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THE RAG AND NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007



Club's new riser van

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

NOVEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 2007				1	2	3
4	5 8-day Poland trip start into Krakow	6 Rehearsal	7	8 5-day Poland trip start into Warsaw	9	10
11	12 Poland Return	13 Daytimers Hungerford Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Rehearsal	28 Daytimers Saville Gardens	29 Daytimers Woosehill Wokingham	30	November 2007

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

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY * indicates an addition or update to last month's Tag Rag

2007	OCT	16	Tue	Learn to Sing	Week 6 of 6
	OCT	27	Sat (aft)	Full Chorus	Emma Taylor's wedding singout - Hambledon nr Henley.
	NOV	5-12	Mon/Mon	Full Chorus	Krakow & Warsaw trip.
		8-12	Thu/Mon		Poland
	NOV	13	Tues	Daytimers	Tuesday Club, Hungerford Town Hall to sing at 2pm
*	NOV	28	Wed	Daytimers+	Saville Gardens (early evening)
	NOV	29	Thu	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Wokingham at 2.30pm
	DEC	2	Sun	Full Chorus	Desborough Suite Maidenhead
	DEC	4	Tue	Daytimers	Thamesfield Nursing Home Henley
	DEC	12	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Reading 2.30 sing
*	DEC	13	Thu	Daytimers	Planting ceremony St Mary Butts church am
	DEC	19	Wed	Daytimers	Weirside Court, Orts Rd, Reading
2008					
*	JAN	17	Thu	Daytimers	Lynwood Nursing Home Sunninghill Bracknell
	FEB	Feb 29 -Mar 2	Fri-Sun	Full chorus	Away Weekend Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth
	MAY	16/17	Fri-Sat	Full Chorus	2-days at Fawley Court Craft Experience Henley
	MAY	23-25	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	BABS Annual Convention The Centaur Building Cheltenham Racecourse

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

TAG RAG OCTOBER 2007 CONTENTS LIST

Page	
2	A LOOK AHEAD TO NOVEMBER 2007
2	MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
3	CHAIRMAN'S SPOT PRICE
4	EDITORIAL STARKIE
4	POLAND PROGRESS STARKIE
4	CHRISTMAS GREETING 2007
5	A PEEK AT POLAND STARKIE
	POLISH CUISINE
	VODKA
	CONVERSATION ESSENTIALS
6	MEN IN HARMONY COURSE MCNULTY & PORTER
6	BARBERSHOP BABES
7	ROCKAHOLIX CALLAGHAN
7	SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES
8	MINUTES OF OCTOBER EGM PEARCE
9	ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS RIDLEY
9	ASSOCIATE MEMBER LETTERS
8	LUCIANO PAVAROTTI
11	HISTORICAL NOTES HAYDN ADAMS
12	SUPPORTERS IRENE STARKIE
16	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

13TH NOVEMBER FOR 20TH DISTRIBUTION



CHAIRMAN'S SPOT

The last few weeks have been quite eventful. Top of my list is the acquisition of a new club van. Thanks are due, firstly to Dave Colver for actually finding the van, but also to the whole team who sprang into action to check it over and secure the purchase, spent long hours negotiating with insurance companies to get reasonable cover, and are developing methods and equipment for loading and securing the risers. Well done, everybody!

Thank you also to Ken Mills and Bob Ridley for volunteering to join the executive committee. I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

And thank you Barry Howard, who is stepping down as Membership Director at the AGM after many years' service, for helping this "new boy" find his feet over the past year.

The "Voices for Hospices" concert at Reading University was very successful. Andy managed the event with his usual efficiency, Phillip directed with aplomb, and Peter kept us focussed in the rehearsal room. Thanks to you three, and also to those who drove the van and set up the risers.

On Saturday I attended the Making Music South East Region Annual Meeting at Albury, near Guildford. Representatives from the North Surrey, Southampton, and Guildford barbershop clubs were present, all keen to find out more about the organisation. The morning session was given over to a presentation by Trish Jordan, a director of "Rich Picture Ltd." and the charity "Sing For Your Life Ltd.", on the opportunities for societies to obtain funding by becoming more involved with community projects, primarily in the health and education sectors. As the computer was refusing to display slides, and the talk was peppered with currently fashionable terms such as devolving, facilitating, and embedding, I found it a bit hard going, but there was certainly food for thought. A brief buffet lunch was followed by the AGM proper, with the usual presentation of accounts (not yet audited – we're not the only ones!) and election of officers, and then the bit we were all waiting for: a presentation by Colin Bennett, BABS Administration Director, on how to recruit members through "Learn to Sing" courses. This time the computer worked, and the slides displayed faultlessly. It was clear that everybody was impressed by the professional way in which the Barbershop community is organised. Colin had brought three other members of the Great Western Chorus with him to form a scratch quartet, and they demonstrated three songs in contrasting mood, and taught the audience a tag. It was an excellent finish to the day.

Only a few weeks to go before we sing in Poland! I'm getting quite excited at the prospect. I hope you are too.

JOHN PRICE

Chairman

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

EDITORIAL

Where does an editor start this month knowing that he cut more than fifty percent off the Chairman's Spot last month? Yes, in my eagerness I overlooked page 2 and a bit more and have been wearing sackcloth and ashes for the last few weeks. I recovered the situation by printing a Chairman's Special 4-pager for the following week for distribution to the 'troops'. I'll make sure that our Associate members get a copy with this month's issue.

I have decided to go back on my decision of last month to merge the October and November issues. I could see that it would give me a difficult situation with the December issue trying to fit the anticipated Poland copy and the Christmas Greetings into one issue. So the November deadline is now immediately on our return. My thanks go to Haydn for submitting two months so he can take a rest next month. It is worthy of note that Haydn has been providing Historical Notes to Tag Rag since November 1987. That's twenty years and he rightly considers himself to be the most regular contributor to our magazine. Well done Haydn it is always a pleasure to receive your copy. Long may it continue - as you say - "Here's to the next twenty"; I'm up for it if you are!

I am pleased to see that we did get volunteers for two of the executive posts in the end. Thanks to Ken Mills for stepping in Mr Membership's shoes and Bob Ridley into Mr Admin's. Andy Pearce has agreed to stay on in the Musical Events role until the post is filled or it is redesigned. Thank you to them all.

A new van purchase is now history - we bit the proverbial bullet. Luton bodied Ford Transit with tail-lift, 2.4 litre turbo diesel in white are its major features. Work is now in hand to make it easy to load and unload the risers into its capacious body. Photos are on the front cover.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

POLAND PROGRESS

I am now in receipt of the final instructions for Maciej (Matchey) the Festival organiser. I am pleased to report that he will meet us in Krakow accompany us all the time until we get to Warsaw on the Thursday. So you'll all get to know him. From Friday Maciej will be too involved with the Festival so Krzysztof (a volunteer) will be with us. We'll have professional guides for all the optional tours.

The Krakow party of 52 travellers remains intact. Fifty will be travelling from Gatwick on the 5th November and Rhiannon and Whitney will travel from Liverpool at the same time. Unfortunately Peter Dawson will not be with us on this occasion. A replacement has not been found so the party is now 14 strong travelling to Warsaw on the 8th.

SPONSORSHIP - Seventeen letters and two emails later I still have no success to report. I have a few replies expressing regrets but overseas trips are definitely not the flavour of the month with companies. But as they say nothing ventured nothing gained.

FINANCES - We are now coming to the end of getting all the payments in and transferring the necessary amounts over to the tour operator in Warsaw. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter; it has been a surprisingly smooth process. Our thanks should go to Ken who has done a sterling(!) job with the books.

I'll be re-issuing the itinerary with updates to all the travellers before we go.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Poland Tour 2007 Coordinator.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2007

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

Put yourself together a couple of sentences (and a line drawing piece of artwork if you want) give or send it to me with a donation anytime before the 12th December copy deadline. I'll put all the messages together with some festive artwork. They will appear in a special insert in December's Tag Rag. Thank you in anticipation of a bumper crop!

Many thanks to all our members who supported the 2006 Christmas Greetings appeal in Tag Rag. We raised the princely sum of £540 that went to the local charity Daisy's Dream.

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A PEEK AT POLAND

NOTE - See August's Tag Rag for MONEY, CLIMATE and MARIE CURIE. September Tag Rag for PALACE OF CULTURE & SCIENCE and THE ROYAL CASTLE.

POLISH CUISINE Polish cuisine is amazingly rich, truly tasty and quite varied (though it sometimes can be a bit heavy). What is important in Polish food are the ingredients, some of them unique in Europe. The Polish way of growing plants or raising animals has not been affected by mass industrialization of the food industry. So this might be your last chance to taste eggs with real yellow yolks, eat homemade butter, and enjoy freshly pickled cucumbers or sauerkraut and many other dishes which you cannot find anywhere else in the world. And believe us the list is long. Try Polish forest fruits and the dozens of kinds of mushrooms you never thought were edible. Take a browse through a selection of Polish desserts. Pick a good restaurant with Polish food and enjoy eating out in our country!

THE CLASSICS **Hunters stew** (bigos) - Poland's national dish made with boiled sauerkraut, sausages, spare ribs and a variety of ingredients (some have mushrooms, while others contain apples, venison, lamb or beef).

Pierogi - do not leave Poland without trying all of them. Check the menu for flour pierogi filled with meat or cabbage (or both), potatoes with cottage cheese and onions (ruskie), or with fruit. They can be served boiled or baked with butter or other fat. Absolutely delicious!

Polish sausages (kietbasa) - and what a variety - they can be cold, cooked, smoked, or grilled. We have the classic sausages, or the white ones. Find the best way you like them and enjoy!

Breaded pork chops (kotlet schabowy) - a classic Polish dinner accompanied by puree, tomatoes and a side dish of hot cabbage or a mixed salad. If you drink beer with this meal you will feel very Polish! **Venison** (dziczyzna) - this special kind of meat which you either love or do not like is rather expensive and not so easy to find. When you are in a good restaurant try a dish of venison, the taste is quite unique.

SOUPS - Polish sour rye soup (zurek) number one and one of the culinary musts in Poland - a vegetable soup flavoured with fermented bread with cooked white sausage, garlic and onions. In some restaurants it is served inside a loaf of bread! **Sauerkraut soup** (kapusniak) - a typical Polish

winter soup based on sauerkraut, ribs, mushrooms and onions. **Beetroot soup** (barszcz) - classic beetroot soup usually served with little dumplings filled with meat or round pancakes stuffed with cabbage or meat (paszteciki) usually served as an accompaniment.

OTHER SPECIALITIES **Polish bread** (chleb) - bread is important for traditional and religious Poles. Many people kiss the bread if it is dropped on the ground and never throw it into a basket. Traditionally before cutting the first slice the sign of cross was made over the bread. Bear in mind that playing with bread may offend some traditional Polish people. The wholesome and natural ingredients make Polish bread uniquely delicious. Try it just with garlic butter or as a popular every day sandwich (kanapki). **Little hoofs** (kopytka) - boiled dumplings made of mashed potatoes and flour, with meats making a change from potatoes. **Potato pancakes** (placki ziemniaczane) deep fried potatoe pancakes can be served with salmon and sour cream, sauces or just with a sprinkling of sugar.

VODKA - Poland reputedly produces the best vodka in the world. The selection and variety is enormous. Wyborowa is the most popular white vodka brand. This is followed by Zubrowka with that special grass to give it that wonderful smooth taste and colour (perfect with an apple juice chaser) or the unique Goldwasser (from Gdansk with its flakes of gold floating about inside. Remember-consume in moderation maybe as a souvenir at home.

CONVERSATION ESSENTIALS - The following is a list of words you might find useful. I've missed off all the twiddly bits on the letters but that's not important for the phonetics in the last column.

Hello.	Dzien dobry.	djen do-bri
Goodbye.	Do widzenia.	do vee-dze-nya
Yes.	Tak.	tak
No.	Nie.	nye
Please.	Proszę.	pro-she
Thank you.	Dziękuję.	djen-koo-ye
You're welcome.	Proszę.	pro-she
Excuse me.	Przepraszam.	pshe-pra-sham
Sorry.	Przepraszam.	pshe-pra-sham
I like	Lubie	loo-bye
I don't like	Nie lubie	nye loo-bye
Just a minute.	Ehwileake.	hfee-lech-ke

Polish is phonetically consistent meaning that the pronunciation of clusters of letters doesn't vary from word to word and the stress almost always is on the penultimate syllable. The Polish alphabet has extra letters with diacritical marks and any knowledge of

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English that you have will definitely be a disadvantage!

GRAHAM STARKIE

MEN IN HARMONY COURSE

The Performance Team agreed to run a recruitment course targeting men who can already sing but who want to improve or move on in some way. The title Men In Harmony Course was devised and advertising copy written to target that specific group of men. The phrase "learn to sing" was deliberately omitted. The course runs from Tuesday, 11th September 2007 for six weeks, meeting from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

We began to advertise the new Course by producing 400 A4 posters, and 1,500 A5 handbills which Lawrence and Dave Colver designed between them. The Posters were placed in golf clubs, barber shops, shop windows, office noticeboards, libraries, council offices, village noticeboards etc. Handbills were posted through letterboxes and handed out to commuters at train stations. An internet version was produced for office workers to add to their company Intranets. Several World Wide Web Forums around Reading and Bracknell/Wokingham received entries about the Course.

In addition, a series of advertisements was placed in the Reading Chronicle, and editorial appeared in the Reading Evening Post, the Chronicle itself, the Henley Standard, Twyford Times, and the Twyford Advertiser. A quartet was sent down to BBC Radio Berkshire to plug the Course, and BBC roving reporter Maggie Philbin accosted men in the streets around Reading asking them to sing to her and sign up for the Course.

James handled 27 direct enquiries for the Course of whom 10 saw posters or flyers, 6 responded to newspaper articles, 4 came through internet searches and the remainder heard about it by word of mouth. This spread shows the importance of all these types of publicity. Three of those who had initially made contact decided for various good reasons not to pursue it just now, but another 3 people turned up on the night, so the course has 27 participants, assuming we haven't scared any off after the first week!

The enquirers made contact with James either by phone or by email. He responded to emails with a phone call to explain a bit more about the course and find out a little about the men. A registration pack was posted to them consisting of a letter of welcome, a course outline and a registration card to

fill in, part of which was to be returned in a stamped addressed envelope provided for the purpose.

Quite a few men made contact in the week immediately prior to the start of the course and they were asked to bring their registration cards on the night rather than entrust them to the vagaries of the postal service. All their details were entered onto a computer spreadsheet which was given to Graham on the night before the Course started which he used to make an attendance record sheet and sticky name-labels for the participants. Graham also prepared student folders containing the learning materials for the course, plus teach-CDs for the song they will be learning, "Once Upon A Time".

The first week went very well and there are clearly some guys with very good musical ability. We had some very positive feedback after the first night and we really hope that this course will end up swelling our risers with some new really keen and talented guys. The promotional material stated that an optional audition would be available to Course members on its completion, so here's hoping!

LAWRENCE MCNULTY & JAMES PORTER



BARBERSHOP BABES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
OCTOBER'S QOCTET

AIDAN BRAND
DAVID COLVER
PETER DAWSON
GERAINT LEWIS
PHILIP PAINE
JOHN PRICE
ALEX RIUSSELL
GRAHAM STARKIE

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ROCKAHOLIX

2nd Tour de France

Following our appearance last year in aid of the local school charities in the wine-growing village of Margon, Rockaholix were invited to repeat the event this year, so we and our lovely Rockaholixettes, set forth for another Tour-de-France.

We set off from Stanstead to Perpignon on Friday 14th Sept via Ryanair and after claiming damage to Alan's new suitcase, collected our minibus from the airport car park. We proceeded around the park searching for the exit and on the 4th lap discovered a post that disappeared into the ground if you put the correct code into a keypad.

We had previously heard from Robin, our host, that we were required to attend a birthday party on the Friday evening, as the birthday girl had moved the party date because most of her friends were booked into our Saturday show! So we sang a little on Friday night and had a lovely welcome party to start our weekend.

On Saturday we had free time in the morning, and so visited a market in Pezenas a nearby town, purchase score ladies-12, men-0, and had lunch listening to passing entertainers. On leaving the pavement dining area we got into the swing of things and gave a couple of songs, much to the surprise and delight of the many diners. Apart from checking over the venue, we had an afternoon at leisure, as we were not appearing until the evening. Our target was to provide 3 sessions, some between courses and one after the 4 course meal, and had scheduled 7 songs for each to fit the bill. We were very well received, and had to produce an encore on our last spot.

The following day (Sunday) we took our trusty minibus on a sightseeing tour and returned to Robin and Val's for a Barbeque lunch, and a dip in their pool. (a bit on the chilly side, but we have spoken to the management). The barbeque was a lively affair, and sufficient to tide us over to the evening, where we were singing at the local hotel where 2 couples of our group were staying.

The evening was very grand, with a magnificent buffet dinner, and a full house for our final show, we did 2 spots of 7 songs mostly from our own repertoire, with a couple of TVC songs thrown in, we alternated with a very good French soul group, and the evening was really rocking. We had one of the best receptions in a very long time, with the audience joining in with some of our more well known songs, and finished the evening by joining the other group singing "down by the riverside"

After this session we had pretty much used everything we knew and some we didn't, using some 26 Rockaholix arrangements and a few TVC songs to give variation to the shows, as a good number of the punters had bought in to both nights.

Monday was a leisure day, with a sightseeing tour organised by Robin and Val, visiting some magnificent sights and villages, culminating in a stop at the one and only restaurant in Margon that had opened on it's normal closing day, to give us a special Rockholix meal, of anything from the French menu, or Fish & Chips. As the owner and host seemed to have a pride in his F&C we (apart,from 3 of the ladies) deemed that this would be the dish that would cement Anglo/French relations, and partook with relish (I'm not sure which one) and a few glasses of the local wine.

Tuesday was our go home day, so we made a return to our favourite (and only) restaurant in Margon for a goodbye lunch, before the trip back to Perpignan airport.

All in all a very satisfying break for Rockaholix and our Rockaholixettes, which we would like to do again sometime.

Robin and Val Nichols are very good and long standing friends of ours, who have long connections with TVC, Robin having being a Chairman of the club some time ago. Their home is a glorious place to stay, far better than your average French B&B or hotel and comes highly recommended from all of Rockholix and a number of other TVC members who have visited in recent years.

For contact numbers, ask any member of Rockaholix. (no commission fees charged).

Our thanks go to Robin and Val for making our stay so enjoyable.

BRIAN CALLAGHAN

Rockaholix

SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

RHIANNON'S NEW ADDRESS (25th Sep)

This is effective immediately.

48 St Gile's Park
Mold Road
Gwersyllt
Wrexham
LL11 4AX

Tel 01978 313192 *NOTE This telephone number has yet to be connected by BT.

Please update your Yearbook.

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EMMA'S WEDDING (2nd Oct)

Plans are now well in hand for this big day. A special Order of Service is being prepared for us complete with stage directions and the scores for the hymns. This and a brief will be issued next week giving you all the detail you need. Make a note in your diary now that you will need to be at the church in Hambleton (Oxfordfordshire) by 12.30 to change for a 1pm warmup in the vestry.

The following is a list of chorus attendees. Please speak to Andy Pearce if you plan to add (or remove) your name from the list (45 include Rhiannon).

Adams, Rod	Ayres Mike
Brand, Aidan	Callaghan Brian
Charman Julian	Chisholm Derek
Clark Mervyn	Colver Dave
Cookson Peter	Dawson Peter
Deacon Ed	Downing Jim
Downing Murray	Geraint Lewis
Hird Derek	Howard Barry
Jeffrey Don	Jessop Steve
Kirsop Richard	Leathem Richard
McCann Ian	McNulty Lawrence
Milbank Brian	Mills Ken
O'Shea Sean	Oliver Chris
O'Hall Rhiannon	Paine Philip
Pearce Andrew	Peter Groves
Porter James	Price John
Russell Alex	Rzysko Andy
Scott Maurice	Seward Sid
Shackleford John	Starkie Graham
Swift Denis	Thatcher Colin
Wheeler Andy	Wilkinson Roger
Wills Barry	Wright Denis
Wyard, Meyrick	

Our singing schedule will be:

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT

IF I GIVE MY HEART TO YOU

Hymn - Morning Has Broken - **Harmony?**

Hymn - All Things Bright And Beautiful

Hymn - Lord Of The Dance

Hymn - Sing Hosanna

IF YOU LOVE ME (REALLY LOVE ME)

TOP HAT MEDLEY

SOUND CELEBRATION

Please sing the melody for all the hymns except ALL THINGS when you can try to harmonise. MP3 files for all parts will be available on the Learn to Sing website soon. Note that these hymns are scored in SATB format therefore the melody is at the top.

RISER VAN - FA03AOD (9th Oct)

We are now the proud owners of a Luton bodied Ford Transit 90/T350 LWB with Tail-lift. It has a 2.4lt turbo engine. If time permits it will be parked in front of the school tonight should you wish to give it a once-over. The plan is to manufacture trolleys to 'palletise' the risers so that we can make safe use of the tail-lift. Each trolley will hold two complete risers (6 pieces) so handling will be reduced to five trolleys for a complete set of risers. A prototype has been modelled and it is hoped that a fully working version will be available to test run next week. It is hoped that the changeover to this new Geegee (Geoff & Gordon!) will happen before we go to Poland. The plywood in the back of the van is a free supply of timber that I've been able to get my hands on to help make the trolleys.

Minutes of RBHC Extra Ordinary General Meeting held at Piggott School Wargrave 21.15hrs on 25th September 2007 to elect Club officers for 2007/8.

The meeting was under the chairmanship of John Price, Club Chairman. Those attending were recorded by Heather Mills in the club attendance register.

Apologies were received from Sid Seward.

Members were reminded of the purpose of the meeting i.e. to accept the audited 2005/2006 accounts and to elect the executive committee members to take up their roles from the October Annual General meeting.

The audited accounts were presented to the club. Murray Downing proposed that the accounts should be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Chris Schrier, carried unanimously.

Four members of the last year's committee were prepared do another term. They were John Price (Chairman), Alex Russell (Director Finance), Julian Charman (Director Music and Performance), Lawrence McNulty (Director Marketing)

Two members were standing down, Andy Pearce (Administration and Events Manager) and Barry Howard (Membership).

Chris Bradley proposed that the members re-standing be elected en-bloc. The proposal was seconded by Rod Adams and carried unanimously.

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There was one nomination from the floor handed in two weeks ago for Ken Mills to take on the role of Membership Director. As there was no other nominations this was carried by default.

There was a nomination from the floor for Bob Ridley for the role of Admin Director. The Club indicated that the Exec should accept the nomination albeit that it was not handed in two weeks ago. Graham Starkie proposed Bob and seconded by John Price. As there was no further nomination this was carried by default. There was no nomination for Events Director and Andy Pearce agreed to carry on until someone came forward to take on the role.

The meeting closed at 21.27hrs after the reminder that the officers take up their roles officially from the AGM that is now scheduled for 23rd October.

ANDREW PEARCE

Director of Admin

27th September 2007



ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

By BOB RIDLEY Acting Assistant to the Associate Member Coordinator

Ron Collis is back home after his visit to Oakwood. He and Stella have just made plans to move house to Thatcham to be near their daughter. The move is unlikely to be before Christmas.

Ron appreciated the nice letters from Martin Lapworth and Harvey Bard. It was good to see Martin at the recent rehearsal evening and he seemed to be singing on the risers most of the time.

Tag Rag is available on our website www.rbhc.org.uk thanks to the efforts of Graham Starkie and Chris Bradley.

Thank you to all the AMs for their continuing support of the RBHC.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS LETTERS

Dear Ron

Looks like I'm a bit late with my am subs but here they finally are (I guess my timing still needs improving!). I'm still singing baritone with Solent City in Portsmouth, we were pleased with our convention result where we improved from 17th to 11th place. Our membership numbers are around the 25 mark at the moment, so no major changes in that area. The children are doing well, Hannah is now 7 and enjoys singing and ballet. James is 3 in October and getting bigger all the time. He also likes singing and copies Hannah all the time!

Unfortunately I'm having another out of work spell, my contract in Winchester finished at the beginning of August and I have only had one days work since then. Hopefully something will arrive soon, another timing problem I suppose!

I think it's now nearly ten years since I moved to the Deep South (of Hampshire) but I still have many happy memories of my time with the chorus. One that springs to mind was producing the cut-out trumpet from my jacket in Alexanders Ragtime band and finding the bell flopping about – I think I nearly smiled!

Anyway I hope to pop up to chorus sometime soon and also hope you are coping with your own circumstances.

Best wishes
Martyn Lapworth

Dear Ron,

I hope you continue to make progress and hope you will soon be 'back in the saddle'.

With very best wishes

Harvey Bard

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

This is part 1 of 2 of an article from Yahoo! by Associate Press writer, Alessandra Rizzo here. It's a mini-history of the extraordinary life of one of the greatest, if not the greatest singer of our time. Whether you are into opera or not, it's worth reading.

ITALIAN TENOR PAVAROTTI DIES AT AGE 71

ROME - Luciano Pavarotti, whose vibrant high C's and ebullient showmanship made him the most beloved and celebrated tenor since Caruso and one

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

of the few opera singers to win crossover fame as a popular superstar, died Thursday. He was 71.

His manager, Terri Robson, told the AP in an e-mailed statement that Pavarotti died at his home in Modena, Italy, at 5 a.m. local time. Pavarotti had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year and underwent further treatment in August.

“The Maestro fought a long, tough battle against the pancreatic cancer which eventually took his life. In fitting with the approach that characterised his life and work, he remained positive until finally succumbing to the last stages of his illness,” the statement said.

Speaking from inside Pavarotti’s home, which was guarded by police, Pavarotti’s assistant Edwin Tinoco told Sky TG 24 television that Pavarotti’s final days had been calm and spent at home.

For serious fans, the unforced beauty and thrilling urgency of Pavarotti’s voice made him the ideal interpreter of the Italian lyric repertory, especially in the 1960s and ‘70s when he first achieved stardom. For millions more, his charismatic performances of standards like “Nessun Dorma” from Puccini’s “Turandot” came to represent what opera is all about.

In fact, “Nessun Dorma” was Pavarotti’s last performance, sung at at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, in February 2006. His last full-scale concert was at Taipei in December 2005, and his farewell to opera was in Puccini’s “Tosca” at New York’s Metropolitan in March 2004.

Instantly recognizable from his charcoal black beard and tuxedo-busting girth, Pavarotti radiated an intangible magic that helped him win hearts in a way Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras—his partners in the “Three Tenors” concerts—never quite could. “I always admired the God-given glory of his voice—that unmistakable special timbre from the bottom up to the very top of the tenor range,” Domingo said in a statement from Los Angeles.

“I also loved his wonderful sense of humour and on several occasions of our concerts with Jose Carreras—the so-called Three Tenors concerts—we had trouble remembering that we were giving a concert before a paying audience, because we had so much fun between ourselves,” he said.

Pavarotti, who seemed equally at ease singing with soprano Joan Sutherland as with the Spice Girls, scoffed at accusations that he was sacrificing his art in favour of commercialism.

“The word commercial is exactly what we want,” he said, after appearing in the widely publicized “Three Tenors” concerts. “We’ve reached 1.5 billion people with opera. If you want to use the word commercial, or something more derogatory, we don’t care. Use whatever you want.”

In the annals of that rare and coddled breed, the operatic tenor, it may well be said the 20th century began with Enrico Caruso and ended with Pavarotti.

Other tenors—Domingo included—may have drawn more praise from critics for their artistic range and insights, but none could equal the combination of natural talent and personal charm that so endeared Pavarotti to audiences.

“Pavarotti is the biggest superstar of all,” the late New York Times music critic Harold Schonberg once said. “He’s correspondingly more spoiled than anybody else. They think they can get away with anything. Thanks to the glory of his voice, he probably can.”

In the 1990s, Pavarotti’s teaming with Domingo and Carreras became a music business phenomenon and spawned copycats such as the Three Irish Tenors. Pavarotti starred in a film called “Yes, Giorgio” (though its failure scuttled his hopes for a Hollywood career) and appeared in a filmed version of “Rigoletto.”

He wrote an autobiography, “I, Luciano Pavarotti,” and made more than 90 recordings.

From Beijing to Buenos Aires, people immediately recognized his incandescent smile and lumbering bulk, clutching a white handkerchief as he sang arias and Neapolitan folk songs, pop numbers and Christmas carols for hundreds of thousands in outdoor concerts.

His name seemed to show up as much in gossip columns as serious music reviews, particularly after he split with Adua Veroni, his wife of 35 years and mother of their three daughters, and then took up with his 26-year-old secretary in 1996.

In late 2003, he married Nicoletta Mantovani in a lavish, star-studded ceremony. Pavarotti said their daughter Alice, nearly a year old at the time of the wedding, was the main reason he and Mantovani finally wed after years together.

In the latter part of his career, some music critics cited what they saw as an increasing tendency toward the vulgar and the commercial.

He came under fire for canceling performances or pandering to the lowest common denominator in his choice of programs, or for the Three Tenors tours and their millions of dollars in fees.

He was criticized for lip-synching at a concert in Modena, Italy, his hometown.

The son of a baker who was an amateur singer, Pavarotti was born Oct. 12, 1935, in Modena. He had a meager upbringing, though he said it was rich with happiness.

“Our family had very little, but I couldn’t imagine one could have any more,” Pavarotti said.

To be continued...

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



HISTORICAL NOTES

5 Years Ago October 2002

5th A 30 man chorus was at Stockcross Harvest Supper, Newbury

10th The Daytimers performed in front of Marks & Spencer store, Reading, for Age Concern special Radio Berkshire show.

15th At the BABS Prelims in Birmingham, Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) entered the Seniors competition and qualified in 2nd place.

19th Rockaholix were at a party for TVC member, Mike Mulroy, at High Wycombe.

26th Rockaholix were at the Woodley Lions Charter night at Sonning Golf Club.

31st Daytimers at WADE Visitors Centre, Wokingham.

10 Years Ago October 1997

15th Daytimers at Cockpole Green for Crazyies Hill WI.

Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Chris Oliver, Rod Adams) were at the Lainsborough Hotel, Winchester for Microsoft.

19th Full Chorus for a sound recording at St.John's Hall.

21st Daytimers at Maidenhead Blind Club.

25th Flying High (Pat Deeble, Graham Frampton, Jim Downing, Ed Dolan) sang at two Golden Wedding parties (one was for Jim's in-laws).

27th Daytimers at Emmer Green Friendship Club.

At the RBHC AGM Ed Dolan was elected Chairman for the third consecutive year.

Phillip Ward took on the role of Secretary

Barbershopper of the year.....Simon Adams.

During the month Time Out (Adrian Cox, Mervyn Clark, Denis Swift, Simon Adams) sang at an Old Tyme Music Hall put on by Basingstoke Ladies Choir for a German Choir visiting the town as part of a Twinning Festival.

15 Years Ago October 1992

17th Full Chorus at Pangbourne College Arts Society

20th At the RBHC AGM the following were elected to office:

Chairman.....Roger Wilkinson for the third consecutive year. This was a first for the Club.

Secretary.....Rod Clark

Treasurer.....Mike McKeown

Members.....Pete Rowe, Rod Adams, Phillip Ward

Barbershopper Of The Year.....Tony Searle

31st Full Chorus at Royal British Legion Hall, Great Bedwyn, Wilts. for Brian Finlay's Memorial Concert.

Brian was a member of RBHC when he died.

20 Years Ago October 1987

At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman.....Alan Rogers

Secretary.....Graham Nicholas

Treasurer.....Bob Horwood

Members.....Bob Tatt, Peter Wickham, Adrian Cox

Barbershopper of the year.....Derek Smith

23/25th At the LABBS Convention at Brean Sands the Barberettes were in 2nd place to the White Rosettes (Leeds), 16 choruses competed.

The quartet winners were '42nd Street' (Leeds & Bradford)

During the month Graham Starkie was appointed Chairman of the BABS Guild of Judges.

25 Years Ago October 1982

1st Full Chorus at Sulhampstead Church Harvest Supper.

We had a 50 minute spot with Partners In Time (Dick Coles, Pete Powell, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway) singing one song.

9th Full Chorus at Datchet.

19th At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman.....Pete Powell

Secretary.....Haydn Adams

Treasurer.....Bill Harper

Members.....Colin Thatcher, Alan Hill, Graham Starkie

Barbershopper Of The Year.....Colin Thatcher.

John Clark was awarded Honorary Membership for his continuing support and interest in the Club

HAYDN ADAMS

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



SUPPORTERS

We had a wonderful trip to Pisa with 10 local friends. The weather was unusually hot and there were many wonderful things to see in Pisa and Florence. We had a major hiccup on arrival at our hotel as they had made a mistake in the booking and we were only booked in for one night!! However, to remedy this they transferred us to their sister hotel which was some 15 kilometres away, overlooking the sea, with an Olympic size swimming pool. They provided transport and paid for 3 of our evening meals. All the rooms were bigger and some of us had suites, so we were all very happy.

I have checked the temperatures in Warsaw today and they are at the other end of the scale to what we had in Pisa - 9 degrees C yesterday. So, I think we will need to wrap up warm. It's hard to believe that in three weeks time those travelling to Krakow will already be there. I am really looking forward to it. Must think about ordering our money for the trip.

And, of course by that time Emma and Nigel's wedding will have come and gone. She popped in last week and is getting really excited. They are doing all the things that can only be done at the last minute and everything seems to be in order.

Looking forward to seeing you all either at the church or at the airport!!

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

IRENE

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Thanks to Haydn Adams, Brian Callaghan, Richard Leatham, Lawrence McNulty, James Porter, John Price, Bob Ridley, and Irene for supplying copy.

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READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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

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

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

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

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Barbershop Recordings Resource Library

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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. Andy will coordinate the loan and put the lender in touch with the borrower to complete the deal.

A charge of £1 per item loaned per week is payable to Andy. The money will go into Club funds and Andy will review the need to purchase recorded material on behalf of the library.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

THE REMAINING DAYS OF

OCTOBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14	15	16 Rehearsal MiH wk 6 of 6 TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Rehearsal	24	25	26	27 Emma's wedding
28	29	30 Rehearsal BABS Chairman to visit?	31	October 2007		

November 2007 calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	December 2007				1
2 CHRISTMAS SHOW Desborough suite Maidenhead	3	4 Daytimers Thamesfield Nursing Home Henley Rehearsal	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	12 Daytimers Christchurch Court Reading	13 Daytimers St Mary Butts Churchyard Reading	14	15
16	17	18 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	19 Daytimers Weirside Court Orts Road Reading	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



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