

Tom, Laura B., Chris, Murray, Pam, Kemp, Barbara, Richard, Jean, Kim, Tony, Sharon, Phil, Al, Laura P, Wendy

## Let's recap, 2014 version :

It was all about the music this year, and more specifically, "all about that bass, 'bout that bass, no treble". With Tony back in the line-up, the bass line was solid for sure, but the group may have to invest in an alarm clock for him before next year's event.

And what was with that "Kinky Friedman" guy who tried to tell us that Jesus killed Santa Claus, or perhaps it was the other way around? But then along came Johnny Appleseed, verse 1 and 2 (bet you didn't know there was a second verse!) and all was right with the world again, Santa Claus lived, and so did Jesus.

Oo la la, we really missed a certain bee-keeper this year. Transposing from the key of D to the key of C became a very complicated affair indeed, but was absolutely necessary to keep those darn trebles in line (or was it in tune). Of course, if our bee-keeper had been with us, he would have reminded the band that it is always a good idea when transposing to transpose both the chorus AND the verse. Phil, however, did an excellent job of transposing the drum parts – he didn't miss a beat.

Tom chose a wonderful new song for us to sing this year, and it had notes, which made those darn trebles ever so happy. Not sure about the tenors and basses, as they were hiding over by the drums that were eerily silent during the singing of this beautiful new song. Accompanied by Eric, the resident organist on piano, the group was pleased to report that they protected him from falling off the dais this year, which contributed greatly to the success of the number.

Newsflash: Wendy wants to move in with Phil, and I don't think it has anything to do with last year's glass boot. Phil has invented a new hair dye that is sure to make him a millionaire, and he is calling it "wong wong wing soy". It is apparently best applied using a 100-foot hose, while sticking one's head under the sink. Only, Phil has to stop snoring first or Wendy will go crazy and the hair dye then won't work. Mind you, without her swimming pool she may already be a little crazy since she was contemplating swimming in Phil's backyard (he doesn't have a pool) where he agreed to hose her down with the 100-foot hose that drips, and doesn't need to be completely unrolled, just a couple of turns.

There was some discussion about taking a road trip to Nova Scotia and asking Al to sit up front with binoculars to watch out for the police. This was vetoed by all when it was revealed that the last time this was tried the police snuck up from behind, therefore eluding Al's eagle eyes and resulting in a speeding ticket for the unsuspecting driver.

After taking a trip down memory lane with the help of some sophisticated technology (laptop and projector and Glen's website photos) it was quite clear that no one should EVER wear plaid pants, ever again. There were so many versions of "Who is that beside ..." and "I don't remember him, do you?" that it was hard to believe that any of the people around the table had actually been in the same group at the same time. Maybe it was all an illusion or was it because everyone was wearing the same pants that it was impossible to figure out who was who? Clearly, the blonde behind Al was a mystery to most, and it took the wisdom of the absent beekeeper to provide a definite identity.

It was agreed that fall 2015 would be a big celebration – time to celebrate some 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays, along with some other milestones and some less important events. This means everyone needs to find their sleeping bags because we will be bunking down in the conference room at Crieff so as to ensure that no one gets any sleep. Phil will make coffee in the morning for everyone, using his electric cart (complete with side car) to get to the dining area. But, after careful consideration, it was concluded that perhaps the conference room would be better used for a concert, sleeping could happen in beds with actual linens (making the sleeping bags unnecessary), and the conference centre staff could be called upon to make the coffee. But, we will definitely ask Barb and Pam to make desserts for us next year. For this 2015 event, we will have to learn new songs (with notes!).

So that's it folks. A wonderful time was had by all, and the hospitality was amazing, as usual.

Oh yeah, remember Tom's secret in your prayers.