

**I'M SORRY
I HAVEN'T
A CLUE**

THE ANTIDOTE TO PANEL GAMES

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"Our next round takes as its subject the art of love and romance. Now, normally I don't approve of the teams probing fun out of such a subject. Making love isn't something to be mocked. It's the most tender, beautiful act that money can buy"

Humph (Series 49 Episode 02)



The Antidote to Panel Games

"Hello again, and welcome to another enjoyable edition of I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue, and I use the word 'enjoyable' in the 'yes, jumping up and down on these drawing pins in my bare feet is enjoyable' meaning of the word"

Humph (Series 20 Episode 6)

For over five decades, BBC Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* (ISIHAC) has stood as a beloved bastion of British comedy, a show that proudly proclaims itself "the antidote to panel games." This enduring tagline, first heard in the inaugural episode of Series 2, perfectly encapsulates its unique premise: a deliberate, joyful subversion of the traditional quiz show format. Instead of seeking correct answers, ISIHAC thrives on the absurd, the improvised, and the hilariously incorrect, creating a world, where wit and silliness reign supreme.

The show's enduring appeal lies in its consistent ability to deliver intelligent, yet utterly nonsensical, humour. It has cultivated a dedicated cult following, with listeners returning faithfully to revel in its convoluted games, deadpan delivery, and the unparalleled chemistry of its panellists. ISIHAC offers a comforting escape into a realm where logic is optional and laughter is guaranteed, cementing its place as a cherished institution in the landscape of British radio.

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue first graced the airwaves on 11 April 1972. Its initial reception quickly established it as a fresh and unconventional voice in radio comedy, setting the stage for its legendary run.

"The filthiest thing on radio"

Willie

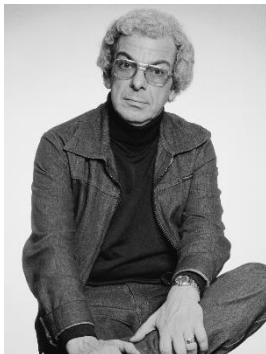
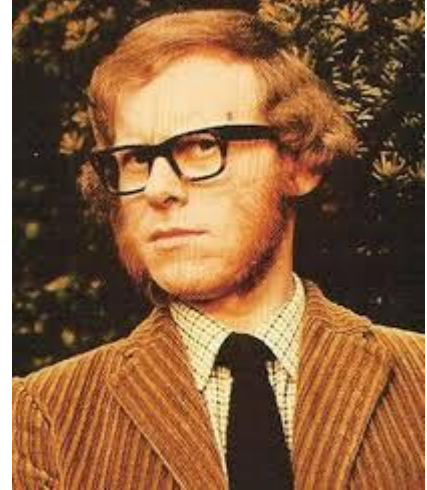


Graeme, Willie, Barry, Humph and Tim

Humph and the Gang

"Where jokes and laughter go together like a horse on fire"
Humph (Series 30 Episode 5)

The genesis of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* can be traced back to the creative mind of Graeme Garden, who, alongside former Controller of Radio 4, Tony Whitby, brought this unique concept to life. The story goes that either **Graeme Garden** or David Hatch (who produced the first ever show) suggested that Humphrey Lyttelton would be the perfect host; notably, both later credited each other with the idea, as neither could definitively recall who first made the suggestion. It has also been said that Graeme conceived of a show without a script, noting that they would be paid the same as if they were making a scripted show, thus making it an appealing proposition. From its very first broadcast, the show began to carve out its distinctive niche, promising listeners something entirely different from the standard panel game fare.



The early years saw the formation of what would become a legendary ensemble. While Humphrey Lyttelton quickly became synonymous with the chairman's role, it's notable that he shared the chairmanship in the first series. The panel itself saw familiar faces establish their comedic personas: **Barry Cryer**, a stalwart of British comedy, initially served as a host for six episodes before settling into his much-loved role as a permanent panellist from the second series onwards. He was joined by Graeme Garden and Tim Brooke-Taylor, forming the core of the show's comedic engine.

"There's nothing that gets my goat more than the senseless waste of licence fee income, which is why I have instructed the BBC to stop putting chilled champagne in my dressing room. There's no point in going to the expense of chilling it if it's only going in the bath"
Humph (Series 31 Episode 5)

Beyond these mainstays, the very first series also featured other notable talents. **Jo Kendall** appeared in the inaugural episode and a further six shows during the first series. The legendary John Cleese also made eight appearances in the first series, though he never returned after that, reportedly finding the show "too anarchic" for his tastes. The early panellists, including Garden, Brooke-Taylor, and Kendall, had a shared comedic history, having all been prominent figures in the hugely popular radio sketch show *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again*. Furthermore, Graeme Garden, Bill Oddie and Tim



Brooke-Taylor were also well-known for their work in the beloved television comedy series The Goodies, bringing a pre-existing comedic rapport and a loyal fanbase to ISIHAC. The ensemble was further solidified with the arrival of Willie Rushton in Series 3, completing what many consider the classic lineup.

"I'd like to clear up a misprint in this week's Radio Times. It says on page 20 that Willie Rushton is quite used to taking the lead in Covent Garden. It should read that Willie Rushton is quite used to taking a leak in his front garden"

Humph (Series 18 Episode 05)



Beyond his iconic role as the unflappable chairman of ISIHAC, Humphrey Lyttelton was a highly respected and celebrated jazz musician. A talented trumpeter and bandleader, he was a pivotal figure in the British jazz scene for many years, performing and recording extensively. His musical career showcased a different facet of his immense talent, demonstrating a versatility that extended far beyond the confines of the radio studio.

This foundational period established the show's early format, which, while still evolving, already showcased its signature blend of improvised silliness, musical interludes, and Lyttelton's masterful, deadpan control. The initial audience and critical response were overwhelmingly positive, recognising the show's innovative approach to comedy and its refreshing departure from conventional broadcasting. This early success laid the groundwork for the decades of laughter that would follow.

Clue fans consider the classic line-up to be Humph, Graeme, Barry, Tim and Willie. From Willie's debut in 1974 until his last appearance in 1996, this line-up appeared 135 times, many of which featured Colin Sell at the piano. This familiar panel helped to cement the show as a Radio 4 stalwart and a firm fan favourite.

"This week we have four comedians off the television, and there aren't many comedians that have been off the television as long as these"

Humph (Series 42 Episode 01)

Games Compendium

The heart of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*'s enduring appeal lies in its ingenious, often baffling, and consistently hilarious rounds. These are not mere games; they are comedic vehicles designed to showcase the panellists' quick wit, improvisational skills, and the show's unique brand of absurdity. Over the decades, a core set of rounds has become iconic, alongside a rich tapestry of other memorable challenges.

At the pinnacle of ISIHAC's comedic repertoire stands **Mornington Crescent**. This impenetrable game, named after a London Underground station, is perhaps the show's most famous and baffling segment. Its "rules" are entirely fictitious, evolving spontaneously (or not at all) with each play, leading to increasingly elaborate and nonsensical explanations from the panellists.

*"Let's be serious, there are people at home listening to this game.
Sorry, let me read that again, there are people listening in a home"*
Humph (Series 26 Episode 04)

Its enduring mystery and the chairman's deadpan pronouncements of victory (or defeat) have cemented its status as a comedic masterpiece. Mornington Crescent first appeared in 1978. In 1990 the game was preceded by a letter apparently sent in by the often confused Mrs Trellis.

*"So pleased to hear that Tim Brooke-Taylor is back.
Without him the show is like 'Hamlet' without the balcony scene"*
Mrs Trellis of North Wales (Series 26 Episode 05)

Mornington Crescent tube station displays a blue Comedy Heritage plaque dedicated to Willie Rushton. There is also a pub opposite the station called The Lyttelton Arms.

Another staple is **One Song to the Tune of Another**, a deceptively simple concept that yields consistently hilarious results. Panellists are tasked with singing the lyrics of one well-known song to the melody of another. The resulting musical mash-ups, often delivered with earnest attempts at sincerity, highlight the inherent absurdity and the panellists' musical (or anti-musical) talents. This was the first game ever played on the show.

"The round called One Song to the Tune of Another. This is a well-established concept, requiring an explanation only to anyone that has slept through every show for the last 30-odd years. So, I'll be interested to read this"
Humph (Series 46 Episode 01)

Sound Charades relies on the panellists' ability to convey a phrase or title using only the spoken word, often with riotous and utterly unrecognisable outcomes. This game highlights the cleverness of the panellists and the show.

"Recently we experimented with a round called 'Smell Charades' but we had to evacuate the studio when Willie attempted 'Animal Farm'"

Humph (Series 27 Episode 05)

Sound Charades was based on the TV show 'Give Us A Clue' and was a reason to make jokes about Lionel Blair, who is said to have been a fan of the show. It also spawned the creation of characters Hamish and Dougal, played by Garden and Cryer.

"The experts' expert was Lionel Blair. Who can forget opposing team captain Una Stubbs sitting opened mouthed as he tried to pull off Twelve Angry Men in under 2 minutes?"

Humph (Series 34 Episode 02)

Sound Charades first appeared in Series 2 and is the most played game on the show.

Beyond these giants, ISIHAC has delighted audiences with a plethora of other inventive rounds. These include **Late Arrivals** at the ??? Ball, where panellists invent absurd and often pun-laden names of fictional characters arriving late at a grand event. The **Uxbridge English Dictionary** (originally called 'New Definitions') invites panellists to provide new, humorous definitions for existing words, often twisting their meanings to absurd effect. **Word for Word** is a word game, about words. First played on the show's inaugural episode, it challenges team members to say a word that has no logical link to the previous word. The opposing team then has to buzz in if they detect any connection, no matter how tenuous, between the words.

In **Just a Minim** (based on the popular radio game 'Just a Minute'), in this musical variation, teams are given a song to sing with piano accompaniment. They must sing the song without repetition, deviation, hesitation or repetition. It was also an opportunity to make a joke at the expense of Nicholas Parsons.

"Now we're going to play the game 'Just a Minim', which is based on the show that made Nicholas Parsons what he is today. Available for work"

Humph (Series 23 Episode 05)

Another music round is **Pick Up Song**. A song is played to establish its words and tempo, and a panellist joins in with the singing. The sound of the track is then turned down, requiring the panellist to continue alone. When the sound is turned up again, the panellist must be perfectly in time with the track. This game was first played in Series 5 (1977) under the name 'Sing-a-Long'.

Swanee Kazoo: A team game where one panellist plays the Swanee Whistle, whilst the other plays a Kazoo to the tune of a well-known song. As Jack Dee once observed, "The two words go together like Fred Astaire and Gingivitis." This game is based on Humph's school days when he may have been a member of a Kazoo Orchestra.



For many years, since the 1990s, the show has ended with different games. Quite often these have been **Film Club** or **Song Book**. The teams are asked to provide film or song titles that they have tweaked to suit certain occupations or sections of society.

Sound Charades, One Song to the Tune of Another, Mornington Crescent and Late Arrivals have all been played over 200 times in Clue's 563 shows.

The humour throughout these rounds is multifaceted. It thrives on the panellists' quick-witted improvisation, their ability to build on each other's jokes, and the recurring gags that have become part of the show's fabric. Chief among these is the constant, often risqué, and always unseen presence of Samantha, the lovely assistant, whose various (and often improbable) duties are a source of endless amusement and innuendo. The audience's participation, whether through laughter, groans, or applause, is also a vital component, feeding the comedic energy.

"Exciting news! Samantha tells me she's expecting a visit from a film producer in her dressing room after the show with news of a part he's been holding for her. He seems sure she's going to make it big"

Humph (Series 28 Episode 2)

Rotating Cast of Brilliance

"People often ask our team members 'where can I see your latest show?'"

To which they reply 'on UK Gold'"

Humph (Series 27 Episode 02)

The enduring charm of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* is inextricably linked to the extraordinary talents of its panellists. Over the decades, a cast of comedic geniuses has graced the show's microphone, each contributing their unique brand of wit, improvisation, and absurdity to the proceedings. While the chairman provides the framework, it is the panellists who truly bring the games to life, often veering into hilarious tangents and unexpected comedic gold.

The bedrock of the show's early success was undoubtedly its core quartet: Barry Cryer (with 467 appearances as a panellist), Graeme Garden (441 appearances), Tim Brooke-Taylor (a remarkable 468 appearances), and later, Willie Rushton (202 appearances). For much of the show's extensive run, these were the familiar faces (and voices) that listeners came to expect, with guest panellists primarily filling in when regulars were unavailable.

- **Barry Cryer**, with his vast repertoire of jokes and a twinkle in his eye, was a master of the one-liner and a consistent source of laughter, often punctuated by his infectious and distinctive laugh that became a beloved part of the show's soundscape.
- **Graeme Garden**, as one of the show's creators, Graeme's inventive mind, razor-sharp quick wit, and willingness to embrace the absurd were fundamental to *Clue's* unique style. In the author's opinion, he is one of the most underrated comics this country has ever produced.
- **Tim Brooke-Taylor's** comedic persona, often characterised by a slightly flustered or pompous air, provided a delightful contrast and endless opportunities for gentle teasing from Humph.
- **Willie Rushton**, who joined in Series 3, added a wonderfully dry, laconic wit and a knack for unexpected musical contributions as well as satire.



Tim, Humph, Barry, Willie and Graeme

Their combined chemistry, built on years of shared comedic history (including *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again* and *The Goodies* for some), created a comfortable yet riotously funny dynamic.

"That show in which laughter follows fun like night follows dawn"

Humph (Series 28 Episode 02)

As the years progressed, and particularly after the passing of some of the original members, the panel saw the introduction of new voices who seamlessly integrated into the Clue family while bringing their own distinct styles. With Willie Rushton's death, his place on the panel was not filled by a single replacement, but rather by a rotating list of talented guests, ensuring variety and fresh comedic perspectives. Regulars like Andy Hamilton (32 appearances, first appearing in the 1990s), Marcus Brigstocke (22 appearances), and Miles Jupp (26 appearances) have become firm favourites, each with their characteristic comedic approaches. Hamilton's sardonic observations, Brigstocke's energetic and often politically charged wit, and Jupp's wonderfully awkward charm have ensured the show's continued comedic vibrancy.



Marcus Brigstocke, Jack Dee, Rachel Parris, Graeme Garden and Rory Bremner

The show has also been graced by a diverse array of other talented individuals. Notable frequent guests include Tony Hawks (68 appearances), **Jeremy Hardy** (57 appearances, whose passing left a significant void), Sandi Toksvig (32 appearances, the first panellist born outside the UK and third female panellist), Rob Brydon (22 appearances), Pippa Evans (20 appearances, first appearing in 2016), and Stephen Fry (20 appearances, first appearing in 1986). Other significant contributors include Paul Merton (18 appearances, all during the 1990s), Rachel Parris (16 appearances, the 45th different guest and 13th female panellist), Susan Calman (14 appearances), Milton Jones (14 appearances), John Finnemore (14 appearances), Bill Tidy (12 appearances, first appearing in Series 12, Episode 7), Jo Brand (10 appearances), and Harry Hill (10 appearances).



The variety of these voices, from established comedians to rising stars, has continually refreshed the show's dynamic.

*"Anyone wanting to avoid the crowds when leaving,
please try to wait until the end of the show"*

Humph (Series 28 Episode 06)



Tony Hawks

The dynamic between the panellists and the chairman is crucial to the show's success. Under Humphrey Lyttelton, the panellists were often the playful targets of his dry put-downs and mock exasperation, a tradition that Jack Dee has continued with his own brand of world-weary humour. This interplay, coupled with the panellists' ability to bounce off each other, improvise on the spot, and consistently deliver unexpected comedic gems, is what makes *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* a timeless masterclass in radio comedy.

The Lyttelton Era

"Only the other day I was approached by a top television producer, who asked me why we on this program had so steadfastly spurned the garish, get-rich-quick World of television in favour, as he saw it, the antiquated and obviously limited medium of wireless, and to this man I have a clear message:

I mislaid your telephone number on the bus. Please get in touch!"

Humph (Series 21 Episode 04)

For over thirty-five years, the voice of Humphrey Lyttelton was the unwavering anchor of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*. As chairman, his contribution was nothing short of monumental, shaping the very essence and enduring appeal of the show. Lyttelton wasn't just a host; he was the unflappable ringmaster of comedic chaos, a master of the deadpan delivery, and a purveyor of dry wit that became instantly recognisable and deeply cherished by millions. From the last show of Series 1 until his death in 2008, Humph never missed a recording.

"The theatre management asked the teams to leave the place as they found it.

Actually, they asked them to leave as soon as they found it"

Humph (Series 41 Episode 06)



His distinctive style was characterised by an understated authority. While the panellists indulged in glorious tangents and absurd improvisations, Lyttelton remained the calm centre, steering the ship with a raised eyebrow, a perfectly timed interjection, or a cutting, yet never cruel, put-down. His ability to read out the most ridiculous questions and scenarios with a straight face, only to follow them with a devastatingly witty aside, was a hallmark of his genius. This precise comedic timing and his refusal to break character, even amidst the most uproarious laughter from the audience or his panellists, created a unique dynamic that set ISIHAC apart.

"Well, with Mickey's hand pointing upwards, and Goofy's hand pointing downwards, I realise my Rolex is a fake..."

Humph (Series 23 Series 06)

Lyttelton's presence profoundly influenced the show's tone and comedic rhythm. He fostered an environment where silliness was not only permitted but encouraged, yet always within the loose framework he maintained. Memorable moments from his tenure are countless, from his elaborate and often bizarre introductions to the panellists and Samantha, to his classic put-downs that became legendary among fans. Recurring jokes, such as the ever-present innuendo surrounding Samantha's activities or the increasingly convoluted explanations for Mornington Crescent moves, were often delivered with Lyttelton's signature blend of mock-seriousness and underlying amusement. His tenure is

widely regarded as the golden age of the show, a testament to his unparalleled skill and comedic vision.



Beyond the chairman and the panellists, an unsung hero of the show's musical segments and comedic timing has always been the pianist. While several talented musicians have graced the keyboard over the years, the most enduring and iconic figure in this role is undoubtedly **Colin Sell**.

"Listeners will be shocked to learn that regular pianist, Colin Sell, was double booked this evening. However, after an acrimonious row and the threat of legal action the other show reluctantly conceded defeat and agreed to take him"

Humph (Series 30 Episode 01)

Sell, with his masterful accompaniment and often stoic demeanour, became a regular target for Lyttelton's gentle but persistent jibes. These playful exchanges between Lyttelton and Sell, often involving mock-criticism of Sell's playing or his general disposition, became a beloved recurring gag, adding another layer of unique humour to the show. Sell's musical talent, combined with his deadpan reactions to the chairman's teasing, makes him an integral part of the ISIHAC experience.

"Before the show I was surprised to find out that Colin has perfect pitch. So, if you need your garage roof done, Colin is the man to see"

Humph (Series 24 Episode 01)

Colin has been the show's regular pianist since 1975. Prior to his appointment, Dave Lee had filled the role, having worked with most of the team on *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again*. Colin has appeared on more *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* shows than anyone else.

"People often ask what Colin does when he's not entertaining people. Well, he provides piano accompaniment on I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue"

Jack (Series 72 Episode 03)

New Voices

"On this show we avoid tired old clichés like the plague"

Humph (Series 32 Episode 02)

The long and illustrious run of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* has inevitably seen significant changes to its beloved lineup. The passing of cherished panellists such as Willie Rushton, Jeremy Hardy, Barry Cryer and Tim Brooke-Taylor left profound voids, keenly felt by both their fellow performers and the dedicated audience.

"I don't know how long I've got; I don't even buy green bananas"

Barry (Series 64 Episode 06)

Each brought a unique comedic voice and personality to the show, and their absence marked the end of an era for many fans. However, perhaps the most monumental challenge the show faced was continuing after the death of its iconic chairman, Humphrey Lyttelton, in 2008. The question loomed: could *Clue* survive without Humph?

The transition to a new chairman was handled with immense care and respect for Lyttelton's legacy. After a series of guest hosts (Jack Dee, Stephen Fry and Rob Brydon), Jack Dee officially took over the chairmanship in 2009.

"Thank you, Barry Cryer. Listening to you sing reminds me of Music Hall, and why we don't have it anymore"

Jack (Series 53 Episode 01)



Dee, a renowned comedian in his own right who had made 9 appearances as a panellist, faced the unenviable task of stepping into truly legendary shoes (a job he suggested he could never do when interviewed on radio about the vacancy). His approach has been to maintain the show's core spirit and structure, preserving the beloved rounds and the anarchic humour, while subtly bringing his own distinctive, dry, and often exasperated style to the role. He has successfully navigated the balance between honouring the past and injecting new energy, proving that the format itself is robust enough to evolve. In the author's opinion, there is no one that could have done the job as well as Jack, and his appointment saved the show for the future.

"Let's get on with it, we don't want to be here all night."

Don't want to be here any night"

Jack (Series 58 Episode 05)

Alongside the change in chairmanship, the show has welcomed a host of new regular and guest panellists who have seamlessly integrated into the Clue family. Comedians like Marcus Brigstocke, **Andy Hamilton** (who first appeared in the 1990s), Miles Jupp, Victoria Wood and Rory Bremner (among many others) have brought fresh perspectives and comedic talents to the panel. They have embraced the show's unique rhythm, contributing to the games with their own brand of wit and often becoming targets of the chairman's gentle mockery, much in the tradition of their predecessors. This infusion of new voices has ensured the show's continued relevance and appeal, demonstrating its remarkable adaptability.



*"The audience clapping along nicely there.
I had my doubts when I saw all the coaches outside"*
Jack (Series 63 Episode 01)

Through these transitions, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* has managed to retain its core identity. While the faces and voices may change, the fundamental commitment to improvised silliness, clever wordplay, and the "antidote to panel games" ethos remains steadfast. The show's ability to adapt, mourn its losses, and embrace new talent while staying true to its roots is a testament to its enduring brilliance and the timeless nature of its humour.

Behind the microphone, the consistent brilliance of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* owes much to its dedicated production and writing team. Producers, particularly **Jon Naismith**, have played a crucial role in maintaining the show's distinctive tone and managing its unique blend of improvisation and structured chaos for many years. Similarly, the sharp wit and clever wordplay that define the show's scripts and chairman's introductions are largely thanks



to writers like Iain Pattinson, whose contributions have been instrumental in crafting the show's enduring comedic voice. Pattinson was the first script writer for Humph who wasn't a producer. Naismith and Pattinson's work ensured that the show remained fresh and hilarious while staying true to its established character.

The legacy of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* is built on the incredible talents of those who have graced its microphone. We fondly remember the unique contributions of panellists and chairmen who are no longer with us, whose wit and comedic genius continue to resonate through the show's archives. Their performances laid the groundwork for the show's enduring success and remain a cherished part of its history.

Enduring Appeal

"Samantha was telling me she went vegetarian this year, but she has had some pheasant and a bit of partridge this yuletide. Perhaps she'll even enjoy a little goose. Either way it's nice to see her back on the game"

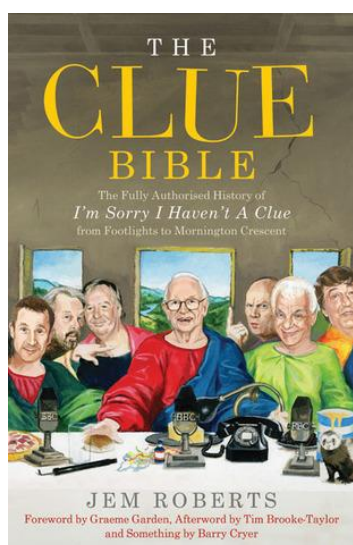
Humph (1995 Christmas Special)

After more than fifty years on the air, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* stands as a unique cultural phenomenon, its longevity a testament to its singular comedic genius. Its enduring appeal lies in a delicate balance of factors: the consistent quality of its wit, its refusal to take itself seriously, and the comforting familiarity it offers its listeners. In an ever-changing media landscape, *Clue* has remained a steadfast source of intelligent, anarchic humour, providing a much-needed antidote to the often-formulaic nature of other panel shows. Its ability to combine spontaneous improvisation with tightly crafted jokes, all delivered with a quintessential British sensibility, has cultivated a loyal fanbase that spans generations.

"The teams visited many towns this year and their first success of the year was to fill the Assembly Rooms, Bath simply by playing the Theatre Royal on the other side of town."

Humph (1997 Christmas Compilation)

The show's influence on British comedy is undeniable. It has not only launched and sustained the careers of numerous comedians but has also inspired countless other comedic ventures with its innovative format. Its unique brand of surrealism and wordplay has left an indelible mark on the comedic landscape, proving that radio, far from being a dying medium, can be a vibrant platform for sophisticated and absurd humour. *Clue*'s place in radio history is secured as one of the BBC's longest-running and most cherished comedy programmes, a true institution that has adapted to change while preserving its core identity.



The loyalty of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*'s fanbase is remarkable. Listeners often speak of the show as a comforting presence, a weekly dose of laughter that brightens their day. This dedication extends beyond the airwaves; the show's live tours consistently sell out, allowing audiences to experience the unique magic firsthand. Merchandise, from books of jokes to Mornington Crescent-themed items, is eagerly snapped up, demonstrating the depth of connection fans feel. Online communities and fan groups thrive, dissecting episodes, sharing favourite moments, and celebrating the show's enduring legacy. This strong community engagement highlights how deeply *Clue* has woven itself into the fabric of British culture, a sentiment underscored by its recognition as the greatest radio comedy of all time by readers and a panel

of expert judges of The Radio Times.

"You wouldn't think 4 top comedians of outstanding quality, perfect timing, total originality and excellent acting skills would turn out to do this show, and you'd be right"

Humph (Series 33 Episode 05)

Looking to the future, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* shows no signs of losing its stride. With Jack Dee ably at the helm and a rotating cast of brilliant panellists, the show continues to attract new listeners while retaining its devoted following. Its timeless format, which prioritises quick thinking and absurd creativity over factual knowledge, ensures its continued relevance. The legacy of *Clue* is not just in its jokes or its games, but in its unwavering commitment to pure, unadulterated silliness, a quality that will undoubtedly keep audiences laughing for many years to come.

"I think it was Nietzsche that said life is a choice between suffering and boredom. He didn't say anything about putting up with them at the same time"

Humph (Series 37 Episode 04)

The Panellists (as of August 2025)

Alexander Armstrong (2 appearances)

A versatile comedian, actor, television presenter, and singer. He is widely known as one half of the comedy duo Armstrong and Miller and as the host of the BBC quiz show *Pointless*.

Pam Ayres (2 appearances)

A celebrated poet, comedian, and presenter, known for her humorous and observational poems. She was the 29th panellist and first appeared in 2002.

Bill Bailey (2 appearances)

A well-known comedian, musician, actor, and author, recognized for his surreal and observational comedy, often incorporating musical elements.

Max Boyce (2 appearances)

A beloved Welsh comedian, singer, and entertainer, famous for his songs and stories about Welsh life, especially rugby.

Jo Brand (10 appearances)

A popular comedian, writer, and actress, known for her deadpan delivery and often sardonic humour.

Rory Bremner (16 appearances)

A renowned impressionist and satirist, celebrated for his ability to mimic a wide range of public figures, including Kermit the Frog.

Marcus Brigstocke (22 appearances)

A prominent comedian and satirist known for his energetic delivery and sharp, often politically charged, wit. He first appeared in 2011.



Tim Brooke-Taylor (468 appearances)

A beloved comedian, actor, and writer, best known as a member of *The Goodies* and for his extensive work on radio comedy. He was the most frequent panellist on ISIHAC.

Rob Brydon (22 appearances)

A highly successful Welsh comedian, actor, and impressionist, known for his roles in *Gavin & Stacey* and *The Trip* series. He also served as a guest chairman.

Susan Calman (14 appearances)

A Scottish comedian, writer, and presenter known for her upbeat and warm comedic style.

John Cleese (8 appearances)

A world-renowned comedian, actor, and writer, best known as a member of *Monty Python* and for *Fawlty Towers*. He appeared in the first series of *SIHAC*.



Denise Coffey (12 appearances)

An actress, comedian, and director, known for her work in theatre and television comedy.

Rev Richard Coles (4 appearances)

An Anglican priest, musician, journalist, and broadcaster, known for his distinctive public persona and wit.

Barry Cryer (468 appearances)

A legendary comedian, writer, and panel show regular with a career spanning over six decades. Known for his vast repertoire of jokes and his infectious laugh, he was a cornerstone of *SIHAC* from its early days. He first appeared in Series 1, became a panellist in Series 2.

Jon Culshaw (6 appearances)

An impressionist capable of mimicking a vast array of voices, often bringing his impressions to the games.

Jack Dee (9 appearances as panellist)

A popular comedian and actor known for his deadpan delivery and cynical humour. He later became the chairman of *SIHAC*.

Gary Delaney (2 appearances)

A critically acclaimed one-liner comedian, celebrated for his sharp wit and high gag rate.

Omid Djalili (12 appearances)

A British-Iranian stand-up comedian, actor, and writer known for his energetic performances and cultural observations.

Adrian Edmondson (2 appearances)

A highly regarded comedian, actor, writer, and musician, best known for his roles in the British alternative comedy scene, particularly for his anarchic characters in shows like *The Young Ones* and *Bottom*.

Harry Enfield (2 appearances)

A prominent comedian, actor, and writer, famous for his sketch comedy series and memorable characters.

Pippa Evans (20 appearances)

A comedian, improviser, and musical performer. She first appeared in 2016.



Kenny Everett (2 appearances)

An influential and innovative comedian and radio DJ, famous for his anarchic and often surreal sketch comedy. Made his debut in 1985 on the same show as Samantha's debut.

John Finnemore (14 appearances)

A highly acclaimed writer and comedian, known for his witty and intricate radio comedy, including *John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme*.

Stephen Fry (20 appearances)

A celebrated actor, comedian, writer, and presenter, known for his erudition and wit. He first appeared in 1986 and also served as a guest chairman.

Graeme Garden (441 appearances)

A co-creator of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, and a celebrated comedian, actor, and writer. A member of The Goodies, he brought a mischievous, surreal sensibility and razor-sharp quick wit to the show.

Kerry Godliman (2 appearances)

A stand-up comedian and actress, known for her observational comedy and roles in various television series.

Andy Hamilton (32 appearances)

A prolific comedian, writer, and director, known for his satirical wit and extensive work on various radio and television comedy shows, including *Old Harry's Game*. He first appeared on *ISIHAC* in the 1990s.

Mike Harding (6 appearances)

A folk singer, comedian, writer, and broadcaster from the North of England, known for his observational humour and storytelling.

Jeremy Hardy (57 appearances)

A much-loved comedian and satirist known for his sharp political commentary and dry wit, he was a long-standing and highly regarded panellist on *ISIHAC* before his passing.

Tony Hawks (68 appearances)

A comedian and author known for his engaging storytelling and quirky adventures. Has been a regular panellist since the 1990s.

Harry Hill (10 appearances)

A distinctive comedian, presenter, and writer known for his surreal humour and unique performance style, often featuring exaggerated collars.

Milton Jones (14 appearances)

A unique comedian famous for his rapid-fire, surreal one-liners and distinctive hairstyle.

John Junkin (5 appearances)

An actor, comedian, and writer, known for his supporting roles in numerous British comedies and for his distinctive voice.

Phill Jupitus (6 appearances)

A now retired comedian, poet, and writer, best known as a team captain on the music quiz show *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*.

Miles Jupp (26 appearances)

A comedian, actor, and writer known for his distinctive, often self-deprecating and charmingly awkward comedic persona.

Jo Kendall (7 appearances)

An actress and comedian who appeared in the very first episode of *SIHAC* and played a significant role in the early series, having also been a key figure in *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again*.



Jonathan Lynn (2 appearances)

A writer, director, and actor, notable for co-creating the classic political satire series *Yes Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*.

Fred MacAuley (16 appearances)

A Scottish comedian and broadcaster, known for his stand-up comedy and radio work. First appeared in 1998.

Lee Mack (2 appearances)

A popular comedian, actor, and presenter, known for his quick-fire stand-up and leading role in the sitcom *Not Going Out*.

Paul Merton (18 appearances)

A highly acclaimed comedian, writer, and improviser, best known for his role on *Have I Got News for You*. All of his *SIHAC* appearances were during the 1990s.

David Mitchell (8 appearances)

A popular comedian, actor, and writer, widely known as one half of the comedy duo *Mitchell and Webb*, and for his appearances on various panel shows.

Neil Mullarkey (2 appearances)

A comedian, actor, and writer, known for his improvisation skills and work with Mike Myers in the early stages of their careers.

Ross Noble (7 appearances)

An acclaimed surrealist stand-up comedian known for his imaginative and improvised storytelling.

Bill Oddie (24 appearances)

A comedian, musician, writer, and ornithologist, famous as a member of *The Goodies* alongside Tim Brooke-Taylor and Graeme Garden, bringing a shared comedic history to *SIHAC*.



Richard Osman (8 appearances)

A television presenter, producer, and author, widely known as the co-presenter of *Pointless* and for his popular crime novels.

Rachel Parris (16 appearances)

A comedian, musician, actress, and satirist, known for her topical comedy and musical parodies. She was the 45th different guest and the 13th female panellist. Can actually sing.

Vicki Pepperdine (8 appearances)

An actress and comedian, known for her roles in various comedy series. She was the 15th female panellist on the show.

Lucy Porter (6 appearances)

A comedian and writer known for her upbeat and observational stand-up style.

Caroline Quentin (4 appearances)

A popular actress and comedian, known for her roles in various television series such as *Men Behaving Badly* and *Jonathan Creek*, bringing her comedic timing to the panel.

Jan Ravens (6 appearances)

An impressionist and comedian, known for her versatile vocal talents.

Willie Rushton (202 appearances)

A distinguished cartoonist, satirist, comedian, and writer. Joining in Series 3, his dry, laconic humour and distinctive voice made him an integral part of the show's classic lineup.

Linda Smith (5 appearances)

A much-loved comedian and writer known for her sharp wit, satirical observations, and distinctive voice.

Bill Tidy (12 appearances)

A distinguished cartoonist and comedian known for his distinctive visual humour. He first appeared in 1985.

Sandi Toksvig (32 appearances)

A popular writer, comedian, broadcaster, and presenter. She was the first panellist born outside the UK and the third female panellist to appear on *SIHAC*.



Henning Wehn (8 appearances)

A German stand-up comedian based in the UK, known for his observational comedy often revolving around cultural differences. He is the second non-UK panellist to appear on the show.

Victoria Wood (6 appearances)

A highly acclaimed comedian, writer, actress, and singer-songwriter, celebrated for her observational humour and witty songs.

"Let's kick-off with an old favourite called 'Historical Headlines'.

An old favourite may be but it never quite seems to match the popularity of the round called 'Stuff this, let's just go home'"

Humph (Series 41 Episode 01)

In memory of...

- Tim Brooke-Taylor (1940–2020)
- Denise Coffey (1936–2022)
- Barry Cryer (1935–2022)
- Kenny Everett (1944–1995)
- Jeremy Hardy (1961–2019)
- David Hatch (1939–2007)
- Neil Innes (1944–2019)
- John Junkin (1930–2006)
- Jo Kendall (1938–2022)
- Humphrey Lyttelton (1921–2008)
- Iain Pattinson (1953–2020)
- Geoffrey Perkins (1953–2008)
- Willie Rushton (1937–1996)
- Linda Smith (1958–2006)
- Bill Tidy (1933–2023)
- Victoria Wood (1953–2016)