

REPORT AND EVALUATION OF PPARC SCIENCE AND SOCIETY AWARD:
THE JODCAST (PP/E509673/1)

4. Outcomes, continued

The world-class research undertaken by UK scientists has been prominent in the 2007 season of The Jodcast. The following UK-based scientists were interviewed during the 2007 season of The Jodcast:

Dr Martin Hardcastle (University of Hertfordshire)
David Boyce (University of Leicester)
Dr Chris Davis (Rutherford Appleton Laboratories)
Prof Sir Bernard Lovell (Jodrell Bank Observatory)
Dr Ciska Markwick-Kemper (University of Manchester)
Dr Graham Woan (University of Glasgow)
Prof Steve Rawlings (University of Oxford)
Dr Chris Wareing (University of Manchester)
Dr Lucie Green (Mullard Space Science Laboratory)
Dr Monica Grady (Open University)
Prof Mike Lockwood (RAL and Southampton University)
Dr Ruth Bamford (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory)
Prof Matt Griffin (Cardiff University)
Prof Martin Barstow (University of Leicester)
Dr Chris Lintott (Oxford University)
Dr Peter Wheatley (University of Warwick)
Dr Helen Walker (Rutherford Appleton Laboratories)
Prof Mike Bode (Liverpool John Moores University)
Dr Carole Mundell (Liverpool John Moores University)
Prof Jocelyn Bell-Burnell
Dr Matt Burleigh (University of Leicester)
Dr Martin Bureau (Oxford University)
Prof Albert Zijlstra (University of Manchester)
Dr Barry Kellett (Rutherford Appleton Laboratories)
Dr Geraint Morgan (Open University)
Prof Sir Martin Rees (Cambridge University)

The stated aims of The Jodcast are:

- (i) To inspire and inform people about astronomy and related sciences,

- (ii) To excite young people with the latest results of astronomy research,
- (iii) To break down the stereotypes of science and scientists as being incomprehensible and unapproachable,
- (iv) To become a regular source of astronomy information,
- (v) To motivate students to study science.

Listener feedback has been a vital part of the ongoing production of The Jodcast. We have constantly solicited, and acted on, listener feedback in order to improve the quality of The Jodcast. Attached is the listener feedback that has been received via The Jodcast feedback webpage, and reviews from the iTunes podcast website. **The listener feedback has been almost universally positive.** It is clear that aims (i) - (iv) have been clearly met. It is difficult to determine from the listener feedback whether The Jodcast has met the goal of motivating students to study science, however based on the reviews collected to date, we speculate that The Jodcast can and does inspire students to study science.

Jodcast Listener Survey

In March/April 2007, we performed a listener survey to gauge the impact of The Jodcast at that point in time. The survey was located on the WWW and listeners were encouraged to fill out the survey. A follow-up survey will be conducted from mid-October through to December, in order to compare results. We report here the results of the first survey. Listeners will be encouraged to complete a second survey from mid-October. Results from the follow-up survey will be compared to those from the first survey in a later report.

The survey questions are:

1. What is your age?
2. What is your gender?
3. Where do you live?
4. How interested are you in astronomy?
5. How many podcasts do you listen to regularly?
6. How do you download podcasts?
7. How do you typically listen to podcasts?
8. Where do you listen to The Jodcast?

9. How do you rate the programme length?
10. How difficult or easy is The Jodcast to understand?

Statements requiring varied levels of agreement were:

11. I will continue to listen to The Jodcast.
12. I have learnt something about physics/astronomy that was worth learning.
13. Listening to The Jodcast has increased my interest in astronomy.

Attached are histogram plots showing the responses from the first survey. We discuss the results here.

Survey response rate

The number of respondents to the survey is much less than the number of audience members. This is a typical situation for any survey, particularly one which does not offer much in the way of incentive or reward.

Listener ages

The above point is most prevalent in the distribution of listener ages, with all respondents reporting an age between 20 and 70 years. Younger listeners are least likely to respond to a survey. We have no direct means for determining how many listeners have ages in the target 16-18 year-old group.

Listener gender

The overwhelming number of survey respondents are male.

Listener location

Most listeners are in the UK, with roughly equal numbers in Canada and Australia, and roughly equal numbers between the USA and all other locations.

Listener podcast profile

The majority of listeners use an mp3 player to listen to The Jodcast, with roughly half as many using a home computer. Significantly more people download The Jodcast manually than using iTunes, suggesting that they find The Jodcast via a search for podcasts on the web, via links from other sites, word of mouth, or via advertising. Most people listen to The Jodcast at home, or while travelling.

Quality

The large majority of survey respondents consider the duration of each episode of The Jodcast to be perfect, and is at the right level of difficulty. **Similarly, most respondents strongly agree that they will continue to listen to The Jodcast.**

Knowledge impact

A large majority of respondents reported that they learnt something about physics/astronomy that was worth learning as a result of listening to The Jodcast. Similarly, most respondents reported that The Jodcast has increased their interest in astronomy.

While possibly subject to biases beyond our control, the above survey results are strongly positive and encouraging. We note that in order to elicit more listeners to complete future surveys, an incentive or reward is most likely to succeed.

Jodcast Recognition

The Jodcast appears at or near the top of a search for "astronomy podcast" in WWW search engines. This level of recognition is extremely valuable for attracting new listeners to the programme. Visitors to the Jodrell Bank Visitor Centre have also noted that they are aware of and listen to The Jodcast, indicating that people interested in JBO stay in touch with the existing JBO websites which link to The Jodcast.

The Jodcast is frequently contacted by other science outreach practitioners interested in collaborating on future outreach programmes. The Jodcast creators were interviewed for the "Pods and Blogs" programme for Radio 5 Live (20 August 2007) and The Jodcast has been reviewed in the following magazine articles: the journal of the Royal Astronomical Society, Astronomy & Geophysics (August 2007) and Night Sky (March/April 2007). A poster presentation describing The Jodcast was made at the National Astronomy Meeting (Lowe et al. 2007).

Financial Reporting

Attached is the financial breakdown of Jodcast expenditure to date. The award duration was from January 2007 to December 2007. The attached report is an interim summary of costs. Actual spend to date amounts to GBP 1180.88. Including commitment costs amounting to GBP 381.00, the total spend to date is GBP 1561.88. The costs of budgeted items not ordered as of writing amount to GBP 522.00. The total award was GBP 2212. Funds remaining as of writing amount to GBP 108.12.

Conclusion

The Jodcast is a public outreach success. The Jodcast is a popular, informative and entertaining channel for astronomy outreach. Listener feedback and survey responses show that The Jodcast is an appreciated and effective production.

THE JODCAST LISTENER FEEDBACK

Below is the feedback received from listeners to The Jodcast. The first episode of The Jodcast was in January 2006. STFC funding for The Jodcast was secured for the year 2007. We note that there are no comments regarding the occasionally poor sound quality (as in some 2006 episodes) following the introduction (in March 2007) of high-quality recording equipment purchased using Award funds.

Feedback has been collected from the following sources (i) Online feedback form at www.jodcast.net; (ii) Reviews on the iTunes website, (iii) personal blogs.

All feedback is given here verbatim. Respondent names or identifiers have been removed.

The feedback (February 2006 – October 2007)

I enjoyed your podcast very much ...The second episode was very well done!!! Thanks for putting on this production.

I'm fairly new to astronomy and am fascinated by the information and content of your "jod"cast. I find the news which Megan imparts with enthusiasm very interesting and concise.

I was mightily impressed by your radio show, especially considering that it is not a big-budget affair.

Just to let you know that I really enjoy the Jodcast. Keep up the good work.

At last a decent UK based regular astronomy cast. Although I enjoy shows like slacker astronomy, it's nice to get things from a UK perspective.

Now, UK-based enthusiasts have a home-grown version, the Jodcast, produced by astronomers at the University of Manchester's Jodrell Bank Observatory. The 2006 February edition included an interview with Prof. Gerry Gilmore about the forthcoming Gaia space mission, a tour of the night sky, and 'Ask an Astronomer' with Tim O'Brien. The programme can be downloaded as a single file (total 42MB - broadband recommended!) or in smaller chunks

Just wanted to say thanks for a GREAT PodCast. They're interesting, informative, pitched at exactly the right level, well-produced and above all, fun! Presently travelling in Eastern Iran with a fully loaded iPod. The night sky is a little different out here, and the moon appears to have fallen onto its side... but you guys certainly help to pass long overnight bus rides.

I have really enjoyed listening to the Jodcast; the format is excellent, well researched and well put together (though it sounds like it was recorded in the back of a van sometimes!) Just keep on with the current format and I will be more than happy.

5 stars. Wonderful wit with the opening : full and up to date with the latest findings ; based in reasoned knowledge; and made easily absorbed and a real fun listen. Please don't over tweak the format : it's as close to a 'podcast of everything astronomical' as string & "brane" is to a theory of everything - so don't change too much - this one's a winner. For what little it's worth, I would recommend this to all the "PodEars" in this and any Universe.

just to say thanks for a fascinating interview with Brother Guy -great job.

I think the general format of the programme is great. The only area that needs some work is the audio quality - particularly some of the outside recordings there is a lot of wind noise.

Just downloaded the July edition of the Jodcast, and thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, I listened to it twice in succession!

By the way, I really like the fact that the podcast is available in short segments or the whole shebang. The Jodcast presentation is one of the best available from anyone.

Great work!

I am glad you guys have created the Jodcast. I was most interested in astronomy in early high school with Halley's Comet's revisit, and many of the things I haven't thought much about since then are coming back to me listening to all your episodes (only May to go...).

I have been very impressed by the quality of the jodcast. For me it has become essential listening.

Just spent an hour listening to your latest podcast-(not an astroPh) but the programme was done in such a good way that even I could consider "Gravity Waves"

The show is very informative! I downloaded them all (the full versions) and will do the same with any upcoming ones. The sound is a bit off: the voices sound "robotic" at times. Maybe you could fix that?

I have to say that as a relative newcomer to the Jodcast, I'm really enjoying it. I can tell you all have a lot of fun putting it together...Anyway, keep up the good work on the Jodcast, and many thanks to you and the team for making it one of the few podcasts I anticipate with relish (probably second only to the BBC's Radio Four weekly 'In Our Time' series).

5 stars: This is an example of why podcasting is something to get excited about. The Jodcast is consistently engaging, with a mix of news, features and the coming month's night sky. Because its put together by people who know what they're talking about, they're able to discuss fascinating stuff that's overlooked in the popular media. Nonetheless they're also about to explain why things like Masers or Quasars matter without losing the listener in technical jargon AND without over-simplifying the material. It's a long download, but definitely worth a listen.

5 stars: Yeh, ok, my title is lame but this podcast is sensational! Thanks so much to the Jodcast Team! Informative and deep while being light-hearted and fun. This show is dynamite for any astronomer at any level. Awesome stuff.

5 stars: The Jodcast is a wonderful podcast for the masses, brought to us by astronomers. A great variety of information is presented from what we can see in the night sky for the month to topical interviews with some of the best professional astronomers from around the globe. All content is presented in a good natured manner and in a way the average person can understand. Do yourself a favour and subscribe to this podcast, it's a keeper.

For anyone interested in astronomical matters on an amateur level, I cannot recommend highly enough the free monthly podcast available from the University of Manchester team at Jodrell Bank (called The Jodcast)

I only discovered it last week, and I'm glad to have found it. It's cheap and cheerful!

5 stars: This is great. The people who contribute to this are obviously experts in their field and at the same time have produced a quality hour of infotainment (now they have some new microphones it even sounds good). I particularly like the Ask an Astronomer section - enthusiasm for the subject is clear and questions at all levels are answered in an informative but understandable way.

Intro inspired, content excellent, production has an amateurish charm? I especially like the comments on websites and downloadable software.

I greatly enjoy your show each month, and I'm impressed by the fact that it is all done in your spare time

I just wanted to say that I only just found your Jodcast site, and I think it's fantastic. I listened to the December and January editions during a long commute and the journey just flew by. What a privilege to be able to listen to long, in-depth interviews with leading astronomers, instead of the constant interruptions and sound bites we get from BBC radio programmes. I shall download regularly and pass on the good news to friends.

February's best podcast find, Jodcast: <http://www.jodcast.net/> From UK's Jodrell Bank Observatory, Manchester University. This appears to be a single source link for most other astronomy podcasts.

Hi guys, I'd just like to say how brilliant I think the Jodcast is; sorry it has taken me this long to find you! I've also just figured out how to download each section as a separate mp3, I just don't get time to listen to the Jodcast all in one go. So, just to say, keep up the good work.

I never expected to get my question answered by the famous Jodcast team! and thank you for the great show every month!

The Jodcast is particularly recommended. It's a monthly podcast put out by Jodrell Bank Observatory.

5 star: An excellent, informative podcast, well written and presented. They cover a broad range of astronomical subjects. I listen to it at the gym!

5 star: This podcast covers all things astronomical. There are interviews with astronomers and news highlights. Even if you are knowledgeable you will still learn something, and it is very enjoyable.

5 star: The best Astronomy podcast I have found; entertaining, informative and educational.

4 star: A broadcast of the main highlights you can see in the night sky from the UK in the following month. Good guidance on locating the objects. Pop it on your iPod, listen on the way to work and plan your next astronomical observation nights!

I highly recommend the Jodrell Bank Observatory's Pod-cast aka "The Jodcast". There are episodes every month or slightly more often depending on how much astro news there is and is a very good listen!

I have listened to the monthly Jodcast for about a year now and I can honestly say I enjoyed all the episodes. All the presenters are entertaining and enthusiastic about their subject without actually forgetting the audience they are creating this for.

The regular sections, news, ask an astronomer and the sky guide are engaging and provide plenty of content for the absolute beginner to the amateur enthusiast. The interviews are in-depth and informative and the interviewer style is relaxed and to the point.

From May the show will be divided and delivered twice a month, this should reduce the download size without losing any of the monthly content however it does mean the Intro department will have to work overtime.

Congratulations on a great Podcast!!!

5 star: Complexity broken down to bite sized chunks! Hello jodcast people, your show is very good, it's well presented, well recorded and very informative. Some of your interviews are very in depth (which is good) but also well explained. You're doing a marvellous job everyone at the Jodcast. Have you found any strange noises coming from outer space yet???"

5 star: Jodcast - Excellent. This is a fantastic podcast, excellent news, interesting interview and some excellent articles on tips and advice.

5 star: Highly Recommended! This podcast is one of the best astronomy related podcasts around. It has a relaxed informal feeling to it that doesn't obscure the importance of the science. With different segments by different people, there is never a feeling that it will go stale. It deals with science advanced enough to satisfy even the most professional astronomer while making the impossible understandable to any amateur, without being patronising! All in all a highly recommended podcast, if science and/or astronomy is your thing, you can't go without this!

4 star: L'astronomie superieure. Le vrai de vrai. Best of the bunch! Four stars for now - five when the Jodcast includes graphics, chapters & URLs in an "enhanced" podcast format.

5 star : Real Astronomy from Real Astronomers. There are no better people to spread the work about the interesting and dynamic world of Astronomy than the people who work in the field. This is what makes the Jodcast stand out. You get all the important astronomy news, some stuff to look out for in the sky as well as some great interviews. On top of that there is always a bit of humour thrown in to make sure you don't get bored. Despite all the hosts being expert astronomers they are still well able to pitch the podcast at the right level for anyone with an interest in Astronomy. You won't get bowled over by jargon here.

5 star: Superb astrocast! Astronomy for all levels, with monthly guides and answers to your questions. Even "heavy" topics are dealt with in understandable terms. ...and don't forget the humour....

4 star: It's an Astronomical Podcast....what more do you need to know? Great stuff - dark & light matter for everyone.

5 star: A podcasting highlight. A well balanced look at the latest developments in Astronomy, presented in a relaxed but informed style, that includes an invaluable guide to the night sky each month. I have just noticed that the latter is available as a stand-alone podcast making my previous gripe about the programme's order irrelevant.

4 star: Funny & Informative. Astronomy without dumbing-down. First rate stuff - Full of tasty facts.

5 star: Bada Bing! Bada Bing, Bada Bong, With this Astronomical Podcast, You'll never go wrong!! Highly Recommended!

5 star: The Jodcast. Very interesting & informative, I am glad the Jodcast is going to be split into two monthly episodes so we won't have to wait a full month between podcasts.

Did you know that it would take 600 billion rice crispies to fill up the Lovell Telescope - that's 24 million boxes! This is a good example of weird things astronomers think about in their spare time ... and another reason to listen to the Jodcast!

5 star: Great show just keeps getting better. Strange they say what goes round comes round, well this saying is true for me? I've had the wonderful experience years ago as a Painter at Jodrell Bank Observatory on all the radio Telescopes, now years later I'm

listening to your show on my IPOD. If anyone is considering subscribing to the show my advice is to download all past episodes now (You won't be disappointed). Jodcast is far better than any other shows I've subscribed to, you guys know how to interact with the listeners, Keep up the good work.

4 star: Rather Good. Although I have little concept of what is talked about on the cast, I find it fascinating. It is good how the technical terms are used for those who understand them and equally, lay persons such as myself, are not buried in them. One thing I would say is missing is some background music perhaps, or a few seconds to link segments.

5 star: The Cuckoos Egg. For some reason, the interview [with Jocelyn Bell-Burnell] reminded me of Clifford Stohls "The Cuckoos Egg". The same excitement at the discovery of a mystery, and the methodical approach to the problem, presented in a breathlessly exciting way. Excellent stuff, you should have more interviews like that. I really liked the Graduate opening, very good! All in all, another damn fine Jodcast. Thank you very much.

5 star: Stellar Stuff. Having listened to the June issue, I am now in the process of downloading all the previous issues. Simply, I was gripped by Jocelyn Bell-Burnell's account of her discovery of pulsars while researching her PhD. How a series of small pieces of information in a mass of data, which might easily have been overlooked, led to a whole new field of research. Hopefully the other issues will be as entertaining, stimulating and inspiring!

5 star: The Jodcast. The best Astronomy podcast I have found; entertaining, informative and educational

5 star: A Most Valuable Podcast. I have been a part-time armchair astronomer since Halley's Comet arrived in grade-school. Back then, I would read articles and books and could understand the basics, but rarely the more complicated topics. One of the easier-to-understand books was by Patrick Moore, of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, so, when I came across the Jodcast, I suspected it would be good and have learned it's even better than that! The Jodcast group are clearly knowledgeable about astronomy, understand how to educate others, and definitely have fun in the process. I am extremely impressed with my ability to understand the material they present. They also have a great group of guests talking about many interesting topics, including the story behind how pulsars were discovered (likely a dry topic on paper, but definitely exciting to hear). I suspect that you'll find yourself pleasantly surprised by how valuable this pod/Jodcast is.

5 star: Refreshing! An informative mix of observational and radio astronomy news, plus general space science topics presented in an irreverent tongue-in-cheek tone.

5 star: Setting the standards in the World. Jodcast has been always come on the expectations to set standards for the Astronomy, Astrophysics and other related fields. I am amazed to hear the podcasts how important researchers and scientists of the world freely talk about the things. Plz keep it up. Ahsan, Manchester UK

5 star: Great podcast: substantive and fascinating. This is one of the best astronomy casts out there. You'll hear interviews with professional astronomers about their work and about astronomy news. Science fans will find this one quickly becoming one of their favourites!

A really nice podcast from the Jodrell Bank Observatory, covering general interest astronomy. If that's a bit much for you, they also produce a nice little mini-cast, "the Night Sky this month" which is just 5 to 10 minutes long and outlines objects of interest visible in the night sky.

Excellent Podcast from Jodrell Bank

5 star: Great astronomy info for the average person. I've looked around for astronomy podcasts for a while and finally found the Jodcast. With great interviews and awesome information presented in an easy to follow format, the only thing I can complain about is that it's only twice a month. Keep up the great job!

4 star: Jodcast Grouse! In Australia we have a term call "Grouse" or "Grouse Mate" meaning very good but with more enthusiasm. A Great show for blokes who have an interest but little expertise in all things astronomical. Please do 2 1 hour shows a month

5 star: Jod-Tastic. I drive past Jodrell Bank on the way to work. The Lovell Telescope never fails to inspire awe, it's just TOO big! The podcast is excellent, very informative and some great guests. Keep up the good work.

5 star: Star Quality! An outstanding Podcast! A complex topic presented in a light hearted, but extremely informative way. Its great to hear people who are enthusiastic about their subject but not so far removed that they are impossible to understand.

4 star: Well done Jodcast! Enjoyed the show immensely. I had no idea that the Gemini 8m was that good. Hopefully we will see some exo-planets soon. Loved the Harry Potter send up! 100 points to Aquila!

Still learning. Love this pod cast, cant understand much YET, but still look forward each month for more, keep up the good work guys.

5 star: Continuing praise for the Jodcast! Look no further. The Jodcast wipes the floor with all other astronomy podcasts. Excellent combination of silliness and science. I would not miss an episode.

5 star: Inspiring. Particularly worth listening to for the interviews (eg Jocelyn Bell-Burnell)

5 star: Marvellous. Thank you, I've just discovered and thoroughly enjoy Jodcast. Entertaining, informative and well produced. Keep up the good work.

5 star: Although August has just the one Jodcast, it was superb, particularly the interview with Dr Martin Bureau - absolutely top quality stuff, beautifully explained.

5 star: At last, something intelligent to use my iPod for! Having enjoyed visiting Jodrell Bank on many occasions and always received a friendly, informative and 'to the point' presentation, it came as no surprise to find the Jodcast living up to the same high standard. At one time the Internet was about ordinary people with intelligent things to say. Thank goodness for Jodcast in order to prove it can still be done. Jodcast is just the thing to save for a cloudy night. That comes around pretty soon!! Still, listening to it twice is no bad thing. An hour or so of quality astronomy everytime, every month is just right, Quality is always better than quantity. I judge and 'extra' to be a bonus.

5 star: Superb. A great way to expand the mind! Everything well explained, by people who love what they do. Love the intro/outros.

4 star: Funny & informative. Astronomy without dumbing-down. First rate stuff - Full of tasty facts.

5 star: thanks. Well worth the time and effort the Jodcasters put in to the show. Thanks for a very informative and fun cast..

5 star: World class broadcasting at its best. Superb. Informative and entertaining. Please keep it coming because this sort of quality is rare indeed.

5 star: Fascinating stuff. This is a great listen - always fresh and fun but tackling the BIG questions of our universe. Nice to hear real astronomers making their science accessible. Several great interviews have added to the human interest and the light weight openings make the Jodcast go with a swing! Thanks guys!

5 star: Wonderful interview with Sir Bernard, thank you. Really looking forward to the next episode. "Life from dust" - fascinating. Once again, a real astronomical tour de force. Thanks.

5 star: The Jodcast. Very interesting & informative, I am glad the Jodcast is going to be split into two monthly episodes so we won't have to wait a full month between podcasts. I loved the first part of the interview with Sir Bernard Lovell, what a great man, I can't wait for the next instalment.

5 star: the definitive Podcast on astronomy. A lively, authoritative, entertaining insight into what's new and exciting about astronomy. Keep it coming...

5 star: The Grand old man. Since I discovered the Jodcast I have looked forward to each month and a new one to come but this month you have produced the best so far, I hugely enjoyed Sir Bernard's interview, his description's of building the big telescope and of his earlier life were really interesting keep up the good work

5 star: Wonderful Astronomy Podcast. Not just covering the happenings found above the cloudy skies of Cheshire, the Jodcast covers all areas of astronomy, from past to present. Including interviews with scientists from all over the world, astronomy news as it happens (give or take a few million years), and a preview of what's visible in the sky that month, the Jodcast has to be on the download list of all with an interest in the night sky.

5 star: October Jodcast. Really enjoyed the interview with Prof Zijlstra, loved the accent! Such a pity that the interviews with Sir Bernard have come to an end. You couldn't get him to do them again could you - but in more detail? Once again an excellent show. Thank you.

5 star: Illuminating Podcast straight from a professional source. The hosts of the Jodcast are a professional, entertaining, and educational bunch hailing from an important working facility with a great deal of scientific history. The recent three-part interview with Bernard Lovell was especially illuminating, given the dearth of access to such living luminaries. I heartily recommend this podcast to anyone truly excited about the science of the stars.

5 star: Well done Jodcast! A great interview on Galaxy Evolution with Martin Bureau in the August Edition and the interview with Jocelyn Bell on the discovery of Pulsars in June's edition is just awesome! Another 100 points to Aquila!

Just a short note to say that I managed to download the Jodcast via iTunes onto my iPod and thoroughly enjoyed listening to it whilst I painted the bedroom! My favourite item was the interview with Albert Zijlstra, I really liked his approach and would welcome another interview with him again some time. Also enjoyed the Lovell interview, please say high to Tim O'Brien for me, I was on his weekend residential course last December.

5 star: Great stuff on the drive to work. This morning it was a toss up between the third part of the Bernard Lovell interview and the Spurs Podcast and Sir Bernie won. Quite an accolade that!! The black hole interview a month or two ago was great as well. Keep it coming guys. Thanks for a great show.

5 star: Essential listening - Bernad Lovell interviews were fantastic. This has now become essential listening for me. It has a look at the sky events, news and has great interviews. Its unique in its style of presentation which is definitely very British and they gradually improve the programme by listening to feedback. What has been particularly excellent are the Bernad Lovell interviews. Instead of the usual modern thing of crashing an interview with such a great man into 5 minutes full of daft questions they spread it out over several episodes so we could enjoy all the wonderful stories and anecdotes with the interviewer prompting occasionally with an intelligent question. It has been a delight to listen too.

5 star: wwhhooo!!!! JODCAST!!!!!! In the last three days I have listened to 8 jodcasts and think that the Jodcast is brilliant! Jodrell bank is THE BEST!!! For my friends listening to their ipods and reading a magazine means high school musical soundtrack and any magazine with Zac Efron on the cover, for me it means Jodcast and new scientist! go Jodrell bank!!!!

A very good magazine programme bringing the latest astronomy news. A great listen on long train journeys. Several smaller articles as well as the longer subjects is a good mix for the armchair astronomer.

5 star: Its alllll good baby. Great news, fantastic interviews and superb hosts, love this Podcast, even better now they do it twice a month.