

Last week in our radio derby special we kicked off with Newcastle's Metro Radio as they were the first to take the penalty spot, but this week it's Sunderland's turn to show us their leg work and teach us how to play the tune's, talk the talk and handle the managers, ooh er! Like last week, we are talking to the co-host that makes their man sound good on air. This week she's the lady that helps to make Simon Grundy shine on Sun FM and who can warm up any cold morning up there in Maccam Land, it's the gossip champion extraordinaire Marie Gardner.



on with him and do you make a good team?

I do, and I hope he'd agree ha, ha. Just like any relationship, communication and respect are the key; I know Simon will give me his honest opinion on something and vice versa and I think it helps that we're both very passionate about Sunderland and Sun FM so we're on the same page with what we want.

(Note to self must send her a copy of the photo) The northeast as we have shown has great breakfast shows and partnerships, what makes yours stand out from the rest?

We don't really think about what the others are doing, we just do our own thing. Maybe others spread themselves a little thinly, but we're focused on Sunderland. We don't need to create an illusion of a certain type of partnership (good cop bad cop, cat and mouse etc), how we are is pretty much how we are, which helps it be all the more natural I think.

You're the voice and lady of gossip on the show how do you find out

I've had some great fun with Simon since interviewing him even though he won't hire me because I am called "Jordy" and even after seeing his Butlins style publicity photo from the old days (HEE, HEE, REVENGE IS MINE) how do you feel you get

Your stories and have you any good gossip you want to tell us?

Oooh I couldn't possibly reveal my sources, ha, ha. I just generally take an interest in what's going on in the celeb world and keep my ear to the ground...

You're a very girly girl outside work, does this help with the show and what things do you like to do off air?

I suppose it does, yeah because I naturally take an interest in what's going on in the showbiz world and it's always better if you can talk about something with a bit of knowledge and have an opinion on it. I like to do the usual stuff, going for meals, shopping etc but my big hobby is photography so you'll often see me at picturesque locations looking like a big tourist.

(I could drop in a great joke about how you must have to travel out of Sunderland to take your photos but I would be lying as I have seen their McDonalds and it's bloody beautiful.)

You work at Sun FM in Sunderland, where it's not really sunny to be honest, if you could work for Sun FM anywhere in the world where would it be and why?

It's so tempting to say I'd move us all somewhere exotic but at the risk of sounding cheesy, I love Sunderland. I think we're in a very unique position here; we have a Premiership football team with a very loyal fan base, gorgeous beaches (you might only be

able to get a tan on them 3 days of the year but they're stunning nevertheless) and so many local attractions steeped in history. I don't think people tend to fully appreciate where they live, but people in Sunderland are very passionate and I think we mirror and support that passion at Sun FM.

Don't forget the McDonalds (she gives me a very strange look, just move on) so when did presenting a radio show become a major part of your morning routine?

I studied Film and Media at the University of Sunderland and did take some radio modules but started to feel it just wasn't for me; there were so many strong personalities competing to get on the Uni's station and be top dog that the fun and passion seemed to be forgotten.

Instead, after I graduated I started doing work experience at Sun FM a couple of afternoons a week and soon realized that this was a place I wanted to work. I volunteered to do promo work at gigs; put together a demo and got a place on the overnight show. From there I moved to weekend evenings and was eventually offered a full time job looking after the website and continuing to present weekend evenings. I did this for about 6 months before Simon asked me if I'd like to co-present The Breakfast Show with him and the rest is history!

So give us a little bit of behind the scenes gossip, any men on the horizon or as we like to call them in the business, STALKERS?

There's a guy at the minute who likes to text in to the studio about me several times every day and he's even come in once or twice with cards and things! I've never actually met him though and even though he's still texting, he's not come in for a while... maybe he's watching from a distance now... eek!

Or maybe he's like everyone else in Sunderland, beside a radio tuning in! Well I have to say you have played well in our first radio derby and I feel that both teams did well but the real winners have to be the readers this time as they have been given two great interviews over the last two weeks and you have topped it off nicely. So as a thank you, go on give us a crowd pleasing old shameless plug.

We're on 6-10 Monday to Fridays on 103.4 Sun FM and online at www.sun-fm.com To find out why more people listen to us than anyone else (psos/MORI Q4 2010 RAJAR) you'll have to listen.

Oh she shoots, she scores right in to the back of the net with that one. Was it a Beckham bend or a Grundy grunt well never know, if you have a football story send it to shoot, but if you're a radio presenter contact editor@theradiomagazine.co.uk and we'll speak soon.