



# THE RAG AND NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2007



# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**APRIL 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 <b>Rehearsal</b> inc Mark Grindall	4	5	6 <b>Good Friday</b>	7
8 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	9 <b>Public Holiday</b>	10 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	11	12 <b>Daytimers</b> Maidenhead Alzheimers Club	13	14
15	16	17 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <b>Rehearsal</b> 1st Convention Audition	25	26	27	28
29	30	<b>April 2007</b>				

Calendars showing the remaining days of March 2007 and the month of May 2007 are at the back of TAG RAG

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

2007

*	MAR	31	Sat		BABS AGM Worcester
*	APR	12	Thu	Daytimers+	Maidenhead Alzheimers Club Evening sing all welcome
	MAY	15	Tues	Daytimers	Maidenhead Blind Club 2.30 sing
*	MAY	15	Tues	Rehearsal	Mark Grindall at rehearsal
	MAY	25-27	Fri-Sun		BABS Convention Scarborough
	JUN	9	Sat	Full Chorus	Show Reading Town Hall 60th Anniversary of Düsseldorf twinning.
	JUN	13	Wed	Daytimers	Bray Disabled Club at 2pm
	JUN	28	Thu	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Wokingham at 2.30pm
	JUL	4	Wed	Daytimers	Notrees Nursing Home Kintbury
*	AUG	25-27	Fri-Sun		BABS 29th Harmony College Worcester
	OCT	27	Sat (aft)	Full Chorus	Emma Taylor's wedding singout - Hambledon nr Henley.
*	NOV	9-11	Sat	Full Chorus	Warsaw trip.
	NOV	13	Tues	Daytimers	Tuesday Club, Hungerford Town Hall to sing at 2pm
	NOV	29	Thu	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Wokingham at 2.30pm
	DEC	12	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Reading 2.30 sing
	DEC	19	Wed	Daytimers	Weirside Court, Orts Rd, Reading

2008

*	FEB	Feb 29- Mar 2	Fri-Sun	Full chorus	Away Weekend Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth (Provisional booking)
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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

**10TH APRIL FOR 17TH DISTRIBUTION**



#### **CHAIRMAN'S SPOT**

Once again this month I was privileged to be able to hand a sizeable cheque to charity, in this case Daisy's Dream. This time the money came from members' own pockets, via the Christmas Greetings scheme run by Graham and Irene Starkie in the December Tag Rag. It was a magnificent response – thank you all.

Sometimes I hear members querying the five target vowels system which we use in the chorus, either because they think it sounds strange, or because they're not sure which target to aim for in a particular word. Trust me, this system is used by many, many singing teachers and is designed to sound musical. In addition, when you think of the number of different regional accents in the chorus, it

has the benefit of being simple to remember and helps us all to blend our voices.

When you think further of the variety of cultural and social backgrounds of our membership, you might be forgiven for thinking that any attempt to form a cohesive team out of such a collection would be doomed to failure. But such differences are ignored when we come together to make music, and our club has an enviable success record.

Thus it was at the Away Weekend. (By the way, one of the advantages of being chairman is that my piece is right at the front of the magazine: by the time you reach the back pages you'll have read enough about the Away Weekend to last you at least a year.) Thanks must go to all that had a hand in arranging this event, to our visiting coach, Mark Grindall, and of course to Aidan for organising the beer. From my position on the front row, the improvement in sound quality as we all strove to apply the lessons we were learning was quite staggering. Every man there worked hard to ensure that his voice blended with the rest of the chorus, with the result that overtones were ringing all over the place. When we added a bit of artistry and emotional interpretation, you could see Rhiannon and Mark were impressed. Well done to you all. We shall be building on this work in the coming weeks – please practise at home and try to attend as many club nights as possible.

The general view seemed to be that this was one of the best away weekends ever. The executive committee have been studying the questionnaires we issued last month, and will be reporting back to the club shortly. If, after the event, you have anything more you wish to say, or perhaps have modified your views about it, please let Barry or one of the other executive team have your comments as soon as possible – we want all opinions to be heard.

We have every reason to be proud of what we do. There's no better hobby than this.

In Harmony  
**JOHN PRICE**

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#### **FRONT COVER**

Top and middle photographs of Away Weekend by David Colver

Bottom photograph of Vickie Randall of Daisy's Dream receiving a £540 cheque from Chairman John Price.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

## EDITORIAL

Thank you to you all for your cooperation in making the Away Weekend such a great success. It took off with rather more than its usual flare. Mark Grindall's contribution gave us a valuable injection of ideas that really did make a difference. His teachings were both effective and practical and hopefully we'll have as much success with them in the future as we did on the weekend. Thank you Mark.

I was particularly impressed with the way the hotel responded to our concerns of the past; the lunches were at least an order of magnitude better this time than last. And, thanks to Aidan's initiative we enjoyed a cask or two of real ale over the bar although I didn't manage more than the smallest of slurps to sample its flavour. I have now received the hotel contract to sign for 2008. It is more or less a repetition of this year with a very small increase in costs over the equivalent weekend that includes the extra day of the Leap Year. That's Friday February 29th to Sunday 2nd March. I did try to book for a week later but that weekend has already gone to a large group of Bridge players. These dates maybe to our advantage if the Exec decides we go there because the hotel is considering holding a Leap Year dance on the Friday - watch the space.

I give my thanks to this month's contributors. With Scarborough next on the horizon Andy Pearce's preview of some important issues makes informative and interesting reading and Denis Swift raises an observation in his piece about us paying attention to Rhiannon. I thought that we were doing much better in this area these days. My knowledge of the 'Morrison' must be seriously out of date because I thought they were conducted by a man! I'm sure Haydn will bring us up to date on this. But, back to the issue Denis raises - 'delivering first time when asked' - Denis assumes that it is solely an attention problem. Is it really as simple as that? If learning is involved it's not unreasonable to expect it to take a little longer. Perhaps we should investigate Denis's well-made point further?

The Performance Team has a very interesting programme of rehearsals scheduled for us over the coming weeks and I've included some detail in the calendars. Note that the first visit of the LTS students to start the process of learning 'I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT' and reviewing 'DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING?' is next week on the 27th March; that's followed by another one on the 5th June just before the Town Hall show on the 9th. It should not escape your attention that there is a further parallel activity with all these preparations - the two Audition Evenings for

Convention. I'll be asking the Performance Team to describe this process in reasonable detail so that we can all give it our best shot. I'll share that in next month's Tag Rag or Tuesdays' Notices if that is more appropriate.

In PEEK IN THE PAST this month I've dug out an article written by Ron Collis about that Convention in 1976 that we know so little about. If you read your February 2007 Harmony Express you'll see that BABS doesn't even have any records. Thank you Ron for giving us these important notes. I only wish you'd mentioned the song titles. I've also included some fillers used at that time originated by Harry Foster. You may remember that Harry's wife Marie came along to rehearsal night recently. The answers to Harry's riddles are the quartet names of that time. See if you can match them up - Keyrings, Four No Trumps, Barrytones and Forrestaires.

## **GRAHAM STARKIE**

Editor

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## **BARBERSHOP BABES**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
MARCH'S NONET**

**ROD ADAMS  
SYD BOYD  
GEORGE COLQUHOUN  
JIM DOWNING  
PAUL GORDON  
DON JEFFERY  
STEPHEN JESSOP  
PHIL STEWART  
ANDY WHEELER**

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### SCARBOROUGH PREVIEW

Andy Pearce and his wife Lynda made a reconnaissance visit to Scarborough on our behalf recently and his report that follows will give you a flavour of what he found. This will be repeated in the Convention pack that Andy will give you in May.

**The Journey** - We took about five hours from Wokingham, with a half hour stop, yes we did sit at about 80 on most of the motorway routes, and there were no hold ups. I followed an AA route that was broadly: M4; A34; M40 to Junction 10; A43 to M1; M1 to M18; M18 to M62; M62; to A614; A614 to Bridlington then the A165 from Bridlington to Scarborough.

The A614 and A165 is a relatively flat route, nice scenery, mainly single carriageway, lots of roundabouts, but it bypassed most places and was a nice drive. Getting to the hotel was a bit complex, but I hope to be able to give better instructions than I got from the AA.

I would advise people to allow at least six and a half hours to get there from the Thames Valley area. Rhiannon, I would assume you would go to a suitable point on the M62 and then pick up my route. We left at about 9am on a Friday.

**The Hotel** - St Nicholas Hotel, St Nicholas Cliff, YO11 2HE. The hotel is on the left of St Nicholas Cliff as you enter by road, directly opposite the Grand Hotel. The Grand has seen better days.

**The Warm up/Rehearsal Location** - The Royal Hotel, St Nicholas Street, YO11 2HE. This hotel is on the left hand bend of St Nicholas St, about 200 yards from the Chorus hotel. We will be using the Prince Regent Room, on the first floor. I am arranging for water to be supplied. We have this room booked from 9am to 12 noon.

**The Convention Venue** - When you come out of the St Nicholas hotel, turn half right and walk across the parking area/road for about 80 mtrs. To your right you will then see a pedestrian wide walkway that goes over the Valley Road. This walkway has a gentle downward slope towards the Spa Complex. You keep to the left at any of the forks in this path and you will end up at road level at the complex. The total distance is about 400 mtrs and should take about 8 to 10 minutes to stroll down. Further details will be provided nearer the time for changing rooms and warm up. There is currently some renovation work being done, we are assured that it will be finished in time for our event. I have seen inside the Grand Hall where the competition will take place. Very high ceiling, lots of windows and hard surfaces, I think it will be a very "lively" hall for singing. I could not get to the stage to see the layout so we will have to wait and see. There will be changing in the Ocean Room, very large hall to one side of the complex and warm up rooms within the Grand Hall/Theatre complex.

There is a very large Buffet Bar to the right of the main entrance serving food and drinks.

If you are going back to the St Nicholas hotel then you can retrace your steps back up the walkway, as it's quite long the "gentle incline" may not feel so gentle. An alternate way back is to walk away from the Spa Complex, staying at sea level, along the beach road to where there is a roundabout connecting the front to Valley Road. Keep to the shore road with the roundabout on your left, and in about another 100 mtrs you can cross over and you should be at the base of one of the cliff lifts. I think that BABS are going to get a concession, however it only costs 50P to ascend and it brings you out by the Grand and the St Nicholas is right in front of you.

**Parking** - The hotel has an area in front of the building that will allow you to park for about 20 minutes to unload and book in, but you will then have to move the car. There is very limited parking in the hotel. We can park in the road around the hotel, but this is limited stay, about 4 hours, however I am told by the hotel that they have some parking permits that will allow people to stay all day Sat and up to 1pm Sunday. This will cost about £5. Alternatively there are car parks around the town, the

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hotel has a concession with a n NCP car park i n North St, but it's about a 5 minute walk back to t he hotel. I will issue all d rivers with a town Parking Guide nearer the convention date. I will also give you copies of some maps, however those with computers and can use the internet you could go to <http://www.streetmap.co.uk/newsearch.srf?> Type i n the St Nicholas post code and get a copy of the map yourself.

**Eating Establishments** - Lynda and I spent part of a Saturday looking around the town for eateries. It is reasonable to say that Scarborough caters for a different group of people than say Harrogate, s o there are a lot of fish shops and small cafes. There is an ASK restaurant, it's on the sea front by the Old Harbour, about a 12-15 minute walk from the Spa. Other than a Pizza Hut we did not see any other well-known chain restaurants. I will issue a list o f restaurants that are worth looking at but please note that we did not use any of them, time did not permit, so the suggestions are based o n the look o f t he places and the menus we saw in the windows.

### ANDY PEARCE

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### A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT?

"When I ask (them) to d o something, they not only do the correct thing, but they gave m e that extra mile. There is just something - I've only got t o give an example o f an emotion that I want a cross, and they immediately feel it in their hearts. (They have) passion in their souls."

These words were heard from a lady director o f a choir that is well known to many of us.

It would be nice to be able to say that this w as Rhiannon talking about her men (us!) but it wasn't. It was the director o f the M orriston Orpheus Choir speaking o n a recent programme in the Living I n Harmony series on Radio 2.

I a m sure that the members o f the M orriston Orpheus are not that much different from us, if a t all. Indeed, one o f their number i s a former T VC member\*.

So why i s i t that they i mmediately deliver exactly what the director requires, rather than needing three, four, five runs at it? No, I don't exaggerate: we had just this situation last Tuesday (13th March) when Rhiannon repeatedly demonstrated a phrase t o the chorus; w e needed this number o f tries before Rhiannon was satisfied. And this i s n o rarity. I t might be a question o f timing, o f phrasing, vowel sound, volume, but it is really seldom that we deliver what is asked without repeated attempts. And, when we do, the repeatability i s always i n doubt because, usually, the very next time w e sing that phrase, i t falls back to what it was before.

This is sad. Rhiannon rarely complains, t hough I think she has grounds to when w e don't take o n board what she is asking. She happens to be one of the finest directors and music coaches in BABS and it is an absolute privilege to have her as our music director. She makes fantastic efforts on our b ehalf. We should respect that and work accordingly.

Mark Grindall pointed out at the Away Weekend that various singing procedures need lots o f hard work to make them happen and keep on happening. Well, perhaps w e need a little m ore o f that hard work o n Tuesday evenings to achieve *regularly* the high standard that Rhiannon is looking for and of which we are more than capable. Mark told us that some parts of our songs were in the >80% zone, s o we know we can do it.

Even though it's "just a hobby", we can't afford a laid back approach o n Tuesdays. The effort has to be there, right through from "Today, I feel older . .

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." to LGTA. That's when quality becomes second nature.

### DENIS SWIFT

\* For the newer members: Haydn Adams, author of our monthly 'Historical Notes' and occasional 'Across The Bridge' feature in Tag Rag was a member of the barbershop section until his retirement in 1991.

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### AWAY WEEKEND - SUNNY

#### BOURNEMOUTH

You will be pleased to hear that last weekend in Bournemouth was the sunniest we have yet had, and I do not mean the weather.

I have not had such a rewarding away weekend like this one since I started to attend, which I think has been from when they were introduced. However, someone will correct me if I am wrong - will you not? The presence of Mark Grindall was inspired and together with Rhiannon out front we really could not go wrong could we?

A lot of planning went into this and with very able assistance in the background by many others, I am sure that I was not the only one who benefited from the experience. What we now MUST do is to carry this learning into all future rehearsals; that said we will be the winners as we will get better and that's not a bad thing.

To hear that Mark is coming back must surely speak volumes about how we grasped the nettle, then to also be told that he would like to be with us on Convention day is very encouraging.

For me an old TV saying comes to mind "Waggons Roll". Lets give ourselves a chance to show BABS we can sing beautifully and mean it

Yours for a Beautiful Song

### PHILLIP WARD

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### SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

#### **POCKET WATCH (20th Feb)**

Does anyone have information about the very large pocket watch that Andy Wheeler was supposed to use in our *Top Hat/Stepping Out Medley* at last year's convention? It seems to have disappeared into a 'black hole'! It would be nice to have it safely returned to my props store ready to be used for the next occasion by one of the amateur theatrical groups I help. Please let me know if you have any ideas, many thanks, Mike McKeown"

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT (20th Feb)**

Andy Pearce tells me that Malcolm Buckner's report on our handling of the risers, carpet and the van was very short. Andy's précis is shown below. It arrived too late to be included in Tag Rag.

"He looked at the handling of the carpet, this he put as a High Risk when lifting the carpet from the school floor. He then rates the handling of the carpet under the stage as a Medium risk.

The risers, moving them to and from the van he considered that an Insignificant risk, this also applied to the assembling of the component sections. He considered that moving the completed riser sections together at the back were a Low risk, however he felt that bringing the front sections together were a High risk.

The van ramp he considers to be a Low risk.

#### **Suggestions to consider**

**The carpet.** Under the stage he would suggest that we should consider resting it on trestles, thus ensuring that when its moved we don't have to lift it from the floor level. Reducing the weight of carpet, we should consider cutting it in half and having it joined by Velcro. As for moving the carpet, we should consider getting two or three sections of rope with wooden handles that we loop around the carpet to enable us to get a better purchase on the rolled up section.

**The risers.** The main area to watch is when we link the assembled sections to each other. The front section where we have to lift it on to the adjacent risers is where the risk is. Inherently we are all likely to just bend over and lift it. We should crouch down at the front, keeping our backs straight and then lift it in to position.

He has given us a copy of some NOTES ON MANUAL HANDLING that all Club members should have. These summarise the points made in the short training course he gave us. The A5 sheet of Notes is on the Table - Keep the copy in your YEARBOOK."

#### **TWINNING EVENT UPDATE (27th Feb)**

Tickets for this show will be available from the Box Office, Reading Town Hall from 1st March. Phone 0118 960 6060. It is also possible to book online at the website <[www.readingarts.com](http://www.readingarts.com)>. Tickets will **not** be available at Tuesday rehearsals as they are printed when purchased.

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### AWAY WEEKEND 2007 (6th Mar)

Thanks for your support over the weekend. Everything on the hotel front seemed to go to plan. The issues that I sought to change from last year all worked very well. I was disappointed that the Stour room was not as available as I had planned but it didn't matter because of a change in our programme.

### BABS HARMONY COLLEGE (6th Mar)

I was reminded recently by Peter Groves that I haven't put the date in Tag Rag for this year's **BABS 29th Harmony College** - it's the **25th-27th August 2007**. I can now advise that the songs they'll be featuring are HEY, LOOK ME OVER, FOR ALL WE KNOW and DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING? Note: No discount if you know them already!

### JOIN THE QUEUE! (27th Feb)

BABS Annual General Meeting of the Association,  
to be held at the Worcester College of Education  
Conference Centre, Henwick Grove,  
Worcester WR2 6AJ,  
on Saturday 31 March 2007  
commencing at 11 a.m.

John Price and Graham Starkie will be attending on your behalf. If you'd like to join us for the day out you just need to mention it to either of us. We've not decided how we are going to travel so why don't you be part of the equation?

### SONG IN THE LEARNING PHASE (6th Mar)

The teaching materials for the following songs are now available.

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT  
HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH MYSELF  
FIELDS OF GOLD issue 1.4

And - a legal copy of the score for DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING? is now available. Please destroy any 'yellow' LtS copies that you may have.

### WARSAW/KRACOW - POLAND (6th Mar)

At the away weekend we established the following level of interest for the Poland trip. Those members who were not at the Weekend will be asked tonight or phoned during the week to make the picture represent all members.

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Warsaw	35	4	5
Kracow	25	6	6
Partners	24	2	9
Guests	6/8		

These numbers make a viable chorus. We'll now crack on and prepare our application, determine cost etc.

### CONGRATULATIONS (13 Mar)

To Les and Sue Hearn who gained a grandson Joel Michael at the weekend on their wedding anniversary. Now that takes a bit of organising - we certainly didn't think Les had those skills within him. Weighing in at 8lbs 8oz both mum and baby are doing very well.

### HARVEY TO THE RESCUE (13th Mar)

I used the riser van to give a helping hand to the school this afternoon and that was the reason the risers were already erected in the hall for you tonight. The school had an opportunity to take advantage of some free workshop equipment from a company in Wokingham that is closing down.

### AWAY WEEKEND 2008 (13th Mar)

Yes, this is in anticipation of returning to the Marsham Court next year - I've pencilled 29th February - 2 March in the hotel's diary. The later dates of 7th-9th March I said I would look to booking are already taken by a large Bridge gathering using some of the rooms that we would miss having. Please be aware that the Club Executive are deliberating over the questionnaires that our members completed which may affect this booking. But please don't hesitate to put the 29th February - 2 March dates in your diary at least for the time-being.

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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By BOB RIDLEY Acting Assistant to the Associate Member Coordinator

My grateful thanks to Stella for checking with Ron what I am saying here on his behalf. He sends his best wishes to you all.

I asked Associate Members to let me have their email addresses and this month I was pleased to receive several more responses to [bob.ridley@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.ridley@btinternet.com).

Larry Hurst lived locally but he has since moved to New York. He is a good friend of Emma and became a welcome supporter of the TVC when she was first trying hard to improve our choreography. He was a local performer himself, so I asked him whether he still performed. His response is below. It was great to hear that you are still entertaining audiences in New York, Larry.

Many of you will remember Mike Abbott joining us on the trip to the International Convention in Anaheim. I recommend you to look at his excellent videos on 'YouTube': search for 'barbershop uk'. We will look forward to seeing him again in Scarborough.

It was great to hear from Tony Patman. How clever of him to move to Scarborough just in time to see us all there in May! A welcome email from Bruce Beer shows that even our current hectic song learning does not match that of the V M. John Nixon was another member of the party who went to Anaheim and now he lives in Llanbadoc, Monmouthshire.

Larry Hurst is the latest AM to say that he can now read TAGRAG on our website [www.rbhc.org.uk](http://www.rbhc.org.uk) so he has requested that we do not post it to him. (The photographs of the Chairman with the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and even the Daytimers at the Royal Berkshire Hospital are much better on the website!) We will, of course, continue to send

TAGRAG to everyone else unless they make a similar request.

Thank you all the A Ms for continuing to support the RBHC.

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS LETTERS AND EMAILS

Larry Hurst (by email)

'Great to get your responses, Bob - One short of a quartet! [For some reason my email response was sent identically 3 times: the imac took control !!]

Yes, my septuagenarian basso profano lives on - in a jazz ensemble: luckily for you, 3450 miles away. And luckily for Emma, no choreography is needed other than shuffles, shrugs and, especially, facials. (I taught them Pete Powell's "My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean" and they really took to the frowns: mixed with a smile, tears literally flowed...Thanks, Pete.)

Best wishes to all'  
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Mike Abbott

'Dear Ron, It is that time of year again when I need to renew my Associate Membership. My cheque is enclosed. I am aware of your current condition and I know that you are being well covered by visits from RBHC members. I would like to add my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

I have been busy in the last year as a member of the Music & Education video team. It has been a great pleasure having the opportunity to video rehearsals of the National Barbershop Youth Chorus and at their last rehearsal. I was also able to gain some footage of the LABBS Youth Chorus - The Ivy League. I have used YouTube on the web to allow interested people to view both choruses.

Yours in Harmony'

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Tony and Ruth Patman (by email)

'Dear Bob, Thanks for your letters. It is sad to hear that Ron is so ill, and both Ruth and I sincerely wish him a good recovery.

As always, looking forward to seeing you all in May; and this time, you will all be coming to our hometown! Yes, we moved to Scarborough last year. Let's hope that the Convention is a success. The Spa is a very different venue from modern centres like Harrogate, but I think it will work well!

Kind regards,'

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Bruce Beer (by email)

'This year the Vocal Majority go as retiring champions to International in Denver. We are also in the middle of learning 5 new songs in parallel – one is an 11 page up-tune – we have just laid down the first 3 tracks of our new Christmas CD, the rest to follow over the next few months, and we have our annual Spring shows in April – so it is all extremely busy!!

As soon as Tag Rag starts to get a bit anemic, my little pinkies will burst into life and create another major literary tome, so warn the chorus they had better get writing or else ..... Anyway, all the best to you and the “lads”, please give a hug to Ri and Irene for me, and I will hope to see y'all again on my next trip over.

Cheers,

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John Nixon

'Dear Ron, Just a short note to wish you well in your recovery. I know it will seem like an eternity, but each day will be better than the previous....

All my best wishes'

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### HISTORICAL NOTES

#### **5 Years Ago March 2002**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Basingstoke  
The Chorus was unsuccessful on this occasion with lots of praise from the adjudicators.

8<sup>th</sup> Daytimers at Magnolia Court, Bracknell

16<sup>th</sup> Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) appeared on the Barberettes show at Lower Earley.

18<sup>th</sup> Daytimers at Crescent Court, Woodley

#### **10 Years Ago March 1997**

8<sup>th</sup> Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Chris Oliver, Rod Adams) were at a Ladies evening at Slough Masonic Centre.

15<sup>th</sup> RBHC Show “Natural Harmony” at the Hexagon Reading Taking part was:

Thames Valley Chorus  
Side By Side, Flying High (Pat Deeble, Graham Frampton, Jim Downing, Ed Dolan)  
Natural Theatre Company (mime artists)  
Pangbourne College Swing Band  
Compare Ed Stewart (BBC Radio 2)

Notable items:

- Brian Callaghan and the four foot diameter spider in the Banana Boat Song.
- Graham Lawrence & Derek Hird making all the TVC spot announcements.
- Ed Stewart joining in the line-dancing routine in Mary Lou.
- This year was the first time ever in the history of RBHC shows that we handed over control for the running of a show to the theatre staff.
- The show producer was Chris Davidson.

22<sup>nd</sup> Small Chorus at Basingstoke Rotary President's night.

On the same evening Side By Side were at the Maidenhead Bowls Club.

#### **15 Years Ago March 1992**

14<sup>th</sup> RBHC Show Hexagon Reading “They Still Don't Write Songs Like That Anymore Show”. Taking part was:

Thames Valley Chorus,  
Reading Barberettes,  
Quartz Precision (1989 BABS Quartet Champions)  
London Bluegrass Band,  
MC Roy Dawson

At the North Berks Music Festival the Barbershop quartet competition was won by: Bagatelle (Aidan Brand, Peter Dawson, Ian Douglas, Andy Balchin)

#### **20 Years Ago March 1987**

14<sup>th</sup> Music Festival, Godalming  
We were the only entrants for the Barbershop competition and had 27 on the risers.

#### **25 Years Ago March 1982**

9<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at Datchet

27<sup>th</sup> North Berks Music Festival, Abingdon  
Thames Valley Chorus and Partners In Time (Dick Coles, Pete Powell, Ian Douglas, Dave Highway) were the only entrants in the Barbershop competition for choruses and quartets.

#### **30 Years Ago March 1977**

At the RBHC AGM Pete Powell was elected Chairman and also Barbershopper Of The Year.  
Secretary -.Graham Starkie

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Treasurer - Fred Bailey  
Committee - Dave Elson, Ian Fullbrook, Gerry Thurgut  
Barry Nowell took over from Pete as Chorus Director.

At the BABS AGM Gerry Holland became Chairman of BABS.

Regards

**HAYDN ADAMS**

\*\*\*\*\*

### OOPS!

The Chairman apologises for his slip of the finger in his last month's Chairman's Spot when he said "Let me make it clear that there will be an away weekend LAST year! My apologies for not editing it out and thanks to Sean for spotting it.

\*\*\*\*\*



### SUPPORTERS

We had mixed weather at the Away Weekend but it didn't stop us shopping and sightseeing while the Chorus got on with their business. We shopped on the Saturday (now there's a surprise) and had a nice walk by the sea as that was our good weather day. Sunday was very wet and windy and so we visited the Russell Cotes museum which is opposite the hotel and absolutely fascinating. This was my second visit and I still managed to find things I hadn't seen before. They have a small restaurant which is very good and so we lunched there also. As the men's timetable showed that they finished at 4.30 p.m. we decided we would pop in to their rehearsal for the final 45 minutes to see the results of their efforts over the weekend, only to find they had finished early!! I am sure there were a lot of tired men as by all accounts they worked very hard and felt they had achieved a lot.

Gosh, what a lot of effort Andy and Linda Pearce have put in to making life easier for everyone attending the Convention in Scarborough. I am sure everyone will appreciate their research. Thank you both.

One of the major exciting events in the Club's calendar this year is the visit of the chorus from

Düsseldorf for the twinning concert at the Town Hall in Reading on the weekend of 9th June. There are sixteen members of the chorus coming over with seven family and friends, arriving on Thursday 7th and departing on Sunday 10th except for two couples who return on the 17th. They are looking for hosting over the weekend and currently we don't have enough volunteer hosts. They will be taking a coach trip on the Friday and will be rehearsing on the Saturday afternoon for the show that evening. Peter Cookson has put a list on the noticeboard and so if you are able to host one or two people could you please ask your partner to sign up or let Peter know.

Congratulations to Les and Sue Hearn on their latest addition to the Hearn household. Very well timed arriving on your wedding anniversary, although it does mean you will have to share your anniversary celebrations with his birthday in future!

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

**IRENE**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Golden sandy beaches Lots of historic remains Relaxed nightlife

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(Bracknell) Evenings.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

## INTERNET SCAMS & FIDDLES

**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.

Thanks to Haydn Adams, David Colver, Peter Cookson, Andy Pearce, John Price, Bob Ridley, Denis Swift, Phillip Ward and Irene for supplying copy.

### Editor

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

## 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



### PEEK IN THE PAST

From TAG RAG dated April 1978

#### ANNUAL CONVENTION BRUM 1977

As this is the first "Tag Rag" to come off the press since last year's convention a few thoughts in retrospect may help to prepare us in some small measure for the next one at Leicester in September 1977.

As each year passes the membership grows, a greater number of quartets and choruses wish to participate and, as a result, there is additional pressure on the organisers regarding accommodation, transportation, contest organising, judging etc, and considering the difficulties, the organisers of the Birmingham Convention did a fantastic job. I think that those of us who had attended the Brighton meeting in 1975 missed the intimate "family" feeling engendered by the fact that everything took place under one roof, the whole weekend thus passing without any of the pressures we all felt at Birmingham in trying to keep pace with all the events taking place in widely scattered buildings.

My sympathies were with the day-trippers, most of whom I only saw during the few minutes we were all together for our chorus performance, for they must have had a very disappointing day indeed. Even the weather seemed to conspire against them to make the journey home both difficult and dangerous. I hope and believe that the arrangements will be better at Leicester for anyone who can only manage to come for the day.

Looking on the bright side however it was a very successful convention for Reading and we were particularly pleased and proud of the Barberettes who after only six-months' existence took second place to Tyneside Ladies in their chorus competition. Their number one quartet, the Minor Birds, turned on a fantastic performance to win the Ladies Quartet Championship. In the men's competition our very own beautiful Barrytones became the new Quartet Champs, as some of us had

been predicting for months and showed us all the way it should be done. Our chorus came fifth in a very keen contest in which only 19 points separated third and fifth places and although we were some way below Bristol in points scored, we might have easily made up those few extra marks to get us in the placings and at least have maintained the third place we got at Brighton.

It is easy to be wise in retrospect but if only we had paid a little more attention to Pete in practise; if only we had tried just a little bit harder to get our moves right and perfectly synchronised; if only we had sung instead of shouted in the loud passages and really made the quiet ones quiet; if only - Lets not make the same mistakes this year fellas. When we are learning and practising our songs for this coming Convention let's all make that little bit of extra effort to get the notes right in the first place, listen to what our chorus director says, know what he wants us to do and then damn well do it instead of clowning around, wasting his time, trying his patience and throwing away our competition chances.

We could make it this year! Let's all try that little bit harder eh fellas? What do you say?

Ron Collis

\*\*\*\*\*

### RIDDLES AND A LIMERICK

My first is the front of a bold man-o-war  
My second the link up to bed,  
My whole? HAS A BARI WITH WINGS.

My first is a call from golfer on tee  
My second a call from bridge.  
My whole? NEEDS A JOKER, OR HAS IT GOT ONE

My first is in Wales, a spot by the sea,  
My second could also be mellow,  
My whole? PERFECTION

My first is a means of opening the door,  
My second the sound of a caller.  
My whole? THE LONG THE YOUNG AND THE COMIC  
(Answers are in this month's Editorial.)

A young Reading man who could sing,  
Gave Barbershop singing a fling,  
He found three more guys  
Who were equally wise  
And between them they made the chords ring.

HARRY FOSTER

\*\*\*\*\*

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



Away Weekend 2007  
Photographs by David Colver

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**MARCH 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>18</b> Mothers Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> inc LTS students	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>BABS AGM</b> <b>Worcester</b>

April 2007 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**MAY 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> maidenhead Blind Club. for Daytimers <b>2nd Convention</b> <b>Audition.</b> TAG RAGCOPY DEADLINE	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> BABS Convention Scarborough Day 1 of 3	<b>26</b> BABS Convention Scarborough Day 2 of 3
<b>27</b> BABS Convention Scarborough Day 3 of 3	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April</b> <b>2007</b>	

### SITUATIONS VACANT CONVENTION ORGANISER

Andy Pearce is standing down as convention organiser as of the 2007 Convention. The Club needs to have a volunteer to organise our participation in the 2008 Convention, as well booking a hotel. As yet BABS are not disclosing the location of that event, but we need someone in place when it is announced. Andy is prepared to give advice and guidance to that person, but we need to have someone to step up to the mark and get involved. Interested? - Please talk to Andy to find out what is required to do the job.