



"I KNOW WE WERE LAST IN THE CHORUS SECTION FREE, BUT THE WEEK-END WASN'T A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME, LOOK AT IT THIS WAY..... YOU PICKED UP A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING, AND I'M ALMOST A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY,..... AND ANYWAY WHERE ELSE COULD WE HAVE COME IN ALL THAT RAIN!!"

BOB'S BRIEFING

Hi, fellas. We have some events being planned by your Music Committees for the coming months, which I hope will prove to be absorbing and beneficial, as well as a lot of fun. Details will be published in the News Sheets as they are formulated, giving you as much advance notice as possible. We hope to run a day or week-end quartet coaching session, another Chorus Directors Workshop, and hopefully a Quartet Coaches Workshop. I especially hope that this latter will be well supported. If you've ever coached a quartet and enjoyed the thrill of seeing and hearing that quartet improve, you would know the great satisfaction that this can bring (not to mention four friends for life!) Judge Training Seminars will be held, of course, as part of our continuing programme, and watch out soon for the first list of Registered Judges.

Council has already approved the holding, if necessary, of North and South Preliminaries for the Quartet Contests prior to the Conventions, and I'm sure you will agree that after this year's congested programme these regional preliminaries are now unavoidable. The '77 Preliminaries will probably be held in the early spring, and I hope to be able to let you have the exact dates in next month's News Sheet. There will be a northern Preliminary (Regions 1 - 4) and a southern (Regions 5 - 8). The number of quartets from each Preliminary which will go through to the Semi-Final at the '77 Convention is yet to be decided, as also are the locations of these Preliminaries. All quartets are encouraged to enter these.

So watch this space for news of our coming programmes, and I hope to see many of you at these events.

Yours in song,

Bob Walker

The Times Diary

Disciplining an urge to sing in the bath

Anyone who attended the Barbershop Convention held in the University of Birmingham over the weekend expecting to see the new men's hairstyles for the winter, or the latest in cut throat razors would have been disappointed. Barbershoppers do not cut hair; they sing. Alan Hamilton reports:

Nearly 800 enthusiasts turned up at Birmingham for a full weekend of *Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie* and *My Wild Irish Rose*. Thirty-six quartets and seventeen larger choruses did battle for the top honours, with the seemingly unbeatable Crawley Chordsmen taking the chorus trophy, and the Barrytones (formed by a chap called Barry) emerging as top quartet with their renditions of *Mardi Gras* and *Don't Bring Lulu*.

Barbershopping as an art form was imported from the United States some 10 years ago, and the 29 clubs now in existence have a total membership of about 1,100. Essentially, it is unaccompanied four-part singing of old familiar songs. John Booth, the convention organizer, told me: "Everybody likes to sing in the bath, or after a few pints in the pub. This is simply putting discipline to that form of enthusiasm."

I always thought that the style originated with American

barbers singing to their customers. Not so; it was the customers, bored and fidgety in the long queues for haircuts, who sang to the barbers.

Booth, his voice almost drowned by a quartet in yellow oilskins attempting a novelty number across the room, thought the popularity of barbershopping arose from its simplicity, the lack of need for musical training, the desire of people to return to making their own entertainment instead of gazing at the television, and the fact that you can barber-shop almost anywhere.

Spontaneous barbershopping is known as woodshedding, because a woodshed is as good a place as any to burst into sudden song, as is a bathroom, a supermarket, a board meeting or even a bus stop.

No great musical skill is required; the singers learn their parts parrot fashion from the chorus director, and the trick then is to sing in perfect harmony with the man next to you or, as the enthusiasts refer to it, "locking in to a chord".

Barry Nowell, founder of the successful Barrytones and a printing overseer at a Reading newspaper, explained that the aim of every quartet is to achieve "ringing chords", when the four singers are in such perfect harmony that the sound achieves a unique depth and richness.

The habit is now spreading among women, who have their own clubs with a total membership of about 400, and their own convention running concurrently with the men. Pat Jardieson, vice-chairman of the award-winning Tyneside Ladies Harmony Group, told me: "A lot of us are the wives of the men. We got fed up sitting at home, so we formed our own groups. Bass ladies can reach a fair old depth."

from the Times, Mon 27th Sept

SOS SHIRTS!

Urgently wanted - Marks & Spencer Blue/White Candy Stripe shirts, type 2703.

The Colchester Chorus is very proud of its shirts, but unfortunately M & S have stopped making them and our numbers are increasing. We offer you a good price, sufficient to buy yourself a new one if you will part with yours, whatever its condition (almost!), and help us out of this difficulty.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Please contact - John Rowntree, 7 Durham Square, Colchester, Essex. Tel - Colchester 72553.

QUARTET CONTEST FINAL

Herewith details of the scores in the Quartet Final, Chorus Final and Quartet Semi-Final. Space does not permit inclusion of the Quartet Preliminaries, but one copy of these scores has been sent to each Club with these News Sheets, so if you require details ask your Club Reporter.

CONTESTANTS (IN ORDER OF MERIT)	HARMONY ACC.		BAL. & BLEND		INTERPRETATION		ARRANGEMENT		STAGE PRESENCE TOTAL	TIME		TOTAL THIS ROUND	PREVIOUS ROUND	GRAND TOTAL
	SONG 1	SONG 2	SONG 1	SONG 2	SONG 1	SONG 2	SONG 1	SONG 2		SONG 1	SONG 2			
	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	PENALTY	P.S.						
1 BARYTONES	507	494	195	201	195	205	29	32	500	2.44	2.14	2358	2363	4721
2 FORTUNAIRE	490	474	204	201	225	220	21	31	420	2.15	2.15	2286	2220	4506
3 NEWTOWN RINGERS	522	510	176	171	180	160	28	19	404	2.53	2.00	2184	2170	4354
4 SOUND IDEA	438	422	200	202	200	200	24	22	370	2.10	2.15	2078	2078	4156
5 MELLOWTONES	442	422	194	204	180	185	17	32	370	1.52	3.15	2109	2010	4119
6 HARMONY RAISERS	457	445	179	170	175	200	6	24	313	1.58	2.29	1993	2031	4024

CHORUS CONTEST

CONTESTANTS (IN ORDER OF MERIT)	HARMONY ACC.		BAL. & BLEND		INTERPRETATION		ARRANGEMENT		STAGE PRESENCE TOTAL	TIME		TOTAL THIS ROUND	PREVIOUS ROUND	GRAND TOTAL
	Song 1	Song 2	Song 1	Song 2	Song 1	Song 2	Song 1	Song 2		Song 1	Song 2			
	TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL			Penalty	Pts.			
1 CRAWLEY CHORDSMEN	224	246	148	144	150	150	13	16	250					1383
	500		292		305		31							
2 WESTERN GATEWAY CHORUS (Bristol)	263	260	135	133	130	155	4	16	211					1307
	523		268		285		20							
3 HOKER PERKS OF HARMONY (Weymouth)	244	220	105	120	120	130	19	6	261					1720
	464		225		250		25							
4 TYNSIDE	261	261	124	140	120	105	4	16	201					1722
	522		264		225		20							
5 BERKSHIRE BARBERSHOPIERS (Reading)	222	223	135	132	130	135	11	7	211					1206
	445		267		265		18							
6 HARMONY REVIVAL (Stockport)	225	238	119	129	50	80	-16	18	195					1088
	463		248		130		2							
7 BUCKINGHAMS (Chesham)	197	201	91	97	120	115	15	14	209					1059
	398		188		235		29							
8 CHARMWOODS (Leicester)	223	215	79	87	105	95	-8	1	208					1005
	438		166		200		-7							
9 WORTHINGAIRES	166	202	85	87	95	110	5	12	201					963
	368		172		205		17							
10 NOTTINGHAM GATEWAY CHORUS	182	157	96	57	65	70	-1	8	203					877
	339		153		135		7							
11 COLCHESTER BARBERSHOP SOUND	177	168	70	76	70	60	8	13	187					829
	345		146		130		21							
12 PINELANDERS (Bournemouth)	151	156	88	95	55	55	-6	13	213					820
	307		183		110		7							
13 DROMLEY	148	161	88	85	50	60	7	0	158					705
	309		171		110		7							
14 WESTERING CHORUS (Bridgwater)	125	104	71	72	75	55	4	0	214	2.24	2.38			700
	229		143		130		4				-20			

QUARTET CONTEST SEMI-FINAL

CONTESTANTS (IN ORDER OF MERIT)	HARMONY ACC.		BAL. & BLEND		INTERPRETATION		ARRANGEMENT		STAGE PRESENCE TOTAL	TIME		TOTAL THIS ROUND	PREVIOUS ROUND	GRAND TOTAL
	Song 1	Song 2	Song 1	Song 2	Song 1	Song 2	Song 1	Song 2		Song 1	Song 2			
	TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL			Penalty	Pts.			
1 BARRYTONES	460	466	234	218	230	195	37	31	402	2.46	2.18			
	926		452		425		68			0		2363		
2 FORTUNAIRES	452	454	209	205	230	220	22	25	400	2.07	2.02			
	906		414		450		50			0		2220		
3 SOUND IDEA	407	410	197	203	210	210	10	31	400	2.57	2.44			
	817		400		420		41			0		2078		
4 NEWTOWN RINGERS	482	497	176	164	185	190	26	38	410	2.19	2.02			
	979		340		375		66			0		2170		
5 HARMONY RAISERS	421	425	210	224	195	215	13	19	309	2.33	2.14			
	846		434		410		32			0		2031		
6 MELLOWTONES	404	431	168	181	190	185	25	37	395	2.06	2.41			
	835		349		375		62			0		2010		
7 UNION JACKS	128	123	134	148	185	185	25	23	398	2.15	2.14			
	251		292		370		48			0		1978		} Harmony Accuracy determines placings
8 SENATORS	407	395	182	188	195	180	23	-1	409	2.39	2.55			
	802		370		375		22			0				
9 C SIDERS	429	427	151	192	180	165	25	-16	327	2.26	2.34			
	852		343		365		44			0		1931		
10 CLOSE RELATIONS	378	388	136	153	190	195	15	12	412	2.09	2.15			
	766		291		385		27			0		1884		
11 4 NO TRUMPS	394	365	144	134	190	185	19	28	327	2.50	2.25			
	759		278		375		47			0		1786		
12 TYNE TONES	390	418	142	149	155	160	26	20	290	2.33	2.10			
	808		291		315		46			0		1750		

Uncle Sam Meets the Red Dragon (chapter 3)

Uncle Sam alone determined not to meet the Red Dragon. Their second attempt at a meeting was scheduled for the night of our Birmingham Town Hall Show, so we didn't mind a postponement from that date. Now Barrie Best's US Barbersoppers are scheduled to meet the Pendyrus Male Voice Choir at 9.45 p.m. on Sunday 24th October on REC 2. Let's hope they make it this time!

All copy for the November issue (to be received by the end of this month) to -

Martin Anderson,
41 Clarendon Road,
Bristol 6.