

# Committee meeting minutes

## 7/4/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 7 th April 2026 Draft

Present – David Bayne( DB) , Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC),

Apologies Chris Dunn (CD) Copy to Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Richard Kay (RK)

Item Action

1 Apologies

CD is unable to attend this meeting however he advises that Richard Hayter has resigned and his music folder has been returned.

SB

2 The Minutes of the March meeting were approved and signed off. TG

3 Project "Sing when you're winning"

□ Further grant applications. Applications are in preparation by David Healy for grants from

the Rotary club and the Bramhall Trust. DB has registered with the Lottery Fund but will

defer an application for a possible repeat of SWYW as applications take over 3 months for a decision

□ Timetable for course. The course starts on Wednesday 22 nd April for 10 weeks with final concert on Saturday 4 th July.

□ Number of applicants. At the time of the meeting 53 men had shown an interest

(however RK has since updated this to say that only 23 men have formally registered.)

□ Promotion of SAYW. In the meeting it was decided that flyers

into letter boxes and distribution at a football match would no longer be required. (however in the light of RK's feedback we need to redouble our promotion efforts and ensure that posters put up in March are still in place)

□ Project Costs. RK has provided an estimate of £2705 for venue hire, music copies, publicity, printing costs and accompanist fees. We will in addition pay RK for his preparation work and his normal appearance fee for each SAYW session. We need to be prepared to give up 50% of our reserves to this existential project.

4 West Park Centre

TG and GC will revisit West Park next week to look at seating and performance space.

Benches will be supplied by the schools for the Sing Out concert.

West park applied for a £150,000 grant from the N.Yorks mayors fund and has been granted £100,000. We have booked West Park for 6 th June and 4 th July for a fee of £200 per event.

TG

5 Treasurer Report

II has paid the accompanists up to the end of March. The pro-rata sub of one new member was agreed and if another member returns after Easter he will be asked for his second part-payment.

II prepared a table of income and expenditure from concerts and festivals for the current year. We made small profits from Whixley and Boston Spa but all other performances

involved only cash out. We would hope to cover the current estimated £633 deficit from income from the Sing Out concert. II also questioned using both accompanists at concerts , however for the Sing Out concert it was agreed to continue inviting both of them.

There followed a brief discussion of our choir objectives regarding concerts, festivals, the health benefits to members and fund-raising for charity, which was deferred to a future date when RK can be involved.

II

6 Concert secretary report

The Harrogate Choir Festival on 21 st March was deemed to be a success by RK with an "Honours" award and third place behind an outstanding young adults choir from Leeds and a good rock choir. We fielded 25 members (including 2 new members) which was adequate for the occasion.

Thursday 30 th April. 2.50 pm visit to Pannal primary, assembly followed by joint choir practice.

GC

Saturday 9 th May. Harrogate Choir Festival (evening) in Royal Hall. Fees not yet defined.

Saturday 6 th June. Annual Sing Out concert at West Park Centre

Saturday 4 th July joint concert of SWYW with HMVC at West Park centre

Sunday 11 th October. Afternoon joint concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC at Starbeck

Methodist church

We were unable to sign up to the Jo Cox charity Family Fun Day on 20 th June as we have no accompanist available. We may be invited next year if they have the funding to cover our costs.

#### 7 Members Secretary Report

Since the last meeting Paul Boothman and Stewart Radford have received welcome letters, have joined the choir and paid pro-rata subs for 5 months. Uniforms are being organised via Robin Wilkinson. SB's audit of choir members details will start after the Easter break.

The attendance statistics for the 12 weeks up to end of March compared to the previous 12 weeks are as follows:-

Basses 87.5% compared to 56.9%

Baritones 70.1% compared to 76.7%

Tenor 2s 87.2% compared to 66%

Tenor 1 72% (no figure available for previous period)

The following members who have not attended this choir year were discounted from the

figures: Richard Hayter, Roger Gill, Max Ford, Neil Duncan and Robert Bickford. John

Melanaphy and David Bainbridge were discounted for the last 12 weeks.

John Melanaphy and Neil Duncan are not expected to return until next choir year, Roger

Gill and David Bainbridge may return sooner.

SB

#### 8 Social

The social scheduled for 20 th March was cancelled due to lack of interest. We will look for an alternative date in the autumn when some new members may be available.

TG

9 Singing in care homes

This subject has been somewhat overtaken by SAYW and will be addressed next session

DB

10 Practice tracks and Google drive

Not enough members are using the practice tracks , sometimes due to lack of access to

Google Drive or confusion about how to use it. We need to issue some guidance for this.

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# Committee meeting minutes

## 3/3/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 FINAL

Present – David Bayne( DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG),

Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC (GC) Copies to Richard Kay (RK),Lawrie Coulthard (LC)

Item Actio

n

1 The minutes of the March meeting were approved and signed off TG

2 Project "Sing when you're winning"

The application for a grant from North Yorkshire & York council's Men's Health fund was

unfortunately declined. Other sources of funds are being sought including Rotary Club, the

Bramhall Trust and other local government sources. Although other choir's projects have asked for a joining fee or donation from participants, it was felt that the course had been advertised as "free of charge" and any donations should be totally voluntary. Our reserves will cover the cost of the course including a payment to RK in addition to his expenses. Our reserves are there to ensure the continuation of the choir.

The course will begin on Wednesday 22 nd April and continue until Wednesday 1 st July with a joint concert with HMVC at West ark centre on Saturday 4 th July.

15 choir members have volunteered to promote the project (in addition to committee members) and RK has briefed them via a google drive dedicated to SWYW. Proposed and completed actions should be posted on the task list on the drive to co-ordinate coverage and prevent duplication.

At the time of the committee meeting, 15 men had registered interest (in addition to our 3 latest potential members). This makes our target of 40 participants by end of April look feasible.

At St Roberts social club, there is no disabled access to the upstairs room. The piano is available to us and is of adequate standard. Although David Mawson is not available for the first session, RK is able to take this on his own. We have still to see St Robert's safeguarding policy.

TG has visited the Harrogate branch of Andy's Man Club who are co-operating on the project but he missed the start of their session before participants split into groups. He will

next go to the Knaresborough branch at 7pm.

The committee approved the press release and the FAQ sheet, with a couple of additions.

3 West Park Centre capacity

RG and GC have still to re-visit West Park together to confirm the capacity for the annual

Sing Out concert. The primary school choirs will bring about 120 children who will need

extra benches from one of the schools to seat the all. The schools have requested

confirmation of the venue.

TG/G

C

4 Treasurer Report

One £75 sub contribution is still missing. Although the person in question has resigned he

may come back after Easter. We assume Max Ford and Robert Bickford will not return but

we will hold off making a presentation to Robert for the moment.

2 new members who have completed their probationary period will be asked for a pro-

rata sub from 1st April until end of June. We will of course subsidise their uniforms as per

policy.

At the time of meeting, the income from the Boston Spa concert was £1577, costs £711

incl. fees to HMVC and Rodillians leaving £866 for Martin House hospice. However the

donation was revised upwards to £1400 after £492 ticket sales by the Rodillians was

added.

It was noted that the card reader machine did not function at the church, but fortunately

all tickets sold at the door were paid in cash. The machine

now appears to be working. It was discussed whether printed tickets are still relevant in this day and age and whether on-line tickets should be offered.

## II

### 5 Concert secretary report

The attendance of choir members at the Boston Spa was adequate and we were able to

perform our songs to a full house to RK's satisfaction. The difficult movements of HMVC

between the stage and balcony went well enough and we received positive feedback from

audience members. Although we were 2 members less at the York Choir Festival, we again

managed our 5 songs well enough and were appreciated by the audience.

Our next performances are

Saturday 21 st March. Harrogate Competitive Festival. The venue has changed from

St Mark's church to Harrogate High School and our class starts at 2pm.

Thursday 30 th April. Afternoon Visit to Pannal primary, assembly followed by joint choir practice.

Saturday 9 th May. Harrogate Choir Festival (evening) in Royal Hall

Saturday 6 th June. Annual Sing Out concert at West Park Centre

Saturday 20 th June. Jo Cox charity Family Fun Day. Request to be put to members this evening.

Saturday 4 th July joint concert of SWYW with HMVC at West Park centre

Sunday 11 th October. Afternoon joint concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC at Starbeck

Methodist church.

GC

#### 6 Members Secretary Report

The status of members who are no longer attending was discussed in (4) above.

SB will conduct an individual review of all members details (address, telephone numbers, next of kin) using extracts of the last record sealed into envelopes.

The essential confidential record to be carried by first-aiders will then be updated.

DB emphasised that this record must be taken to all performance venues and to all rehearsals in case of accidents or illness.

SB

#### 7 Promotion of HMVC concerts

The work done by LC (and the church) in promoting the Boston Spa concert resulted in a nearly-full house. This contrasts with other poorly-promoted concerts where performers have outnumbered audience. If we cannot find a promotions officer we may have to appoint a person to organise advertising, tickets and flyers for each concert.

#### 8 Social

Will take place at St Roberts social club on Friday 20 th March. Final attendance lists are required this evening and payment of £18 per person by BACS is now due.

Members needing piano accompaniment should speak to David Mawson this evening.

Parking at the church has been declined but there is adequate parking on the adjacent streets.

TG

#### 9 Sing Out

The visit to Brackenfield school on 13 th February went well despite the music teacher being absent and our performance time at assembly being shortened due to a communications mix-up about end of term awards. It did mean however that we were able to sing to some parents as well as the pupils.

The visit to Pannal school on 30 th April will be from 2.50 in the afternoon with choir practice to follow a performance to the school.

The capacity of West Park centre is discussed in (3) above.

TG

#### 10 Any other business

CD raised the question about how to speak to members who are singing their "own versions" of songs and putting other singers off. It is not the duty of section reps to do this but we should be empowered to speak to anyone who is out of sync or let RK raise the issue.

CD

11 Next Meeting. Although we have no rehearsal on 7 th April, the committee will meet at Woodlands Meths at 10 am on that date.

DB

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# Minutes of the committee meeting 3/2/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 Final

Circulation – David Bayne( DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG),

Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC), Richard Kay (RK), Lawrie Coulthard (LC)

Item Action

1 The minutes of the January meeting were approved and signed off TG

2 Project "Sing when you're winning" (SWYW)

The focus of this meeting was once again SWYW. RK believes that the promotion of this

course which begins on 22 nd April should start almost right away, as soon as we have

identified volunteers and have printed the flyers and posters.

Instead of forming a sub-committee to drive actions on this project, we will use and

expand the task list formulated by RK, which is available to all volunteers and committee

members

From the task list

We agree with RK's latest flyer design showing himself as soloist

Order 1000 (GC says 2000) flyers but add 100 A4 posters

The google participant application form by RK is excellent

We need to understand how the SWYW e-mail account will work

Who has the link to the Bramhall Trust? Can David Healy progress this?

Our grant application to NY council has not yet been approved but they have

until end of February to contact us.

- St Roberts is booked from 22 nd April and West Park for final concert on 4 th July (DB to add to Choir Dates)
- II is already allocating funds for venue booking and flyer printing
- Excellent progress with Andy's Man Club (AMC) in Harrogate. Extend to branches in Ripon, Thirsk, and Knaresborough (no branch in Wetherby)
- DB's mobile number has been printed on the flyers and he will answer all telephone enquiries and agree a protocol with RK for passing on contacts to the e-mail address and the person registering attendance at the course.
- DB will make up a form for volunteers to sign up to and display it tonight after TG has addressed the members.
- Draft press release was not attached by RK (has since been received). Committee members to comment ASAP
- Volunteers will be assigned to 5 districts of Harrogate, to Knaresborough, to Ripon, and any other areas.
- Check with LC for contacts with local radio
- Complete checklist of press and radio contacts
- TG and DB will inform Social Prescribers of the SWYW course and ask to direct patients there instead of to the choir
- As well as village halls and notice boards, flyers to be distributed to
  - Barber shops
  - Drop-in centres
  - Leisure centres
  - Golf/sports clubs
  - Rotary/Round Table
  - Probus clubs
  - Mixed choirs

- Churches (J Melanaphy if fit enough)
- . Draw up checklist of locations for volunteers
- . Aim is to hand out flyers and posters to identified volunteers at a briefing before rehearsal on 10 th February (as we are not rehearsing on 17 th Feb) – previous target was 24 th February
- . Steve Hurdle may participate in SWYW and has offered to take participant's details
- . Mass distribution of flyers through letterboxes nearer the start of the course via allocated volunteers.
- . Hand out flyers at Harrogate Town FC home matches (RK proposal)

The date of the joint SWYW and HMVC concert has been set at Saturday 4 th July at West Park centre

3 West Park Centre

The committee has approved a letter by TG in support of their application for Mayor's funds. We are also progressing plans to expand seating for our Sing Out concert

TG

4 Treasurer Report

December hall hire of £90 was paid and £150 was received from Holy Trinity

2 full year subs and one sub instalment are still outstanding.

II

5 Concert secretary report

13 th February 8.30 am visit to Brackenfield prep school. See (9) below

27 th February 7.30 pm Joint concert with Rodillians ladies at Boston Spa methodist church

1 st March York festival evening concert at 7.30 pm. We sing 5

songs in a 20-minute slot  
and need to be there before 6.35 pm for a sound check. GC and  
DB will visit the venue on  
8 th February. We must get out a good choir attendance despite  
the concert 2 days before.

21 st March Harrogate choir competition. Performance time  
confirmed as 2pm. We  
assume venue is Harrogate High school as there is no further  
mention of St Martin's  
church in the syllabus.

30 th April. Afternoon visit to Pannal primary school

9 th May. Harrogate Choir Festival (invitation received and RK  
confirmed his availability)

6 th June Sing Out concert, now assumed to be at West Park  
Centre

4 th July Joint concert of SAYW with HMVC at West Park Centre

11 th October. Joint Sunday afternoon concert with Eastwood  
Collieries MVC

GC

6 Members Secretary Report

There is confusion over whether or not Richard Hayter has  
resigned

Robert Bickford is unable to sing and we need to assess  
whether he continues as a  
member. John Melanaphy is back home recovering from a heart  
attack hopes to rejoin us

before too long. A "get well" card will be circulated this  
evening for members to sign.

Steve Hurdle will attend the SWYW course. Nigel Lister has  
moved to a new address.

SB

7 Promotion of HMVC concerts

We urgently need to identify a successor to LC for promotion  
of concerts, which must

continue separately from SWYW. Lawrie has a wide network of publicity outlets including radio and we should use his knowledge to maximise SWYW coverage. Meanwhile LC has made a sterling effort to promote the Boston Spa concert in Wetherby and the Church has made a great effort to promote it within the Tadcaster Circuit (Boston, Wetherby, Tadcaster and Collingham). Martin House refused to display our posters until we had pasted their logo onto them (house rule). We should ensure that the logos of beneficiaries always appear in our publicity! Now the choir needs to sell tickets as the Rodillians are expected to bring up to 40 supporters.

?

## 8 Social

TG has distributed menus from 2 caterers to the committee (as St Roberts cannot do this in-house). The room will cost £60 and for a minimum of 35 people, a main course plus dessert will cost £16 with a room charge of £2 pr head making £18. TG will ask for a show of hands for participants this evening.

TG

## 9 Sing Out

An early start is required for our performance at Brackenfield school assembly at 8.45. on Friday 13 th February. We need to be there by 8.30 and allow for time to find parking in adjacent streets.

TG

## 10 Choir dates

The list of choir dates for performances and breaks has been updated and checked by GC, TG and RK and will now be issued to all members. Note that we have some noticeboard space back in the Woodlands main hall.

DB

11 Next Meeting Tuesday 3 rd March at 10 am, Woodlands Meths.  
DB

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# Minutes of committee meeting 6/1/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church  
10.00 am on Tuesday 6th January 2026

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)

Item Action

1 The minutes of the December meeting were approved and signed off

A matter carried over concerned the venue for the 2026 Social Evening. TG suggested using St Robert's social club as it has a bar and moderate prices and intends to make a booking for Friday 13th March. Blue badge parking should be available in the church opposite. SB commented that more consideration might have been given to Harrogate

Golf Club where last year's successful social was held.

TG

## 2 Project "Sing when you're winning"

This was the main and urgent subject of this meeting

### Organisation

Both the promotion and running of this project require capable volunteers from the

choir. A sub-committee of 4-5 people needs to be identified but the promotion of the

project will require a wider commitment. Committee members suggested 9-10 names

who might be interested and TG, GC and DB will speak to them at this evening's

rehearsal. A committee member (in turn) should attend each of the singing sessions. A

key function will be to register attendees and collect e-mail addresses.

### Presentation to Membership

The project needs to be presented to members in detail and it was decided to do this on

January 13 th from the break for as long as it takes.

DB read out a proposal from RK for the content of the presentation

### Presentation points

- . Need to make the choir more relevant
- . Radical new project modelled on the success of other MVCs
- . 10 week fixed term course from April – June pitched as a charity fundraiser for men with little or no singing experience, culminating in a joint concert with HMVC
- . No mention of HMVC or "choir" in promotion or running of the course
- . Run at a different venue from HMVC
- . This is a last-ditch effort to invest in the future of the choir

. Promotion begins end of February

The key paragraph of the presentation is as follows

“Alongside the agreement to commit some of our reserves, the success of the

project will be entirely dependent on how well we can publicise and recruit.

Similar projects from very similar choirs in comparable catchments show that it

is possible to attract up to 50 participants (sometimes more) but this requires

every member of the choir to be committed and proactive when it comes to

publicity. The ‘support in kind’ is almost more vital than the finances and we will

need boots on the ground to put up posters, distribute flyers at supermarkets,

contact news outlets, gather data etc. as well as being prepared to help with the

general organisation. We will be looking for a sub committee of volunteers to

oversee this project, but it will need everybody to go above and beyond to

promote the project, whilst not necessarily representing HMVC. There will of

course be decisions along the way that not everybody agrees with, but the united

front of positivity towards a collective goal will be the secret to success”.

Venue for Course (St Robert’s Social Club)

We have booked the downstairs room (with piano and capacity for up to 20 ) with the

option to move to a larger room upstairs. These spaces are available on Wednesday

evenings from 8th April. TG is a member here and will act as liason between HMVC and

the club, including our adherence to their rules for Health & Safety and Safeguarding.

## Choice of Charity to benefit

We prefer a locally-based men's charity even if it is part of a nation-wide franchise.

Andy's Man Club is a UK charitable organisation that coordinates weekly peer-to-peer support groups for men. It aims to improve mental health in men and support men at risk of suicide. The charity organises weekly 2-hour group talking sessions at over 270 venues across the UK, led by a trained group member known as a facilitator. CD gave some valuable information on the Harrogate branch and will pass on some connections to TG

## Dates for Course

RK has suggested 5 Wednesdays from 22 nd April a break on 27 th May then 5 Wednesdays until 1 st June with a concert on 4/5 th July. Availability of accompanists still needs to be checked out, but (former member) Ben might be able to help out.

## Application for Grant from NYCA man's mental health fund

The text was slightly modified in accordance with our ad hoc meeting with RK and David

Healy on 16 th December and the application was submitted by DB on 28 th December

along with the requisite attachment documents. Apart from an acknowledgement of

receipt, no further communication from NYCA has been received to date. DB will keep

the committee informed of any developments.

## 3 Treasurer Report

II has opened a second account for "Sing when you're winning".

Expenditure in

December included hall hire for November, NAC membership, insurance and music

team honoraria all totalling GBP 2287. 1 expected sub in

basses is still outstanding.

We received GBP 150 from Knaresborough Holy Trinity after some renegotiation due to

the very poor audience attendance. Another GBP 145 was received from the collection

concert at Woodlands Methodists. We were wrongly invoiced for 16 th December

(Woodlands concert) and this will be corrected.

II made a request for concert song lists for members to include the song library

numbers.

II

4 Concert secretary report

There have been no changes to our performance dates since December, viz

13 th February Morning visit to Brackenfield prep school

27 th February Joint concert with Rodillians ladies at Boston Spa methodist church

(BSMC)

1 st March York festival evening concert

21 st March Harrogate choir competition

30 th April Afternoon visit to Pannal primary school

9 th May. Harrogate Choir Festival (but no invitation received yet)

6 th June Sing Out concert, now assumed to be at West Park Centre

3 rd /4 th or 10 th /11 th October. Joint concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC

PS A meeting at BSMC between RK and the Rodillians MD reached an agreement about

performance spaces and the participation of Rodillians was confirmed. BSMC have

distributed our flyer in their Tadcaster Circuit newsletter.

GC

## 5 Members Secretary Report

SB has prepared attendance lists for section reps. which will now reflect the removal of the names mentioned in the last report as non-attenders which now gives a total of current members of 38, of whom four may or may not be intending to remain. They have still been included in the current sheets so time will indicate if they are returning to regular attendances / payment of subs. The new lists cover the first 12 weeks of 2026 which will enable a comparison to be made with last 12 weeks of attendance between September and December of 2025.

SB has sent a letter of thanks to Bryan Johnson who joined in 2022. The photo frame purchased on the understanding that he was a long-serving member will be retained for future use.

SB

## 6 Promotion of choir and events

LC is unable to continue as promotion and marketing member and needs to relinquish all computer-related work. He is willing to support whoever takes over this function and the committee must urgently find a replacement. The immediate promotion tasks are

LC

for the BSMC concert in February for which LC will order posters and flyers and "Sing when you're winning" for which LC will order 1000 flyers.

## 7 Sing Out

The date for the visit to Pannal school has been finalised (see 4. Above) and RK has issued the music to be sung with HMVC. Discussions with West

End centre would indicate that it could accommodate the anticipated number of audience and performers, especially if the balcony can be brought back into use

TG

#### 8 Woodlands Methodist Halls

We have been offered a return to the large hall for rehearsals at the same price as the small hall. RK and the committee approve this move and DB will confirm with the administrator

9 Next Meeting Tuesday 3 rd February at Woodlands Methodists  
DB