

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes on...How the BBC Wastes Your Money

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On the very day Alistair Campbell was criticising the BBC to a Commons Select Committee, where was Greg - 'I've loads of money' - Dyke? The BBC Executive Board was, he says, enjoy "some bonding activity". They were "halfway through an 'It's a Knockout' competition" when Dyke was informed that Campbell "had gone ballistic" in attacking the BBC.

No matter. These particular public servants carried on with the game. They went on to do country dancing with Alan Yentob.

Is this what you paid your licence fee for: so two old bald men can hold hands to hop and skip around a maypole? This is why they need 27,000 extra staff - to make up for all the time off. It helps to explain, doesn't it, why there is not enough money and staff to make programmes, so why they were forced to screen 16 hours of repeats last Bank Holiday Monday.

It's about time that the Culture Select Committee got a grip on this lot and its corporate excess and published a full account of the way they spend the licence-payer's money in bonding, and on hotels and entertainment. Now that would be worth seeing.