

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



**FOUNDED 1974**  
www.rbhc.org.uk

# TAG RAG AND NEWSLETTER

**NOVEMBER 2006**



## **CHAIRMAN'S SPOT**

Well, here I am. Who would have thought it? Certainly not me when I joined the Club fifteen years ago. At that time, separated, looking after three teenage children, and working up in London, I had no time for a social life. My daughter was dating a young man whose father directed a barbershop chorus, and I received an invitation to attend an open evening.. To be honest, I wasn't over impressed. Lots of enthusiasm, but in only one song – Masquerade – did I detect any great musical quality. How times have changed! At the end of the evening Pete Powell (yes, it was his son) got me singing a simple tag, and persuaded me to come back next week. For the next few years, this club was my only respite from work and housework. I owe my sanity to the chorus. (“What sanity?” I hear you cry.)

Barbershop opened up a New World for me. The annual convention alone is exciting enough, but think where we have been over the last few years: America, Ireland, the Netherlands, Prague; and of course the great friendship which we have found and developed with the people of Düsseldorf.

The club has given me a lot, and until recently I have passively accepted it. But now I would like to give something back. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

One theme that I would like to develop in my time in post, is how to interest the younger generation in our art form. The long-term future of the hobby depends on it. The appearance of a capella groups on TV in programmes such as the X-Factor must have shown that you can make super music without expensive instruments. Any suggestions as to how to pull the youngsters in would be welcome.

We have a great team in our Executive committee, and some exciting challenges to look forward to in the coming months. A lot of work is already being put into preparations for the Away Weekend, Convention, the summer concert with our Düsseldorf friends, and the visit to Poland later next year. Be prepared to join in with these and other events that are as yet just a gleam in somebody's eye. (If you can spare some time to help with these tasks, your efforts will be greatly appreciated). The Chorus is singing better than ever, and we are well positioned to take on the world.

Congratulations to Signature for their outstanding success at the ladies' convention last weekend.

It is a privilege and an honour to be Chairman of this wonderful club. Alan Hill said it all on Tuesday. Hope you had a Happy Birthday, Alan!

In Harmony  
**JOHN PRICE**

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# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

## DECEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	<b>December 2006</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	4 Daytimers at Weirside Court, Orts Road, Reading 2.30 sing	<b>5</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	6 Small Chorus Probus ladies dinner night. Aldermaston Mill, 9pm ish	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Full Chorus Desborough Show Maidenhead	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> Pangbourne WI 2.30 Daytimers sing TAG RAGCOPY DEADLINE	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Rehearsal/RBHC Christmas Party - Drama Studio TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

Calendars showing the remaining days of November 2006 and the month of January 2007 are at the back of TAG RAG

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

	NOV	24	Fri	Full Chorus	Cancer charity Show a la Dreweatte & Neatte - St George's Hall Wash Common.
*	NOV	30	Thu	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Christmas do
	DEC	4	Mon	Daytimers	Weirside Court, Orts Road, Reading 2.30 sing.
	DEC	6	Wed	Small Chorus	Probus ladies dinner night. Aldermaston Mill, 9pm ish
	DEC	9	Sat	Full Chorus	Desborough Show Maidenhead
	DEC	12	Tue	Daytimers	Pangbourne WI 2.30 sing
*	DEC	19	Tue		Rehearsal/RBHC Christmas Party - Drama Studio
2007	MAR	2-4	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	Chorus Away Weekend Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth
	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.
*	OCT	27	Sat (aft)	Full Chorus	Emma Taylor's wedding singout - Hambledon nr Henley.
	NOV	9-11	Sat	Full Chorus	Potential Warsaw trip.
*	NOV	13	Tues	Daytimers	Tuesday Club, Hungerford Town Hall to sing at 2pm
	DEC	12	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Reading 2.30 sing
	DEC	19	Wed	Daytimers	Weirside Court, Orts Rd, Reading

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

**12TH DECEMBER FOR 19TH DISTRIBUTION**

#### EDITORIAL

There's a good sprinkling of contributions this month and a first report from our new chairman John. Let's hope we can make his tenure a pleasurable one. Let us all make a pledge to read Weekly Notices and Tag Rag regularly to keep abreast of what is going on so that we can make sure that we give our support to all the Club functions. There's nothing more demoralising than to organise something for a group and then find the job is bigger because you've got to chivvy people along to support it. I think I can safely say that no one likes to spend time doing things for the Club members only to find that the response to all the effort is luke-warm. We know that we can't please everyone all the time so we shouldn't be disappointed if some aspect is not to your liking. If however you take the trouble to become involved with the planning so that those things that disappoint are eliminated you may find that others enjoy your efforts just as much as you do. The whole Club will benefit. Don't hide - that's the message.

The CD recordings with Sean's son went exceedingly well. I have to admit to a serious concern about whether we could get all the tracks recorded in one evening. We did and all credit must go to Rhiannon for driving the 'show' and keeping everyone's minds on-track. Sean's son has been most generous with his compliments about how focussed we were. I like to think that all those evenings we spent recording ourselves helped to deliver the final product more easily. That's a job well done and we can now enjoy the fruits of our labour. I have one regret that I didn't use the camera to take a picture of that night's

activity. The idea went completely out of my mind with trying to push things along and keep us on target.

We still have to find a way round of replacing Rod Adams on the Executive committee. Hopefully the Exec will be thinking of this really soon and plugging any gaps as necessary.

It is always difficult to fill 'shoes' when the incumbent has been in office for a considerable amount of time. The different jobs he does are probably better split out and shared between more people. Let's watch this space with interest and if you see things falling-off make sure you don't let the side down - prop it up - you may like to pick up that role for the benefit of us all.

The Maidenhead Christmas show plans are maturing fast and we are approaching the final days of rehearsal that include our guests Paul Ross and the Soul Purpose Jazz Band. Tickets are almost sold out and that is a very good sign.

#### **GRAHAM STARKIE**

Editor

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#### **FROM THE BORED BOARD ROOM**

I was not sure whether to laugh or cry at Graham's account of his battle with Tesco recently, when buying MP3 players on our behalf. I am a shareholder in Tesco plc (I own the third floortile on the left, in front of the catfood stand, I think), and I am saddened that 'my' store made such heavy weather of the transaction.

So I wrote to Sir Terry Leahy, Chief Executive of Tesco plc, to tell him so, and enclosed a copy of Graham's account. Clearly, shopping at Tesco on this occasion was not the pleasurable experience that their recent slogans said it should be, although, at least, the staff were all courteous and as helpful as policy allowed. I have not tried to buy 17 tins of beans, but I doubt if any objection would be raised if I did, apart possibly from environmental concerns that I might eat them all at once. So why the rumpus with MP3 players?

I received a long and thoughtful reply from Sir Terry - he (or his side-kick?) had clearly read my letter and Graham's account in full. It seems that, in the past, problems have arisen with some customers buying large quantities of special offers at attractive prices, and then selling them elsewhere at a profit. I can imagine the Tesco empire quaking at the knees at the prospect of Graham selling MP3 players for £21 from his barrow in the town centre. But I can see Tesco's point.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Apparently there is a Duty Manager always contactable by store employees for advice about tricky situations. I understand that Tesco sales staff will be reminded about this, and told to be more flexible in future in dealing with customers' requests. So perhaps Graham will be more fortunate next time. I was hoping to receive a gift voucher to compensate Graham & Irene for their trouble, but on the bright side, my next dividend will be a tiny bit larger without it!

### ALEX RUSSELL

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#### THIS IS WHERE I CAME IN.....

I have just come back from the LABBS Convention 2006, cheering for my daughter Catherine and Gabi McKeown and their chorus SIGNATURE as they won the Gold Medal in a great competition.

In addition to the thrill of their victory, it was an important anniversary for me. At the LABBS Convention in 2005 in Cardiff Catherine said I shouldn't waste my life as a groupie and that I really should get involved in the barbershop thing myself.

A week later I came along to join you guys, never having sung a note or appearing in front of an audience except for business presentations. Despite that I had a wonderfully encouraging welcome, and the rest is history as they say. What a fantastic year it's been- much of it spent in a state of terror. I wouldn't change it for the world!

Last year and for a couple of years before that Catherine was with Green Street Blues and won the bronze medal with them twice. During the year she moved to West London and joined SIGNATURE in time to learn the competition songs and be in the front row of the Gold Medal chorus. I'm forever in her debt for introducing me to our fantastic hobby.

### CHRIS SCHRIER

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#### MEMBERS' YEAR BOOK 2006/7

After the great job that Andy Pearce did of setting everything up for me before he went on his ended visit to OZ I couldn't see how I had any excuse not to publish the booklet to the intended schedule. My thanks are also due to Barry Howard who pulled the update for the Contact Data together in record time. Thanks to you both.

There are more significant changes in this year's book than we have seen in the book's relatively short life time. First published in 2002 four booklets have been issued. The 2004 update took about nine-

months to collect all the updates together so was never issued! The book is published as early as possible in the Club Executive year which is October to September. The issue in early November is a deadline I set myself because the memory of the September EGM and AGM hopefully is still with us and the pressures of December haven't been realised by all then!

The booklet was born out of a need to have a Club Constitution to show to third parties how we organised ourselves. It became obvious when Peter Cookson was applying for money to grant giving organisations that we needed a concise way of answering the "Let me see your constitution" question. The members' Contact List information was added to make the whole more useful to our members.

Enough of the history, what's new this year?

NEW CLUB RULES - There's a new Club Rule to cover our Child Protection obligations and another one to enable us to take advantage of the move by BABS to join the national umbrella organisation for music societies MAKING MUSIC. The former is a legal requirement placed on us to formally state our position and the latter provides us with beneficial insurance cover through BABS. It's interesting to note that it is exactly ten years since the Club Rules were amended.

EARLY BIRDS - The 7pm rehearsal starts for the Club's eager beavers is documented (2.6).

BRIGHTLY COLOURED LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT - The most popular alternative to the Greens is documented for the first time (2.12).

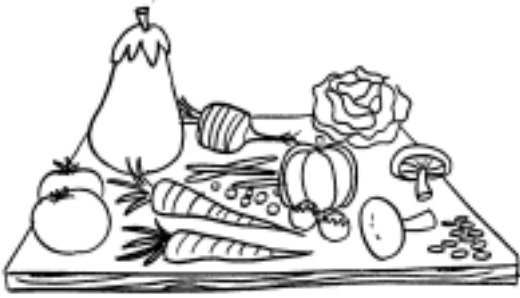
0845 301 0449 - The Club's national Local Rate contact number (2.15).

In addition to the above there are the officers' reports for the past year, The AGM minutes and updated lists of members and songs. A few typos were removed and I notice at least one added - Aidan Brana is no relation to the famous Shakespearean actor - that's our Aidan - Brand.

### GRAHAM STARKIE

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# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



## NOW WE CAN START COOKING ON GAS.

Starting to sing carols this year in the steaming heat of July seemed strange, it has been disappointing that we have taken so long to bring these up to a reasonable performance level. I find little pleasure in continually covering the same ground and not getting anywhere. Like many I thought we'd never reach a conclusion.

It was therefore a pleasure to attend last night's recording session and put these carols in the can. Singing "Let All Mortal Flesh" with the volume control we had was delightful and after three attempts we even managed Little Drummer Boy !!! You don't get three go's at singouts.

Happy Together is a great song. It added a dimension to my evening when we managed a passable rendition of this in the pub afterwards. I also think Fields of Gold is beautiful, but does Rhi have any other excellent songs like these with the added unique feature of words for all four parts? Maybe they've gone out of fashion.

The last three songs have contained loads of oh's, do's and ah's and the basses have achieved miracles with their part which appears to me to be very difficult, and even allowing for some variation, repetitive.

I also hope a way can be found to easily synchronise and co-ordinate the pick ups on the oh's do's and ah's, so that the speed of learning of the new songs is not reduced to a snail's pace. Really glad I'm not the CD, how on earth do they remember the pick up points for all four parts? I'm sure we will all enjoy using new material at singouts. What a delight it will be to have Julian's target of six new songs in the repertoire. How about before convention?

## **PETER GROVES**

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## OUR WEDDING

Nigel and I were very touched when we heard that by a show of unanimous hands you were going to join us on our wedding day by singing in the church. I can't tell you how happy I was when I heard this news and I am now **even more** excited to get down the aisle! Having you gorgeous guys there is really very special for me. I miss seeing your happy faces, and when Nigel and I came along last Tuesday I really was overwhelmed when I left. You really are the nicest and friendliest bunch I have ever met... I was so moved when you sang and my fond memories of the chorus will stay with me forever. I was giggling when you were putting together the moves for White Christmas because it reminded me of the fun we used to have...and the stress and the sleepless nights and the worries.....Nige was amazed at how hard it really was to learn everything! He has two left feet so maybe you could give him some lessons for our first dance!!!!

Anyway, I hope to come and see you all again at Christmas time, keep well and warm for now and thank you again from the bottom of my heart....keep frisky!

All my love to you all

**EMMA JANE**

xxx

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# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



## BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
NOVEMBER'S QUINTET**

**Murray Downing  
Alan Hill  
Geraint Lewis  
Phillip Ward  
Roger Wilkinson**

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## MP3 PLAYERS

Wishing to buy my granddaughter one of these for Christmas I went into a huge Curry's to see what was available and then into an equally large PC World. I was totally bemused by a selection of 40 or more in each place.

In the library, whilst looking for something else, I came across the November Which Guide which has a five page spread on MP3 players. If you live in a bygone age like me, and want to have your selection narrowed it lists a number of "Best Buys" They are all a lot more expensive than the Tesco model.

## PETER GROVES

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## WEEKLY SCRATCH QUARTET VOLUNTEERS

What a brilliant concept, instigated and overseen by my dear old (less of the old) mate Jim.

As you know, I firmly believe that one of the signs of the strength, health and quality of any club is its ability to field a selection of home grown quartets, especially if those quartets are willing to stand up and be counted at the BABS competitions.

What easier way to test one's own courage and ability than to dare to stand up in a scratch quartet on a club evening and perform?..... Why should any of you try it and risk falling over? Because I believe you are all more accomplished than you realise. I defy any of those who have so far

performed on a Tuesday night to not be proud of their performance and, more importantly, be glad they have done it.

They have all been impressive, a fact that can only be truly appreciated by those who have tried it.

For me there is only one thing in the barbershop world more daunting than singing in front of my chorus with my quartet and that is singing in front of my chorus in a scratch quartet. Any experience after that, including singing on a competition stage, is a piece of cake. This is because it takes time to feel at ease with one's fellow quartetters, to get to know their foibles and therefore to make them sound as good as they can be. Listening, fast reactions, and good imbedded technique is part of what it is all about.

What I have been impressed with is all those who have so far taken part have all had the above.

What I also know is that all those who have not tried it can do the same thing. I know this because, without fail, we as a club never fail to deliver when it matters.

So, the point of this rather verbose copy is to implore you all to freely volunteer to have a go. You will learn a lot about yourself by doing it and, if you dig deep enough, you will not fail to be impressed with your performance. What you learn and implement from this experience can only serve to improve your confidence and your performance and therefore raise the level of the chorus's performance.

Having said all this, this sort of exercise is not for everybody and whilst I thoroughly recommend it, no one in the performance team expects everyone in the club to take part. It is a truly voluntary exercise and is meant to help develop individuals, not put them on the spot.

I hope to see you out on the floor in future weeks having fun.

## AIDAN BRAND

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### **"HARVEY"**

Many years ago when I was the Club Treasurer, our risers were towed to singouts in the Club trailer.

As the Chorus started to increase in numbers our riser set started to get 'cosy'. So, our stalwart P.R.O., Peter Rowe, arranged to buy the 4th steps in the U.S. at a more favourable price than here in the U.K. As he was employed by a small freight airline he also arranged free carriage across the "Pond".

The riser space problem was instantly solved but we were then faced with a new one - lack of space in and on the trailer! We discussed the need for a larger trailer and, by coincidence a double horse trailer was offered in the local press shortly afterward. After discussing costs etc., the Committee decided we should go ahead and buy it. This I did and it was towed back from Theale to Don's Kennels where he very kindly let us store it ready for fitting out to carry the risers. Before we could start that job however, Peter Rowe talked about an ex-GPO van he'd seen being used as a riser van by the Bournemouth Club.

They'd bought theirs for about £450 - a cost that was cheaper than the horsebox. The big advantage was that any Club member could drive the van, whereas only Graham Starkie and Ron Collis had cars with tow bars for a trailer so they always had to do the riser trailer work.

We'd just decided to enquire about suitable vans when the situation took a dramatic turn - our old trailer suffered from the overloading and the axle broke! Immediate remedial action was needed so Adram Cox and I went to Blackbushe car and van auctions to assess the possibilities and procedures. First thing we learned was that a vehicle inspection was only a cursory exterior viewing; we only heard the engine when a van was driven into the Auction Ring! The second thing we learned was the difference in price fetched by ex-GPO vans - £1200 to £1400 instead of the £450 paid by Bournemouth!

We reported back to the Committee and got the go-ahead to try and buy one at the next auction even at this increased price. Two weeks later we returned to Blackbushe and 'inspected' the half-dozen vans going that day. We selected what we thought was the best and noted its sale number then went into the Auction Ring to observe the bidding behaviour. I quickly noted a pattern:- nobody bid at the asking price, which was then lowered progressively until someone started with a bid. Suddenly there was a flurry of bidding - often exceeding the asking price - and then it would stop and the auctioneer would say "going for the 2nd time" etc. and another van was sold.

Finally our van "Harvey" appeared and we could feel the tension as the 'procedure' started. Again the flurry of bids but they paused at £900 - much lower than the previous vans! Suddenly I was aware that the auctioneer was saying " - for the 2nd time" and I stuck up my arm to hear him say "new money at £925". Next thing he banged his hammer down and I'd bought the Club a riser van!

The Committee were delighted with the lower cost than we'd anticipated and, when our cheque had been cleared a few days later I drove to Blackbushe with Ron Collis to collect it and drive it to Don's Kennels.

It stayed there for a week or so whilst I designed and built the interior to rack all the riser components securely and constructed the ramp and fixings to avoid lifting and make loading easier.

I later found a company at Beech Hill who made commercial plastic signs - Horseman coaches are an example of their work - and negotiated a reasonable price to have the van painted white and decorated as you see it today.

That is the story of 'Harvey' who's given us reasonably good service over the many years we've been together. Now, like a lot of us, anno domini is having an effect and we'll have to put the old fellow "out to pasture".

So, Graham, good hunting for Harvey's replacement and if you need a hand fitting out you know who to ask ---- Scotty!! Only kidding, of course I'll help!

**MIKE MCKEOWN**

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

#### **CURRENT LEARNING TRACKS (17th Oct)**

- A vocal dub version of Drummer Boy (with 02 in the filename) to replace the all synth version.
- All vocal teaching tracks for the new song HAPPY TOGETHER.

If you haven't got either of these please see either Ian McCann or me to get your download.

#### **TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME (24th Oct)**

First a very warm welcome to Sean2 and John the intrepid duo who are going to mastermind the audio recordings for the Christmas CD. We hope they find the task enjoyable albeit very demanding on both them and us. It's going to be a long evening, so we're well stocked with water. It's the consensus of Rhi, our acting chairman McNulty, and Brian that we don't have a long break with notices. Instead we will keep grabbing 5 minute breaks between recordings. So those of you who need sustenance during the evening will have to work around this unusual situation for one week.

With a bit of luck all will have arrived by 7:30 to give us a good start as soon as the engineering side is up and running. The more time we can make available to record the better.

Remember the recording routine: TO SING A SONG THROUGH A MINIMUM OF TWO TIMES. Once, as a reminder for us and Rhi and let the engineers set/check levels and the second time to record. The plan of course may be modified by experience!

7:30 warm up

**7:40 1st recording session**

8:10 break

**8:15 2nd recording session**

845 Break

**8:55 3rd recording session**

9:25 break

**9:30 4th recording session**

10:00 break

**10:05 5th recording session**

10:30 ish LGTA

A complete list of songs to be recorded will be on display instead of the usual evening's programme. Some reminder sheets have also been prepared to help us through the problem areas. E.g. Words in FIGGY PUDDING etc.

#### **BOTY IN THE NEWS (24th Oct)**

From Lawrence McNulty - "I sent out a press release about Peter's BOTY award and so far the Reading Chronicle, Reading Evening Post, Twyford Advertiser, Maidenhead Advertiser and the Henley Standard have expressed an interest in running the story. Please will you keep your eyes open and let me know if you see the article in these or in any other papers - Thanks.

#### **RISER VAN (24th Oct)**

Dave Colver has volunteered to do the Manager's role and I know he and Chris Shrier are covering the Newbury and Deborough singouts. Please make sure that your name is on the potential list of van drivers if you can and are prepared to drive the van. Thank you to Dave and everyone for your attention on this matter.

After the recent Extra Sunday rehearsal Scotty pointed out that the reason the interior lights weren't working was that they were switched off at the light units; we've run the battery flat as they'd been left on for a whole week or more! How embarrassing is that! That light switch just inside the door is too easy to knock on by accident so I'll look to moving it. It does however mean that the van battery is now on charge at home and therefore the van is immobilised for a few days. Normal service should be restored for next week when Mike Taylor is with us.

#### **MP3 PLAYER MP106 (24th Oct)**

From LES HEARN "Just thought you would like to know that the MP106 player can be ordered in store at certain Tesco superstores. (Wokingham for example) and picked up the next day for no additional charge.

TVC members may also be interested to know that TECHNIKA have a neckband headset to complement the 106, and I have found it much more comfortable to wear than the one supplied with the original kit, the sound is of a better quality and its

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probably a lot more hygienic. It retails at just under £4.

**Comment** - Thanks Les this is good advice because the P&P cost me extra for the ones I bought over the phone.

### DAYTIMERS (24th Oct)

Meyrick says: "My heartfelt thanks to all whom made the effort to support the show at Marlow on Saturday. As usual we had the audience wanting more.

### EMMA'S WEDDING (24th Oct)

By a unanimous show of hands (3rd Oct) it was agreed that we would sing at Emma's wedding on the 27th October 2007. The service will be held in the church at Hambledon Church (this Hambledon is through Henley towards Medmenham). We're invited to sing during the register signing ceremony. PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY - SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER 2007.

### TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME (31st Oct)

In Mike Taylor's absence then we revert back to normal format. Tonight we take into account the Newbury Show with a bit of fun thrown in for good measure and the EGM is now at 9.30pm. The EGM is especially called to elect officers to the two posts that were not filled at the recent AGM: Chairman and Director of Musical Events.

Everything was geared up for Mike Taylor's visit tonight but unfortunately he had to cry off because of a work commitment. Mike works for IBM at Hursley and he can't get out of a conference call to the West Coast of the USA. Mike and Rhi are looking at opportunities for us to get together again in December.

### LAST WEEK (31st Oct)

A big thank you for helping achieve what we did last week. It was an almost impossible task we'd set ourselves; twelve recordings in one night when we've only managed two and a half previously! I've no doubt that the recordings would have been better had we given them more time but that's the way we've done it. A lot of credit must go to Sean2 and his colleague John. Both have given the recordings their prompt attention. Sean2 quickly sent Rhiannon a CD with all the best tracks on and she has made the selection. At the same time John was working on deciding what 'tweaks' (equalisation and reverberation) to use in the final mix. Providing there's no hold-up with Figaro's recordings that have been done by another recording studio over the weekend it'll all be over with by the end of the week. We should have our Christmas Gold compact disc master in the proverbial bag. We just need to pull all

the ends together once we get it. Take Four's recording were done by me. Thanks are also due to Sean1 for spying the opportunity to get his son involved.

### ANT&DEC WHITE CHRISTMAS (31st Oct)

Revised music, documented moves and teaching tracks are available from tonight. Four mp3 files:

Ant&Dec Bs.mp3

Ant&Dec Ld.mp3

Ant&Dec Bt.mp3

Ant&Dec Bs.mp3

The music score is identified as Issue 1.0. Please note that this score has been modified to the way we performed it on the TV show. Leave your original score in your music folder, this one has Robbie's lyric and the chat written into it with all the changes we can remember. Thanks go to Peter Cookson for creating the midi files and score for this arrangement. Thanks to Alex Russell for documenting the moves.

The teaching track is a little different than you probably expect. Not only does it have a backing track built into it and Robbie's part sung by the computer (oo's) it has the part to be learnt played by a tenor saxophone which dominates the track. For most members this will be more than adequate to stir your memory back into action. The big challenge will be to get the 'dongs' right this time.

Peter Cookson and I visited the SOUL PURPOSE JAZZ BAND in rehearsal at Marlow Bottom last night. If you don't already know this is a seven-piece youth band of outstanding quality. They'll have a feature spot in the Desborough show and hopefully will play the backing to the Ant&Dec number. They're all late-teen students of gap-year age and our impression is that they'll have no trouble at all with it. We just need to make sure that we can deliver the goods vocally.

### CLUB CHAIRMAN (7th Nov)

Thank you to John Price for stepping into the breach for the Chairman's role. Let's give him all the support we can to ensure that he has pleasurable term of office.

### TWO WEEKS AGO (7th Nov)

My son (Sean) and his colleague John asked me to express their thanks to the chorus for the professional and disciplined effort we put into the recording project the other week, and they hope you will be pleased with the result. Yours sincerely, Sean O'Shea.

### BATTLE HYMN (7th Nov)

I took the opportunity over the weekend to synthesise our version of Battle Hymn to make up

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

some teaching tracks for the newer members. With the help of Brian I also scored the swipe and the final chord in the tag. If you want to update your music the last two bars should look like the following.

on. —————

36 37 38

8

(Hal - le - lu - jah!) A - men.

The image shows a musical score for three measures (36, 37, 38) in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). Measure 36 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef, with a '8' below the bass clef. The melody in the treble clef has a note on G4, followed by a dotted quarter note on A4, and a quarter note on Bb4. The bass line has a dotted quarter note on G3, followed by a quarter note on A3, and a quarter note on Bb3. Measure 37 continues the melody with a quarter note on Bb4, a dotted quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on Bb4. The bass line has a quarter note on Bb3, a dotted quarter note on C4, and a quarter note on Bb3. Measure 38 has a quarter note on Bb4, a dotted quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on Bb4. The bass line has a quarter note on Bb3, a dotted quarter note on C4, and a quarter note on Bb3. The lyrics '(Hal - le - lu - jah!) A - men.' are written below the notes.

### RISER VAN (7th Nov)

You may remember I announced that the van was immobilised due to the fact that the battery was 'flat' because the interior lights in the back had been left on. I can report the van is now back in service with a recharged battery. I have also switched the lights off at the fluorescent fittings so we don't easily get the same trouble again. Please use the door and the fitting switches in future until the switch near the door is repositioned. Thank you.

### DECEMBER REHEARSALS (14th Nov)

12th December - We have been asked by the landlady of the Duke of Wellington where pub we go to on Tuesdays to sing some carols on the 12th Dec. We intend finishing a bit earlier that evening and going to sing for her.

19th December - It is our intention to follow the TVC tradition by having a family evening on the last Tuesday before Christmas, 19th December. The evening will be a warm up followed by a selection of songs both from the chorus and any quartet that wishes to do a set, or any other person that would like to do an act. This will be followed by a break where we have wine and nibbles. If time permits we may have a few more songs afterwards. We'll have the school's Drama Studio on this night because there are school presentations taking place in the school hall.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2006 (14th Nov)

It's that time of the year again - Have your Christmas messages of goodwill sent to all Tag Rag readers and save yourself the cost of cards and postage for a voluntary donation. The proceeds of this will go to a nominated charity. If you have a favourite let me have the details and I will put it up to the Exec for consideration

Put yourself together a couple of sentences (and a line drawing piece of artwork if you want) give or

send it to me with a donation anytime before the 12th December copy deadline. I'll put all the messages together with some festive artwork. They will appear in a special insert in December's Tag Rag. Thank you in anticipation of a bumper crop!

### ROBBIE WILLIAMS' DVD (14th Nov)

Rod was advised that the 18th November was to be the release date for this DVD.

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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hi there! Don't the months fly by folks? By the time you read these notes it will be almost Christmas. Halloween, Guy Fawkes night, half-term all flown away for another year but still most of the trees still have their leaves, and quite a lot are still green. Can't be global warming can it???

Well enough of all that; let's see what the postman has brought me this month. We will kick off alphabetically, as always, with our longest serving A.M. and that can only be you HARVEY BARD. Harvey was one of the very first to join when we started the "A.M." scheme way back in 1977. So "good-on-ya" Harvey, old son, and many thanks for your very prompt reply and cheque for another year. I am so pleased to learn that you are still playing and keeping a good steady beat going. I know from bitter experience that some of these soloists need a bit of holding back at times. So keep it up Harvey and thanks again.

Next a short little note from our old mate ROD CLARK enclosing his cheque (with a little bit over the top I notice Rod) and a promise of a longer letter to follow in due course. I shall look forward to that, old son, for you have such an entertaining and humorous style. Many thanks for the cheque Rod and I hope and you and Lesley (and the dogs) are well.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

And next I have to say "many thanks" to you SÉAMUS McDONALD for your letter and cheque and also for your 'phone call. It's nice to have a nice little chat and hear all the news first hand. I will look forward to seeing you and Gail on 9th December if not before and hope you are both well in the meantime.

And lastly, playmates, a lovely card and message from dear old CHARLES HOUGH's No.1 daughter, TRICIA, describing her thoughts on Charles's funeral and thanking us for our contribution to the occasion. I haven't been able to thank her as I don't know where she lives and the card was actually posted in France so perhaps she was on holiday there.

That's about all I can find for you this time my lovelies, so take care. Come and see us sometime for, after all, it is your Club as well you know.

T.T.F.N.

**RON COLLIS**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' LETTERS

Dear Ron

23 10 06

Dear Ron,

It does come as a reminder that time is flying by when your missive arrives on the door mat !

I am pleased that you seem to be your usual chirpy self.

I had some minor surgery three months ago but I now seem to be over it all.

I am still playing a couple of times a month with a Dixieland/Swing Band. And I dep for the regular guy with the Herts Swing Band which is about sixteen strong and is good fun testing my reading ability !

I am pleased to enclose my cheque and look forward to receiving another "demand" from you in 2007.

My very best wishes to you and to any of the members who may still remember me.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey (Bard)

\*\*\*\*\*

3.11.06

Dear Ron,

Once more unto the breeches, - or whatever it was!

A letter of modest interest will follow; in the meanwhile herewith cheque to cover Associate Membership. We now have 2 Shepherds so we are kept busy.

'Ope as how Stella and yourself are well,

In haste,

Rod C.

\*\*\*\*\*

23.10.06

Hi Ron,

Well as we surmised your letter crossed with our 'phone cnversation. Anyway attached please find the cheque as promised. It is difficult to believe that yet another year has passed, where does time go eh!!?

Anyway, sorry we've not been over to see you all lately but if we're not over in the meantime we'll see you at the Maidenhead show in December, So regards to all the gang,

All the best

Séamus & Gail

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Dad's Friends,

I could never in my life, as Charles Hough's No.1 daughter, have imagined myself saying that Dad's Funeral was a really good 'do'! It was splendid and Charles would have approved and applauded the whole occasion! This was achieved in great part by the Superb and Sensitive singing of his friends from T.V.C. The family wanted a very personal "do" and I think we all gave Charles everything he would have wished for as a tribute to a charming, cantankerous character! The 'afterglow', as far as he was concerned, was just as important as the performance and your joining us at the Pub afterwards (in true Barbershop style) would have been his idea of a perfect 'send off'!

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to make this occasion a really good memory.

As Charles would say "Well done lads"!

Sincerely

Tricia Goldsmith

\*\*\*\*\*

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### HISTORICAL NOTES

#### **5 Years Ago November 2001**

**17<sup>th</sup>** Southern Prelims at Hatfield College, Hatfield, Herts. Chorus results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Royal Harmonics 1286 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Western Chorus 1285
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thames Valley Chorus 1275

TVC sang 'You Keep Coming Back Like A Song' and 'Make 'em Laugh' Chorus Director Steve Hall. eighteen choruses competed. In the combined chorus results TVC were in 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 32.

**21<sup>st</sup>** Daytimers at Vintage Club, Woolhampton.

**24<sup>th</sup>** Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) were at a private party at Woolhampton Village Hall.

**25<sup>th</sup>** Small Chorus at Woodley Centre.

**30<sup>th</sup>** Daytimers at Argyles Nursing Home, Newbury.

#### **10 Years Ago November 1996**

**7<sup>th</sup>** Daytimers at Maiden Place, Earley for the Retirement Club.

**30<sup>th</sup>** At the Southern Prelims in Brighton the Chorus accepted a bye and received the following notice from Tony Wright (Contest Manager) in Harmony Express:

"I was unable to get any mic-warmers for the Southern Chorus Prelims at Brighton. This year, under Article 2(b) of the Contest Rules, a bye was offered to the Thames Valley Chorus. In exchange, they are providing two mic-warmers for the chorus prelims – one large chorus and one small chorus. Although this is not the first time a bye has been offered, it is the first time one has been accepted. I would like to say thank you to the Reading club for helping out in this awkward situation. So thank you Thames Valley Chorus, history makers."

It should be noted that TVC had won the Southern Prelims for the previous two years.

The Chorus was on top form for the evening show when they entertained with four numbers.

Quartet results; RBHC interests:

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

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

13 quartets competed.

In the overall listings for the prelims Bagatelle was in 7<sup>th</sup> position and Flying High in 10<sup>th</sup> position.

#### **15 Years Ago November 1991**

**16<sup>th</sup>** At the Southern Prelims in Minehead the chorus results were:

1<sup>st</sup> Great Western Chorus.

2<sup>nd</sup> Pilgrimages.

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

TVC had forty nine members on the risers singing 'Masquerade' and 'Toot Toot Tootsie'. The Chorus Director was Derek Smith. 16 choruses competed. The quartet contest was won by By Appointment.

**30<sup>th</sup>** Full Chorus at Henley Town Hall in a public charity concert for Deaf-Fax Enterprises.

#### **20 Years Ago November 1986**

**9<sup>th</sup>** Barbershop Harmony Singing at the Pier Pavilion, Brighton.

A mini competition, organised by the southern coast clubs and sponsored by the Mayor of Worthing. Pete Powell was the Stage Presence Judge, results were: Men's quartet won by By Appointment out of six entrants with Grand Slam (with Graham Sutton) in third place. Men's Choruses: 1<sup>st</sup> Southern Union. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bromley Kentones. 3<sup>rd</sup> Worthingaires. 4<sup>th</sup> Solent City. Ladies quartet was won by Side By Side (London) from 8 competitors. Ladies Chorus was won by the Barberettes from 10 competitors.

**28/30<sup>th</sup>** At the LABBS 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention held at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, the Barberettes were in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 20 choruses. 1<sup>st</sup> White Rosettes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avonbelles (Bristol), 3<sup>rd</sup> Liverpool Ladies.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** Southern Prelims at Exeter University Chorus results:

1<sup>st</sup> Pilgrimages.

2<sup>nd</sup> Great Western Chorus.

3<sup>rd</sup> Crawley Chordsmen.

4<sup>th</sup> Chesham Buckaneers.

5<sup>th</sup> Southern Union.

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

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

TVC had 36 men on the risers singing 'Keep Your Sunnyside Up' and 'I've Found My Sweetheart Sally'. The Chorus Director was Derek Smith. 15 choruses competed.

The quartet contest was won by By Appointment with RBHC interests being:

5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam (with Graham Sutton)

6<sup>th</sup> Rogues Gallery (Dick Coles, Nick Carter, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway)

16 quartets competed.

### 25 Years Ago November 1981

7<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at Tilehurst. (no further details)

During the month Harmony Heritage (Pete Forrest, Nick Carter, Ron Collis, Peter Bugden) were very busy singing at Langley in aid of Dr. Barnados, Mortimer Gun Club, Reading Swimming Club, Mortimer Magpies Xmas party for the aged, Athenaeum Clubs Xmas Punch party, Caversham WI Xmas party.....they started festivities early, I remember Nick Carter telling me that he was fed up already with Xmas cake.

Regards

**HAYDN ADAMS**

\*\*\*\*\*



### SUPPORTERS

Belated 'Happy Birthday' to Alan Hill on his recent biggie birthday. Graham told me about the wonderful surprise your wives and one daughter sprung on you. I find it hard to believe you are that age, you certainly don't look it.

Gabi must be really pleased to have sung with a gold medal winning Chorus at the recent L.A.B.B.S. Convention; I believe that Chris Schrier's daughter, Catherine is also a member. So congratulations to you both.

I am looking forward to the Club Show at the Desborough Suite and to catching up with everyone.

I have made great headway with Christmas shopping; only 3 to buy now! The next job is to wrap everything!

I hope lots of you will put your Christmas greetings into the December edition of Tag Rag with a donation to whatever charity is decided upon. The idea has so many benefits.

I think that's all for now,

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](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).

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Thanks to Haydn Adams, Aidan Brand, Ron Collis, Peter Groves, Mike McKeown, John Price, Alex Russell, Chris Schrier, Emma Taylor and Irene for supplying copy.

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**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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## 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.

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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

THE REMAINING DAYS OF

### NOVEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19	20	21 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	22	23	24 <b>Full Chorus</b> <b>St George's</b> <b>Hall Wash</b> <b>Commom</b>	25
26	27	28 <b>Rehearsal</b>	29	30 Daytimers Kennet Court Woosehill	<b>November</b> <b>2006</b>	

December 2006 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

### JANUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>January</b> <b>2007</b>	1	2 <b>Rehearsal</b>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 <b>Rehearsal</b>	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <b>Rehearsal</b>	31	<b>January</b> <b>2007</b>		