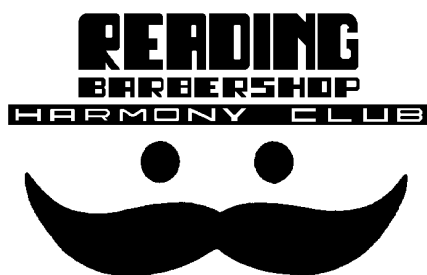


READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



FOUNDED 1974
www.rbhc.org.uk

TAG RAG
AND **NEWSLETTER**

JULY 2006

Steve's Tree (*Fagus sylvatica* 'purpurea') and Irene



READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

AUGUST 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 2006		1 Rehearsal	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Rehearsal	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Rehearsal	30	31	August 2006	

Calendars showing the remaining days of July 2006 and the month of September 2006
are at the back of TAG RAG

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY * Addition/Update to last month's TAG RAG

	JUL	23	Sun	Full Chorus	Highclere Castle Singout
	SEP	15	Fri	Daytimers	Diabetic Society promotion Broad Street Reading (behind M&S) speak to Barry Howard for detail.
	SEP	17	Sun	Daytimers	Goring Village Hall. 1.45 Sing.
*	Sep/	?		Daytimers	Silk Mill Home Twyford - under discussion
	Oct				
	OCT	10		Daytimers	Hungerford Town Hall (tbc)
	NOV	24	Fri	Full Chorus	Cancer charity Show a la Dreweatte & Neatte - New date & Venue) - St George's Hall Wash Common.
	DEC	9	Sat	Full Chorus	Desborough Show Maidenhead (*New date)
	DEC	12	Tue	Daytimers	Pangbourne WI 2.30 sing
2007	MAR	2-4	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	Chorus Away Weekend Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth (**** Note revised date****)
*	MAY	15	Tues	Daytimers	Maidenhead Blind Club 2.30 sing
	MAY	25-27	Fri-Sun		BABS Convention Scarborough
	JUN	9	Sat	Full Chorus	Show Reading Town Hall 60th Anniversary of Düsseldorf twinning.
*	NOV	9-11	Sat	Full Chorus	Potential Warsaw trip.

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

8TH AUGUST FOR 15TH DISTRIBUTION



PETER'S POINTS

The post Convention period, combined with summer holidays, usually means the intensity of practice at rehearsals diminishes. But this year the "recess" is busy. We delivered an excellent performance in Wimborne and we have the Ferrari Fun Day to come.

Our own Fun Day was a very good evening. My sincere thanks go to everyone who helped make it a success. In particular we are indebted to Sean O'Shea and family who once again produced an excellent spread for us and at a time when they were overshadowed by a family bereavement.

We now focus on the year to come. We will be reviewing our Convention performance at the rehearsal on 18th July when Rhiannon will be down. Over the next few weeks we will be starting to put

down recordings for the new Xmas CD. You will have noticed Graham now has some excellent recording equipment. This will be used not only to monitor our rehearsals, but will enable us to "bank" songs as we go along for future inclusion on CDs.

As you know we aborted the trip to the chorus competition in Warsaw this year. I apologise for any inconvenience this caused in planning your diaries. It is certainly an event we would like to attend. We have now established that the dates for the 2007 event are 9-11 November in 2007 with following days being spent on a trip to Krakow. We will be seeking views shortly on who may wish to go.

So have a wonderful summer. And while you are sipping your Pimms start to run through the Xmas songs to be ready for making recordings in August.

Seasons Greetings to you all!

In harmony
PETER COOKSON

Chairman

EDITORIAL

Isn't time passing quickly? We've hardly got over the euphoria of Christmas, the New Year and Convention and I'm making up the calendar for September! Should I blame Blair and Bush or Beckham and Rooney?!

After that stimulating visit to Harrogate and the BABS Convention our sights were set on the Wimborne show with our erstwhile director and tenor Peter Kennedy. The show was a huge success in front of a capacity audience and probably the darkest day for English football for many a year! While Beckham and co were slogging it out with an almost predictable outcome we were showing a less than lackluster performance in the heat of the Tivoli theatre during technical rehearsal. The show performance however was different again and a credit to all. The control of the tabs was interesting and I'm reminded at this point of the advice that Gerry Holland gave me many years ago that you should always make sure that the guy operating the curtain should have at least ten 'O' levels. Add to that the novel way of 'dressing' the tabs to get those stools off the apron - a tactic taken straight from the Beano I'm sure!

Just in case you weren't at the show let me explain. The plan was that By Appointment would start to sing MY MAMMY in front of tabs and then the chorus take over at the usual place after the second verse. Unfortunately there was no one at stage Left to operate the switch at the appropriate time so

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Phillip ward rushed off stage just as we started to sing to operate it. As the quartet squeezed themselves past the opening curtain the switch was operated once again to close the tabs! This second error was overcome and the song finished more or less as planned. Meyrick told the audience (to much laughter) that it was the first time that he'd been upstaged by curtains! And Tab dressing? This is a procedure normally carried out by one person whose job it is to create a tunnel with the curtain overlap in centre stage so that personnel or effects can be taken on and off the stage apron discretely. On this occasion two people opened up the curtains in the middle to create a wide opening through which the stools could be removed and reveal the chorus lined up for the next act! The plan was a perfect re-enactment of the gesture used in charades for 'show'.

It is sad to record the passing of our dear friend and colleague Charles Hough. Charles can only be described as a lovely man. He was as keen as mustard on his Barbershop singing and worked jolly hard over the years for our Club. In his later years of which Charles was fortunate to have many he entertained us and our audiences more with his antics than his singing. He was the Club Singout secretary for a longish time and was notable for making daily tours of public houses to persuade landlords to put up posters to advertise our shows. His car navigation skills are legendary - for getting lost going to singouts. He does however take the biscuit for being the only one to turn up at the right venue for a Daytimers' singout. He'd travelled to where he expected the singout to be and everyone else followed their written instructions diligently to the wrong venue. I remember the incident well but not the names of the venues involved. Naturally Charles was in his element entertaining the ladies waiting for the rest of the chorus to arrive. He realised that he couldn't always reliably arrive at a singout destination on time so he took to doing reconnaissance trips on the preceding days, a plan that worked well until his later years. His tenacity was amazing. Our lives have been enriched by Charles and we can only offer our thanks and sincere condolences to his family of which we know he was justly proud. May he rest in peace.

Irene and I learned that Jonathan Hershman; a good friend and Barbershopper, originally with the Crawley Chordsmen died suddenly in his sleep in the early hours of Wednesday 5th July. His funeral was held at the Down's Crematorium in Brighton and then there was a wake at the Hove Synagogue. Jonathan was a very jovial man, He loved to play practical jokes. I knew him from being in the Guild of Judges and from Harmony College. He was a presentation judge and used to run a class at Harmony College called 'Front Line Live' The class' task was to develop a theatrical package using the front row members of the College chorus. He did this with increasing creativity over many years. Irene and

I unfortunately had the task of making/hiring/ borrowing costumes for this extravaganza with ever decreasing lead times! But it was good fun. Jonathan will probably be remembered best for raising the angst in the Guild of Judges with his critical views about using ladies on judging panels. He was 52 years of age at his death and was a diabetic. He'd been married to Suzie, a Stockport Barbershopper, for 17 happy years. Irene and I went to their wedding in Brighton. In view of all the hassle Jonathan had given us over the years with costumes for Harmony College I decided I would turn up as a chimney sweep. That's still a fond memory for Suzie and there are photographs to prove it. Long may Jonathan rest in peace.

You will read an email later on that advises us that Nicholas Bannan has moved down-under to Perth Australia. It was a coincidence that within the same week Mervyn Clarke asked me to provide him with Nicholas' email address because was looking to engage him to coach his quartet. Mervyn is looking for another plan now! Let's hope that Nicholas' move is a successful one and that we soon get news of him starting some Barbershop activities. I wonder what it's like to sing upside down?

We have just passed Steve's 4th anniversary. and it's appropriate to reflect just how fortunate we are to continue the good work that he started with Rhiannon at the helm. The front cover photograph shows you the current growth of Steve's memorial tree. I've included Irene in the picture this year to give you a better idea of its size. Take a closer look in the background and you might see our Kibblewhite neighbours on the ninth hole of Billingbear's new course. It was sheer coincidence that they were finishing their round at that time and it provided a good opportunity to catch up with their news over a cup of coffee in the Clubhouse afterwards. Why not take time out yourself, visit Steve's tree and maybe enjoy a snack or a meal in the Club's new facilities. A round of golf will make your visit into a treat.

There's not much copy again this month but some really good news from Bob Hordle. Congratulations Bob we look forward to seeing you soon.

I've spoken to Dick Coles who has just had a carpal tunnel operation on his left hand. Things are progressing nicely but he's not able to drive at the moment. He'll have his right hand done when the left is back in service again. As he says there are certain things that a man must have a least one hand for - I think he's thinking of holding a pint jug! All the best Dick - we wish you well and look forward to seeing you back on the risers.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



FUN NIGHT

That was probably the best value barbecue you'll ever experience. Under the masterful eye of Sean and Ann O'Shea we enjoyed a feast fit for a king and queen!

The whole evening went swimmingly well. Succulent beef, pork, lamb and sausages were served with jacket potatoes and salad accompaniments followed by apple pie, fresh fruit salad and cream and cheese. The idea to get everyone to bring their own crockery and utensils was a master stroke because it reduced the management overhead significantly. Thank you everyone for cooperating.

DAVE COLVER says: "Thanks very much to everybody who provided games for the fun evening, it all helped to make for a great evening. I know that Kay and I thoroughly enjoyed it and I am sure everybody else did too. Also a big vote of thanks to Sean - Great food - Top Barbecue chef!"

WANTED

A gent's business type umbrella.- the black rolled with crook handle type. Wanted as a stage prop, so doesn't need to be waterproof any more, just reasonably presentable . I have tried the various charity shops in Wokingham many times, but to no avail. There must be one lying around unloved somewhere. Hopefully one will be forthcoming, it will go to a good home!

MERVYN CLARK

(0118 973 3033.)

WIMBORNE SHOW

Phillip Ward writes - "I thank very much all those who came down to Wimborne Minster last Saturday. Although the weather was very hot, it was refreshing to hear such a good performance. It was also pleasing to see Hajinder there, one of the new boys, to see us in full flow.

Many people after the show came and thanked me for our part. Some of my work colleagues travelled down and they thoroughly enjoyed the show experience. One commented that they had never attended anything like this and were well pleased. He won umpteen brownie points from his wife for it. Peter Kennedy rang me on Sunday morning to say how pleased they were with our contribution. He would like to do another gig with us.

Many many thanks."

PHILLIP WARD

CORRESPONDENCE

Hi Lawrence (McNulty)

It's been a long time since I contacted anyone at RBHC but you keep me updated with items of news for which I am grateful.

I have some news for you. I received the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the military.

I hope that everyone at the Club will be pleased to hear this news.

My job is now permanently in Speke and Chester with the Bank of Scotland, but as I am only two years off retirement, I will not be moving (up North). I look forward to returning to the Club once I have retirement in sight.

Please give all my good friends at the Club my best wishes.

Yours in harmony

BOB HORDLE

Dear Graham

I'm contacting you as my husband, Nick Bannan, has asked me to let you know that he has now moved 'down under' to Perth to take up a music and education lectureship at the University of Western Australia. He and I have sold and moved out of our house in Woodley and I shall be joining him in Oz with our youngest son in about a year's time. He thanks you for keeping in contact via 'Tag Rag' over the years. But, as we're both currently 'peripatetic' (if

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that's the right word!) as far as addresses are concerned (perhaps 'of no fixed abode' might be nearer the mark at least until we complete the purchase of our new house in Perth) it's probably appropriate to remove our old address (21 Reading Road) from your mailing list. I know he's working hard to Get Perth Singing and if you want ever to make contact with him his e-mail address is: n.bannan@bigpond.com

Many thanks and best wishes
Val Bannan

My email to Nicholas:

Hi Nicholas,
Now here's a surprise! Val alerted us of your move and asked us to remove your Woodley mailing address for Tag Rag. That's done and I will put you back on there when you have a permanent abode.

Your move down-under looks very exciting and with your knowledge and skills; I'm sure you'll make a success of it. Irene and I hope everything is going well. Australia has a very active Barbershop scene - 30 choruses and there's one in Perth.

In the unlikely event that you get withdrawal symptoms missing your Tag Rag it is accessible online at www.rbhc.org.uk

Best Regards
Graham

28th June 2006
Dear Graham,

I am writing to thank you and Thames Valley Chorus on behalf of South Berkshire Singers for lending us the risers and coming to help us on the 17th of June to set them up and dismantle them.

We hope you enjoyed our performance, with your help we raised over £1000.00 for our charity (WADE).

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Yours
Nick Hird
Keith Stiles (Chairman)



CHARLES HOUGH

David Hough, Charles' son read the following eulogy at Charles' funeral service. Photo from Club photo archive by Don Jeffery.

"My father was born in South Tottenham on 6th July 1913. Today would have been his 93rd Birthday. Before he was old enough to pass any exams, 14 I think, he joined the Post Office as a telegraph boy delivering messages around the Spitalfields area of London. This career was interrupted by his 'call up' to the air force for the Second World War. Dad owned and maintained a motor bike and this may be the reason why he became part of the ground crew supporting Spitfires. He was lucky enough to see little direct action. However he was part of the North African campaign. This would entail refuelling the planes using Jerry cans of high Octane fuel. Naked flame fires illuminated night time operations. One careless individual in the human chain accidentally coated Dad with fuel. In the slow motion moment of disaster that followed he saw the flame that leapt through the air and set him alight. He subsequently spent a long term in a Hospital Burns unit recovering from his injuries.

After the war he returned to the Post Office. He held various positions including a clerk in the foreign office. I visited there once and was amused by a stag's head mounted on the wall to which everyone would respectfully bow at night and say "goodnight George" - I did it myself. I hope that it wasn't a wind up.

He also worked to support of the Union and whilst this was intended to benefit his colleagues he found

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himself stuck between opposing views all the time. This led to a rather unhappy period in his life.

His last job included the seasonal responsibility for recruiting the additional staff required at all of London's railway stations to cope with the extra post of Christmas time. He enjoyed that and welcomed the opportunity of many hours overtime. It helped him buy his first car for £50, a Black Austin 8, with semaphore indicators.

All his working life Dad was with the Post Office and this was recognized by being awarded the ISM - Imperial Service Medal.

Dad had a love of cricket. He played for the Post Office, Southgate County Old Boys at Cockfosters and also for Southgate Compton. He became a life president during his retirement from the game and continued to visit them and accompany them on tour in the West Country. As a player he often opened the batting and when we were old enough he encouraged me and my brother to play.

Dad's greatest success was to achieve an innings of 100 not out. During his career he also managed to break his forearm in the same place on two separate occasions. On the first occasion I remember walking with him to the Prince of Wales hospital with the hand of his other arm underneath it in case it should fall off.

In his early 60's he wanted to raise funds in support of the younger members of the club. He walked from Reading to Cockfosters. We think the distance was about 62 miles and he achieved this in one day. We have the photographs to prove it. The event raised several hundred pounds for the cause.

After moving to Reading Dad became a member of the Thames Valley Chorus. He attended several Conventions and was proud to be part of one of the highest ranking groups in the country. I don't know that they really appreciated that within their ranks he became the oldest barbershopper in the country that still performed on the risers.

He loved singing so much that he would approach all manner of people in all sorts of places to give them a flavour of what Barbershop singing was about. If those people had the benefit of the full 4 parts they might have enjoyed it more.

At the end of every Barbershopper's rehearsal they would sing a farewell medley of songs. I think Dad would have liked to sing this as a farewell today. These are the words:

Let's get together again for

we've had a wonderful time
Had a lot of fun, but the time has come,
We've got to say goodbye
So Pleasant dreams to you
and may they all come true
Until we meet again, farewell and then
Lets get together again, again
Let's get together again. And

Keep the whole world singing
All day, all day long.
Watch good will come a winging on a song
Smile the while, the while you are singing
O carry, carry your, carry your part.
Keep a melody singing and ringing in your heart."

Charles' funeral service was held at the Reading Crematorium. About twenty Club members paid their respects. "Heart of my Heart' was sung during the service and 'Let's Get Together Again/Keep the Whole World Singing" was sung at the end.

The mourners adjourned to a fine finger buffet spread and drinks at the Traveller's Rest on Henley Road afterwards and were once again entertained with a few songs by the members of the chorus.

DEAR OLD CHARLES

Such a gentlemanly man; always happy to listen, always interested in everyone; so dedicated to Barbershop.

My abiding memory of Charles is when, for a stage performance, he wanted to wear his shirt open to the waist (lack of buttons) showing his woolly vest. Irene and I had quite a tussle persuading him not to wear his fairisle pullover as well! When I started to sew the buttons onto the shirt (still on him) he very grumpily asked if the buttons I was sewing on would fit the button holes!

A very dear man who I will remember with great affection.

HEATHER

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME (20th June)

We have guests tonight. A big welcome to Terry (Bs), Paul (L), Peter (T) and Franz (Bt). They will be driving what happens in the rehearsal. The main aim is to ensure that the chorus and the quartet have a common understanding of what will be happening on 1st July singout in the Tivoli Theatre Wimborne. We need to rehearse "One Voice" and "Mammy", the songs we sing with the quartet.

WIMBORNE SHOW SONGS (27th June)

Spot 1

My Mammy - *with By Appointment*
Birth of the Blues (directed by Peter K)
Do You Hear The People Sing
Top Hat Medley
If You Love Me (Really Love Me)
Swing Low Sweet Chariot

Spot 2

Sound Celebration
Beach Boys Medley
Make 'em Laugh
Wonderful Day Medley*
Everybody Step/Alexander's RTB

Finale

(The Rose - *By Appointment*)
One Voice - *with By Appointment*

* Wonderful Day Medley was substituted with Battle Hymn of the Republic to slow the pace to allow the chorus to catch its breath!

SOUTH BERKSHIRE SINGERS (20th June)

You may remember Nick Hird (Derek's son) and a posse of his singing group coming along to view our risers the other week. Well on Saturday I took the riser van (and contents!) over to St Paul's church Wokingham for their charity concert in aid of funds to provide WADE with a new minibus. Wokingham And District Elderley is the correct interpretation to save you struggling. Or more appropriately Ken, Heather and Les Who.

The 'Singers provided me with a couple of tickets so that Irene and I could sample their fare. And a most enjoyable evening it turned out to be. The choir is well drilled and put on an impressive performance. They have a wide range of songs in their repertoire covering the 16th to the 21st centuries. A young female guitarist who displayed consummate classical skills ably supported them.

We had a mention in the event programme sic 'Graham Starkie and the Thames Valley Chorus'! I didn't provide the wording, honest.

PS

We also got another thanks on Monday when I took the sound system over to the Billingbear Golf Course. It was used to round off their cancer charity golfing day for an auction and announcing the results. It is thought that this year's event will net in the region of six to seven thousand pounds. This was a truly magnificent effort.

CHARLES HOUGH (4th July)

Editor's note - In the following notice I erroneously stated that Charles was an Associate Member. Not so, he was a full Member of RBHC! He paid his Club subscription right up to the end. My apologies.

I am saddened to record the death of our most loyal associate member CHARLES HOUGH. Charles died suddenly last Saturday at the Basingstoke home where he's being looked after in these recent years. He was 93 years of age and was about to celebrate his 94th birthday this coming Thursday. His funeral will take place at the Reading Crematorium on that day (6th July) at 11am. A keener barbershop singer probably doesn't exist. Arrangements are in hand for us to sing a few songs to celebrate his life in the musical style he was very proud of. Heart of My Heart is one of the four songs because Charles always insisted that his family sing it when they got together. Barbershop Song, Sunset Poem (Troyte's Chant), and Let's Get Together Again are the others. Dress will be grey trousers, white shirt and tie, no jacket. We are invited for refreshments afterwards at a venue to be notified.

TONIGHT'S RECORDING (4th July)

The mic arrangement tonight will test one of a few ideas to make recordings that will help us improve both individual and our collective performance before we get stuck into doing the recordings for the CD.

The objective is to measure how well we are singing and make performance improvements as necessary. As a first step I plan to provide the SLs with recordings for them to hear how well their sections are singing and at the same time let the chorus hear what they sound like.

The mic configuration is expected to provide recordings of the sections in relative isolation. Each part is on a riser set at the four cardinal points with a mic in front of them. Rhiannon will stand in the middle. This layout may feel a bit odd at first but its success should be determined by the usefulness of the recordings.

The recording sessions will be taking place on most weeks from now on. If any member would like to take home their own copy of the recordings they should bring an MP3 player or similar (or a memory stick).

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MEDALS FOR PAST WINNERS (4th July)

BABS are now producing medals for choruses who have achieved 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in past Conventions. The medals are not inscribed in any way. The cost is £5 (incl postage) for each medal. If you would like to purchase a medal(s) please complete the details on the form on the notice Board and the Club will send in a combined application.

CONVENTION PHOTOS (4th July)

Copies of the CD, produced by the company making the photographic record of the Harrogate Convention are available from Peter Cookson at a cost of £3 each. They contain over one hundred photographs of TVC's performance.

BRETT WAINWRIGHT (4th July)

Brett Wainwright, a barbershopper from Tadworth, was paralysed from then chest down 17 years ago. He raises money for Stoke Mandeville hospital by doing sponsored cycle rides. Last year he cycled across Kenya and raised £7,000. In October he is off to China for a 250 mile ride. He has contacted all BABS club to seek sponsorship. If you would like to support Brett there is a sponsorship form and more details on the notice Board.

WARSAW (4th July)

The Warsaw trip for 2006 is postponed and being considered for 2007. This timing will give us plenty of time to put the organisation in place for this popular destination. Watch the space.

(4th July)

a cappella
Signature
singers

Hooked On A Cappella
Saturday, 9th September, 2006 - 7.45pm
Signature A Cappella Singers
(LABBS 2005 Silver Medal Chorus)

Enigma
(LABBS 2005 Quartet Champions)

Finesse
(LABBS 2005 International Quartet Champions)

Vyners Swing Band

Vox Concordia

& A Host of other A Cappella Acts

Compass Theatre & Arts Centre
Globe Avenue, Ickenham, UB10 8PD

Tickets: £8, Concessions £5
Enquiries: 07988449242



BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
JULY'S TRIO**

**RON COLLIS
ED DEACON
MIKE MCKEOWN**



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Not a lot of it this time round friends. I had hoped to have had several nice, juicy letters to reply to because I sent out several reminders about subs last month. I shall have to send out 2nd reminders this month - politely worded of course - and that always worries me a bit. Never mind, I will hope for better luck for you next month. (Editor - The only member who replied was SIMON ADAMS who kindly sent his letter by email straight to me and reproduced later.)

I do have one sad bit of news for you - I seem to be having quite a lot of sad news these days. That

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concerns a dear old friend, namely CHARLES HOUGH. Charles passed away peacefully a few days ago and his funeral at Reading Crematorium was on 6th July which, by coincidence, was the day he was born 93 years ago. In spite of some rather short notice, about 20 of us went to see him off. We sang his favourite song "Heart of my Heart" during the service and then "Let's get together again" as the family and guests left. A lovely buffet reception was held at a nearby hostelry where we sang a few more songs. Charles was a very keen and loyal member of this Club and a great ambassador for the Barbershop style of singing. I hope he is trying to teach it to the angels, bless his old heart.

And that, I'm very sorry to say, is all the news I have for you this time playmates - I don't suppose Irene will mind - so I will end by wishing you all a very happy holiday season. Have a good one.

T.T.F.N.

RON COLLIS

F.O.T.C.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' LETTERS

04/07/2006

Dear Ron,

Many thanks for your reminder letter. So another year has rolled by – as you say, it's difficult to believe, but good to see that you are still keeping well enough to keep us on our toes with the subs reminders!

I am more than happy to enclose a cheque for the associate subs; £1 a month is a very small price to pay to keep in touch with my previous singing companions and friends!

It was a great pleasure to meet up with so many of the TVC at convention – and a sadness that many were unable to be there, but such is life. TVC did a grand job of entertaining us with a very ambitious package on the Convention stage. For my money you deserved a better placing - what do those judges know, anyway!?!? It is always difficult, as we all know from bitter-sweet experience, to find the happy medium between a lot of movement and excitement, and producing balanced, resonant chords.

As always, it was a joy to see (and to sing with) Figaro again, they also did a fine job: the placing in the contest does not always reflect the hard work and dedication that goes in to the making of a good, entertaining quartet.

As for life in GWC, I guess it's not too different from TVC – we have our ups and downs, while continuing to strive for that perfect sound. Our decision not to compete this year turned out to be a blessing as Linda's Dad was at a critical stage of his terminal illness over the Convention weekend. He passed away only a couple of weeks ago, so as a Chorus we mourn the loss of a great friend and supporter as well as the beloved Dad of our CD. Those of us who knew John Corcoran will not forget his courage and friendship, as well as the fact that his gift of musicality to Linda has helped so many others to develop a love of musical harmony.

The response to our "Learn to Sing" course was not as overwhelming as I believe was the case for RBHC, but nonetheless we were able to draw several new members – all of them have turned out to be valuable assets to the club, including one who did the course and was keen to progress but was hampered by asthma. Nonetheless, he was so taken by the friendly atmosphere of the club that he took on associate membership and has become one of our most active supporters.

Our main motivation for passing by competing at Convention was to give our newest members a chance to learn the fuller chorus repertoire, rather than concentrating on the two convention songs. We have done lots of concerts over the year and also taken the opportunity to participate in several choral events which, although not specifically "barbershop" oriented, have given us valuable experience and learning. We were delighted to be named as Choir of the Day in the Radio 3 "Choir of the Year" competition in the beautiful setting of the New Theatre in Cardiff (and afterwards to delight the initially sceptical crowd in the Karaoke bar across the road where we repaired to for a pint or three afterwards!). As you can imagine, we were even more thrilled to be chosen for the semi-finals to be held in Cardiff in November.

So friendship and harmony continue to dominate our lives, even down in the wilds of Wiltshire. I also sing with "H club", a dectet (I think that's the word for the ten of us!) who represent the GWC at singouts where the full chorus just wouldn't fit or be appropriate. We rehearse weekly in addition to the Chorus rehearsal night and sing a slightly broader repertoire than the chorus (including some non-barbershop numbers). We have averaged around two singouts a month and have contributed a considerable amount to the club's funds.

So we'll wish you and all at TVC all the very best – looking forward to when we meet again and in the

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

meantime keep up the good work – maybe we'll see you again on the telly this Christmas!

Best regards
In harmony,
Simon & Marilyn (Adams)



HISTORICAL NOTES

5 YEARS AGO July 2001

Paul Sherry took over from Barry Nowell as editor of BABS Harmony Express. Barry, an ex Reading Chorus Director (in the Berkshire Barbershoppers days) and Honorary Club Member retired after many years of this monthly publication. Paul's tenure started a full colour document with a two-monthly publication schedule.

22nd First RBHC Barbecue bash at the Leathem's. Success was reported with the ingredients of good food, good wine good company and good weather. Mike McKeown won the first prize in the 'best' shirt contest.

YOU KEEP COMING BACK LIKE A SONG entered the chorus' repertoire.

10 YEARS AGO July 1996

6th Singout at Woodley Carnival

15th Singout at Hurley Festival

15 YEARS AGO July 1991

6th Singout on HMS Daedelus, Lee-On-Solent. John Clark organised the night and paid for the coach. The afterglow lasted well into the night and the coach did not arrive back at Reading until 3am.

Tag Rag was placed number two, behind Guildford's Around The Fringe, at the 1990 BABS Bulletin Contest held at Excondido, California. SPEBSQSA judges adjudicated the contest.

20 YEARS AGO July 1986

12th Singout at Reading University. Derek Smith's first singout as C.D.

17th Singout at Binfield Memorial Hall, with Rogues Gallery.

27th Singout at Beenham Gala show ground in Newbury. This was in aid of Dr Banardo's and St. Mary's Church restoration fund. We only had 18 on the risers and cancelled our second spot.

During the month Rogues Gallery (Dick Coles, Nick Carter, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway) donated their services by entertaining at a function in the Brunel Suite on Shepherds Hill. They raised £400 for "Headway", a charity in aid of people suffering from brain injuries.

25 YEARS AGO July 1981

14th Singout at Basingstoke Carnival. TVC and the Barberettes performed in the open air in front of an audience of about 600 people, fortunately there was a good sound system. The Mayor personally received us in the Council buildings over coffee and biscuits.

for HAYDN ADAMS

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



SUPPORTERS

I have so many fond memories of Charles Hough. The most abiding is the way Charles would sit on the risers listening to a particular point of discussion between the Chairman of the day and the members and then raise his hand and wait politely until he could put forward his point of view - "**POINT OF ORDER MR. CHAIRMAN**" Charles would interrupt and his comments were always valid! He so often would drive to our house, park his car in the most inconvenient place at the end of the crescent and ask to come in and discuss something with "Mr. Starkie". He was a delightful man and listening to the eulogies from his family members it was obvious he was also a wonderful father and grandfather. I was very proud of the 20 or so TVC members who turned up to his cremation service and sang for him.

I enjoyed the show in Bournemouth with By Appointment. The Chorus of 38 or so men gave a very professional performance, despite the disappointment of many that England had just been knocked out of the World cup competition. It was lovely to see Dave and Mary Heighway there.

The weather was perfect for the Fun Evening last Tuesday. Congratulations to Sean and Ann O'Shea for the preparation and production of the BBQ. I believe over 80 meals were served and of course there were plenty of games to join in with. A great evening all round.

The next big event is the Ferrari Fun Day next week and as Thomas the Tank is there we shall be borrowing our grandson for the day. It is amazing how your priorities change when a grandchild comes along. Not long ago I would have been looking for a ride in a Ferrari!

I spoke to Elaine Coles last week and she is making a good recovery after her emergency operation for a burst duodenal ulcer. They really are suffering in twos as Dick is now keeping her company having

had a carpal tunnel operation on one hand last Monday, and is due to have the other hand operated on once this one has recovered!

Congratulations to Bob Hordle on being awarded the M.B.E. It will be great to see you back at Club again Bob.

I hope you are all managing to keep cool (and keep your plants alive)!

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

IRENE

INTERNET SCAMS & FIDDLES

I came across the following two useful bits of information in my Retired Staff magazine recently. The first one caught my eye because of the Thames Valley connection. I referred the last 'fiddle' I received to which I got a courteous reply. It made me feel good if nothing else!

Scams - Despite constant warnings from the Police, Trading Standards, Department of Trade and Industry and other organisations, dishonest tricksters continue to come up with plausible schemes designed to catch you off your guard and to con you to part with your money. A website that offers some very useful points and advice on fraud is: www.met.police.uk/fraudalert.

"E-mail Fiddles - Usually appeals from overseas, typically Africa, from wealthy individuals seeking assistance to set up bank accounts so they can transfer money from their country. In return for your help you will receive a financial reward. **DON'T DO ANYTHING** other than forward copies of these fiddles to the TVP Fraud Squad at: Pravina.Makwana@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Editorial Note:

The Barbershoppers Internet Directory has been removed this month to make space for more important information. It'll be back again next month space permitting. Thank you.

Thanks to Ron Collis, Peter Cookson Heather Mills, Phillip Wards and Irene for supplying copy.

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READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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10th October for 17th distribution
14th November for 21st distribution
12th December for 19th distribution

TAG RAG is published by the Reading Barbershop Harmony Club for the benefit of Members, Associates and anyone else who is fortunate or otherwise to come into contact with us. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily the official Club view.

Advertisement lineage will be accepted and printed free of charge in TAG RAG (subject to editorial discretion). Display advertising is available in exchange for a donation to club funds as agreed between the sponsor and the editor before the publication date. Please note that advertisements will be carried for two months only and then will be dropped (at the editor's discretion) unless requested otherwise.

Objectives of the RBHC - To encourage the singing and enjoyment of Barbershop Harmony in both Chorus and Quartet form. It is a non profit making organisation and shall support such worthy charitable causes as the Executive Committee think fit. (paraphrase of Club rule number 2)

Contacts - The Club's Thames Valley Chorus rehearse on every Tuesday (with few exceptions) at the Piggott School Wargrave near Twyford Reading from 7.45pm until 10.30pm. All visitors are welcome. See website www.rbhc.org.uk for directions.

SECURITY NOTICE *The best place to park your car at the Piggott School is in the main car park at the side of the school; this area is under constant surveillance by four CCTV cameras. The camera over the front door only looks at the main entrance to record movements coming off the road.*

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Contact Colin Thatcher
cothatcher@btopenworld.com

or 0118 947 6190. Also contactable on risers.

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RBHC's

50 CLUB

Are you part of the action?

Why not join in the Club's monthly draws to win you some pocket money and provide a regular income to Club funds.

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References available.

Regular listening to recorded material improves your awareness of the barbershop style and will help you to work-smarter with your singing.

Barbershop Recordings Resource Library

Save yourself the cost (and trouble) of getting your own recordings by borrowing other members through Andy Wheeler's Lending Library Service. Look for the Library List on the notice board for current titles.

Borrowing requests should be made either by email or a personal note that should include name of item required and a reply address. Speak to Andy on Rehearsal night or at andy.wheeler@sportscentre.org.uk. Andy will coordinate the loan and put the lender in touch with the borrower to complete the deal.

A charge of £1 per item loaned per week is payable to Andy. The money will go into Club funds and Andy will review the need to purchase recorded material on behalf of the library.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

THE REMAINING DAYS OF

JULY 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16	17	18 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	19	20	21	22
23 Ferrari Funday Highclere Castle	24	25 Rehearsal	26	27	28	29
30	31	<p>July 2006</p>				

August 2006 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

SEPTEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>September 2006</p>					1	2
3	4	5 Rehearsal	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	13	14	15 Daytimers Diabetic Society Broad Street Reading	16
17 Daytimers Goring Village Hall Hall. 1.45 Sing	18	19 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Rehearsal	27	28	29	30