

# Minutes of committee meeting 12/5/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 12 th May 2026

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

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

Item Action

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

2 Project "Sing when you're winning"

There is no further news of grant applications by David Healy, but 2 are in progress. DB

will let his registration with the community Lottery Fund lapse as they will not cover the current SWYW campaign. II is pursuing a grant of £1500 from an undisclosed source.

Response to SWYW

□ RK reports that we had 70+ initial expressions of interest of whom 49 filled in the info forms. Of these 49, 33 have attended at least one session, 5 never responded and 11 withdrew without attending.

□ Of those who have attended, 31 are currently still committed, 2 have withdrawn 2 are unavailable for the July concert, 2 are unsure about this date leaving us with a choir of about 25 for the concert.

□ Latest estimate of costs

□ RK estimates £3697, not including purchase of additional copies of all of the planned repertoire and assuming that the cost of the July concert will

be covered by ticket receipts.

□ Organisation of July concert

□ Promotion needs to start ASAP with a flyer which can be sent to all of our usual media outlets. In view of the direct fund-raising for Andy's Man Club, the committee were agreed that a charge of £15 for over-16s was justified.

□ Repeat Project

□ The whole promotion and organisation needs to be analysed after July, but from this time point, any repeat would have to be in 2 years time, certainly not next year.

RK

### 3 Treasurer Report

II questioned the drain on our resources posed by festivals of all types, where we pay the music team, pay fees to appear (£813 this year) but receive no income from ticket sales. The Royal Hall festival alone cost £210 for participation plus £150 for the music team. Members who wish to appear in festivals could be asked to contribute.

We have received a generous donation of £1000 from a current member.

II

### 5 Concert secretary report

Saturday 9 th May Harrogate Choir Festival A good turnout of members and a performance which attracted positive comment form both audience and another MD.

Saturday 6 th June Sing Out concert, 7 pm, West Park. RK's promotional poster was approved by the committee and will be used on-line and in the

schools. LC has printed 200 tickets which will be allocated at rehearsal today. Benches for the children will be sourced from both schools and transported by CD. Our own keyboard is also required.

As the children will need a meal break, the choir will need to be at West Park by 5 pm.

Saturday 4 th July. SWYW concert. Detailed planning and promotion begins now. Concert

to start at 7.30 pm with rehearsal at 5.30/6.00

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

Methodist church

Saturday 31 st October. Concert suggested by mayor with Tewitt brass band.

(Since this meeting, contacts have been made for York Christmas festival in December

and another joint concert with the Ryelarks in Pickering in spring 2017)

GC

6 Members Secretary Report

SB will proceed with a confidential note to each member asking for confirmation of

contact details, as was done by his predecessor.

Robert Bickford has indicated he is unable to return to the choir and has returned his

SB

music. A framed photo of the choir will be delivered to him in recognition of his service.

David Bainbridge has not taken up our offer to return to the choir after Easter so must

be presumed to have finally left the choir

7 E-ticketing

RK urges us to implement e-ticketing in time for the SWYW

concert. A previous attempt in 2023 with "Arkevent" was not followed up and they have now ceased to trade.

Eventbrite was suggested by committee members but this appears to have higher and hidden costs. RK has volunteered to set up an "event" on Ticketsource where booking fees can be added to the ticket price.

TG

8 Singing without copies.

CD made a plea for relaxation of the "singing without copies" policy of RK. Older members have great difficulty memorising large numbers of songs for a concert. TG will ask RK to speak to the choir again about this issue.

CD

9 Parking

Since AA has been starting before us in the small hall, parking at the church has been a problem. If we get new members in September this could be worse. TG will approach Willow Tree school before we re-start to negotiate terms for parking there. Harrogate Town will however continue to play matches on Tuesday nights when the school is reserved for away fans.

CD/TG

10 Choir Re-start after summer break

We will resume rehearsals on Tuesday 8 th September

DB

11 Next Meeting. Thursday 16 th June (this should be the last of this session) DB

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# 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 posers 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

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# 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.

Knaresborough 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.

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# 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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	<p>TG welcomed the members to his residence following the inability of Woodlands Methodists to accommodate us. Apologies were received from II, CD and LC</p> <p>The minutes of the September meeting were approved and signed off.</p>	TG
2	<p><b>Treasurer’s report</b> (report received in advance)</p> <p>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.</p>	II
3	<p><b>Concert secretary report</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.</b> 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><b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December.</b> 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><b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> 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><b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.</b> Visit to Brackenfield prep school,. Morning visit for 2026 Sing Out concert</p> <p><b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.</b> 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><b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> 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><b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March.</b> 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><b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May.</b> Harrogate Community Choir Festival. The Stray Notes choir have reserved this date, we await an invitation.</p> <p><b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b> annual Sing Out concert. See below for venue options.  <b>October 2026.</b> Joint afternoon concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC.  Date to be agreed. Probable venue West End URC</p>	GC

4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Members Secretary Report</b></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;"><b>Promotion</b> (report received in advance)</p> <p><b>Whixley, 22<sup>nd</sup> November.</b> 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><b>Knaresborough 13<sup>th</sup> December.</b> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December, there may still be time for a programme to be printed.</p> <p><b>Woodlands Meths. 16<sup>th</sup> December.</b> 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><b>Boston Spa Meths. 27<sup>th</sup> February.</b> 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;"><b>Recruitment</b></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;"><b>Website and Google Drive</b></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;"><b>Sing Out 2026</b> 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;"><b>Care Homes</b></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;"><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>10.00 am at Woodlands Methodist Hall. (confirmed with the administrator)</p>	DB

# Minutes of October committee meeting

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Harrogate Male Voice Choir</b>  <b>Minutes of Committee Meeting at Starbeck Methodist Hall</b>  <b>10.00 am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>		
2025	<b>Final</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Present</b> – David Bayne( DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG), Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC), <b>Copy to</b> Richard Kay (RK), David Healy (DH)</p>		
Item		Action
1	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting.</b> 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;"><b>Treasurer's report</b></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
RK	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Concert secretary report</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Concert at Whixley</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Concert at Holy Trinity church Knaresbrough</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Woodlands Methodist Church.</b> Concert with collection in lieu of our last rehearsal in 2025. 7.30 pm start agreed with the minister.</p> <p><b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February Brackenfield prep school.</b> Morning visit for 2026 Sing Out concert.</p> <p><b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Boston Spa Methodist Church.</b> Joint Concert with Rodilians ladies choir. (Note the change from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other potential performances</b></p> <p>Lunchtime concert at British Legion Lister House. Postponed to new year after organising repertoire, accompanist or backing tracks.</p> <p>Joint afternoon concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC, Nottingham.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading music</b></p> <p>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)</p>	GC
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Members Secretary Report</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Potential members invited by GC and RK are hoped to become members and another is expected on 14<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>The update of the emergency contacts list is a work in progress.</p>	SB



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# 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 5 th , 6 th , 12th or 13 th 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 18 th 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 7 th 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.

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# 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 8 th

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 reference 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<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup> September, 10.00 am at Woodland  
Methodists