

Minutes of committee meeting 9/12/25

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 9 th December 2025 FINAL

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

George Cross (GC) Apologies – Lawrie Coulthard Copy to Richard Kay (RC), David Healy (DH)

Item Actio

n

1 TG opened the meeting emphasising the need to consider the application for a grant for our course for new singers. The minutes of the November meeting were signed off

TG

2 Treasurer's report

Hall hire £180 was paid for November and £217 was received from the Whixley concert

after £33 was deducted for additional hire of the "Green Room"

4 members have still not

paid subs however one is absent for medical operations and another is not expected to

return. Section reps are requested to follow up on non-payers.

II has opened a separate bank account for the proposed singing course in April-May

II

3 Concert secretary report

The Whixley concert was a success with a good audience, however our first 2 songs were

rather hesitant and needed more rehearsal. There was confusion

about hire of space for
the choir to assemble and GC paid £33 to hire the room behind
the stage

Saturday 13 th December 13 th Holy Trinity Knaresborough. GC
visited once again to identify
the church hall as a green room. 2 disabled parking spaces
were reserved for us and access
by car to drop off passengers is assured. (In the event, the
concert was held in the hall as
the church roof had become unsafe after a storm)

Tuesday 16 th December. Woodlands Church. Concert in lieu of
rehearsal. Full Christmas
programme, casual dress.

Friday 13 th February. Visit to Brackenfield prep school,.
Morning visit for 2026 Sing Out
concert

Friday 27 th February. Boston Spa Methodist Church. Joint
concert with Rodilians ladies'
choir. Rodilians have formally confirmed and expect to bring
40 members which poses a
problem for performance space.

Sunday 1 st March. York choir festival, Rowntree Theatre. 20
minute slot to sing.

Saturday 21 st March, Harrogate competitive festival, St
Mark's church. afternoon session

Thursday 30 th April. Afternoon visit to Pannal primary school
for 2026 Sing Out concert

Saturday 9 th May. Harrogate community choir festival.
Awaiting formal invitation.

Saturday 6 th June, annual Sing Out concert. Venue probably
West Park centre.

October 2026. Concert with Eastwood Colliery MVC of
Nottingham. Dates are 3 rd /4 th or
10 th /11 th October. An afternoon concert is preferred to
allow for travel back to Notts.

Starbeck Meths could fit this into their monthly music
programme but if an afternoon

concert does not suit them, we could use West Park.

GC

4 Members Secretary Report

Bryan Johnson has formally resigned from the choir on the grounds of ill-health and Steve

Hurdle (T2) has joined. The attendance statistics are distorted by inclusion in the section

reps. forms of members who have resigned or who attend only sporadically. We should

not include members who have not or are not expected to pay subs this year and section

reps will be asked to revise their attendance sheets accordingly. Tenor 1 figures are not

available yet, but the attendance figures for the 12 weeks September to December

compared to the 12 weeks April to June 2025 are given below.

Sept. – Dec April- June

Tenor 2 66.6% 73.6%

Baritones 76.7% 68.8%

Basses 56.9% 47.7%

SB also investigated the possibility of a men's choral singing class as part of their night

school programme. This could still be included in the summer term 2026. However night

classes are only run on week days and RK would only be available at weekends.

SB

5 Promotion of Concerts (Report provided) LC

Whixley 22 nd November. Liased with Rita Lister to include 2 other performers and

provided input for posters. Despite tickets priced at £15, the concert was a success.

Knareborough 13 th December. Early posters and tickets had

advertised a start at 7pm but this was later revised by the church wardens to 7.30pm. LC and RK provided input for posters which were distributed by LC and Trevor throughout Knaresborough

As we could not entertain at the Boston Spa Methodist Xmas tree festival on this date, LC has arranged to sing solo with backing tapes in the afternoon. Woodlands 16 th December. LC prepared a poster for publication in the church news and website and along with choir colleagues, distributed them in the local area, as well as in Wetherby and The Manor residential home.

Boston Spa methodists, Friday 27 th February. Joint concert with Rodilians in aid of Martin House. Poster to include ticket availability from Rodilians and HMVC with QR codes. BSMC will promote via parish news and Rodilians will promote on Facebook. LC has contacted Martin House for promotional assistance and info on their logo. RK has generated a first draft of poster/flyer using AI. As noted above, Rodilians may bring as many as 40 singers from Wakefield. Use of online ticketing was discussed by the committee but was deferred until the next meeting.

6 Recruitment. New singer campaign

St Roberts social club has been provisionally booked for this 10 week course. A source of a grant has been identified by RK namely North Yorkshire men's mental health fund. RK and David Healy (DH) have drafted a excellent project description with objectives etc, have defined the impact and legacy our project will have and have provided an analysis of the full costs. The risks to success have been defined along with our experience and capacity

to deliver and monitor the success of the project, using Sing Out as an example.

The committee considered the document and have requested a meeting with RK and DH

on 16 th December to address a list of questions formulated by DB before the concert.

Documents such as policies for safeguarding, health and safety together with our annual

accounts need to be attached. The application has to be made by Friday 2 nd January at the

latest. The target attendance of the course was given as 40 with possible 20 people

progressing on to other support organisations. We still have to identify a men's charity as

partner/ beneficiary and several were discussed.

It was agreed that DB should front up the application and make the formal application

after RK and DH have updated the text and the required documents have been prepared.

The project has not yet been presented to the full membership and we need to seek

volunteers for the proposed sub-committee as well as for promotion of the course.

It was proposed to do this before the rehearsal on 13 th January

7 Website and Google Drive

There have been no new developments here. RK has trialled AI to design posters.

RK

8 Sing Out 2026 schools update

(Postscript) Pannal school has agreed to a school visit for a choir performance at assembly

and a session with the school choir on the afternoon of Thursday 30 th April

GC and TG visited Spofforth primary school with a view to

including Spofforth and Follifoot
in Sing Out 2027 along with Richard Taylor school.

TG

9 Choir social

St Roberts social club would be available for our social, with a charge for a Saturday night of £90 or £60 for a Friday night. The club has no catering so this would have to be ordered externally, however there is a bar, which a majority of the committee would wish for. We should attempt to promote some mixing of people instead of being anchored to a specific table. TG suggested 13 th /14 th March if RK is available.

TG

10 Singing ability

CD raised the question of how to politely correct adjacent singers if they are off-key or too loud. We should be able to speak to colleagues without them taking offence, or ask RK to go over a line or page where the section is not all together

CD

11 Next Meeting (A special meeting to discuss the Singing Cours grant application to include Richard and David Healey would be held at 6:15 before the Woodlands Concert on Grant Application for singing course) The course will be the primary focus of the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 th January at Woodlands Methodists.

Minutes of Committee meeting 5/11/25

Harrogate Male Voice Choir		
Minutes of Committee Meeting at the Chairman's residence		
10.00 am on Wednesday 5th November		
2025		
Present – David Bayne(DB) , Tony Goodall (TG), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC) Apologies – Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Lawrie Coulthard (LC) Copy to Richard Kay (RK)		
Item		Action
1	TG welcomed the members to his residence following the inability of Woodlands Methodists to accommodate us. Apologies were received from II, CD and LC The minutes of the September meeting were approved and signed off.	TG
2	Treasurer's report (report received in advance) Our bank balance stands at £11,823 after paying September hall hire, MD and new music. 15 members have so far paid subs. It was confirmed that new members should pay subs pro rata after their initial 3 month experience period.	II

3	<p style="text-align: center;">Concert secretary report</p> <p>Saturday 22nd November. Concert at Whixley village hall, at 7.30 pm. GC has visited the hall with Rita and Ian McNeil (who also has access to recording). The space behind the stage which is needed as a green room had not been booked so GC paid the £11 to secure this. RK is liaising with former member Ben and a dance group to complete the concert programme.</p> <p>Saturday 13th December. Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Knaresborough 7 pm.. GC has inspected the venue and met the warden. A green room has been identified and a co-ordinator for the concert night has been nominated by the church. 2 choir pews will be removed to allow us to line up as usual. There is no general parking at the church but some spaces at the church will be reserved for blue badge holders.</p> <p>Tuesday 16th December Concert at Woodlands Methodists, 7.30 pm (in lieu of HMVC rehearsal). This is our annual concert at our host venue, no fee charged and collection on retiring.</p> <p>Friday 13th February. Visit to Brackenfield prep school,. Morning visit for 2026 Sing Out concert</p> <p>Friday 27th February. Boston Spa Methodist Church. Joint concert with Rodilians ladies' choir. GC and LC have visited twice, the second time with RK. Any joint songs will present a problem as there is no room for both choirs to stand together. The balcony may have to be used.</p> <p>Sunday 1st March York Choir Festival 7.30pm. This is not competition but a choir festival similar to Harrogate. We have been allotted a 20 minute slot. DM is available.</p> <p>Saturday 21st March. Harrogate Competitive Festival. The choir competition will be held in St Martin's church, Leeds Road. RK will not be available if we have to sing in the evening.</p> <p>Saturday 9th May. Harrogate Community Choir Festival. The Stray Notes choir have reserved this date, we await an invitation.</p> <p>Saturday 6th June annual Sing Out concert. See below for venue options.</p> <p>October 2026. Joint afternoon concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC. Date to be agreed. Probable venue West End URC</p>	GC
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Members Secretary Report</p> <p>As noted in (2) above, the situation of 3 members who have not returned after the summer break will be clarified by section reps. Members who have resigned have been deleted from the distribution list. A potential new bass has decided not to continue due to night driving from Chapel Allerton. Forms for attendance for the first quarter have been issued to section reps.</p>	SB

5	<p style="text-align: center;">Promotion (report received in advance)</p> <p>Whixley, 22nd November. LC has received tickets for the event priced at £15 for adults. Posters and a Facebook promotion have been produced by Rita with material from LC, however RK wants the list of songs to be left flexible so no programme can be produced. Our general flyer will be available to promote the choir.</p> <p>Knaresborough 13th December. A poster and a Facebook announcement has been produced by Holy Trinity church based on detail supplied by LC, however promotion needs to be supported by HMVC. If RK has decided on the songs to be sung by 2nd December, there may still be time for a programme to be printed.</p> <p>Woodlands Meths. 16th December. LC is preparing a poster for this concert which will be promoted by the church and by LC. No formal programme is required however a list of songs and PDFs with the words of communal carols will be given to a steward for overhead projection.</p> <p>Boston Spa Meths. 27th February. Poster to include ticket availability from church committee members (with mob. numbers) also from Yeadons hardware store. Poster will also include Rodilians QR code and secretary contact . Promotion on HMC and Rodilians facebook pages. The church will promote within the Methodist circuit and beneficiaries Martin House have been contacted by LC about their logo and promotion on their facebook page.</p>	LC
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Recruitment</p> <p>Venues so far contacted have not been accommodating for our initiative, however TG and RK will visit St Roberts social club with a view to booking a 10 week singing course in April and May 2026. (The original target of February-March was considered impracticable). The promotion of this course needs to be our next major task, and RK is quite rightly concerned that that it does not take up too much of his time/energy!!</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Website and Google Drive</p> <p>These are pretty much up to date with Christmas concerts advertised and the google drive shared with all members. Documents to be stored on the google drive should be sent to RK who has access. RK has removed the old audio recording and will consider how to put what we have onto the website or Youtube. More informal photos from rehearsals and concerts are always welcome and we should approach local schools for volunteers to help with publicity and social media.</p>	RK
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Sing Out 2026 schools update</p> <p>TG is still seeking a meeting with Lizzie following the appointment of a new head teacher at Pannal primary school in order to set a date for our school visit. Following a suggestion by Ian Brocket that West Park URC could be configured for the Sing Out audience, TG will investigate this at an upcoming meeting of the West Park organising committee. Our contact for hall hire at the High School will also be at this meeting.</p> <p>GC has been contacted by a co-ordinator of Spofforth and Follifoot primary schools about participation in Song Out. They could be considered for Sing Out 2027 along with Richard Taylor school.</p>	TG

9	<p style="text-align: center;">Care Homes</p> <p>Elwyn has told Lister House in Ripon that we could not perform there until the spring. They can afford full fees for MD and accompanist but most care homes have fewer funds and very little performance space. We should work up a programme of up to 1 hour for a small group of singers to sing either with just an accompanist or with backing tapes.</p>	
10	<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting</p> <p>10.00 am at Woodlands Methodist Hall. (confirmed with the administrator)</p>	DB

Minutes of October committee meeting

2025	<p>Harrogate Male Voice Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting at Starbeck Methodist Hall 10.00 am on Tuesday 7th October</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final</p>	
<p>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)</p>		
Item		Action
1	<p>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).</p>	TG
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer's report</p> <p>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</p>	II

6	<p style="text-align: center;">Recruitment New singer campaign 2026</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	RK/TG
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Website support</p> <p>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.</p>	RK
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Sing Out 2026 schools update</p> <p>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.</p>	TG
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Competitive festivals 2026</p> <p>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)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Entries by 15th January.</p> <p>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.</p>	DB
10	<p style="text-align: center;">AGM</p> <p>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" .</p>	DB
11	<p>Venue of this meeting. Was changed to Starbeck Methodists (with room fee) after last-minute notification that Woodlands would not be available today.</p>	DB
12	<p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting. Wednesday 5th November at Woodlands Methodists.</p>	DB

Minutes of Committee Meeting

2/9/25

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Agenda for Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Hall

10.00 am on Tuesday 2 nd September 2025 FINAL

Present – David Bayne(DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG),
Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC),
David Healy (DH). Copy to Richard Kay (RK)

Item Action

1 The minutes of the June meeting were approved and signed off.

5 committee members along with many present and past members attended the funeral of David Millar at Rawdon crematorium in July

TG

2 Treasurer's report

II has prepared and distributed the accounts for choir year 2024-25 along with a budget for next year and a report from the Trustees for the Charity Commission.

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of John Dawson and a grant from the NAC

for our Sing Out programme, we finished the year somewhat better than expected with a

bank balance of £9675 (compared to £9200 last year). Provided hall hire costs do not

increase and we have no exceptional expenditure, this should allow us to hold our

subscriptions at £150, although those who wish should be encouraged to pay a little

more. The critical factor once again is the number of paying members, budgeted at 37 (2

resignations, 2 recruits) down from 40 in 2024-25. We assume 37 rehearsals and the

costs of 2 festivals.

The accounts were audited by Patrick McCreanor, who has now resigned from the choir.

Due to our notice board being taken down by the church, AGM and sub notices will be displayed in the small hall on a portable board.

II also provided an analysis of the Sing Out costs and income, showing ticket sales of £1448 and expenditure of £1118, higher than normal due to an extra visit to Oatlands school. There was discussion about charging admission for teenage children, but no conclusion was reached.

II

3 Concert secretary report

Concert at Whixby village hall, Saturday 22 nd November. Theme "The month before Christmas". This is still under discussion and may involve some local talent, but is generally supported by RK. GC will insist on total control of arrangements this time.

Joint concert at Boston Spa methodists, Friday 28 th February. The initial visit to the church was positive although space is limited for 2 choirs performing. The church has excellent recording facilities which we may use to record the concert. More details are awaited from Rodilians ladies re logistics, costs and programme. We suggest that profits go to Martin House childrens' hospice.

As no other concerts are in prospect at the moment, especially for Christmas, TG will encourage members at today's rehearsal to look for opportunities to stage concerts for charities.

IB

4 Members Secretary Report

The resignation of 2 more basses puts more importance on recruitment. The new top tenor has completed the membership documents and GC is bringing a potential new member this evening.

The attendance sheets have been issued to section reps for the next month

The updated emergency contacts have all been received and a revised sheets will be issued shortly to first aiders and deputies.

SB

5 Marketing and promotion

The concert on 14 th June at West Park was well attended and the piano performances in each half by Duncan Goodwin were excellent. LC produced the usual programme for the

Sing Out concert on 5 th July in Harrogate High School , and although advance ticket sales

were low, the hall was filled by people paying at the door.

A meeting was held by LC and GC at Boston Spa Methodists on 4 th July with GC to discuss

the proposed concert with the Rodilian singers on 27 th February. Church rep Jo Vernon

was very helpful. A further meeting will be held on 4 th September to discuss proposals

LC

and costs for recording our concert. There may also be an opportunity to sing some kind of background at their Christmas Tree Festival, held over 3 days in December

LC represented HMVC at the "Harrogate Story" exhibition at the West Park centre on 18 th

July.

DH has compiled a list of 11 Yorkshire charitable foundations which give grants to local

causes and will write to each of them emphasizing our local background and the health benefits of communal singing. CD reminded us of the "locality budgets" available to local authorities and urged us to research them and make applications where appropriate.

DH

6 MD Report.

RK has been active on many fronts and has reported by e-mail. RK continues to gradually update our website and would like feedback on this from the committee. The date for Eskdale festival has been announced but not yet Harrogate.

RK approached some 8 members to give opinions on 10 possible new songs but only half of them replied.

RK has enquired about the Whixley concert but would like GC to follow up

RK is not available to take rehearsals on 21 st October and 9 th December but has arranged for his father Graham to deputise. We will not rehearse on 28 th October as neither accompanist is available (half term)

7 Recruitment

In keeping with recommendations from the Peterborough conference, we will organise a series of 6-8 sessions for new singers with no mention of or connection to the choir.

Graham Kay has offered to help but we have still to arrange costs and promotion.

Social prescribing has so far offered no results and we will try to contact surgeries, drop-in centres and barber shops directly.

8 Sing Out 2026

Brackenfield prep school has given Friday 13 th February for

our visit and choir practice at the school. Pannal primary school is unable to perform any concert in July and suggests Friday or Saturday 5th , 6th ,12th or 13th June. TG suggests St Aidan's school hall to accommodate the size of audience to be expected with these 2 big school choirs.

TG

9 Festivals 2026

We hope to participate in Harrogate competitive festival, Eskdale Festival and the Harrogate Community Choirs festival. Of these the only confirmed date is 18th April for Eskdale.

10 Committee members 2025/26

DB and TG must be re-nominated for chairman and secretary at the AGM. DH has expressed an interest in marketing and LC will still continue with promotions.

11 AGM date

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 7th October at 7.30 pm with a shortened rehearsal to follow.

DB

12 Other Business

CD observed that the arrangements announced for parking at the High School for the annual concert had not been adhered to resulting in more difficulties in directing traffic. More signage is required at such events. We also need to guarantee adequate disabled parking and venue access at the 2026 concert venue.

CD

13 Next Meeting

Tuesday 7 th October at 10.00 am at Woodlands.

Minutes of June committee meeting

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Hall

10.00 am on Tuesday 24 th June FINAL

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

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

David Healey (DH) Copy to Richard Kay (RK)

Item Action

1 TG welcomed David Healy as co-opted member without portfolio. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed off and will be posted on the members section of our website by RK, as will all future approved minutes

TG

2 Treasurer's report

It Is accepted that 2 members who could not attend rehearsals this year will not pay subs.

The projection for year end 2024-25 with 36 rehearsals (1 cancelled due to snow), 3 Sing

Out school visits, 9 concerts and 3 socials and festivals is: subs £5817, hall hire £1560,

music team £7040

One choir member has proposed subs for next year at £160 with £10 increase per year

thereafter but the committee will formulate their proposal for the AGM after further consultation. II once again indicated his wish to stand down as treasurer if a suitable qualified member can be nominated in his place. We have an ample stock of choir ties and any member wishing to replace theirs can buy one for £15.

II

3 Concert secretary report

The concert at West Park URC on 14 th June was another success with some 24 members

performing (see feedback from LC)

The final school visit to Oatlands primary school on 17 th June also achieved its objectives

in rehearsal with their choir

Sing Out concert, Harrogate High School 5 th July

Green rooms have been allocated to all 3 choirs. Schools will bring their own

refreshments and we will offer fruit juice to the audience.

Advance ticket sale have been poor, but it is hoped that many parents will pay on the

door and the card reader has been checked for card payments.

After we go to rehearse,

2-3 of our ladies will take over the door and ticket sales.

Approval has been granted to use the playground at the rear for parking and there is

ample parking space also in front of the school. CD has offered to direct traffic.

Volunteers are needed to set out chairs at 3pm and to put them back after the concert.

We will rehearse with the school choirs at 6pm so members are asked to arrive by 5.45.

Boston Spa Methodist Church, 27 th February. Joint concert with the Rodilian ladies choir.

GC and LC will visit on Friday 4 th July to discuss

arrangements.

So far, no other concert offers have been received.

IB

4 Members Secretary Report

SB now submits figures for attendances by each section of the choir for the period of 8th

April 2025 to 1 July 2025. That period is 11 weeks excluding bank holidays etc. although

the Tenors 2 and Baritones appear to have only recorded 10 weeks.

Suffice to say the attendances

by Baritones 63.84% of all available dates

by Bass 47.72% " " " "

by Tenors 1 77.27 % " " " "

by Tenors 2 73.63 % " " " "

This compares with the previous period January to April 2025 of 80.4% for Baritones,

64.46% for Bass, 88.63% for Tenors 1 and 77.68% for Tenors 2

SB has excluded a member from the calculation for baritones who made no attendances

in the period, and does not know if he was resigned or is long term sick.

Bass figures include 4 members who did not attend at all during this period but are

presumed to be returning eventually. The bass figures were also perhaps made to appear

worse by the absence of one member who attended only once up to the end of the

period. However one looks at it there has been further decline in attendance by all

SB

sections in the April to July period as set out above.

A potential top tenor has attended 2 rehearsals and hopes to

join in September. Updated member details have now been collected and a new table of contacts will be available to first aiders for the re-start in September.

After the meeting, we received the sad news that David Millar has passed away.

5 Marketing and promotion

LC produced a shortened programme programme for the concert on 14 th June at West

Park, including a refence to Duncan Goodwin who performed brilliantly, and his wife

Fran. LC has also produced the usual programme for the Sing Out concert which will be

printed on 26 th June. Posters will be available to members this evening for distribution in

the Harrogate area and LC has provided a total of 550 tickets, 320 of which have been

issued to the 2 schools. 30 tickets have been retained for choir member.

LC and GC will meet representatives of Boston Spa methodist church on 4 th July about our

proposed concert on 27 th February 2026.

LC

6 Social Prescribing update. TG will meet the new co-ordinator for North Yorkshire later in

July. The responsible person has changed twice since our offer was made. DB has

attempted to contact the nominated person for Linking Leeds in Wetherby and has even

offered a complimentary ticket to Sing Out but there has been no response. DB will

follow up with the organisation in Leeds. No referrals have yet been made from either N.

Yorkshire or Leeds and now we have indicated that we have a break until September.

TG/DB

7 Website update

RK reports that he continues to “tinker” with the website and change photos. He has a slight issue with the header picture when viewing it on mobile phones – it just seems to display the ‘Risen’ webpage theme image instead of our header. He is trying to work out how to fix it, but if not he will ask Josh Gribby if he will help.

The minutes of the last meeting have been posted on the members’ section of the website and will be replaced by these minutes when finalised.

8 Sing Out 2026

TG has confirmed arrangements for Pannal primary school and Brackenfield prep school to participate in Sing Out 2026.

TG

9 Competitive festivals 2026

We have been contacted by Harrogate Competitive festival for support in participating next year, as the financial future of this festival is in doubt. It was agreed that we should support our local festival and prioritise it over other events on the same day. Eskdale festival also has financial difficulties and no announcement has yet been made for the Harrogate Choir Festival (Royal Hall)

10 Committee members 2025/26

DB, II and TG are all up for replacement at the AGM as their terms have expired. DH’s membership will also have to be confirmed. DH has expressed an interest in marketing the choir and will work with LC until the post is confirmed.

11 Date of choir re-start

The re-start will take place on Tuesday 2 nd September. DB will remind members 2 weeks before the first rehearsal

DB

12 Sources of finance.

CD explained that councils have “locality budgets” which can be used to fund local

causes. CD will investigate his local council and committee members are asked to look

into the budgets of their local councils.

13 Next Meeting. Tuesday 2 nd September, 10.00 am at Woodland Methodists

Minutes of May Committee meeting

Harrogate Male Voice Choir		
Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Hall		
10.00 am on Tuesday 13th		
May		
FINAL		
Present – David Bayne(DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Tony Goodall (TG), Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC) Apologies Ian Ibbotson (II) copy to Richard Kay (RK)		
Item		Action
1	The minutes of the April meeting were approved and signed off, after the number of members singing at the Walle Garden event was corrected to 26.	TG

2	<p style="text-align: center;">Concert Secretary Report</p> <p>Sat. 12th April, Whitby Festival. Despite only 21 members coming to the festival, our results were judged as satisfactory and improved over last time by RK, Marilynne and contacts in other choirs. Although we did not win any of the 3 classes we entered, we were awarded “outstanding (90-94)” in the MVC and recital classes and “honours (85-89)” in the Music from the Shows class. The committee consensus is that we should compete there again.</p> <p>Thursday 8th May Rossett Acre Primary School. The school visit was very successful with 2 assembly performances (lower and upper schools) plus a rehearsal with their 60-strong choir. We had a good report on their website.</p> <p>Tuesday 10th June. Afternoon visit to Oatlands Primary school for rehearsal with their choir. Numbers of members have been collected.</p> <p>14th June West Park URC centre. Concert organised by the centre promoters, probably with other solo/group performers. Arrangements and promotion by Chris Holland. TG has been able to engage pianist Duncan Goodwin, performer in Channel 4’s “The Piano” for this concert. He would like to have a trial with our keyboard some time before the concert.</p> <p>5th July Annual Sing Out Concert, Harrogate High School. Green room availability for HMVC and the schools has been discussed and a checklist for insurance, security etc. has been completed. All communication for this event should be through GC. A door desk will be required for cash payments and late arrivals and it is expected that the card reader will be operational.</p> <p>2026 concert in Boston Spa. (see LC below). RK has indicated a preference for February 2026 to allow learning of new songs.</p>	GC
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer’s report (sent in advance and extended by e-mail from II)</p> <p>The bank account balance stands at £10,460 after paying £5190 so far to the music team. The forecast for the end of the choir year is a balance of £7,700 (compared to £9200 in 2024 and £10,800 in 2023). All subs have now been paid except for 2 members who have been unable to attend rehearsals so far this year and are not expected to pay.</p>	II
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Members Secretary Report</p> <p>SB will complete attendance statistics for the next months at the end of June. Attendances at rehearsals, the event in Ripon and at school visits has improved compared to the period before Christmas. Ian Brocket has provided a summary of the attendance of our current 12 basses, as RK has commented on their recent low numbers. 4 of these are long-term sick, and 2 will soon return to regular rehearsals.</p> <p>DB is requested to issue a reminder to all members to give any changes to addresses, telephone numbers or next of kin details to SB by 3rd of June. DB will also assist in correcting the layout of the excel table passed on by Tom Holland.</p> <p>II reports that former member Jim Rogers has died. A request from his widow to accept his uniform back was declined by DB. Ian Brocket also reports vis Bernard Hall that former member Tony Wren is in hospital.</p>	SB
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Marketing and promotion</p> <p>LC has followed up the contact with Boston Spa Methodist Church (BSMC) for a concert on 27th or 28th March in support of Martin House Childrens hospice. There is also the possibility of using their new recording studio at £60/hour to generate a few tracks for our website and facebook page. LC is working on the programme for the Sing Out concert with an agreed forward from our president and has signed up 2 advertisers who will sponsor the concert with £200.</p>	LC
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Prescribing</p> <p>DB has delivered about 90 flyers to the “Linking Leeds” contact for distribution to surgeries and men being supported at home in the Wetherby area. TG is waiting for the appointment of a replacement “Living Well” co-ordinator for the Harrogate district.</p>	TG/DB
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Questionnaire “What does our choir mean for us?”</p> <p>In preparation for an in-depth discussion with RK about his feedback from the Peterborough MVC conference, DB has adapted the questionnaire from Peterborough for issue to our members. IT was agreed to delete “recruitment” from the questionnaire.</p>	DB
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting with RK</p> <p>On 10th June we will be singing at Oatlands school followed by a rehearsal in the evening. The committee members (minus DB) will meet RK after the school session to discuss our choir’s direction and recruitment strategy.</p>	

9	<p style="text-align: center;">Sing Out 2026.</p> <p>TG has revised our Sing Out prospectus for issue to potential participating schools, with updated photographs and an outline of the concert running order. TG proposes to approach Panna primary school who last participated in 2022 and Brackenfield prep school, which would be the first involvement of a private school. CD reminded us of the need for disabled parking at participating schools</p>	TG
10	<p style="text-align: center;">Website update (comments from RK)</p> <p>RK has written an extensive analysis of our website and has taken over from Bryan Holmes as webmaster. He has devised and installed a new logo, and will add a mission statement, updated photographs, and links to further pages. And suggests a re-think of our members page .Committee members should log onto our website and give RK feedback on the changes they find. RK agrees that the minutes of our committee meeting should be posted on our website starting with the final version of these minutes.</p>	
11	<p style="text-align: center;">NAC Legacy fund</p> <p>DB has once again progressed payment of the promised £200 and has now been asked for reviews and comments from participating schools and from our MD. A suitable document is now being prepared</p>	TG
12	<p style="text-align: center;">Keyboard at Woodlands Methodists</p> <p>The minister at Woodlands has asked why we did not use the keyboard stored in the small hall cupboard, however David Mawson would like us to continue using the Claviola from the large hall, which has now been repaired..</p>	
13	<p style="text-align: center;">Committee Members for 2025/26</p> <p>David Healey has volunteered for unspecified committee duty but cannot attend the next meeting. We need to replace both our treasurer and secretary at the next AGM.</p>	
14	<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting. Tuesday 24th June at Woodlands Methodists. (This should be the last committee meeting of the current session)</p>	

Programme for Annual Concert 5/7/25

Annual Concert programme, 5th July 2025

Song of the Jolly Roger

Shall we gather at the river

Just a Closer Walk

Oatlands School – 2 songs

The Rose

Angels

Count on me

Rossett Acre School – 2 songs

You Raise me Up

Here and Now

Interval

Bring Him Home

Rune of Hospitality

Tell my Father

Oatlands – 2 songs

Portrait of my Love

The Impossible Dream

76 Trombones

Rossett Acre School – 2 songs

Harbour

The Wellerman

Programme for West Park 14/6/25

West Park Concert 14th June 2025

When the Saints

Gwahoddiad

Let there be peace on Earth

Just a closer walk

Duncan – piano

Tell my Father

For the Fallen

Rune of Hospitality

You'll never walk alone

INTERVAL

Portrait of my Love

The Rose

Angels

Count on me

Duncan – piano

Impossible Dream

Bring him home

Anthem

76 Trombones

HMVC – Concert Dates for 2024/25

HMVC – Concert/Events

MAY

Thursday 8th – Visit to Rossett Acre School in the afternoon.

Tuesday 27th – No Rehearsal (Half Term).

JUNE

Tuesday 10th – Rehearsal with Oatlands School Choir.

Saturday 14th – Concert at West Park URC.

JULY

Saturday 5th – Annual 'Sing Out' Concert.

Venue: Harrogate High School.

A date for a visit to Rossett Acre Primary School has still to be agreed.

Policy on Uniforms

HMVC Policy on Uniforms

This document explains the position of members who received new uniforms in 2019 for the 50 year's anniversary concert, and summarises the discussions and decisions made by the Committee on this subject since August 2021.

Members who joined before May 2019

All members in 2019 received full new uniforms (trousers,

jacket, shirt and tie). These uniforms are deemed to be the property of HMVC. There are a number of spare items in each category which are being administered by Ian Ibbotson.

Some members who have left the choir since that time have returned the uniform suits and trousers which have been dry-cleaned, stored and added to our stock.

Storage has proved to be a problem however, and at a meeting on 25th January 2022 it was decided that uniforms should no longer be "recycled" but should be given to retiring members who could be asked for a voluntary donation to choir funds.

New Members since 1st February 2022

This has so far been administered on an "ad hoc" basis depending on whether a "recycled" jacket and trousers fitted a new member, whether they came from new stock or had to be purchased.

As from 1st February 2022, new members will be asked to contribute half the cost of purchase of their uniform, the balance from choir funds. Contributions may be paid in instalments over 2 years.

If the new member chooses to be issued with a part uniform recycled from a retiring member, there will be no charge for that item, any new pieces to be at half cost.

New items issued from choir stock will be charged at current replacement cost.

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