

Cam FM Outside Broadcast (OB) Guide

Outside broadcasts can be some of the most fun shows to do - it's your chance to get out of the Cam FM studio. We want to make this as accessible as possible, so read on to find out how to do this.

To do an outside broadcast you must discuss the idea with the committee and have full permission to go ahead and use Cam FM equipment (if you need it).

BASIC GUIDE

Written by Yannik Herbert – Head of Engineering 2015/16

1. Install butt from <http://butt.sourceforge.net/>
2. Run butt and click on settings
3. Go to Main > Server Settings section > Add (if you haven't already)
 - 3b. Name = Cam FM, Type = Icecast, Address = broadcast.camfm.co.uk, Port = 30330, Password = obpassword, IceCast mountpoint = ob, IceCast user = source
4. Go to Audio. You'll need to change Audio Device depending on where the sound is coming from.
 - 4b. If sound is coming from a mixer/interface connected via USB, it'll show up in the dropdown list with its own name (hopefully something obvious).
 - 4c. If you're using a built-in microphone input, the sound device will probably be something like "default".
 - 4d. If it's not clear which one you want, hopefully it's a short list. Select each one in turn, and check if you start seeing lights on butt's volume meter (on the main window).
5. On the Audio tab's Streaming section, you can use a variety of codecs depending on whether you need low-bandwidth (for bad internet), or good quality (for good internet).
 - 5b. A safe bet is always MP3. 128k is the minimum Bitrate you should consider using, but 128k will be noticeably worse than our usual streaming quality. 192k will be a bit noticeably worse, but OK. Ideally you'll want 256k/320k if the internet connection is good enough.
 - 5c. OPUS can be a good choice for bad internet connections. Bitrate as low as 96k can sound just about acceptable. But as always, push it as high as you can before the internet connection starts to stutter.
6. Click the play icon on the main butt window to start streaming.
7. Login to the members area and go to the Control > System section.
8. There'll be a delay of about a minute until the interface here shows the correct volume levels. Once it does, ensure the volume level for the OB channel is roughly that of the Playout channel. That way you know you're not too quiet or too loud.

8b. Use the slider on the main butt window to adjust the volume level you stream at. Slide right for louder, slide left for quieter. Again wait about 60s and the change of volume should be reflected on the volume levels the Members Area gives you.

9. When your volume levels look OK and you're ready to go on-air, click the button next to OB to take the OB on-air.

10. Remember that, unlike a radio studio, your stream isn't synchronised, so everything you broadcast will be delayed by an additional 20-30 seconds.

10b. For example, if you shout "I hate doing radio" and then click to take OB on-air (hoping nobody will hear it), because of the delay, "I hate doing radio" will still be broadcast. Similarly, at the end of your broadcast, if you say "thanks for listening" and then immediately take OB off-air, nobody will hear you say that. To be safe, you'd have to say it 30 seconds before you take OB off-air.

11. When you're finished, switch back to playout using the Members Area again, and close butt.

AN EXAMPLE OB – VARSITY CRICKET

Written by Rahul Dev – Station Manager 2016-17

Below is an example OB – the guide, report and preparation documents for Varsity Cricket. This is an example of a big sports broadcast, but your own outside broadcasts do not have to be on this scale. Outside broadcasts could simply be presenting your show outside for a day – but you would obviously need a good reason to do this and be suitably prepared.

How to do a Cricket OB...

Roles required: Head Commentator, Co-commentator, Scorer, Social Media Operator, Photographer

Roles

- 1) Chief Commentator
 - a. Leads the 3-man commentary team, decides when to bring in the scorer/analyst
 - b. In charge of ball-by-ball description

- 2) Co-commentator
 - a. Support commentary
 - b. Give opinion on shots...just chat about the quality of game or other things that you've noticed (if you listen to TMS, you'll understand)
 - c. Takes on 3) scoring job for second innings

- 3) Scorer/analyst
 - a. Score, paying attention to the agreed system
 - b. Calculate run-rates, over-by-over comparisons, stats
 - c. Pass information to the main commentators
 - d. Give some analysis of scores etc. when invited by chief commentator

- 4) Women's Game Reporter
 - a. Phone in a report of wickets or events (explain on day)
 - b. Over count runs by men's game, so will need to stay in touch

- 5) Women's Scorer/Helper/Company
- a. As the women's game is less well-served, it is harder to get info on it; therefore it is more important for us to create info on it
 - b. This person always becomes reporter in the next slot: i.e. we will be able to create a constant narrative despite changing commentators

6) & 7) we're unclear as to what BBC Cambs want from us: if they want a commentator, 6) can go, 7) will be crowd (relaxed, don't have to do anything, but can get crowd reactions etc.); if not, 6) do this and 7) just has a break

CAM FM Outside Broadcast Report

Name of Broadcast:	Varsity T20 Cricket
Venue:	Fenner's Cricket Ground, Cambridge
Date:	12th June 2015
Type:	Recorded; phone-in updates to studio
Project Manager:	Rahul Dev, Head of Training
Team Size:	4
Equipment Used:	ZOOM H6 (property of Tim Davies), Small OB desk, 2x Apple MacBook Air, ZOOM (property of Jack Winstanley)
Contacts:	Ruari Crichard (player) & Richard Timms (in charge of logistics on the day)
Description:	This OB went without many hitches whatsoever. The only issue was our commentary position, which ended up being to the side of the pavilion, and thus required an extension lead, which we had not brought. However, one of the scorers was able to give us one. A length of roughly 6-7m is the minimum requirement. Other than this, the instructions for doing a cricket OB should be found in the document entitled: "doing a Cricket OB". Interviews were organised beforehand, but the teams were very welcoming and happy to do impromptu ones after the match. Also not that the ZOOM H6 records three different audios for each mic and so in editing, all files must be played together.
Suggestions:	For the T20, Fenner's positions speakers around the boundary and plays music when 4/6s are scored or wickets taken. They also produce programmes. It might be possible to enquire into helping produce both of these as we have very good relations with CUCC. The benefit of the former would be control over audio, which would lead to more integrated commentary.