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# THE RAG AND NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

Many Happy Returns on your 60th Rhiannon



Rhiannon and Whitney ready for the party.

**STOP PRESS**  
See Bob Ridley's  
ASSOCIATE  
MEMBER NEWS on  
page 11.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**JUNE 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>June 2007</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Show Reading Town Hall
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAGCOPY DEADLINE	<b>13</b> Daytimers Bray Disabled Club	<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>26</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Daytimers Kennet Court Woosehill	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

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

2007

MAY	15	Tues	Daytimers	Maidenhead Blind Club 2.30 sing
MAY	15	Tues	Rehearsal	Mark Grindall at rehearsal
MAY	18/19	Fri/Sat	Chorus	Fawley Craft Fair
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	2	Mon	Proposed Golf Day at Billingbear
	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
	MAY	23-25	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	BABS Annual Convention The Centaur Building Cheltenham Racecourse

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

**8TH JUNE FOR 15TH DISTRIBUTION**



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

Thank you to all those who helped to make Rhiannon's birthday celebration such a success. It was a really great evening. I love making our chorus director cry (in the nicest possible way, of course).

As I look through my notes of the exec meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, I find that I'm down to give some feedback on the questionnaire which was circulated before the away weekend. Nobody has responded to my request in the following Tag Rag for post AWE comment, so this is the picture. As you will recall, the basic question we asked was, "Next year, would you prefer the Away Weekend to be at a venue closer to home, so that hotel expenses were unnecessary?" The replies were, "Yes" - 16, "No" - 14, and "No preference" - 10. But this

wasn't just a "first past the post" vote. Many added further comments qualifying their answer, and made additional suggestions about how this event, and club life in general, could be improved. These were all diligently typed out and circulated to the whole committee for careful consideration. For some, it wasn't the hotel expenses that governed their preference, but the length of the journey. Nearly all felt that the benefits of the away weekend in building team unity and the opportunity for concentrated learning of our craft would be lost or severely diluted if the event were held too near to home. There was even one request for two such weekends - one to hone our singing skills, and the other solely for competition preparation. The replies were varied, for and against. Issues of finance occupied many. The club will help any member in a case of genuine need, but we can't make the event "free" unless we increase subscriptions or get some very well-paid singouts.

Viewing the exercise as a whole, it was decided that the away weekend should continue in its current format for the foreseeable future, and so Graham has been asked to book the same hotel for next year.

Speaking of hotels, Phillip Ward is continuing his negotiations with the Queen's Hotel in Cheltenham for next year's Convention. This does seem to be the only hotel in the area with the capacity and facilities we need, but it comes at a cost. Please start your planning now.

We also need volunteers to clear out the area under the stage, and arrange better storage for our props and spare uniforms. It smells pretty musty down there, which can't be doing our things any good. It's time we had a detailed inventory of the props and other club possessions as well. If you're prepared to have a go, tell an exec member and we'll put a team together.

Yesterday, the Performance Team attended the second seminar with Mark Grindall. This time we were struggling with the task of recognizing and analyzing problems in the sound produced by a very able sample quartet. Our grateful thanks go to Simon Laight, Paul Gordon, Andy Wheeler, and John Cook from Windsor, who had to stand and listen to all our discussions. I hope the coaching from Mark made the whole ordeal worthwhile. Again, the message is simple: address the basic techniques, and most of your perceived problems will be solved. In chorus terms, this means a concentration on posture, breath support, free sound production, and resonance, in that order. Please do the breathing exercises at home: they only take a few minutes, and the benefit to you personally as a singer will be immense.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

We have sold about a third of the tickets for the twinning show on 9<sup>th</sup> June, thus almost covering our expenses. But we need to make a profit. There are not many opportunities in the calendar to do so this year – another cause for concern – so please redouble your efforts to bring in a full audience.

In Harmony  
**JOHN PRICE**

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### EDITORIAL

My thanks go to all the contributors. I think Bob Ridley must be on holiday at the moment because just like his mentor (Ron Collis) Bob is usually on time with his copy. So there's no Associate member news this month I'm afraid. I was very interested to read the copy provided by Heather Mills about Powers of Attorney; not a very 'barbershop' topic but one I consider worth sharing with everyone because it's so important that you do something about it while you can! Thank you Heather.

I've spent a lot of time in the last few weeks pulling the Warsaw Trip together. In particular, I've been working on a couple of itineraries to whet your appetites. There's one that focuses on the competition weekend and another that provides an extension for those that want to do a bit of sightseeing. The second of these tours I called the 'Extended' tour for what may appear obvious reasons but the name led to so much confusion because the extension in this case comes before the competition and not after. I cannot find a word that describes such a situation other than 'Pretended' and that caused even more confusion! Defeated I called the two tours Krakow & Warsaw and Warsaw. My article on the Trips in this issue of Tag Rag will update you on how the arrangements are progressing.

This is the last Tag Rag before Convention in Scarborough and all the plans appear to be falling in place. Singing 24th is late in the day. It will make it tricky to see many of the other competitors. Have a safe journey and I'll see you up there.

Thank you to Rhiannon for letting us celebrate her 'big' birthday with us. I honestly can't remember when the Club experienced a 'do' like that in the past. Well done and thank you to the Exec for that. Let's hope Rhiannon is with us for many more years yet.

The next new song ONCE UPON A TIME is due to be distributed to members on the 6th June. This is a super song and a great arrangement and one I'm sure will become a chorus favourite. Make sure you

have your mp3 player with you on that night unless you can download it from the web site.

**GRAHAM STARKIE**

Editor

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### UNIFORM AND THANKS

Each member will be issued with two new additions to the Performance Uniform to wear at Convention; a white shirt and black bow-tie to be worn with the Green jackets.

Whilst writing I would also like to thank all those people who took part in and helped with Rhi's party. What a happy evening it turned out to be culminating with the Chorus singing the old songs.

**HEATHER MILLS**

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### WARSAW

Our application to attend the Competition is in the process of being made. I say in the process because we've been allowed to split the activity into two. The first part has taken place over the internet when I completed the application form and sent five mp3 files of songs from our Christmas CD. These will have been assessed by the Artistic Committee last Thursday (10th May) and the result of their deliberations should be known today (Monday 14th). My contact has suggested that he doesn't think there will be any complications. The second part is to be sent by mail. This is a package of music for the songs we'll sing, some publicity material and the evidence that we've paid our one-hundred euro entry fee.

The songs that have been chosen have had to fit into specific categories. SWING LOW is our selection of 'a folk song or a song inspired by folklore'. song. LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE is the sacral song. A TREE IN THE MEADOW is the song from a 20th century composer and

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

EVERYBODY STEP/ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND is our free-choice. Getting this selection was like pulling hens' teeth! It was difficult to find a real barbershop song in our repertoire from a 20th century composer. Most of the ones that are in there are of a lightweight nature and not really representative of the Barbershop style. Fortunately Billy Reid the composer of A TREE was born in 1902. Most of the other barbershop songs are from composers born in the late 19th century.

We have to thank Ken Mills for negotiating the tricky route to paying the 100 euros by bank transfer. The theory is much easier to understand than the practice because of the interminably long numbers involved and unfamiliar words in addresses; I suppose if we did it day-in and day-out the task would not be the struggle it was. However that all appears to be behind us now. Thanks Ken.

I have now assembled all the bits to go into the mailing so that should be with the post office this week.

At the same time that I've been working on the itineraries Rod Adams has been researching the best flight options. That work is not yet complete but hopefully it will be very soon.

The Information Guide and Booking Form that, hopefully, will provide all the information you'll need to sign up is now ready to be distributed. The Interest Survey that was conducted over the Away Weekend indicates that we could have a party of about 82 people travelling to Poland.

### GRAHAM STARKIE

Warsaw Tour 2007 Coordinator.

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### POWER OF ATTORNEY

I'm sure that this 'legalese' is not foreign to most of our members, if it is there's no harm in learning something new – you could save yourself some money in the medium term. A power of attorney is a legal state that you can assign to a next of kin (or other) that will look after your affairs should you ever become incapable. I know it's not a nice thought but it's much easier to do it when you have all your faculties than later.

Doing it now will save you money because after October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 this year it will be much more complicated and expensive.

At present, an Enduring Power of Attorney, signed now and only used when required is a three-page document, and if you require a solicitor, will cost about £50.

After 1 October the new Lasting Power of Attorney will require a 28-page document which must be handled by a solicitor at a cost of between £200 and £300 per person (if a married couple signs, they will both have to pay). It must then be immediately registered with a court, and that will cost another £150 each.

### HEATHER MILLS

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### BARBERSHOP BABES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
MAY'S TRIO

MERVYN CLARK  
RHIANNON OWENS-HALL  
MAURICE SCOTT

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### EMAIL

To Beautiful Rhi and those Gorgeous Gorgeous Guys on the risers!!!

I hope you are all working very hard towards this year's convention package, I have heard nothing but positive reports and am really excited about seeing you at your rehearsal on the 22nd May. If I don't get to speak to you all at the end then **REALLY GOOD LUCK FROM ME!** I know you'll be fab and do yourselves proud - you always do! Just keep believing in it and smiling (where necessary!) and I hope to see you shining your medals on return!

*Love and Miss you all Madly!*

*Be Frisky.....*

**X X EMS X X**

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

### NEW TALENT REFLECTIONS

(They think it's all over – It is now !)

Rockaholix went, we saw, but did not conquer. All in all it was a memorable experience, even if the result was a little disappointing.

You will recall that Dick Coles had come out of retirement to help us out. Roger had prepared a teach track for our own "Beach Boys Medley", but because we only found out later that we may need two songs, he bravely attempted to learn "Who Put The Bop Shu Bop" from our CD ! The rehearsal was a little chaotic.

Arriving at the famous Teddington Studios at midday we were allocated Stacy, our own personal minder, to make sure we didn't get lost and were in the right place when required. We were given meal vouchers for lunch and dinner, and signed more indemnity forms.

They had even gone to the trouble of obtaining special chromed 1950's microphones, and for our tech rehearsal we had to go through our 3 minute song 5 times to get the placing and settings right for the sound.

We then settled to watch the other acts on our programme, and the ones that were to be in the semi-final to be recorded later that evening.

For the show, we were seated in the "green room" painted in every colour but green, and practised clapping and grinning enthusiastically when other acts came in or out. Alan and Dick were delighted when told that somebody was on the way to touch them up, and downcast when it turned out to be a make-up lady with some paste to take the shine off their heads. Labels had to be taken from water bottles (advertising)

While waiting behind the sliding doors for our entry cue, Chrissie Wilkinson reports that Brian Conley told the audience to be ruthless in voting acts off, as there would not be time to complete the program if all acts were allowed to go on for 3 minutes. He then went into our introduction as we were first on (kiss of death).

The sliding doors opened (pulled by a piece of rope) to reveal us waiting, and we were called on stage for an opening chat with Brian Conley, we took our places and the 3 minute timer was started.

We were initially a little put off that the mike settings did not seem to be anything like the rehearsal, but then reverted to plan (a) just sing the song. We got into our stride quite quickly and were pleased by the seemingly enthusiastic reception of the studio audience, who were nearly all clapping along with the song.

How surprising then, when we were brought to an abrupt halt by the "sod off" Claxton at 1 minute and 5 seconds. Both Chris and Dick did not hear the Claxton as the audience clap along had drowned it!

So we didn't come first, and we didn't come last, we received £100 for lasting more than a minute, and made some good contacts along the way.

I had a few unanswered questions about our fate, namely (a) if everybody was clapping along, how could they push their "sod off" buttons, and (b) I wonder what the show producer meant when he made a statement during the afternoon that "nothing in television is what it seems".

Still that's probably sour grapes on my part.

Rockaholix would like to thank those of our supporters that turned up at Teddington Studios on the night, and also Jim Downing and Dick Coles for masterly filling our line-up along the way. We hope that Roger will soon be able to take his place with us again on the boards.

For those wishing to experience our entire 65 seconds of performance, it will be screened on 20<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm BBC2.

Cheers

**BRIAN CALLAGHAN**

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### COPING WITH A MOBILE

I don't know if your mobile phone is the same, but on mine if you push the green button it automatically dials the last number you dialled. You may also know that if you dial a person and have their phone number in your phone, it tells you who is calling. This can all be very useful - but it can also be dangerous!

This has led to my most embarrassing moment, which I will pass on to you, so long as you promise not to tell anyone else.

I was making my regular drive down the M4 to Cardiff and Bridgend in South Wales. My phone was in a holder being re-charged. Unfortunately it slipped out of its holder and down by the gearstick where, when I changed gear, the little green button was pushed and the last person I called got a phone call from me - unknown to me. He knew it was me because of the name on the screen.

*This would have been embarrassing enough but ....*

The occasion I spend most time practising my singing and learning tunes is driving on my regular

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trips to and from Cardiff and Bridgend - it's over 2 hours, so there is plenty of time to get warmed up..... I also get lots of funny looks from drivers overtaking .....

So my colleague was somewhat confused to get a phone call with me (and some other people) singing .....

*This would have been embarrassing enough but ....*

So my colleague is there listening to me singing (though with some background noise) .... But what was I singing?

'Let me call you sweetheart, I'm in love with you, let me hear you whisper that you love me too .....

..... Needless to say I got a call on the phone a few minutes later, and my (male) colleague's first words were "Ian, are you trying to tell me something?"

**IAN McCANN**

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### WHAT'S IN A NAME

I have always enjoyed the fun to be had from anagrams. In an idle moment or two I have taken a look at some of the names from the chorus to see what can be made from them; they're in a list following. For some people there are far more than for others, for example Andy Rzysko has only one anagram of his name, some others, Peter Dawson for example, have squillions. I have included here a few which brought a smile to my face. Well it keeps me out of trouble and it's better than watching reality TV!

**JASPER METRO** (you work it out!)

**Aidan Brand** = Ran Band Aid  
**Andrew Pearce** = A dawn creeper  
**Andy Rzysko** = Zany sky rod  
**Andy Wheeler** = Led anywhere, needy whaler, lewder hyena, newly adhere  
**Bob Ridley** = Bridle boy, dire lobby  
**Brian Campbell** = A clamp nibbler, Barnacle blimp  
**Brian Milbank** = Lambkin bairn  
**Chris Bradley** = Brashly cried, charred Cibyl, hardly scribe, lardy birches, shyder Baldric  
**Colin Thatcher** = Chitchat loner, that chronicle  
**Denis Swift** = Widens fist, widest fins, wisest find, fiend's wits  
**Derek Chisholm** = Modish heckler  
**Gary Evans** = Gay ravens, gayer vans, sane gravy, angry vase

**George Colquhoun** = Conquer huge logo, loch queue gorgon

**Geraint Lewis** = Terse wailing, tiring weasel, silent earwig, wiriest angel, serial twinge, single waiter, trailing ewes, resilient wag, 'twas lingerie

**Graham Starkie** = A ragtime shark, mask girth area, I remark aghast, mega rakish rat,

**James Downing** = Jigsaw demon

**Maurice Scott** = Comic stature, mecca tourist, curate sitcom, mosaic cutter, Atomic cruet, erotic muscat

**Mike McKeown** = Women kick me

**Murray Downing** = Wordy manuring, undying marrow

**Paul Gordon** = Proud Anglo

**Peter Cookson** = Precook notes, Precook tones, openest crook

**Peter Dawson** = Warped notes, Warped tones, pederast now, sweated porn, worse pedant, wanted prose, ponder waste, postwar need

**Peter Groves** = Got perverse, verger's poet, pervert's ego,

**Phil Ward** = Wild harp, whip lard

**Richard Leatham** = Alarmed hitcher

**Rod Adams** = Drama sod, Dad roams, mad roads

**Roger Wilkinson** = Wrinklier goons, reworking loins, knowing lorries

**Simon Laight** = Hating limos, hot mailings, ailing moths, smiling oath, gnomish tail, sham toiling

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### SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

#### **ROCKAHOLIX AND TV (17<sup>th</sup> Apr)**

Brian Milbank received an email from SRO, an independent TV company who make the Brian Conley show that Rockaholix are appearing on. Here is the email in full, and a phone number and web site if you want to book tickets. Brian Callaghan informs me that Rox are appearing on 25th April, but it sounds hit and miss as to which night you actually get. A word of warning. Although it says it starts at 7pm they usually like you to be at the front door by 6pm, so ensure you can get to the studios in good time.

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Hi there!

We thought that you may be interested to know that we are currently booking tickets to attend a recording of the second series of BBC's 'Let Me Entertain You' with Brian Conley at Teddington Studios. The show will be recorded at Teddington Studios, TW11 from Thursday 12th April at 7.00pm each evening.

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In order to apply for your tickets, simply reply to this email with the following details: Full name:  
Postcode: Choice of Date: Thursday 12th, Friday 13th, Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st, Monday 23rd and Wednesday 25th April 2007

Choice 1:

Choice 2:

Choice 3:

Number of tickets  
required (max 6):

If you wish to attend more than once, please indicate this when applying.

You may also apply for tickets online at <http://www.sroaudiences.com> where you'll find details of all the shows for which we are booking or call 020 8684 3333 Tickets for all of our shows are FREE.

There has been a great deal of interest in this show so do reply early! The minimum age is 16 years. We shall notify successful applicants as quickly as possible by email with their ticket. If you are not successful, we shall hold your details in a waiting list in case of cancellations.

### THANK YOU (17<sup>th</sup> Apr)

Dear Denis

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Committee thank you so much for organising such a wonderful evening. Please would you pass on our thanks to all your singers? The evening was magical for our people. As you know some of our people find it difficult to communicate, so it was fantastic to look around and see so many beaming faces!

Everyone stopped on the way out to say how much they had enjoyed themselves. We do appreciate you giving up your precious time.

I am sure we will be asked to repeat your visit.

Best Wishes  
Christine Price  
Alzheimer's Society  
Maidenhead Branch

### NOTICE NOTICES? (24<sup>th</sup> Apr)

Brian says "Notices are taking longer. The MAIN reason for Graham producing notices on paper every week is to stop people standing up and talking through the break. It restricts what we can work on in the second half and has a knock on for the Focus Group, whose own rehearsal runs into the second half. Please think before you speak and send Graham what you want to say instead."

### WARSAW (1<sup>st</sup> May)

Plans are moving ahead with great alacrity. By this time next week our application to perform in the Choir Competition will be complete. We'll have to wait a few more weeks after that to see if we are accepted. I don't imagine there's going to be any problem.

You might like to put some dates in your diary. It looks highly likely that two tours will be on offer. One, a long weekend (5 days) from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November to the 12<sup>th</sup> November focusing on the Competition that happens on the Saturday and Sunday. The second tour (8 days) to be known as the Extended Tour starts in Krakow on the 5<sup>th</sup> November for sightseeing and lets us enjoy the competition with the rest of the chorus over the following weekend. I'm hoping to get the itineraries and booking forms out by next Tuesday.

(8<sup>th</sup> May)



**BEST BIRTHDAY WISHES TO  
RHIANNON  
on this special day.**

**Hearty congratulations! Thank you for staying  
with us and long may it continue.**

### WARSAW (8<sup>th</sup> May)

Booking flights is proving to be troublesome for Rod. He's got quotes from four companies who are offering prices ranging from £80 to £125 each. We have to decide on a suitable combination of departure and arrival airports and address how to deal with the fact that the quotes are only valid for five days! I'm confident we're near to something that meets our requirements but we'll need a few days to research the answer.

It is fortunate that I was planning to delay the issue of the Booking Forms and information until next week because of all the things going on tonight and the availability of the Scarborough Brief. This time will now be useful to check through all the flight options.

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

There is good news. The first part of our application to enter the competition is now in Warsaw and will be assessed by the event Artistic Committee when they meet this coming Thursday. The song selection for the competition is SWING LOW, MORTAL FLESH, THE TREE IN THE MEADOW and EVERYBODY STEP. There was a last minute panic to find a song from a 20<sup>th</sup> century composer that resulted in A TREE being included.

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### FROM OUR MAN IN TENERIFE (BRIEFLY) (Card received from James after his return)

Dear All

Having a fantastic time, hotel, food etc., are excellent, weather perfect. Too much drink and food! Sorry to miss two Tuesdays but brought my mp3 player.

James and family.

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### HISTORICAL NOTES

#### **5 Years Ago April 2002**

**24/26<sup>th</sup>** BABS Convention Bournemouth  
Chorus results: 1<sup>st</sup> Cambridge Chord Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cotton Town Chorus, 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Western Chorus 4<sup>th</sup> The Royal Harmonics, 5<sup>th</sup> Thames Valley Chorus.  
We had sixty on the risers singing 'You Keep Coming Back Like A Song' & 'Zing Went The

Strings Of My Heart'. The Chorus Director was Peter Kennedy who had stepped in for Steve Hall during the last few weeks due to Steve's illness. Twenty choruses competed. The Chorus were on the 'Acappella Action Show' on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> under the direction of Roger Wilkinson when they performed 'Good Morning Hollywood' for the first time in public. This show package was a major milestone in the Club's history as it married songs and a storyline together in such a way for a sing-out package.

The quartet contest was won by 'Light Industrial Choral Society' (Cambridge/Peterborough)..... I bet they have problems with booking agents as to whether they are four people or sixty-four. RBHC interests was with Spotlight (John Ward singing Lead) who were in fourth position, as they were in 2001. There were two visiting American quartets, 'Four Voices' & 'Chordiac Arrest'. Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) made a guest appearance at BABS 50's Ball at the International Centre, Bournemouth.

#### **10 Years Ago May 1997**

**2/5<sup>th</sup>** BABS Convention Brighton  
Chorus results: 1<sup>st</sup> Hallmark Of Harmony, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cambridge Chord Company  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thames Valley Chorus. We had sixty-six on the risers singing 'Sonny Boy' and 'Jolson Medley'. Chorus Director was Tony Searle. Twenty choruses competed.

The quartet contest was won by Cambridge Blues with RBHC placings:  
13<sup>th</sup> Flying High (Pat Deeble, Graham Frampton, Jim Downing, Ed Dolan)  
16<sup>th</sup> Bagatelle (Aidan Brand, Peter Dawson, Ian Douglas, Andy Balchin)  
16 quartets competed.

**10<sup>th</sup>** Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Chris Oliver, Rod Adams) were at the Copthorne Hotel, Slough with Geno Washington & the Ram Jam Band.

**24<sup>th</sup>** Small Chorus at Cambermere Barracks, Windsor for a Rotary Club dinner.

#### **15 Years Ago May 1992**

**1/4<sup>th</sup>** BABS Convention I.C.C. Birmingham  
Chorus results: 1<sup>st</sup> Rainy City Chorus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shannon Express, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pilgrimages, 4<sup>th</sup> Great Western Chorus, 5<sup>th</sup> Thames Valley Chorus. We had sixty-four on the risers singing 'Smile Medley' and 'The Masquerade Is Over' wearing a new uniform with

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

green jackets. Chorus Director was Derek Smith. Twenty-one choruses competed.

The quartet contest was won by Quattro (Bradford/Leeds).

In 14<sup>th</sup> position was Silver Lining (Pat Deeble & Tony Searle)

The visiting American quartet was '139 Street Quartet'

8<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at Watford.

### 20 Years Ago May 1987

1/4<sup>th</sup> BABS Convention Bournemouth

The Pilgrimages won the chorus contest with the TVC in 9<sup>th</sup> position (Forty-one on the risers) singing 'If He Can Fight Like He Can Love' and 'Rose Of No Man's Land' Chorus Director was Derek Smith.

In the quartet contest the winners were Times Square (Sheffield) with Rogues Gallery (Dick Coles, Nick Carter, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway) in 6<sup>th</sup> position. Grand Slam (with Graham Sutton) was 8<sup>th</sup>. MC for the Saturday show was Colin Thatcher.

MC for the Morning After show was John Ward (Jon Sinclair). BABS Convention Manager was Gerry Holland who brought the visiting American quartet 'Interstate Rivals' (1987 Champions) to our hotel for an impromptu performance. Also performing were the Narraganset Bay Chorus and a Canadian quartet 'Alta 3.9' (Calgary)

16<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at The Tilehurst Eisteddfod.

### 25 Years Ago May 1982

A quiet month for RBHC with only rehearsals and the inevitable Committee meetings taking place.

### 30 Years Ago May 1977

8<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at Shinfield Players Theatre.

Regards  
Haydn Adams

\*\*\*\*\*



### SUPPORTERS

How great it was to see Roger standing on the risers at the special rehearsal last week. He was very positive about his treatment and I know that everyone will join with me in wishing him well and looking forward to seeing him back on the risers full time.

Rhi enjoyed the celebrations of her 60th and was appreciative of all the hard work that had gone into organising it and the members and partners who helped out on the night. It was a very relaxed and happy occasion.

Well my leg is "knock knock" (as my grandson named my plaster) free. I've got to say that although I had lots of warnings that I would have problems walking initially I was somewhat taken aback at how restricted I was. I was not referred to a physiotherapist, just given a list of exercises! After a few days I realised that I needed more help. Gillian Elson recommended a relative, who is a qualified Physiotherapist, and I contacted her immediately. She visited me last Friday and gave me lots of good advice which I have followed religiously. I am now seeing a great improvement and I hope she is pleased when she visits again next Friday.

Well, only 10 days to Convention 2007 - just hope the weather improves. We have Shirley, Janet, Davina and me on the make-up team; be gentle with us. I am sure all your supporters will join with me in sending best wishes to you and 'Figaro'. We will be there cheering you on.

I've just realised that the Twinning Show will have taken place by the time of the next Tag Rag, so good luck to everyone taking part and I hope it is a successful event.

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

**IRENE**

\*\*\*\*\*

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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seeing him at the rehearsal on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. The world is getting ever smaller when you can come from the US to the UK but then interrupt your visit with a 'short break' in Beijing. I will still welcome receiving email addresses of other Associate Members to [bob.ridley@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.ridley@btinternet.com).

Tag Rag is now available on our website [www.rbhc.org.uk](http://www.rbhc.org.uk) and I have had several requests not to post copies of Tag Rag. John Lane has joined this group and I will try to remember to send out an email to everyone in the group when a new issue is posted on this site. We will, of course, continue to send Tag Rag to everyone else unless I have a similar request.

Thank you to all the A Ms for their continuing support of the RBHC and we look forward to renewing our friendship with many of you at Scarborough

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS LETTERS and emails

John and Frances Lane (by email)

Dear Bob

I was rereading the latest Tag Rag this morning and was reminded that I needed to send you my email address.

Frances and I are both well; the weather here has been pleasant and mild so far but now we are beginning to exercise the air conditioner in preparation for the long hot summer. Ahead of that we do get some respite as we travel back home to spend some time with the children and grandchildren. We land in the UK on Thursday (17th) and will be there until the 30th - with a brief visit to Beijing for me to attend a meeting from 21st to 24th. For the first time in many years this gives me a chance of visiting you all on a Tuesday night rehearsal. It will probably be the 29th - the day before we travel back if all goes well. You mentioned that some of the AMs are now reading the Tag Rags online at the RBHC web site and I am more than happy to adopt that practice as well - it'll save the club a bit of postage! Is there a chance that you can nudge the web site readers when a new Tag Rag appears? [ Yes! See above Bob] All the very best wishes for your convention performance.

### STOP PRESS



### ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

By BOB RIDLEY Acting Assistant to the Associate Member Coordinator

It was good to see Bert Josey a few weeks ago at the Tuesday rehearsal. Bert was the caretaker at the St. John Ambulance building in Woodley that was the rehearsal venue for RBHC before Piggott School. John and Frances Lane who now live in Marietta, Georgia, USA sent an email and we look forward to

## 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 at:

Thanks to Haydn Adams, Brian Callaghan, Ian McCann, Jasper Metro, Heather Mills, John Price, Bob Ridley, Emma Taylor and Irene for supplying copy.

#### Editor

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14 May 2007

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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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#### CLUB EXECUTIVE

John Price	0118 947 2700
Chairman	<a href="mailto:john_price730@btinternet.com">john_price730@btinternet.com</a>
Barry Howard	0118 942 8400
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Music	<a href="mailto:jjcharman@aol.com">jjcharman@aol.com</a>
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Administration	<a href="mailto:andrew.pearce33@btinternet.com">andrew.pearce33@btinternet.com</a>
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Finance	6 Bartlemy Road, Newbury RG14 6JX

#### Vacancy

Musical Events

#### Other Roles:

Rhiannon Owens-Hall 01352 780825  
Chorus Director [Rhiannonhall@babs-education.info](mailto:Rhiannonhall@babs-education.info)

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TVC Bookings [rod.adams@wham-bam.net](mailto:rod.adams@wham-bam.net)

Ken Mills 0118 978 0031  
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#### FATHER OF THE CHORUS and

Associate Member Coordinator  
Ron Collis. 10 Langley Hill Close Tilehurst  
READING RG3 4EJ  
Tel 0118 941 6081

Acting Assistant to the Associate Member  
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Bob Ridley. Langton Lodge, Icknield Road,  
Goring RG8 0DG Tel: 01491 872989  
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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

RBHC's

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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

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**MAY 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> maidenhead Blind Club. for Daytimers Mark Grindall TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Singout Fawley Craft Fair Day 1 of 2	<b>19</b> Singout Fawley Craft Fair Day 2 of 2
<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>May 2007</b>	

June 2007 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**JULY 2007**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Proposed Club Golf Day at Billingsbear	<b>3</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>4</b> Daytimers Notrees Nursing Home Kintbury	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAGCOPY DEADLINE	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</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>
<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>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>July 2007</b>			

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