and such events like Wimbledon. We wager that none of them travel Economy and stay at modest pensions. It seems that every has-been or nearly 'has-been' is wheeled out on such occasions. Next we shall have the girl who came 38th in her school cross country race joining the galaxy. Sometimes we wonder if Steve Rider, the ubiquitous Sue Barker Clare Balding and Jonathan Davies have homes to go to. It would be educational to learn how much it cost the Corporation to cover the Sydney and Athens Olympics, and how much it is prepared to pay for the Beijing affair. I expect the usual suspects have already booked the hotel rooms.

We also wonder why for some news bulletins we have to have two news readers. After all for most of the time some-one else is doing all the work.

Then of course there are far too many programmes on antiques car-boot sales. These should be cut dramatically, then this would rid us of these too precious and prissy presenters, and their ridiculous, irritating play on words.

But really why should we care. We watch far more Channel 4 than BBC, but if the latter made some serious changes that could alter.

Yours sincerely,



B.J. Harner