

Minutes of meeting 8/9/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 8 th September 2026 FINAL

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

Richard Kay (RK), Paul Boothman (PB) Apologies Chris Dunn (CD)

Item Action

1 Welcome/ Minutes of last meeting

TG welcomed RK and PB to their first committee meeting. PB is attending to explain his

ideas about singing at events and sponsorship of the choir

The minutes of the June meeting were approved without comment and signed off.

TG

2 Treasurer Report

□ II had distributed the accounts for 2025-26 in advance and elaborated as follows:

□ The separate SWYW account shows that HMVC did not have to subsidise the project

thanks to donations from the Rotary Club, the Round Table and a generous personal

donation from a choir member. £1200 was donated to Andy's Man Club.

□ The Sing Out concert also made a modest "profit" of £477.90

□ The main HMVC income & expenditure account (not yet audited) shows a surplus after

writedowns of £520 giving a closing balance of £10195.26. This includes a further

donation of £1000 from a current member. Without the overall donations of £4000 we

would have been left with £6200, close to the minimum recommended by the Charities

Commission. We cannot rely on such donations!

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

II

3 Members Secretary Report

Some members attended the funeral of former member Peter Dawson

Neil Duncan and Roger Gill are expected to return but Al Junor is seriously ill. We extend

our condolences to Derek Jeary whose wife died 2 week ago. He will attend this evening

with his daughter and son-in Law (who will sing with us tonight)

The questionnaires about personal contacts have been returned from those who have

changes and SB will now update the confidential contact list for first aiders and DB.

The attendance statistics for the period April to July compared to the previous quarter are

as follows:-

Baritones 85.8% compared to 70.13% in previous quarter

Basses 62.48% " 87.6% " "

Tenors 2 76.85% " 82.17% " "

(No attendance records were collected for tenors 1)

GC

4 Evaluation of Sing When You're Winning

The raw figures are that from 75 positive enquiries, 35 men attended some of the

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

SB

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

5 Parking and Football nights

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

TG

6 Rehearsal Dates

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

TG/RK

7 Promotion of concerts

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

TG/RK

8 AGM

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

DB

9 Singing at Beer Festivals and other events

PB was invited to discuss his proposal for singing at beer festivals and similar events.

Many welcome live music and even audience participation. Instead of uniforms we might

wear branded t-shirts and use taped music. He offers to contact potential event

organisers to try out interest, but without any commitment at this stage.

TG reminded that we had turned down 2 such opportunities last year because of the short

notice given. Performing in care homes was also discussed but apart from the British

Legion who could cover all of our costs, most care homes cannot accommodate a full

choir and struggle to find the price we ask.

RK agreed that we should be ready and open to accept invitations for events which give

us great publicity, but singing with a recorded accompaniment requires rehearsal, and

“professional” amplification. However RK will consider recording suitable tracks. Any

reduced sized HMVC groups must maintain TTBB balance.

PB

10 Commercial Sponsorship Strategy

PB had distributed a plan to seek corporate sponsorship to fund uniforms, concerts and

community promotion. This was not discussed at the meeting, however PB and

committee members are encouraged to follow up on any contacts they may have until

this strategy has been discussed and finalised.

PB

11 Sing Out 2027

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

TG

10 Next Meeting

Tuesday 6 th October at Woodlands Methodists

DB