Minutes of meeting 8/9/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir
Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church
10.00 am on Tuesday 8 th September 2026 FINAL
Present – David Bayne(DB) , Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC),
Richard Kay (RK), Paul Boothman (PB) Apologies Chris Dunn (CD)
Item Action
1 Welcome/ Minutes of last meeting
TG welcomed RK and PB to their first committee meeting. PB is attending to explain his
ideas about singing at events and sponsorship of the choir
The minutes of the June meeting were approved without comment and signed off.

TG

2 Treasurer Report
 II had distributed the accounts for 2025-26 in advance and elaborated as follows:
 The separate SWYW account shows that HMVC did not have to subsidise the project
thanks to donations from the Rotary Club, the Round Table and a generous personal
donation from a choir member. £1200 was donated to Andy's Man Club.
 The Sing Out concert also made a modest "profit" of £477.90
 The main HMVC income & expenditure account (not yet audited) shows a surplus after
writedowns of £520 giving a closing balance of £10195.26. This includes a further
donation of £1000 from a current member. Without the overall donations of £4000 we
would have been left with £6200, close to the minimum recommended by the Charities
Commission. We cannot rely on such donations!

 II also presented a draft budget with many assumptions about the number of new
members and number of rehearsals and concerts. Our recommendation for subs will be
decided at the next meeting and will depend on the number of members we have,
bearing in mind our subsidies for uniforms and 3 months free rehearsals for new
members. An option to pay by monthly direct debit or standing order could be offered.
II

3 Members Secretary Report
Some members attended the funeral of former member Peter Dawson
Neil Duncan and Roger Gill are expected to return but Al Junor is seriously ill. We extend
our condolences to Derek Jeary whose wife died 2 week ago. He will attend this evening
with his daughter and son-in Law (who will sing with us tonight)
The questionnaires about personal contacts have been returned from those who have
changes and SB will now update the confidential contact list for first aiders and DB.
The attendance statistics for the period April to July compared to the previous quarter are
as follows:-
Baritones 85.8% compared to 70.13% in previous quarter
Basses 62.48% “ 87.6% “ “
Tenors 2 76.85% “ 82.17% “ “
(No attendance records were collected for tenors 1)

GC

4 Evaluation of Sing When You’re Winning
The raw figures are that from 75 positive enquiries, 35 men attended some of the

sessions, 31 completed the course and 25 participated in the final concert. The feedback from the participants was all very positive and is available in e-mails from RK. The availability of a bar at St Roberts club helped to bond the participants which was continued over the summer months (using a what's app group) on Tuesday evenings as "Friends of Frobishers". RK had followed the "Peterborough model" where appropriate, but common identity might have been improved with printed T-shirts and there was some demand for "more upbeat numbers" (which are hard to find for MVC and are more complicated to learn.) While Andy's Man Club were unable to provide much support on the ground, the link to them improved access to premises where we would not normally be able to promote events. An irritation was a participant who blatantly tried to recruit for another choir. Feedback from SWYW members would indicate 4-5 men coming to today's rehearsal, another 2-3 coming at a future date with a maximum of 10 recruits overall from participants and their friends. One suggestion was to hold a "mate's evening" together with the choir to encourage wider interest.

SB

RK has made a huge effort and commitment over the last 6-9 months for which the committee thanks him sincerely. A repeat of SWYW cannot be contemplated for at least 2 and rather 3 years, however the evidence of the success of this project should assist in any future application for grants.

5 Parking and Football nights

We intend to negotiate overflow parking at Willow Tree school, however this is not
available on nights when Harrogate Town are playing at home. AA will continue to meet at
7pm in the small hall indefinitely. TG will request that members who are physically able
should seek parking in adjacent streets.

TG

6 Rehearsal Dates
The half-term break has been moved from 27 th to 20 th October due to non-availability of
accompanists. We perform at York Christmas festival on Tuesday 15 th December so last
rehearsal 2026 will be on 8 th December .

TG/RK

7 Promotion of concerts
We are still lacking a nominated person to promote our activities. RK is posting updates
regularly on Facebook as well as posting 'latest news' and 'hear us' pages on the
website. He has done all the intended modernisation of the website and any further
modernisation would require funds for professional input. An AI-enhanced template
for concert promotion would be an advantage and one of the SWYW participants may be
able to help with this.

TG/RK

8 AGM
In the light of commitments up to the end of October, the AGM will be deferred until
Tuesday 3 rd November. Elections to committee will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

DB

9 Singing at Beer Festivals and other events
PB was invited to discuss his proposal for singing at beer festivals and similar events.
Many welcome live music and even audience participation. Instead of uniforms we might wear branded t-shirts and use taped music. He offers to contact potential event organisers to try out interest, but without any commitment at this stage.
TG reminded that we had turned down 2 such opportunities last year because of the short notice given. Performing in care homes was also discussed but apart from the British Legion who could cover all of our costs, most care homes cannot accommodate a full choir and struggle to find the price we ask.
RK agreed that we should be ready and open to accept invitations for events which give us great publicity, but singing with a recorded accompaniment requires rehearsal, and "professional" amplification. However RK will consider recording suitable tracks. Any reduced sized HMVC groups must maintain TTBB balance.

PB

10 Commercial Sponsorship Strategy
PB had distributed a plan to seek corporate sponsorship to fund uniforms, concerts and community promotion. This was not discussed at the meeting, however PB and committee members are encouraged to follow up on any contacts they may have until this strategy has been discussed and finalised.

PB

11 Sing Out 2027
TG confirmed that Ricard Taylor school plus a combination of Spofforth and Follifoot
village schools are in line for 2027.

TG

10 Next Meeting
Tuesday 6 th October at Woodlands Methodists

DB