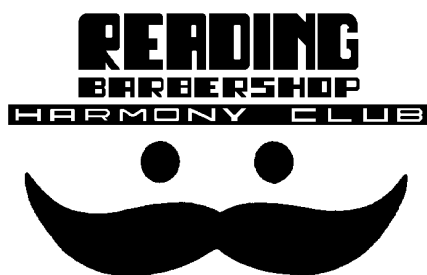


READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

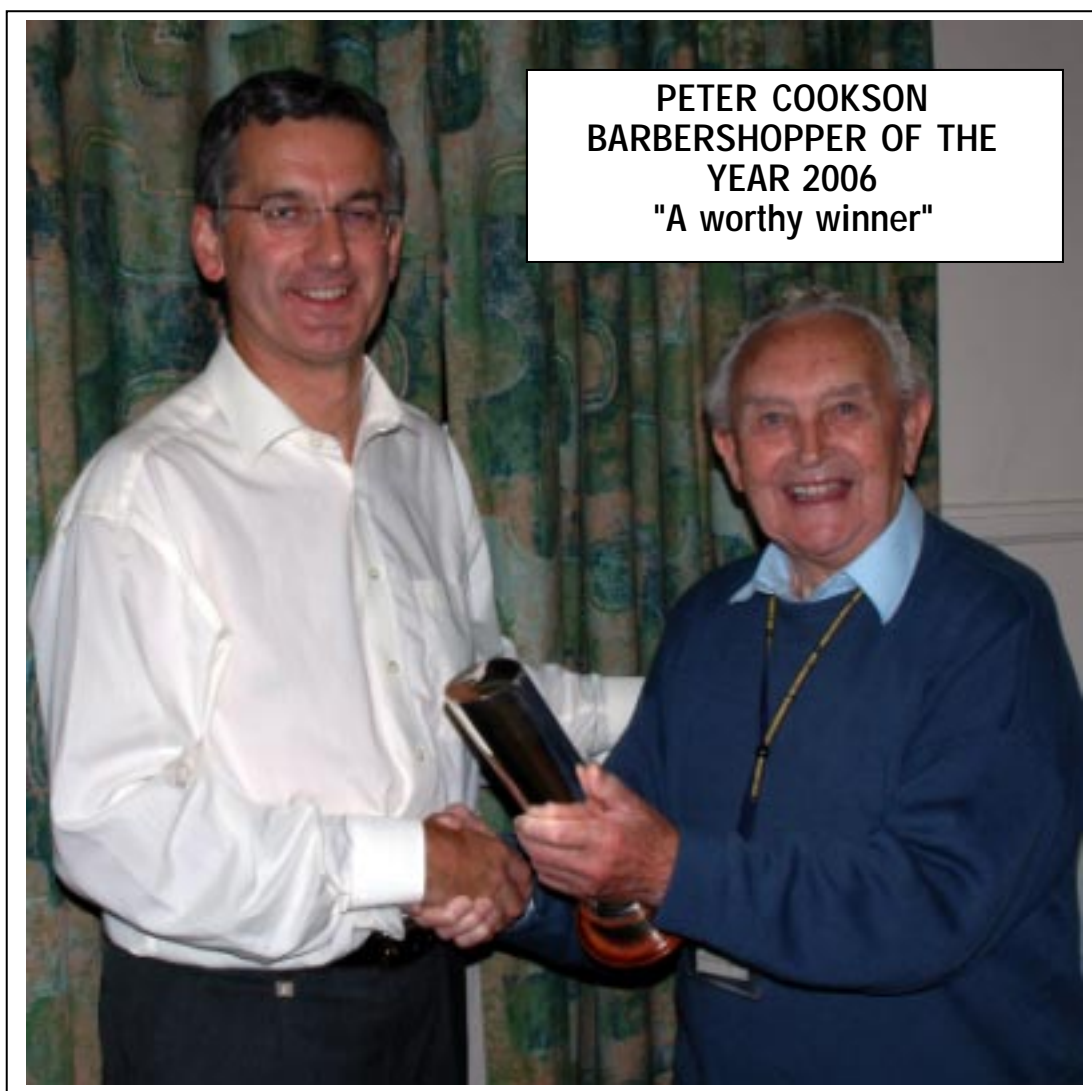


FOUNDED 1974  
www.rbhc.org.uk

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

OCTOBER 2006

*STOP PRESS FIGARO success in Prelims - 9th.  
See them in action on page 19*



**PETER COOKSON (L) receives the Peter Rowe Memorial trophy from the Father of the Chorus Ron Collis (R).**

Photo by Chris Bradley

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

## NOVEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>November 2006</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> **Evening Sing** Daytimers Silk Mill Twyford	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAGCOPY DEADLINE	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Full Chorus</b> <b>St George's</b> <b>Hall Wash</b> <b>Common</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Daytimers Kennet Court Woosehill *Tba	<b>November 2006</b>	

Calendars showing the remaining days of October 2006 and the month of December 2006 are at the back of TAG RAG

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

*	OCT	21	Sat	Daytimers+	at The Market Place Restaurant Marlow 9pm sing
*	OCT	29	Sun	Full Chorus	Extra Sunday rehearsal CD recordings *****Await further instructions*****
	OCT	31	Tue	Rehearsal	Vocal coach Mike Taylor to attend
	NOV	2	Thu	Daytimers	Silk Mill Home Twyford - Note - evening sing
	NOV	24	Fri	Full Chorus	Cancer charity Show a la Dreweatte & Neatte - New date & Venue) - St George's Hall Wash Common.
*	NOV	30	Thu	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Christmas do **Tba**
*	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
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	Full Chorus	Emma Taylor's wedding singout - Hambledon nr Henley.
	NOV	9-11	Sat	Full Chorus	Potential Warsaw trip.
	DEC	12	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Reading 2.30 sing
	DEC	19	Wed	Daytimers	Weirside Court, Orts Rd, Reading

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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**NEXT COPY DEADLINE:**

**14TH NOVEMBER FOR 21ST DISTRIBUTION**



#### **CHAIRMAN'S 2006 AGM REPORT**

The programme of activities this year was diverse and challenging even by RBHC's ambitious standards. The trip to Prague, the Ant and Dec show, the Learn to Sing programme, Convention, sing outs and the Daytimers busy schedule constituted a demanding programme. Yes there were elements which given more time we probably could have bettered, but in a 12 month timeframe it was an achievement of which the Club should be justifiably proud.

All these events were skilfully publicised by Lawrence McNulty, Director of Marketing, to raise the profile of the Club throughout the year. Lawrence's activities, in conjunction with the promotional activities of a team led by Richard Leatham, generated a staggering registration of over

200 for the Learn to Sing Programme. But the high attendance sustained throughout the course is readily attributable to the high quality of teaching material and tuition delivered by Rhiannon.

It is heartening to have new members in the Club as a result of the Learn to Sing programme. The enthusiasm with which they have embarked on learning the repertoire and taken part in the Club performances bodes well.

As Alex Russell reports in detail the Club's finances are in good shape. Fees from the Ant and Dec show and the Daytimers industry have made significant contributions as well as the full chorus singouts. But our sound financial position is also a consequence of the diligent management of this important resource by Ken Mills and Alex and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their careful endeavours.

Maintaining the social side of the Club is also important. Once again it was good to see so many family and friends at the open evenings just before Xmas and Convention and at the fun evening in July.

So where does the Club go from here? As mentioned previously this year has been exceptionally busy. At times I was concerned we may be trying to do too much. Without a doubt we were overwhelmed by the response to the Learn to Sing programme. So the underlying philosophy for next year at least is let's get back to basics. Rhiannon and Julian Charman with the Performance Team, augmented by external coaches from time to time, will be working with the Chorus to reassess and enhance our singing and performing skills, refresh our repertoire, and strive to improve our overall standards. Working from this platform we should be in good shape to undertake the tasks we are lining up: a CD to complete, a Xmas show in December, a major show in Reading Town Hall on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 as part of the Dusseldorf twinning anniversary celebrations and a trip to Warsaw around the 9<sup>th</sup> November (provisional) to take part in their Advent Festival.

But none of this could be achieved without the contribution of many Club members and their partners who give up their time so we can enjoy our hobby. There are so many to thank but I wish to express particular appreciation on behalf of the Club to Rod Adams who is stepping down as Director of Musical Events. Over many years Rod has been pivotal in securing bookings for the Club. Without these singouts the Club would struggle to make ends meet. Rod has consistently carried on this

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

function, amongst others, with great effect while concurrently dealing with personal pressures.

Finally I would like to thank all the Executive members for the contributions they have made to the smooth running of the Club throughout the year.

The 2006 AGM brings to a close my term as Chairman. It has been a privilege to hold this office. Reading Barbershop Harmony Club is a truly wonderful Club. It is more than a forum to sing, it becomes part of your life. Long may it flourish.

In Harmony

**PETER COOKSON**

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### EDITORIAL

Once again many thanks to the wide variety of contributors to Tag Rag. Get the habit of penning your thoughts on a four-weekly cycle and you'll be amazed just how easy it is to become a regular Tag Rag Correspondent. In the absence of a chairman's report this month I have reproduced Peter Cookson's report to the recent AGM.

May I congratulate our members for choosing such a worthy winner as Peter Cookson for this year's Barbershopper of the Year. A well earned accolade and as Ron Collis is very careful to point out there are so many members that could be eligible. We are very fortunate.

It is sad to note that we don't have a new incumbent in the Chairman's role to take over in this new Club year. I can understand the logic of wanting another EGM to make an appointment but I'm sure that was not the way the rule was intended to be used. September's EGM was devised to avoid us starting a new Club year without any of its officers. The idea was that we got an early warning of the situation so that any unfilled roles could be addressed.

It is good to see that we made a modest operating profit last year. The generous bequest from Gordon Redwood's estate will swell our reserves. Surely now is the time to deal with those ageing assets we have. The riser van is at the top of my list. I've been putting in a bit of time to research the market for used vans and much to my surprise the availability of good ones is poorer than I first thought. You can read my report of a visit to the Blackbushe Commercial Van Auction Irene and I made recently. The report was written to provide background information for the Club Executive. Other sources have been researched and Scotty and I have been out to view some options and are keeping the Executive informed.

FIGARO went to Coventry this last weekend (voluntarily!) to perform at the BABS Quartet Prelims. Their performance was at 2pm on Saturday (14th) and by all accounts it all went to plan. The objective of the prelim is to identify the top sixteen

quartets to go forward to the next stage (semi-finals) in Scarborough at next year's BABS Convention. The quartet won't know if they have qualified by being in the first sixteen until all the scores have been collated for Sunday's half of the contest. We may get to know before I go to print in which case I'll add a STOP PRESS.

**GRAHAM STARKIE**

Editor

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### BOTY AWARD 05/06

I was very touched to receive the BOTY award at the AGM. It commands a significant position within the Club and I feel very privileged to join the august collection of names on the Peter Rowe Memorial Trophy. As Ron Collis has rightly said there are many worthy nominees for this trophy and I would like to acknowledge all they have contributed during the year. I have been very proud to be the Chairman of Reading Club over the past two years and to receive this award from the members is an added bonus which means a great deal to me.

With great appreciation and affection.

**PETER (COOKSON)**

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### BOTY 2006

Well done everybody! Sorry if I was a bit of a bully about the nomination forms but time was short and it has resulted in a bumper crop of replies and more very worthy nominations than I can remember for a long time. So my thanks to all of you who let me have the forms back.

I say this every year I know but it is true that every single one of those nominees deserves recognition for the work they do for us lesser mortals in making our Club the best in BABS, so many thanks to them all.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

But there can only be one winner of the Peter Rowe Trophy and our B.O.T.Y. for 2006 so it's hearty congratulations and our grateful thanks to PETER COOKSON.

This honour could not have gone to a nicer chap. God Bless!

**RON C**  
**F.O.T.C.**  
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### 2006 BOTY NOMINATIONS AND CITATIONS

#### **Rod Adams**

Tremendous work behind the scenes, mostly unseen.

Despite onerous and long-standing family problems, Rod has still committed his prodigious talents to earning TVC some prestigious singouts and big bucks!

#### **Peter Cookson**

Peter has worked tirelessly to make our Club a great Club and I am proud to be a member of this marvelous Club.

Very committed to the Chorus.

His commitment to the Club over the last 2 years as Chairman as well as his knowledge of music and choreography.

His leadership qualities as Chairman have been excellent and his work effort for the Club has been magnificent.

For the tremendous amount of work he has done for the Chorus during his two years as Chairman.

#### **Derek Hird**

His gritty determination to succeed following his many medical problems to be back with us on the risers.

#### **Richard Leathem**

Time and effort he put into our performance at Convention.

#### **Lawrence McNulty**

As our PRO and Marketing man Lawrence's expertise in promoting the TVC has been tremendous and he fully deserves our plaudits.

Lawrence has done more in the past year to put RBHC on the map than anyone else. Every Club activity has been publicised using all the media

available. Lawrence played a major part in attracting the enormous response to the Learn To Sing project. He (and Dave Culver) produced a brilliant new brochure which cannot fail to attract more "customers" as well as potential new members. He is a keen and enthusiastic member of the Chorus and a stalwart of the lead section. I have no hesitation in warmly recommending him for the Peter Rowe Trophy.

For his magnificent contribution as Marketing Director.

Outstanding performance in promoting TVC.

Worked hard on P.R. with consequent results beneficial to TVC. Leaflet is top class.

A good P.R. man.

#### **Rhiannon Owens-Hall**

For her dedication to Thames Valley Chorus.

#### **Andrew Pearce**

Unstinting work re Convention Booking.

#### **Alex Russell**

His hard work with the Earlybirds, all he does with the risers etc. Lots of behind the scenes work, and the encouragement he gives to many of us.

Considerable contribution to the operation of the Chorus including Executive Committee Member Finance Director, Member of Choreography team, main role in tuition of moves to TVC, almost ever present at Tuesday night rehearsals, regular member of Daytimers and aids with direction of Daytimers.

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#### **TO MEYRICK & ALL THE DAY TIMERS**

Thank you all so very much for attending the "Diabetes UK Road Show" in Reading on Friday 15th. September. The show, which was organised by Diabetes UK in conjunction with the local

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

volunteer group, was a great success and all the reports I have had from all those involved, have been very complimentary. A large number of the general public actually visited the show and the staff had handed out all their 600 'goody' bags by half past two.

I must apologise to the many of the wives who attended hoping to have a blood test, as had been advertised. Unfortunately, Lloyds Pharmacy who had agreed to come to conduct the tests had to cancel at the last moment owing to lack of staff and it was impossible to find replacements.

Below is a letter from Diabetes UK expressing their appreciation.

### **BARRY HOWARD.**

Letter dated 20th September 2006

Dear Barry

Thank you so much for your - and your friends in the Thames Valley Chorus - help at the Diabetes UK Reading Roadshow on 15 September.

The Roadshow was highly successful. We estimate we attracted around 1000 people, running out of our 600 'goody bags' by 2.30pm. The face painting, celebrity chef and your excellent singing all helped to attract people over and to find out more about diabetes and Diabetes UK. Together we certainly helped raise awareness of diabetes in Reading!

It was unfortunate that we were unable to carry out blood glucose testing. Lloyd's Pharmacy had agreed to undertake testing at all the Roadshow sites but unfortunately pulled out of many due to problems with staffing. However, we were able to suggest places for people to go for testing and most people appeared very happy with the contact they received with us throughout the day.

Two local newspapers and BBC Radio Berkshire also came down to the Roadshow so hopefully awareness will have also been spread to those unable to come down and chat with us.

Please look at the website to see some photos of the day. [www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk) Thank you again Best wishes

Signed  
Jill Steaton  
South East Regional Manager

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### **MP3 TEACHING TRACK**

Wow! I've just listened to the latest mp3 version of the Drummer Boy teaching track which now has Peter Dawson singing the Lead part, and the song has "come alive"!

I've benefited greatly from the synthesised notes, and have learned them by rote, but Pete's singing voice has added a whole new dimension to the learning experience. For example, I wonder how many of my fellow leads have, like me, been singing "pa RUH PUH pum pum"? instead of "pa RUM PUM pum pum"? Pete's voice has also emphasised what it means "to sing the vowels", whereas I now realise that I have been closing and holding the "mm" sounds far too early.

Metal Mickey has a great contribution to make in terms of learning what the notes are, but give me a human voice every time to remind me of "HOW" a song should be sung!

By the way, while I'm scratching the papyrus, I think it's much easier to learn a new song if I learn the words first, and then learn the notes afterward. Being a man I find it easier to do one thing at a time rather than try to learn both words and notes simultaneously. I wonder how others approach the task of learning a new song?

### **LAWRENCE MCNULTY**

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### **HAPPY TOGETHER**

As a Club we are fortunate in having the talents to give us such an excellent teaching aid as we have for "Happy Together "

Thanks to the quartet first. The learning process is so much easier with real voices and the WORDS. Thanks to Graham for recording in mp3 format and getting and setting up the mp3 players and Ian for emailing "HapTog" to me. And thanks to iTunes for allowing me to input all this on the iMac and, with advice from Rod, even producing all the songs onto a CD.

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I retired from work before PCs arrived on office desks and have problems with Freeview and have given up on setting the video /DVD. The mp3 gizmo is versatile. Brian even set it up for me to record on it!!! I can now just about operate it but the CD is still my favourite as a learning aid!! It is great that Rod is still offering to make CDs when requested.

This said I have just learned that I am allowed to take the mp3 gizmo on to the flight to Houston next week. So I should be word and note perfect by the time I get back!

I was delighted that the chorus managed to sing 'Happy Together' right through for the first time last Tuesday. Not all my notes or those of others were right yet but the time from first music to first sing was creditable.

Thanks again to all this talent working so hard to help this slow learner.

### **BOB RIDLEY**

PS. Please note that I have moved from Tilehurst to Langton Lodge, Icknield Road, Goring, RG8 0DG  
New Telephone number 01491 872989

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### **POT PURRI**

Good news, the MP3 player arrived from Nissan. I turned it on excitedly and heard a lovely selection of Chinese music. I have now downloaded some music and moved into the modern age.

I greatly enjoyed the evening with Mike Taylor, he has some very novel ideas on coaching. I'm still trying to stand as on skis whilst having an inner laugh for reaching high notes. Unfortunately I will miss his next session as I will be on holiday.

Along with the rest of the Daytimers we had a good sing at a retirement home in Wooshill. This was quite a plush and expensive place.

We sang Alexanders Ragtime Band and at the end Les (Hearn) said he could see some people still looking out of the window trying to see the band arrive.

I note we have a new Focus Group, well I have a Focus 1.8 Zetec and haven't been asked to join. I did not realise that so many people had Ford.

### **SYD (THE BEARD) BOYD**

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### **A LITTLE BIT OF NONSENSE**

Julian Charman, Peter Groves, Brian Callaghan and I found ourselves in London at County Hall on September 25th filming a brief (four-second!) piece of barbershop singing for MonoTV as voiceover for the run of credits at the end of their programmes. MonoTV make programmes for TV channels such as BBC4, the first being a programme about the Monty Python series due to be broadcast towards the end of the year).

Lawrence, who had received the request, asked if any of the more established quartets could do the job, but it was always going to be difficult being a weekday. Having spoken to Peter and I (Colin was not available but Brian agreed to fill in), Julian rang the producer's assistant, Wendy, at MonoTV and said that we (NOTH) could do it but explained that we were just a group of grey haired old farts. She said "great" - she obviously fancies older men, or is that just wishful thinking? It turned out that the owner of the new TV company asked Wendy to find a barbershop quartet because his mother had been a member of the Liverpool Ladies Barbershop Chorus and he liked the barbershop sound which he had heard when taken (often) to rehearsals/shows. It seems likely that his mother was in the Liverpool chorus at the same time as Rhi.

We changed into our "greens" and, having been briefed by the producer, identified a few tag endings which we practised for a good 30 to 40 minutes. When we arrived in the studio we were lined up in "Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody" formation (sounds grand !!) and then sang through the tag endings several times while they made a choice as to which to use. Finally we were filmed doing two or three of these tag endings. Given that we will be seen/heard for no more than 3-4 seconds, the amount of time we spent there doing the work was extremely tiring, so we were pleased when they eventually called time.

Nevertheless an interesting experience.

### **JIM DOWNING**

for NOTH - Nearly Over The Hill

\*\*\*\*\*

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### BARBERSHOP BABES

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OCTOBER'S HANDSOME(?) SEXTET

**AIDAN BRAND  
PETER DAWSON  
GERAINT LEWIS  
JOHN PRICE  
ALEX RUSSELL  
GRAHAM STARKIE**

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### NEW CLUB BROCHURE

If anyone is interested in learning what went into the process of creating our new brochure, read on.

Where do you start when you want to create a Club brochure? You start by answering the questions, "Why do I want one, and what do I hope to achieve by having one?"

The reason was simply to attract people to book the Chorus. If the answer was simple, the outworking was not because you then have to decide what it is that people will want to know about the Chorus before they decide to book us. For example, they'll want to know what sort of sound we make; what do we look like; how many of us are there; do we just sing; where else have we sung; how much will we charge; how far afield will we travel to sing, etc., etc.

Answering those questions gave me a good framework for deciding what I wanted to put into the brochure, and what size/shape it needed to be. But where do you start with the layout – what goes where? Fortunately, I had to hand the excellent temporary brochure that Rod Adams produced for the Ferrari Funday singout at Highclere Castle. (I find it best to start with an existing brochure that I like the look of, rather than with a blank sheet of paper). It was then a question of deciding what I wanted to keep out of Rod's brochure, and what I wanted to change. For example, although the Lord Kitchener take-off on the back page which carried the recruitment message was eye-catching, I felt it

wouldn't mean much to a younger generation whom we are keen to recruit.

After scribbling some notes and choosing other pictures that I wanted to use, I handed the bits and pieces to our Club member David Colver who earns his living as a freelance graphic designer. He created the new layout which is pretty much what you see in the final brochure - although not before we had debated a few colour choices plus the size and position of some pictures, as well as me rewriting some text to make it fit into the spaces David had provided. The final draft was then sent to the Exec and a few other luminaries for comment, some of which were incorporated into the draft, and some were not. Let me give you an example of one comment that came back, to do with the costings that I had included in the draft. "Why do you show the highest figure before the lowest; won't that put people off?" The answer is that market research shows that if you have a range of products and you show a potential customer the cheapest first, working up to the most expensive, the customer will usually choose something in the bottom half of the price range. However, if you start with the top price and work down, he will usually choose something in the top half of the price range. I wanted to portray our Club as a quality chorus that can command good fees for its performances, so I chose the high-to-low approach to reinforce that perception.

I also think it's a good thing to break up a brochure which has a focused message to stop it being boring, hence the introduction of our "intrepid van". Including the photo of our "branded" vehicle again supports the message that we are a Club of substance. but it was also a slight digression to the main message thereby adding an extra point of interest amongst the pictures and words about our singing prowess. Graham Starkie kindly took a photo of the van, and David did some virtual renovation work on his computer so as to show the van at its pristine best! To promote the recruitment message, I asked Chris Bradley to bring his flashy camera equipment to one of the Learn To Sing sessions, where Rhi and some of the guys staged an impromptu rehearsal session for me. I mention that Chris's camera was flashy because in the picture he took, George Colquhoun had his mouth wide open revealing a bright star-like light among his molars. It turned out to be a silver filling in a tooth that reflected the camera's flash back to the picture. Careful air-brushing of his razor sharp teeth soon removed the "Colgate ring of confidence"!

The feedback we have so far received has been good, and much credit for that has to go to Rod for his original work and to David for his creative skills

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

in the design and layout of the brochure. However, as I say to all my business clients, the brochures won't get us any business if they just lie on a shelf gathering dust; we need to get them out into the world where potential customers can see them. So, it's over to you guys to get them placed in public information centres like libraries, and into the hands of owners of clubs, organisations, and charities that hold concerts and shows.

If you have any questions about what's in (and what's not in) the brochure, please feel free to ask! Tag Rag readers who haven't got access to the new brochure can view it from our web site at [www.rbhc.org.uk](http://www.rbhc.org.uk) <<http://www.rbhc.org.uk/>> by visiting the "About TVC" page and clicking on the links at the bottom of that page.

### LAWRENCE MCNULTY

PRO & Marketing Officer.

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### SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

#### **MIKE TAYLOR (19th Sep)**

Mike's first taste of barbershop was in 1980, when at the tender age of 16, he was dragged along to the recently formed Greater Manchester chorus rehearsal by his brother Tim. He sang with the Rainy City Chorus while a student at Oxford and when he moved to Hampshire in 1985, he joined the Solent City Chorus. Within a few months he was assistant Musical Director of the Portsmouth Club and directed or was involved in the musical leadership of the club until 2002.

Though currently 'resting', he has rarely been out of an active quartet since joining barbershop, and has a whole quartet of Silver Medals (Channel 4 and High Fidelity). He most recently sang bass with BABS finalists quartet Spotlight.

In recent years, Mike has developed his coaching skills and in addition to leading the Chorus Stream at Harmony College, he has coached regularly at Scotland's Harmony Junction, and in Holland, Spain and Ireland. Mike specialises in vocal craft, and has an insatiable interest in the mechanics of singing.

Mike is also a significant force in the BABS Chorus Director Training Team. He attended the Society's first Director's College in 1990, and is a leading member of the faculty of BABS Director's Colleges. In 2004, Mike took on the Directorship of Spinnaker, a newly established Sweet Adelines Chorus based near Portsmouth. In their first UK Regional contest in 2006, Spinnaker placed fourth and won the Mid-size chorus division.

In 2005, Mike became a certified member of the Guild of Judges, in the Singing Category. Mike is married to Alison, and has two fast growing youngsters. During the day he is a software engineer.

#### **DAYTIMERS (19th Sep)**

The Daytimers had a very enjoyable sing for the Diabetic Society and their awareness Roadshow last Friday in Reading's Brad Street. It is true to say that most of the passers by were interested enough to stop and listen to what we had to offer. I am left with the impression from the many smiling faces that most if not all liked what they heard. The CEO from the Diabetic Society was there that day and much appreciated our singing and support for their Roadshow. Rumour has it that we might have secured another singout from the appearance. Thank you to Barry Howard for getting us this contact.

#### **DAYTIMERS+ (19th Sep)**

On Sunday we had over twenty singers attend Goring Village hall to sing to Bob Ridley's friends and others at their Harvest Festival luncheon. Phillip Ward did the CD honours on this occasion to the great appreciation of the audience. The village hall was a great place to sing and surprisingly much better than the church that we warmed up in beforehand. Phillip's ability to hold the suspense after the final chord sounded in Battle Hymn of the Republic broke new territory. Congratulations Phillip - well done. Thank you to Bob Ridley for risking your credibility by getting them to invite us.

#### **CLUB GOLF DAY (19th Sep)**

We had a great day out at Wexford Park yesterday. The weather was just perfect for the eighteen holes we played. Twelve members and Geraint's son Hugh turned out. It was unfortunate that the careful arrangements that Alan Hill had made for a 'Society' booking didn't get into the course daily schedule but it was lucky that we found that out fifteen minutes

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

before our first proper tee time so we were asked to get going ASAP. I'm not sure what the repercussions of that were as I left in the first three with a pair of baritones, Andy's Ryzsko and Wheeler. I was disappointed that neither of them followed my lead to get really high numbers on their score cards. The scenery is much prettier the way I do the holes than the boring old fairways and bunkers. The baritones did improve towards the end though because they were much better at finding my ball for me in the later holes. I had a great pitch mark on one of the holes, I can't remember which and my partners insisted that I cover up the evidence so there's nothing to show you now - should have taken a camera! Looking forward to the next time. Thank you for a great day out.

### CD RECORDINGS (26th Sep)

Who was it that said there's nothing more constant than change? Well wasn't he dead right?

Thanks to Sean O'Shea who has introduced me to his son Sean (now there's coincidence!) who is a sound engineer working in the film industry we now find ourselves on the end of an offer of professional help to complete the CD at a very advantageous cost! The great news is that it doesn't change what we had already planned very much and if anything the changes are to our advantage in that it gets the job done sooner.

The significant events happen on two Tuesdays - 17th and 24th October (3 weeks away) when Sean jnr will visit with his colleague John complete with equipment to record as many songs as possible for the CD. Our responsibility is to have ready as many songs as we can to make the most of these evenings. Plans are in-hand to move the extra Sunday rehearsal from the end of October to the 8th to facilitate this.

The rehearsal schedule then looks like this:

Tue Sep 26 Rhi  
Tue Oct 3 No Rhi  
Sun Oct 8 Extra Sunday  
Tue Oct 10 No Rhi - Rhi may be available  
Tue Oct 17 Recording Rhi available  
Tue Oct 24 Recording Rhi available

### MIKE TAYLOR Reminder from Aidan (26th Sep)

I was asked to produce a little synopsis of Mike Taylor's excellent coaching session last week so here goes. This is not intended to be definitive, but merely a starter for ten so, if you can add to this, and/or correct me, please feel free.

As some of you may have noticed, there was nothing new in principle in what Mike was saying. He would be the first to say this. What was interesting was his personal bent on the subject.

As I have said before, I remember Steve Hall saying to me when trying desperately to develop my training skills, "when preparing to coach, find five different

ways of explaining how to achieve the same objective", I have tried since then to do just that but, being a bear of very little brain, never managed more than two or three.

I believe one way to get everyone to understand the various disciplines is to invite different people round to coach, as their differing approaches allow a greater chance of complete understanding.

What Mike managed to do was make us think about certain things in a different way, He mentioned three + one subjects he would like to touch on, two of which he worked on last week:

- Light bright singing
- Freely produced sound

Resonance and Tuning he will probably touch on next time although, in my view, we subconsciously covered these too, last night.

All the following helps to achieve the above:

- Anchored body;  
'Oranges' under the armpits or,  
Form pairs, hold arms and lean outwards with elbows bent. Use your back muscles to maintain your balance.

Other techniques we have learnt to achieve the same thing are:

- Clenched bum cheeks.
- Standing tall and proud whilst singing, i.e. tensing back muscles..
- Growing tall at ends of phrases.
- Gradual use of the lower stomach muscles to push the air, in a measured way, out of your lungs.

All these techniques do is to help you control the amount of air you use to make the sound. Work on this and make it second nature and your vocal production will improve out of all proportion to the eventual effort put in, regardless of your own perceived limitations.

Permanent internal laugh or chuckle - this helps open the throat which leads to silent breaths and freely produced, relaxed sound production.

Singing scales - nothing new here except to reiterate that it is all a matter of mind over matter, i.e. high notes are not problematic unless you make them so. Relaxing into them helps you to achieve. You are better than you think you are. Positive thinking works wonders. Sing with less effort but more purity of sound and aim high without effort.

Singing on the beat - don't allow consonants to get in the way. So;

- a) Minimise the consonants without slurring.
- b) Ensure you sing the vowel of the word on the beat, i.e. get to the target vowel on the beat.
- c) Work the words singing all the word sounds but never allow any part of the word to get in the way of the timely production of the whole. I believe all you need do is sing the words as you'd

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

say them, just remembering the subtle vowel modifications to produce a resonant, matching sound.

Remember, the more who turn up, the easier the job, the quicker we get this CD done and dusted, the sooner we move on to horizons new. We are a team. Please ensure we all work equally as hard to make the job easier and more fun for everyone.

### CHILD PROTECTION (26 Sep)

Please pick up a copy of the booklet 'RBHC and CHILD PROTECTION' that will explain everything about what we have to do to comply with the current legislation. This action is necessary for any number of reasons including our continued membership of BABS. Read and understand the booklet and be ready to contribute to a discussion if necessary at next week's AGM.

### MAKING MUSIC (26 Sep)

The BABS Executive is going through the process of making our Association a member of Making Music because there are significant benefits for us. Please read this slightly edited text explaining the case.

"The proposal to join has many benefits to BABS and individual clubs. Making Music, previously called the National Federation of Music Societies, represents and supports over 2,350 voluntary music groups throughout the UK and offers a comprehensive range of administrative services and training. In addition, because of its size, it can lobby national and local government and other agencies, on behalf of its members.

As well as BABS being a member, each full member club will also become a member of Making Music. There will be no cost for this, but plenty of benefits. The fee for joining Making Music will be covered within the existing BABS operational budget, due to the savings we will make on insurance costs. If the proposal is accepted, then those clubs who are existing members of Making Music will save by not having to renew their individual membership.

The Board believes that by becoming a member, we will be able to take advantage of their administrative expertise and full time support with the added benefit of being able to expose barbershop singing to a much broader musical audience. In return, Making Music recognises the quality and strength of our music educational programmes.

Some of the services that Making Music offers include:

- Insurance Cover - Such as Public Liability, Personal Accident, Property and the highly relevant Abandonment of Concerts, but also from 2007, other types of planned events e.g. workshops may be included.

- CRB Checking - They can provide quick and discounted Disclosure Service in partnership with the CRB.
- Performing Rights - They offer an extremely simple and un-bureaucratic way of fulfilling your legal obligations for PRS licensing when performing music in copyright in an unlicensed venue.
- "How to" Guides - Making Music provides 60 comprehensive Information Sheets and 8 "How to" Guides.
- Legal and Financial Advice - Making Music can provide free advice to members on a range of financial & legal issues.
- Grant Giving - Making Music works closely with grant giving bodies, advising on policy and allocation of funds to arts organisations and music- groups through out the UK.

### TECHNIKA MP-106 (26 Sep)

I went to Tesco in Reading last Thursday to exchange a faulty player only to find that the MP-106 is no longer on the shelves and the replacement is nowhere near as good a tool for teaching tracks. It doesn't have the lanyard earphones and it comes with an Ion-Lithium battery that demands that you have a computer (USB port) to charge it. The day was rescued by the fact the the Technika player is still available from the Tesco web site.

### MP3 TEACHING TRACKS (26th Sep)

The last tracks issued were:

- 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.

### VAN MANAGER (3rd Oct)

After several years as "white van man" Andy Rzysko has asked to be relieved of this task. So, we need a Van Manager. The tasks are:

- Organise the maintenance on the van and any running repairs
- Have the van MOTed and get the tax disc
- Act as an organiser to get someone to drive the van to any function. (You are not expected to drive the van each time yourself).

Please speak to Andy Pearce.

### EMMA'S WEDDING (10th 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 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.

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### TVC FOCUS GROUP (10th Oct)

The Focus Group for the time being will be as below. The composition may be changed from time to time, especially depending on members' actual ability to participate on a regular basis.

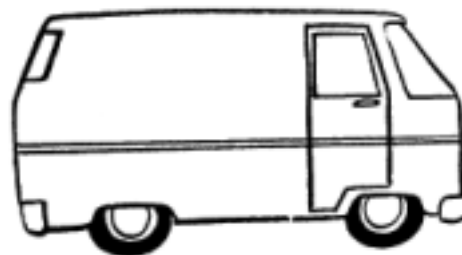
TENORS	Aidan Brand Peter Groves Alex Russell
LEADS	Peter Dawson Alan Hill Julian Charman Mervyn Clark Ed Deacon Lawrence McNulty
BARITONES	Jim Downing Andy Wheeler Brian Milbank Denis Swift Andy Rzysko
BASSES	Peter Cookson Colin Thatcher Richard Leathem Paul Gordon Simon Laight Ian McCann James Porter

These nominations by the section leaders have been made on the basis not just of singing ability, but also of commitment, speed of learning and willingness and aptitude for coaching others. **THE REST OF THE CHORUS'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT TASK IS TO MAKE THE FOCUS GROUP REDUNDANT IN SHORT ORDER WITH EVERY NEW SONG LEARNED!**

### 2006/7 MEMBERS YEARBOOK (10th Oct)

I am now in the process of compiling the texts. Andy Pearce has done a great job in making sure the AGM minutes and reports have been delivered to me in a timely manner; my thanks to Andy and the Executive for responding so promptly. Barry Howard is updating the member contact list. If any of this data has changed within the last twelve months please make sure that that you give Barry an update. You know the form but here's a reminder - Name, Tel, Mobile, Partner's name, Postal and Email addresses and Part sung. If you are a new member it would be worthwhile just checking that Barry has you on his list. Thank you.

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### LIGHT COMMERCIAL VAN SALE

Report of Graham and Irene's attendance at Blackbushe LCV (Light Commercial Vehicle) Auction 3rd August 2006. The purpose was to see the range of vehicles, their prices and generally how the auction works.

We arrived at 8.45 and waited for the gates to open at 9am. After failing to pick up an auction list we went to the viewing area and stalked out the Luton vans of which there were six out of (reportedly) 400 vehicles. Lutons are not hard to spot but we added Tippers and anything with a Double Cab that would convert. We had 10 vehicles on the list altogether. I made a list and Irene took photos to prompt our memories.

As far as price goes there appears to be a direct relationship between age and price. This got me thinking about the age of some of these vehicles. The vans that interested me in today's auction were 9 years (R-£1750), 5 years (Y- £4000 51- £4500), 4 years (O2-£6100), 3 years (O3-£6800 53-£8900). Our van with a D registration (1986) is 20years old. All of these prices attracted 17.5% VAT and a Buyers Fee. The buyer's Fee is a variable quantity depending on the value of the vehicle and the number of vehicles the purchaser buys in the previous twelve months. The cost for us would need to be researched further.

The mechanics of a purchase are adequately spelled out in a free booklet that the auction rooms provide. Blackbushe have a van sales day every Thursday.

After the viewing we took advantage of the cheap breakfast in the dining room - a good fry up for less than £4. The dining room opens at 9am. There were a goodly number of people there most reading the auction lists that were obviously available by this time. I got our copy for £3.50 from the reception area. Just before 10am we went to the auction room and much to our surprise we were the only people there except for one lady on the rostrum who turned out to be one of the officials. We chose our seats in the raked seating at the centre of the back row. We managed most of the auction from this position but there were disadvantages. Smokers congregate in these back seats. Fumes from exhaust rise and if the airflow stops for any length of time through the auction area the noxious gasses get oppressive. Being in the centre gives a good view of action both in front and rear of the vehicles but doesn't let you read

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

the number plate to verify the listed information. There was too much going on to change seats.

Vehicles entered stage-right and pause for the sale and exit stage-left. Bidders were mainly on the floor wandering round and fingering the vehicles. Over a period of time we got to be able to recognise the dealers that were present. They were the ones that were buying more than one vehicle and occasionally having a familiar chat with each other.

Bidding tactics were interesting and there was probably more to individual strategies than we were able to observe. The vehicles normally came in batches from a particular seller. LEX, Lloyds TSB Autolease, Bank of Scotland, Royal Mail and Northgate PLC were here today with an additional 93 individual sales. The first batch from Fleet Direct followed the plan perfectly but the second batch that was from Royal Mail was interlaced with the private sales. There was a period here where we thought the day was going to be too difficult but we eventually latched on. The day's programme actually gave a clue had we known - 10.30 Royal Mail and ONE ON ONE with Light Commercials. Hindsight's a wonderful thing. There were two auctioneers and each took alternate vehicles. The pace was frenetic. Each sale took less than one minute to complete. 400 vehicles at one minute each is 6.6hrs. We started at 10am and finished 6 hours later. The auctioneers banter was unintelligible at first but since the four auctioneers had almost indistinguishable voices, once we'd learned their language we caught most things.

Auctioneers usually started the bidding high but frequently resorted to asking for someone to start with a bid that invariably came in low. £100 increments were normal but £50 and £25 were resorted to as the final price was approached. I left thinking that these smaller amounts were used by the dealers to inflate a price when a non-dealer punter was in the frame.

We saw all 400+ vehicles (there were some late/extra entries) go under the hammer including the ones that had caught our eye. Clearly doing the Club's shopping at an auction is a risky business but I think it would be worth trying to develop the skills. We'd need to do our homework thoroughly beforehand.

I'm left wondering now whether a long-wheelbase panel van would meet our needs. I was against it in the first place because of the lack of daylight in such a van and the fact that I thought all these type of vans were low and narrowed at the top. Maybe we could manage without natural light and practically all the vans we saw were very straight sided. Needs a trip to a van seller to measure things up.

I would like to know if there are any of the sellers that regularly put forward batches of Lutons. The six in today's auction gave very little choice. The next Blackbushe Light Commercial Vehicle sale is 10 August when BT, Citroen, Dagenham, Hitachi Capital, Inchcape Financial Services, Leaseplan, Peugeot

Motor Company and Vauxhall Leasing will be offering sales. Vehicle details are posted at [www.commercialauctionview.com](http://www.commercialauctionview.com) ahead of the sale. LATE NOTE (10th) Seven Luton's at this sale.

Graham Starkie  
7th August 2005

PS - On reflection I ask myself how does today compare with (ten?) years ago when Peter Rowe bought Harvey at Blackbushe? I guess there is a parallel. Peter had had the introduction to the Freight Rover's possibilities because he'd seen what the Bournemouth Club had done with theirs. So he knew what van he was going for. The Freight Rover is a specialist vehicle with a limited secondhand market. I think a similar vehicle at Blackbushe today would be the Royal Mail LDV Convoy Bi Purpose 2.5 Crew Bus. They have a Double Cab (including a table) with a panel van rear for carrying equipment and tools. There were four of these for sale registered in 2001. They looked very tired in faded red but had only done circa 20k miles on Red Diesel (driven on private land). I've also seen similar in British Rail livery. These sold for £1000 plus or minus £250. Good buys but would take a lot of imagination and cash to convert. Unfortunately they don't offer any more capacity than we already have and their dated look that would be difficult to disguise.

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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Very short and not so sweet this time round as I regret to have to inform you of yet another of our A.M. friends having passed away.

This time it is ALAN TURNER and I have had a letter from his wife, Jenny, which I have passed on to Graham for you to read yourselves in this copy of Tag Rag.

Alan has been a loyal A.M. for many years ever since we supplied some singers for his dramatic

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society when they were doing a production of The Music Man in Basingstoke.

I have written on behalf of the Club to express our condolences to his widow.

Sorry to be a bit depressing folks but that is all the news I have for you this month. Better luck next time.

T.T.F.N.

**RON COLLIS**

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

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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' LETTERS

26th September 2006

Dear Ron,

Thank you for the recent copy of the newsletter sent to Alan. I'm so sorry to have to tell you that Alan passed away peacefully at St Michael's Hospice on Sunday 24th September. I know he was always pleased to get the Newsletter, and often talked of how good you all are!

Please be kind enough to tell any members who may have known him and if anyone does, they might like to make a small donation to St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke, in his memory.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Turner

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### HISTORICAL NOTES

**5 Years Ago      October 2001**

**4th** The Daytimers performed in the centre of Reading for Radio Berkshire under the direction of Meyrick Wyard.

**5/7th** At the IABS Convention in Dublin the Thames Valley Chorus were in 5th position out of 8 choruses, the worse result for many years. There were only 32 on the risers singing 'Make 'em Laugh' and 'Bundle Of Old Love Letters'.

C/D was Steve Hall. Pete Powell and Jim Downing sang with both TVC and Royal Harmony Windsor. The winners were Lace City Singers, a female chorus from Nottingham with 75 on the risers. There were a couple of problems during the week-end. The first occurred on Friday evening when the party were leaving the hotel for the evening show, which they were opening. Whilst waiting for the taxis they were informed that the centre of Dublin was sealed off owing to a bomb scare. They eventually got to the theatre and the show went ahead more-or-less on schedule.

On Saturday there was another delay caused by a demonstration marking the anniversary of the hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland. The taxi drivers demonstrated their knowledge and skill in a dramatic manner with Steve Hall's taxi driving at breakneck speed down a one way street the wrong way and the other taxis taking an hour to reach the convention centre.

On Sunday the Chorus performed at Arklow. This year the Avoca Singers did not participate as a choir but a number of their singers took part and provided solos and duets. The show was a sensation, Steve was on top form and Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) were marvellous.

**9th** Visit to rehearsal by Capital Connection under the direction of Rhiannon Hall to perform their contest package prior to the LABBS Convention in Bournemouth.

**16th** At the RBHC AGM the following were appointed to office:

Chairman	George Colquhoun
Administration	Bob Hordle
Membership	Ken Mills
Musical Events	vacant
Music	Graham Starkie
Marketing	Mike Mulroy
Finance	vacant
Non-executive	Rod Adams, Andrew Rzyzsko, Denis Swift

Barbershopper of the year	Graham Starkie (for the 5 <sup>th</sup> time)
Assistant CD	David Wood

**19th** Full Chorus at Ferndown, Near Bournemouth for the National Cancer Research Campaign. The Chorus sang 25 songs in a two-and-a-half hour show, also performing were Rockaholix.

**21st** Rockaholix were at a 70th birthday party at Gerrards Cross.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

**23rd** Recruitment evening. Dave Elson offered to pay three months' Club subscription for the first 20 members who introduce a new recruit on or before October 23rd and who passes the audition. Unfortunately the evening was not as successful as previously.

**31st** Rockaholix were at a private party at Chippenham, Wiltshire

### 10 Years Ago October 1996

**12th** Full Chorus at Wargrave Church for Piggott School with the Piggott School Girls Choir

**15th** At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman	Ed Dolan
Secretary	Philip Wilson
Treasurer	Ken Mills
Barbershopper of the year	Ed Dolan

Honorary Membership was given to John James for his continuous work as Chairman of the Show Committee.

**19th** Full Chorus at St.Luke's Church, Maidenhead with Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Chris Oliver, Rod Adams)

Also on the 19th LABBS held their convention at the International Arena, Cardiff where the Barberettes were in 14th position. On the Friday night show was the Morrision Orpheus Choir, of which I am a member, and I was able to renew some old acquaintances.

**24th** Small Chorus at Dickens Court Old Peoples Home, Wokingham.

**26th** At the Midland Prelims held at Derby Side By Side were mic-warmers at the quartet contest.

Quartet news: **Southern Comfort** (John Carter, Alan Hill, Gerry Holland, Colin Thatcher) had a mixed bag of venues to fulfil ranging from a 50th wedding anniversary in Towcester, a pig roast in the middle of nowhere, the London Churchill Intercontinental on the 16th November and a special gathering at Winchester for SAGA. **Side By Side** had appearances at the Windsor Bowls Club, Pangbourne Golf Club and White Waltham Beer Festival

### 15 Years Ago October 1991

**5th** Full Chorus at Viables Theatre, Basingstoke for Basingstoke Ladies Choir. Appearing with the TVC was Renaissance (Barberettes quartet).

**12th** Full Chorus at Collingwood School, Camberley.

**26th** Full Chorus at Finchampstead Village Hall for Easthampstead Rotary Club.

**29th** At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman	Roger Wilkinson
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Secretary	Rod Clark
Treasurer	Mike McKeown
Members	Peter Rowe, Rod Adams, Phillip Ward
Barbershopper of the year	Robin Nichols

A new appointment was made when Ron Collis became Father Of The Chorus.

### 20 Years Ago October 1986

**11th** A few of the chorus went to the Kennet Centre, Newbury to help recruitment for the Newbury club, organised by Eric Barnes.

**21st** At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman	Bruce Beer
Secretary	Jeremy Tatt
Treasurer	Ron Collis
Members	Ted Howard-Jones, Bob Tatt, Alan Rogers
Barbershopper of the year	shared between Cyril Duckworth & Graham Sutton

### 25 Years Ago October 1981

**24th** Partners In Time (Dick Coles, Pete Powell, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway) appeared on the Chesham annual show at the Elviga Hall, Chesham. Also on the bill were the Barberettes. The M/C was Gerry Holland. Partners In Time also appeared in the Farnborough Sweet Adelines show. Harmony Heritage (Pete Forrest, Nick Carter, Ron Collis, Peter Bugden) were at a charity ball in Basingstoke and also at the Top Rank, Reading for the Diamond Jubilee of the British Legion.

Regards

**HAYDN ADAMS**

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### **SUPPORTERS**

Emma is really excited that you have agreed to sing at her wedding ceremony in October 2007 and promises to be along to Club soon to see "her boys"!

Congratulations to Peter Cookson in achieving the Peter Rowe Barbershopper of the Year Award, a very well deserved recipient.

I hope Figaro have qualified for Convention 2007 in Saturday's Prelims competition. As I type the result is not yet posted on the BABS website.

Congratulations to Lawrence McNulty on the new Club brochure. It is excellent.

Graham and I were pleased to receive Denis's E-mail about the Barberettes sing at St Mary Butts last Saturday evening. The event was in aid of St John's Ambulance with the retiring collection going to the Church Funds. We thoroughly enjoyed the Barberettes performance and they looked stunning. Daphne Powell directed and did a great job. It was great to catch up with old friends and to hear that Daph has recovered from a serious kidney infection.

For those supporters who haven't noted the date, don't forget to put the 9th December in your diaries for the Thames Valley Christmas show at the Desborough Suite. Look forward to seeing you there.

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).

### **BARBERSHOPPERS INTERNET DIRECTORY**

The following sites are known to be useful references for a Barbershop singer. Note that most sites provide links with other related sites which makes navigating round a particular subject are easy. You can get to more or less everything barbershop from the BABS or Society webpages.

#### **RBHC**

[www.rbhc.org.uk](http://www.rbhc.org.uk)

#### **LEARN to SING**

[www.learntosing.org.uk](http://www.learntosing.org.uk)

#### **BABS**

[www.singbarbershop.com](http://www.singbarbershop.com)

#### **SPEBSQSA**

[www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)

#### **BABS Harmony College**

[www.babs-education.info/harmonycollege](http://www.babs-education.info/harmonycollege)

#### **BABS Guild of Judges**

[www.babs-education.info/judges](http://www.babs-education.info/judges)

#### **BABS Chorus Directors**

[www.babs-education.info/directors](http://www.babs-education.info/directors)

#### **Song database:**

[www.songfile.com](http://www.songfile.com)

#### **European Route Planner**

[www.ViaMichelin.com](http://www.ViaMichelin.com)

#### **Post Codes et al**

[www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com) (needs you to login)

#### **Streetmaps**

[www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk)

#### **Telephone Numbers**

[www.192.com](http://www.192.com)

#### **5 Day & 24hr Weather Forecast**

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[www.weather.co.uk](http://www.weather.co.uk)

#### **Consumer Advice (nee Trading Standards)**

[www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)

Additions to this directory will be gladly accepted. Send to 'starkie@btinternet.com'. Happy surfing.

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Thanks to Mike Abbott (Photos), Haydn Adams, Bruce Beer, Syd Boyd, Chris Bradley (Photo), Ron Collis, Peter Cookson, Jim Downing, Barry Howard, Lawrence McNulty, Bob Ridley 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.

Shares are £2 each  
payable by Standing Order.

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

Pay & Play Golf at its very best on  
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The Straight Mile  
Wokingham Berks

Affordable green fees and a warm, friendly  
welcome. Open Monday to Sunday plus Bank  
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course ideal for novice golfers. Wednesday and  
Friday Roll Up at 8am.

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Fully licensed bar.

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book a Tee Time.

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DO YOU need your kitchen or bathroom refitted, or some  
tailor-made shelves to improve your living room? Call

**MAURICE SCOTT**  
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Get your home protected with a 'wire-less' security  
system. Speak to Scotty now for details.  
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

### STOP PRESS

Reading's quartet FIGARO in action at BABS  
Quartet Prelims. Saturday 14th October 2006



L-R Aidan Brand (Tenor), Peter Dawson (Lead) Richard Leathem (Bass) Andy Rzyzko (Baritone).



Photos by Mike Abbott

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

THE REMAINING DAYS OF

## OCTOBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>15</b> <b>BABS</b> <b>Quartet</b> <b>Contest</b> <b>day2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Daytimers+ sing at Marlow
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Extra Sunday rehearsal - CD recordings - Tba	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> Vocal coach Mike Taylor to visit.	<b>October</b> <b>2006</b>			

November 2006 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

## DECEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b> <b>2006</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Daytimers at Weirside Court, Orts Road, Reading 2.30 sing	<b>5</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>6</b> 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> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Day</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>New Year's</b> <b>Eve</b>	<b>December</b> <b>2006</b>					