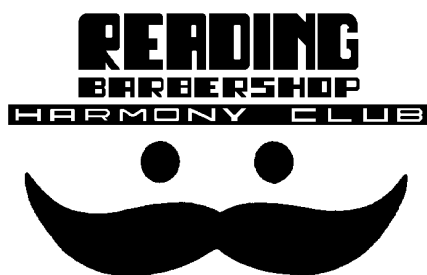


READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



FOUNDED 1974  
www.rbhc.org.uk

**TAG RAG**  
AND **NEWSLETTER**

MAY 2006



FAWLEY COURT CRAFT EXPERIENCE  
Friday 12th May 2006  
Photographs by Peter Stallwood

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**JUNE 2006**

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

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

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

	MAY	19/21	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	BABS Convention Harrogate
	JUL	1	Sat	Full Chorus	Singout at Wimborne Hants
	JUL	11	Tue	Daytimers	Stoke Poges Club 2pm sing
	JUL	11	Tue		Club Fun Evening
	JUL	23	Sun	Full Chorus	Highclere Castle Singout
	SEP	17	Sun	Daytimers	Goring Village Hall Hall. 1.45 Sing.
	OCT	10		Daytimers	Hungerford Town Hall (tbc)
	NOV	18	Sat	Full Chorus	Charity Show a la Dreweatte & Neatte
	DEC	we/3rd		Full Chorus	Overseas trip - possibly Budapest.
	DEC	12	Tue	Daytimers	Pangbourne WI 2.30 sing
	DEC	16	Sat	Full Chorus	Desborough Show Maidenhead
2007	MAR	2-4	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	Chorus Away Weekend Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth (**** Note revised date****)
	MAY	25-27	Fri-Sun		BABS Convention Scarborough
	JUN	9	Sat	Full Chorus	Show Reading Town Hall 60th Anniversary of Düsseldorf twinning.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

13TH JUNE FOR 20TH DISTRIBUTION



### **PETER'S POINTS**

It's May (even though the weather suggests otherwise) and Convention time again. We are off to Harrogate for the annual jamboree where we celebrate and share our hobby with all the other enthusiasts from across the UK. For some in our chorus this will be the first time they experience the nervous anticipation of standing on the risers behind the tabs awaiting the words "Contestant number 13, from Reading, under the direction of...".

Our Club has a great reputation in BABS for giving entertaining performances. Expectations will be high this year because of the high profile we have attracted with the Ant and Dec show, the Prague visit and the Learn to Sing course. This year we have a

truly innovative and imaginative presentation of our songs. My thanks to the Performance Team, to Rhiannon, and the many others who have put in a huge amount of time behind the scenes to bring it all together. Yes, we are in a competition, but we have a great opportunity to have a lot of fun.

Sadly there are members of the Chorus who will not be on the risers singing with us, but I know they will be there in spirit. I sincerely thank them for their patience, support and the assistance they have given the Chorus in the weeks of preparation.

The Convention organisers have again put together a wonderful programme. For the best part of 48 hours you can wallow in the sound of Barbershop singing. I'm sure Ambassadors of Harmony, with some 130 men on the risers, will give a fantastic show on the Saturday night. I would like everyone in the Chorus to get together afterwards to join in the afterglow.

So after the weeks of preparation we are off! My very best wishes to the Chorus (especially those attending for the first time), to our quartet Figaro, and our supporters for a very successful Convention.

But above all .....enjoy yourselves!!

In harmony  
**PETER COOKSON**

Chairman

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### **EDITORIAL**

It is particularly sad to record Gordon Redhead's sudden death. Irene and I thought that this year would be the year that set him a new course for the rest of his life. He certainly will be missed.

Well here we are at the start of Convention week and this year's run-up has been as interesting as any other. I have to admit that I was one of the sceptics about whether we could get our heads round the TOP HAT MEDLEY well enough to give it a run-out on the contest stage. I am more than pleased that I was wrong (that's not the first time either if you are counting!). Yes it is as good as we are going to get it at the moment and I believe there is a lot more life in it yet if we can only have the patience to squeeze the pips a little longer. It appears that the challenging theatrical packaging that Michele has set us has miraculously ironed out the singing issues. I have a feeling that this song will be with us for a long time now. And, what do you think about the ballad? In my view it's the best we have ever sung. That's not surprising really since the arrangement came from Steve and Rhiannon. Adding Michele's hat moves to it makes it an absolute delight to sing. I have no

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

doubt that that this will also be a firm favourite in the future. Let's go to Harrogate and show the rest of BABS how exciting it is to be a member of the Thames Valley Chorus.

I have received substantial amount of copy from my regular contributors this month. Haydn thinks that his submission is possibly the longest he's ever sent and I think I might agree with him. But it's not the length that counts for an old hand like me it makes fascinating reading and I know I'm not the only one. Many thanks Haydn for your continued support.

Similarly Ron's Associate Members have stepped up to the plate with just two letters that cover more paper than he normally uses.

The Harmony College teaching CDs that I referred to last month should have been delivered to John Ellis the man dealing with the College registration sometime today (Tuesday 16th May). From that little experience I hope to be able to persuade us all to move into the digital era and drop the use of cassettes for good pretty soon. The benefits are twofold, one that it will make it easier for me and the teaching materials will be a byproduct of rehearsals. A scheme will need to be devised but I have the ideas in my head.

I am presently working with the Performance Team to develop a plan to enable us to record the tracks for our Christmas CD. You may remember that this was a glimmer in our eye that got subsumed by all that Learn to Sing activity earlier in the year. It looks as though we are going to give it a really good shot now after Convention.

I am really looking forward to our visit to Harrogate. We have every right to be justly proud of our Barbershop achievements this year. Few Clubs can boast a new Christmas repertoire of the size we put together for Prague. That effort was more than amply rewarded by the panel of eminent judges ranking us with the best of the European competitors. That was followed by a very successful Desborough show, national TV with Ant and Dec and Robbie Williams, and the equivalent of a baptism of fire with the success of the Learn to Sing course. Whatever the outcome of the BABS contest I am more than satisfied that we are fulfilling our mission to spread the barbershop 'word'. Long may it continue.

### GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

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### MR MARKETING

I received a message on my answerphone recently from a lady in Tilehurst. She has heard and enjoyed close-harmony singing for many years but was unaware that it was possible to buy recordings of same. She heard our scratch quartet on BBC Radio Berkshire recently and eventually found her way to my phone number. She is anxious to buy a CD from us and asked for details of all our recordings to be sent to her. Heather is on the case!

An email recently dropped into my Inbox from a stranger in Gateshead who asked for a copy of our Xmas Ant & Dec performance. I wrote back and asked what her interest was in TVC, thinking that it might actually be Robbie Williams she really wanted to see! This was her answer (in part), "*To be honest I hadn't heard of the chorus prior to seeing them on Ant and Dec but I thought they were fantastic and the sketch they did with Robbie Williams was amazing. They are a very talented chorus!!*" How can I resist! A copy of the DVD is being sent to a new fan.

### LAWRENCE MCNULTY

Director of Marketing

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### GORDON REDHEAD

*I am saddened to record the death of our Associate member Gordon Redhead. We learned at rehearsal on 25th April that he was critically ill in the Royal Berkshire hospital. Unfortunately he didn't last the night and passed away in the early hours on Wednesday 26th April. The funeral was on Friday 5th May at the new West Berkshire Crematorium near Thatcham.*

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

### GORDON REDHEAD

A service was conducted by the Reverend Colin Scarrett and attended by a large group of singers from the chorus. The order of service was largely based on that we did for Geoff Sassé because Gordon made a significant contribution to its design. We used the piano music from the Jane Campion film *The Piano - The Scent of Love and Big My Secret*. I had the privilege of reading my tribute to Gordon, the text of which is reproduced below. During the service we were requested to sing in his memory and Give me a Barbershop Song, Sunset Poem and Everybody Step/Alexander's Ragtime Band Medley was chosen for him. The last song received much applause. Colin Scarrett said he would be volunteering to become Chaplain to the chorus so that he could guarantee we would attend his funeral! The chorus members were invited to the West Grange Hotel afterwards to meet Gordon's family and enjoy a buffet of food and drink. The hotel was next door to the Crematorium.

### A TRIBUTE

"It is a privilege for me to say a few words about Gordon. The Navy and West Africa were part of Gordon's youth in WW2 and I know that he officially retired from his working life as a Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. I also know that he came into my life as the companion of Geoff Sassé a great friend who sadly passed away two and half years ago. Through Geoff, Gordon supported and latterly became involved with Barbershop singing. I bring sincere condolences from my colleagues in the Reading Barbershop Harmony Club to Gordon's nearest and dearest, cousin (Sylvia Ashby), her husband Bill, their son Tony and close friends Audrey and Di.

The passing of Geoff in October 2003 was a great loss to Gordon and he was now just getting his own life back together when he suffered this fatal stroke. Recent eye operations had made driving his car more practical and his work, over the last winter, to get on top of managing his house was about to pay dividends. He was looking forward to enjoying a summer of gardening, theatre and singing.

Kind, considerate, patient and compassionate, are just a few of the words that describe Gordon's demeanour. He loved the theatre. In the years he spent with Geoff he never appeared to be away. London's West End was almost a second home and sometimes he attended two performances in one day. He also enjoyed provincial theatre, with many visits to see the Bard's work at Stratford on Avon.

Gordon was also much travelled, We shared these worldwide experiences through Geoff's highly entertaining travelogues. Gordon enjoyed the

globetrotting and was never short of a story with an international flavour.

Gordon's singing prowess never matured to a public performance but he regularly attended rehearsal when the travelling conditions to Twyford (east of Reading) allowed. He enjoyed the friendship of the singers.

It is probably true to say that Gordon's first love was that of gardening. It is fitting that he's passed away in spring when nature's bounty is all around to allow us to celebrate his life. He was a very good friend. We will miss him. May his soul rest in peace.

The members of the Thames Valley Chorus would now like to sing you three songs we know were on Gordon's list of favourites."

### GRAHAM STARKIE

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### PROUD MOMENT

Derek and I were at Gordon Redhead's Cremation last Friday, the 5th May, and I was so proud that so many Chorus members were there. The singing was wonderful and Gordon would have been most pleased that you sang some of his favourite songs.

Both Derek and I wish the Chorus every success at Harrogate and I hope that Derek will be fit enough to take part in Convention in the future.

With best wishes to Rhiannon and the boys,

Love,

**JEAN HIRD**

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### THANK YOU

I would like to place on record my thanks to all the TVC members who turned up to sing at Fawley Court last Friday afternoon. You put on an excellent performance and made the day most enjoyable.

### PHILLIP WARD

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### I AM NETWORKING!

Our eldest son Mark was 30 last June and decided this was a turning point in his life, gave up his job and went travelling around the world visiting 30 different countries. See the connection?

He returned after 9 months travelling and is now writing a book about his experiences – many are hilarious; it is also an informative travel guide to the countries he visited.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

So this is a request for help from any club members who might have any contacts in the publishing business and can steer Mark in the right direction.

You can email me at [chris.callaghan3@ntlworld.com](mailto:chris.callaghan3@ntlworld.com) or telephone 0118 9627665 should you be able to offer assistance.

Kind regards

**CHRISTINE CALLAGHAN**

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## SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

### **REHEARSAL START TIMES (11 Apr)**

Presentation rehearsals are being planned for everyone in this Convention run-up period. Moves, Costume and Props will be under scrutiny. And, if you are on top of all of that you can take onboard the singing expertise that will be shared in the parallel sessions.

If you are not taking part in Convention that's no excuse for not turning up early. Apart from the fact you'll need to be part of the team that will deliver these songs in the future you'll need to know how you fit it to the big picture. You'll also be a valuable asset in helping others master the skills.

Please put the revised time of 7pm in your diary to remind you, if you can make it 15 minutes earlier to join the riser crew - all the better. Thank you.

### **LAWRENCE McNULTY WRITES (11 Apr):**

Hi Guys, the Reading Evening Post and the Reading Chronicle have promised me that they will run a press release on Thursday 13th April about our Winchester sing-out. I think you know what to do next! Best regards,

### **KEN TAYLOR (18 Apr)**

Sadly, the popular ex M.D. of the Great Western Chorus (Bristol BHC) - Ken Taylor died yesterday (Monday 17th).

### **HOWARD KEEL (2 May)**

Meyrick says: "I have just been watching Howard Keel in Calamity Jane. Sadly he has recently died. What a barbershop bass he would have made. Despite having a deep resonant voice he sang like a lead. All his vowels were modified for the best singing tone. If ever you want to see a demonstration of singing with the lips off the teeth with a good square shape and "selling the song" with good posture watch one of his performances, enjoy and learn." *My apologies to Meyrick for taking so long to get his observation into print. His message came to me in good time for the March Tag Rag but was overlooked. Better late than never!*

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## BARBERSHOP BABES

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MAY'S TRIO**

**Mervyn Clark  
Rhiannon Owens-Hall  
Maurice Scott**

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## SINGING IN HARMONY

Spotted by Les Hearn in January's issue of SAGA Magazine

"I was very interested in the October article Sing You Heart Out featuring John Rutter. It is widely accepted that singing is good for you - physically, mentally and socially. John Rutter is a shining example of how being involved with music affords many benefits.

Singing covers a wide spectrum. My choice is singing in harmony in the Barbershop style. I sing in a chorus of 35 men, and a quartet which performs under the name 'Grandads R Us'.

We often perform in schools and find that it provides teachers with an attractive opportunity to provide learning opportunities. Grandads R Us comprises Tony (71), Brian (69), Bruce (64), and me (68). If anyone is interested in starting harmony singing, log on to [singbarbershop.com](http://singbarbershop.com). - Bill Ward, Sheffield.

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

### CAN RED WINE GIVE YOU BETTER HEARING?

Drinking red wine could stave off deafness in old age, research has found.

A study revealed moderate consumption may protect the tiny hairs of the inner ear that are vital for hearing. The hairs can be damaged by chemicals called free radicals. These are produced by normal cellular processes and after exposure to antibiotics. But an antioxidant found in red wine, green vegetables and green tea, helps destroy them. The active ingredient of aspirin, an antioxidant called salicylate, has the same effect, the U.S. team found.

Dr Jochen Schacht of the University of Michigan, treated patients with ear infections with the antibiotic gentamicin, New Scientist magazine said. Hearing loss hit 3 per cent of those given the antibiotic with aspirin, and 13 per cent of those given it with a placebo. There was no direct evidence eating antioxidant-rich foods would cut hearing loss in humans, said Dr Schacht. But rats on restricted diets had less age-related hearing loss than those on normal diets. Eating more antioxidants could have a similar effect on humans, it is thought.

It can't hurt to drink more red wine, Dr Schacht added.

*Reprinted from Dail Mail dated  
Thursday May 11 2006.*

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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello again all you lovely AM's and HM's. Ain't I the lucky guy whose job it is to keep in touch with all you lovely people? Fast approaching Convention time again and, by the time most of you read these notes, it will be all over for another year. We have a slightly reduced Chorus (in numbers that is) for reasons I won't go into here but the 45 or so lads carrying our banner are really working very hard under our lovely Rhi's very capable and inspired direction. The choreography is a bit different this time having been conjured up by Michele. She is the lady we met during the rehearsing for the Ant &

Dec Christmas show at the ITV studios. Michele very kindly offered her services to assist with the two Convention songs and has spent quite a bit of time travelling down from South London, and putting the lads through their paces. I know we shall all be wishing them well when the time comes.

Now let me turn to the A.M. news proper and, once again, I have great regret in having to tell of the death of another of our A.M. brothers. This time it's GORDON REDHEAD who passed away in the Royal Berkshire hospital after suffering a severe stroke. Not many of you will have known Gordon but he was Geoff Sassé's friend and companion and, after Geoff died, Gordon came and joined us on Tuesdays as an AM. with a view to becoming a full member of the Chorus in due course. We shall miss him and are very sorry to lose him.

Back to the land of the living, and if anyone knows how to live it up it's you DAPH POWELL. My word, Daph, you don't half get around and your letters become more like a travelogue. But first let me thank you for the letter and cheque, Daph. Great to keep you with us and let me congratulate you and the girls on that marvellous result at the Coleraine International. I did catch a bit of you all singing Danny Boy on Meridian News on St Patrick's Day. Great stuff, Daph, and it's high time the Barbs got some official recognition and success. On a more personal note I am delighted that you are really enjoying life with your travels and especially, of course, with your singing. Keep it up! I do hope Tony Searle will be able to bring some suitable recruits for you. We seem to have added about a dozen very useful chaps to our Chorus so I suppose all the effort was worth it.

The only other correspondent this month is our old mate ROBIN NICHOLS. What a lovely long newsy letter Rob and so entertainingly written. Unfortunately I had already given Graham my copy for last month's Tag Rag so I am a bit late to say "thank you" for both letter and cheque. The actual sub is still £12.00 but the extra "over the top" will be found a very good use for. I'm so pleased all seems to be going well now all those teething troubles seem to be over and done with and hope you have a successful season with the B & B. I'd love to come over myself but I'm afraid Stella and I are both a bit "over the hill" for long travels now. Many thanks again for all the news. It is great to keep in touch. All the best to you both.

And that's it for this month playmates.

T.T.F.N.

**RON COLLIS**

**F.O.T.C.**

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' LETTERS

22 April 2006

Dear Ron,

It was so nice to talk to you recently and to know that Stella and yourself are well.

Life for me seems to get more hectic - I should be slowing down! Its all good stuff though. The Barberettes were thrilled to win the barbershop section at the Coleraine International and we had a really great time. Bob Walker was the adjudicator and he said that our singing of Danny Boy was the high spot of the day.

Now we are preparing for Tony Searle to bring over the group of new singers to us in a couple of weeks. We want to show them a typical chorus rehearsal and hope that some of them will want to join us. As Chairman of the Club I want to get the evening just right.

After Coleraine I visited Prague for a week - what a beautiful city! I didn't want to leave. There is such a lot of music and art. . . I went to the opera 3 times! Now I am looking forward to a second grandchild being born at the end of May, and a trip to southern India in the autumn is being planned which I think will be fascinating.

I am also very steeped in music at my church - there is so much musical talent there and I am involved in a singing group. We have an American minister who has introduced a lot of American music to us (Not barbershop!!).

Sorry I won't see you in Harrogate Ron, but I am looking forward to being there to cheer the TVC on.

Love to you and to Stella,  
Daph Powell

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Dear Ron,

Another year having flown by I find I am late again with my AM subscription. Not too bad this year and, at least at the time of writing this, I have not had your gentle but ever persuasive nudge to send you money. Like last time and every other for that matter, I have no idea how much it is but please accept the enclosed cheque in the hope that it is there or thereabouts. If it is any more, please let me know; any less, then add it to the funds.

On a sad note, I was sorry to hear of the passing of Eric Beer and Bill Rogers. I have fond memories of

them both and my condolences go to both Bruce and A1 on their sad losses.

It is quite some time now since I sent any real news from Margon. The fact is, that not a great deal happens here in 'Sleepy Hollow'. There are still a million and one things to do around the house - especially in the garden but we are getting there slowly. We spend most of our time working, managing properties for absent owners, as we still need to supplement our income to keep our own place going. Much of it is good fun but when you are constantly trying to sort other people's mess it can get a bit tiresome. Still, it keeps us here so it can't be too bad.

I would like to have a little more time to keep my jottings going, relax a bit and keep in touch with life a bit more than I am able but I have no doubt that will happen soon. I am still keeping notes of little happenings which will be pulled together one day for the next edition of 'Margon Calling'.

The absence of any singing in my life got too much to bear and I have joined a local choir. We have a very varied repertoire and the learning goes very quickly indeed. Much of the concert programme changes each time we sing out. For my first time I had twelve songs to learn in 5 weeks of rehearsals (once a week for two hours) so it was tough. Not reading and without the benefit of teach tapes etc., it takes a lot of concentration. The songs were in French, German, Latin, and English just to make life a bit more difficult. Still, with a little effort, a bit of miming and a few 'bum' notes it passed off reasonably well. Added to all the rest of the problems I am now singing base - and enjoying the experience greatly. Tuesday nights are full of song again, just like they used to be.

Val and I recently had the great pleasure of attending the BING Convention in Dortmund. We had a fantastic time singing barbershop, meeting lots of old mates and generally chilling out. It was wonderful to meet up with Barry and Sharon Towner whom, with the rest of the Toronto Northern Light Chorus were guests of BING for the weekend. After that, we went off on a typical 'Towner Tour' returning home to France via Munich, into Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Northern Italy. In the 8 days were away from home, Val and I drove 3500 kms. Given the car spent three and a half of those days in a Dortmund car park it was quite a drive I can tell you. The final leg was over 900 kms via several mountain passes, snowstorms and all sorts. Great fun but very tiring. Barry and Sharon then spent several days with us at home in Margon before flying back to Toronto. Needless to say, we miss them greatly and look

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

forward to the next time with impatience. It is our turn to visit Canada so it may be a little while. Maybe in 2008.

By the way, the TNL chorus were just amazing. Only 42 of them (not a bad turn-out from a total membership of 45 mind) but what a sound they produce. They played to standing ovations every time they were on stage and they reciprocated in spades. It reminded me of the old teachings about the 'energy cube' being passed back and forth between performers and audience. The only time I have experienced anything quite like it was when we, TVC, first went to Dusseldorf. Perhaps the Germans have rather more emotion about them than is generally thought to be. If you ever get the chance to see them perform, don't miss it. VM? Good; but not as exciting as this lot I fancy.

The other highlight of that week was seeing Mike and Gabi Graham Nich' and John Price. By the time this goes to press the aforementioned M & G will be Mr and Mrs McKeown. We will be sorry not to be at the wedding in Dusseldorf because of commitments here with our B & B but we are delighted to say that they have accepted our invitation to spend their honeymoon 'Chez Nous' so they will be with us very soon after tying the knot. They have been here before of course but I hope this time will be special for them as it will be for us.

Following soon after the newlyweds, we are looking forward to seeing Al Rogers who has finally found the time to sample the local nectar. I am looking forward to showing him around some of the vineyards which I reckon produce some of the best wine around for very reasonable prices. I am a total convert to the region's wines (not difficult I suppose with the nearest vines just two metres from the back fence) and I believe they produce the best value for money wine drinking to be had anywhere around.

Another few weeks later we are delighted to host some more old friends, namely Rod and Lesley Clark, and Barry and Davina Howard. They are all making their third visit to us - must be doing something right I guess. This time, they are coming with Windsor and Sue Rackham and Colin and Shirley Thatcher. It will be so good to see them all and Val and I are looking forward to it greatly. There is always a very warm welcome awaiting anyone who comes to see us and it goes without saying that old mates from RBHC are particularly welcome at any time throughout the year.

It is receiving our B & B guests and, especially old mates such as these, that makes the other work so much more acceptable and a means to an end.

Congratulations to all concerned with the recent 'Learn to Sing' initiative. It was especially pleasing to see the seven new members on the back page of the March Tag Rag and even more so to see that none of them appear likely to be drawing their pensions in the foreseeable future - and long may that trend continue.

Well me old mate, I think I should finish now or I will be at risk of 'out-Brucing' the Great Beer. We send our love and best wishes to all at RBHC and look forward to seeing more of you who feel the urge to make the journey south. From what I hear, the chorus is performing very well and I look forward to a golden performance in Harrogate next month. Good luck to all concerned. YOU CAN DO IT and I have no doubt you will one of these days. It would be great to see the lads arrive in Montpellier airport in June sporting gold medals. We will be with you in spirit.

I hope you and Stella are both well and enjoying life.

In harmony as ever,  
Robin Nichols

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### HISTORICAL NOTES

#### **5 Years Ago May 2001**

2<sup>nd</sup> Daytimers at St.Peter's Parish Church, Frimley

4/7<sup>th</sup> BABS Convention Glasgow

Chorus results:

1<sup>st</sup> Grand Central Chorus 1347 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Cotton Town Chorus 1345 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Thames Valley Chorus 1328 points

We had 66 on the risers singing Bundle Of Old Love Letters and Make 'em Laugh Chorus Director was Steve Hall. 20 choruses competed.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

The quartet contest was won by Matrix with RBHC interests:

4<sup>th</sup> Spotlight (with John Ward)

7<sup>th</sup> High Spirits (with Steve Hall)

15<sup>th</sup> Bagatelle (Aidan Brand, Peter Dawson, Andy Balchin, Simon Lee). 16 quartets competed.

The European Chorus final was won by Cambridge Chord Company from 11 choruses. TVC did not take part.

The visiting American chorus was the Vocal Majority (with Bruce Beer).

During the evening Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) sang to Bolton's Cotton Town Chorus at the Quality Hotel.

12<sup>th</sup> Rockaholix were at the Huntswood Golf Club, Burnham

26<sup>th</sup> Rockaholix were at a private party at Teddington.

### 10 Years Ago May 1996

3/6<sup>th</sup> BABS Convention Bournemouth

Chorus results:

1<sup>st</sup> Grand Central Chorus

2<sup>nd</sup> Hallmark Of Harmony

3<sup>rd</sup> Great Western Chorus

4<sup>th</sup> Cambridge Chord Company

5<sup>th</sup> Thames Valley Chorus

We had 75 on the risers singing 'Oh How I Miss You Tonight' & 'Play Me A Vaudeville Song Tonight' Chorus Director was Tony Searle. 20 choruses competed.

A coach was booked to take the chorus and supporters in two groups from the hotel to the convention centre. The first trip went to plan but by the time the coach had returned to the hotel to pick up the second party there had been a bomb scare between the hotel and the convention centre. Consequently all roads were cordoned off and everyone was turned off the bus and had to walk. We were all in full make up, dress uniform and carrying heavy uniform carriers containing walkout gear, resulting in quite a time delay. There was a very anxious half of the chorus waiting at the centre not knowing what was happening, and emergency plans were being put into place. What a relief on their faces when they saw the weary bodies of the remaining chorus climbing up the hill to the convention centre.

The quartet winners were Hooked On Harmony with RBHC placings:

8<sup>th</sup> Bagatelle (Aidan Brand, Peter Dawson, Ian Douglas, Andy Balchin)

12<sup>th</sup> Flying High (Pat Deeble, Graham Frampton, Jim Downing, Ed Dolan)

Bagatelle were mic-warmers in the finals and Flying High received the Novice Quartet award.

16 quartets competed.

Southern Tradition (John Harvey, Alan Hill, Gerry Holland, Colin Thatcher) who mic-cooled at the finals, were presented with their awards for winning the Senior Quartet Competition.

It is always good to finish on a high and Colin Thatcher certainly managed that when he sang his last song as the competing quartet member of Southern Tradition, and what better song than the one he is most noted for....The Ferret, it brought the house down. The visiting American quartets were 'Marquis' and 'Fred'.

As a run-up to convention a scratch quartet performed live on Thames FM Radio Station. Alan Hill (lead, Southern Comfort), Fred Goudy (bass, Prestige), John Harvey (tenor, Southern Tradition), Chris Oliver (bass, Side By Side) singing Mary Lou, with Fred doing the talking afterwards.

10<sup>th</sup> Graham Sutton (ex member) was given the honour of Life Membership of SNOBS at their convention for his outstanding achievements and services to SNOBS which included teaching, coaching and judging.

12<sup>th</sup> Sainsbury Choir Of The Year - Audition - The chorus were not successful.

### 15 Years Ago May 1991

3/6<sup>th</sup> BABS Convention Bournemouth

Chorus results:

1<sup>st</sup> Hallmark Of Harmony

2<sup>nd</sup> Pilgrimages

3<sup>rd</sup> Shannon Express

4<sup>th</sup> Rainy City Chorus

5<sup>th</sup> Clwyd Clippers

6<sup>th</sup> Thames Valley Chorus

We had 59 on the risers singing 'My Old Dutch' and 'Toot Toot Tootsie' Chorus Director was Derek Smith. 21 choruses competed.

The quartet contest was won by Talk Of The Town (John Ward singing baritone).

During the evening celebrations Barry Towner was made an Honorary member of RBHC.

Gerry Holland was M/C of the Friday night show. The visiting American quartet was Acoustix (1990 Champions) and Gas House Gang (1990 finalists).

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

**14<sup>th</sup>** We moved to a new rehearsal venue at St.John's Ambulance Hall, Church Road, Woodley.

**26<sup>th</sup>** to June 1<sup>st</sup> Kenton Theatre, Henley  
Kennet Valley Chord Company (John Harvey, Pete Powell, Bruce Beer, Peter Wickham) appeared in the production of 'Regatta Day'. Barry Hinchmore deputised for Bruce on two of the evenings. It was non-barbershop with four songs in unaccompanied close harmony.

### **20 Years Ago May 1986**

**2/5<sup>th</sup>** BABS Convention Harrogate

The chorus competition was won by Hallmark Of harmony, we were in 9<sup>th</sup> position with 33 on the risers singing 'When The Showboat Came To Town' and 'Showboat Days/Let me Call You Sweetheart'. Our presentation was different from the normal routine in that we transformed the stage into a dock on the Mississippi complete with a Showboat. We were dressed in various costumes of the 1850's and one of the highlights was the frozen stance at the beginning from which we were brought to life by our Chorus Director Pete Powell. Another feature was our quartet Rogues Gallery (Dick Coles, Nick Carter, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway) led us into the second song and Dick conducted 'Let me Call You Sweetheart'. When we came off stage a remark was made that we had either won the stage presence award or been disqualified, unfortunately the judges could not agree and we lost marks (minus 38 for Showboat Days). We were the first chorus to introduce a complete show package into the competition.

The quartet contest was won by Junction 33 (Sheffield)

We had no competing quartet but Southern Comfort (John Carter, Alan Hill, Gerry Holland, Colin Thatcher) were mic-warmers in the semi-finals.

Quartets with RBHC interests were:

8<sup>th</sup> position Rainbows End (Dick Knight & Colin Carter)

9<sup>th</sup> position Sharp Practice (Steve Hall)

The visiting American quartets were Classic Connection and The Storm Door And Whale Oil Company. The Storm Door etc, entertained us at our Hotel.

This convention is where Nick Carter and I first met Adrian Cox.... we had to step over him to get to the bar in the convention centre.... he must have been very tired!

After convention Derek Smith took over as Chorus Director from Pete Powell.

**17<sup>th</sup>** Full Chorus at Highdown School Fete, Emmer Green. This was outdoors and we were fighting against gale force winds, the noise of a motor bike track, a Tannoy that played brass band music, muddy feet and eventually the continuous rain that cut short our first performance. After hanging around for an hour with no improvement we cancelled our second spot.

### **25 Years Ago May 1981**

**8<sup>th</sup>** Full Chorus at Gillette Industries, Basingstoke Road, Reading. Remembered for the acoustically deadened hall, noisy beer pumps and slot machines and a heckling audience.

**16<sup>th</sup>** Full Chorus at Brookfield School Annual Fete, Tilehurst.

### **30 Years Ago May 1976**

The Barrytones (Barry Nowell, Nick Carter, Colin Carter, Bob Watkin) won the BBC National Barbershop competition at Leamington Spa.

We make our first commercial recording, an LP and Tape that was a joint effort with the Great Western Chorus. Thirty-five of the chorus, then known as the Berkshire Barbershoppers, went along to Fry's Chocolate factory in Bristol and spent a day in a hall there with a professional recording company (Saydisk).

The chorus with Director Pete Powell, sang five songs on the record:

For All We Know, Goodbye My Lady Love, Let The Rest Of The World Go By, Margie, New Ashmoleon Marching Society. With the Bristol chorus we also opened the record with Give Me That Barbershop Style and closed it with Lets Get Together Again/Keep The Whole World Singing.

The Barrytones, who were then BABS Quartet Bronze Medallists, sang Coney Island Baby and Something, they were to win gold medals later that year.

Regards

**HAYDN ADAMS**

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### **SUPPORTERS**

So, TVC were one of the highlights of the television year as reported at the BAFTA awards. Congratulations. I didn't see the programme but heard the news.

I was shocked and very sorry to hear of the death of Gordon Redhead. He was a dear friend and a very special person. Graham and I had only visited him shortly before his death and at that time he was in a very positive frame of mind, was delighted at the success of his cataract operations and was looking forward to coming to Club rehearsal now the light evenings were with us. I was pleased that so many TVC men attended his funeral service and sang so well. Thank you.

What a lovely day we had at Fawley Court Craft Experience last Friday. I thought the extended Daytimers sang very well under the direction of Phillip. Both spots had a very attentive audience who were delighted with your performances. It was very hot but it was easy to find some shade when needed, and the Chorus sang under a gazebo type thing! Graham and I took our grandson and he loved every minute of the afternoon. He got very confused when I told him to find grandad after the last performance and was faced with all these men dressed the same and giving him plenty of attention.

We had a call from Fred Goudy last week. They are now beginning to get sorted in their new home and love the peace and quiet of the countryside. He and Jacky send their love to everyone.

Convention fast approaches and on behalf of all supporters I would like to wish Thames Valley Chorus and Figaro all the best in their competitions next weekend. There will be a make-up team of five, so thank you in advance to Janet, Davina, Gillian and Shirley. I am looking forward to seeing the package this Tuesday evening as I've heard a lot about it.

See you in Harrogate,

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

**IRENE**

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### **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](http://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](mailto: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.

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Thanks to Haydn Adams, Ron Collis, Christine Callaghan, Peter Cookson Jean Hird, Lawrence McNulty, Phillip Ward and Irene for supplying copy.

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### **Copy deadlines:**

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12th December for 19th distribution

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

**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](http://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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\*\*\*\*\*

### FOR SALE

Junior Mini-trampoline. Sturdy, well-made and safe. Hardly used, still in box. £15

Big red plastic sand-pit with attached cover. Can be used as tots' paddling-pool. £10.

Bargain offer -- Buy both for £20. Can deliver locally.

Contact Colin Thatcher  
[cothatcher@btopenworld.com](mailto:cothatcher@btopenworld.com)

or 0118 947 6190. Also contactable on risers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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.**

Shares are £2 each  
payable by Standing Order.

**Contact Mike McKeown next Tuesday (or  
0118 988 2530) to join.**

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Any sort of household jobs, large or small undertaken. I'm fit, fast and flexible, experienced in carpentry, tiling, plumbing, brickwork, etc. and thoroughly reliable  
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](mailto: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

## Convention 2006 5 row Starting Positions



## Convention 2006 5 row stack Song 2 Positions



## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

THE REMAINING DAYS OF

**MAY 2006**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14	15	16 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	17	18	19 BABS Convention Harrogate Day 1 of 3	20 BABS Convention Harrogate Day 2 of 3
21 BABS Convention Harrogate Day 3 of 3	22	23 <b>Rehearsal</b>	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <b>Rehearsal</b>	31	May 2006		

June 2006 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**JULY 2006**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>July 2006</b>						1 Wimborne Show - Full Chorus
2	3	4 <b>Rehearsal</b>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Daytimers Stoke Poges <b>Fun Evening</b> TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	19	20	21	22
23 Highclere Castle Singout	24	25 <b>Rehearsal</b>	26	27	28	29
30	31	July 2006				