

Minutes of October committee meeting

Harrogate Male Voice Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting at Starbeck Methodist Hall 10.00 am on Tuesday 7th October		
2025 Final		
Present – David Bayne(DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG), Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC), Copy to Richard Kay (RK), David Healy (DH)		
Item		Action
1	Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the September meeting were approved and signed off. However David Healy on reflection has decided not to be co-opted onto the committee for marketing. He will however continue to seek sources of finance and support (see marketing, below).	TG
2	Treasurer's report The 2024-25 accounts and Trustee report were sent to members. At the AGM the treasurer reported end of year balance at a healthy £9,675 helped in no small way by the generous legacy of £500 from our late colleague John Dawson and our Secretary's NAC grant of £200. A closing small end of year surplus this time at £475 – compared to the previous year with negative £1618. In view of this useful position and notwithstanding reducing members – down from 47 three years ago to a likely 37 this year – the committee felt continuing subs at £150 was appropriate. Members approved the accounts and endorsed the subscription at £150 for recommendation at the AGM. As Patrick McCreanor has now resigned from the choir, Elwyn Pickering has volunteered to examine and audit our accounts for 2025-26. When new members own black suits which meet our uniform standards, they need pay only £15 for a tie and £25 for a shirt, and they should only pay when all aspects have been agreed	II

RK	Concert secretary report Saturday 22nd November. Concert at Whixley village hall arranged via Rita Lister, who is organising 2 other solo performers. This hall is slightly bigger than that at Green Hammerton. We will charge £250 to cover our costs. Start at 7pm was suggested. Saturday 13th December. Concert at Holy Trinity church Knaresbrough on suggestion of Trevor Davey. GC met administrator Brian Jelbert who was surprised at the small size of our choir and expected us to bring a substantial audience. This is a huge church and we need to promote this concert early and vigorously. Tuesday 16th December. Woodlands Methodist Church. Concert with collection in lieu of our last rehearsal in 2025. 7.30 pm start agreed with the minister. Friday 13th February Brackenfield prep school. Morning visit for 2026 Sing Out concert. Friday 27th February. Boston Spa Methodist Church. Joint Concert with Rodilians ladies choir. (Note the change from Saturday 28th February) Other potential performances Lunchtime concert at British Legion Lister House. Postponed to new year after organising repertoire, accompanist or backing tracks. Joint afternoon concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC, Nottingham. Request from Jan Fitzmaurice (Woodlands church steward) for joint concert in the spring with another choir rehearsing at Woodlands (Rock choir or Stray Notes). This may be difficult as it coincides with our Annual Sing Out concert and choir festivals, see below. We have asked for member's suggestions for future concert partners, but final agreement must be signed off by the concert secretary before confirming it with partner organisations. Reading music GC has found "the Rhythm Tree", an illustrated guide to musical note values and timings. RK reports that this is already in the Google drive. (see below)	GC
4	Members Secretary Report Section reps. have been issued with attendance sheets for the first 12 weeks of the new session. Resignations have been received from Patrick McCreanor, Stewart Reid and Brian Holmes and SB has sent letters to all signed by the chairman thanking them for their service to the choir. He has also sent a letter of welcome to Derek Jeary who has joined as a top tenor. As Brian has completed nearly 30 years of continuous service, including developing the HMVC website, he will be invited to come before the AGM and receive a framed choir photo with a small engraved plaque. Potential members invited by GC and RK are hoped to become members and another is expected on 14th October. The update of the emergency contacts list is a work in progress.	SB
5	Marketing and promotion LC visited Boston Spa methodist church (BSMC) with RK and GC on 4th September and discussed capacity, stage management, number of performers and audience capacity. Details of Rodlilians songs, numbers performing and rehearsal requirements are awaited from their MD The use of BSMC's modern recording facilities was discussed, however it has since emerged that they have no experienced recording staff so it was decided not to proceed further with this. Due to the clash of dates with the concert at Knaresborough, LC has had to withdraw our offer to sing at the BSMC Christmas Tree festival on 13th December. Promotion of future concerts, social media, sources of possible grants LC has provided Rita with a sample template for promotion of the Whixley concert David Healy is following up his list of charitable organisations which might provide grants, to which will be added the Harrogate Round Table (identified by TG) and a list of local councillors (provided by CD) who should have access to "locality funds".	LC DH

6	Recruitment New singer campaign 2026 TG and RK have been working on a campaign of 8-10 weeks duration in February/March 2026 for new male singers which would be separate from the normal choir operation (but with links not expressly hidden as suggested at the Peterborough conference). Although RK has offered to lead with only expenses paid, the committee agreed to pay a fee in addition per session. Possible venues are St Roberts social club, Harrogate Playhouse and West Park URC. TG and GC will investigate costs. The social prescribing effort has not yielded any candidates so far and we will distribute flyers ourselves to suitable locations. It is however encouraging that 2 people brought to the choir by members have now joined and another 2-3 are attending as potential members.	RK/TG
7	Website support The resignation of Brain Homes has left RK with no support in updating our website. TG will appeal for any member with ability in this area to help. To simplify access to practice tracks, documents and concert promotions, RK has developed a "new resources folder" or "Google drive" where such items can be saved. Committee members are encouraged to try this and give feedback. The folder will allow access for potential members before they have access to the website. Items to be saved should be sent to RK who is the sole administrator.	RK
8	Sing Out 2026 schools update Communication with Pannal school has been difficult and visit dates have not yet been agreed. Both schools have yet to confirm whether Friday 5th or Saturday 6th would be preferred for the concert. At the moment, Harrogate High school appears to be the best available venue but audience capacity needs to be re-checked.	TG
9	Competitive festivals 2026 The choir competitions in Harrogate competitive festival will take place on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March in St Martin's church. Leeds Road. (Saturday is most likely) Entries by 15th January. We have been invited to the York Choir Festival on Sunday 1st March to do a 20 minute slot in the evening at 7.30. There is no competition, rather it is a performance festival similar to the Royal Hall festival in Harrogate (for which we still a wait an invitation). We will not compete in Eskdale festival this year as neither of our accompanists is available.	DB
10	AGM Nominations and seconders have been registered for TG to continue as chairman and DB to continue as secretary, in accordance with the constitution. No nominations have been received for marketing. No questions have been received under "other business" .	DB
11	Venue of this meeting. Was changed to Starbeck Methodists (with room fee) after last-minute notification that Woodlands would not be available today.	DB
12	Next meeting. Wednesday 5th November at Woodlands Methodists.	DB