Working Party (4th Dec 2014)

“So, what did we do yesterday?” I didn’t hear you ask. Well, I’m glad you asked!
After many weeks of vacillation concerning stage platforms we actually went and done it!
Born out of experience where KeyNotes performed in several rows where very little could be seen or
heard from much beyond the front row, it was suggested that we should have some device for
raising the rear section of singers. There was little resistance to the idea barring potential expense.
Professionally constructed and commercially available interlocking platforms are VERY expensive.
So, a number of our members, who are not DIY averse, discussed how we might construct a system
of our own. There were many injections about: - how many? how high? what materials? how to
transport? etc. Turning the problem around, Geoff (C) made a prototype for our illustrious leader
Margaret to stand on. Now we could see her and she us but this approach wasn’t helpful for our
audience. The prototype consisted of flat square platform board of ply with a beaded edge. This was
raised to 30cm or so by 4 sides of ply which were hinged at the corners so that they could be folded
flat for storage and transport.
Whilst of limited use, and somewhat expensive to replicate for the original purpose, the construction
inspired further thought. More “what if” argy bargy followed and would have continued but for the
donation of several boards fabricated using 2 thick hardboard surfaces sandwiching a cardboard
honeycomb centre, very much like modern internal doors.
A plan was hatched and costed to use these boards with some interlocking (rather than hinged)
plywood supporting sides. With the budgetary blessing of Vernon and armed to the teeth with tools
both indigenous and otherwise, a working party consisting of Malcolm, Geoff (C), Geoff (G), Jack,
Alan, David (W) all met at Robin’s house with the intention of using the ‘short’ boards to make
eight platforms 20cm high approx. That is what we did!
These ‘short’ boards are rectangular and of sufficient size to accommodate a chair and standing
space in front. We placed a rail at the rear of each board to prevent the chair from sliding off
rearwards and rails underneath to stabilize the supporting sides. With so many willing and able
hands, success was achieved with near production line efficiency.
It then seemed like a good time to take a break for nourishment. Liz came up with some homemade
leak & potato soup with home baked bread rolls, super!
Having done that, we wondered, “What shall we do with these ‘long’ boards?” Well, it just so
happened that Robin had some unused sheets of ply and their additional cost was well within the
budgetary constraint. What did we do? we only went and constructed four more platforms, but now
34cm high approx!
So, what have we got now? We have a transportable, under budget, system of versatile
theatrical/choral tiered stage assets consisting of: -
8 platforms 20cm high which when placed side by side will span the width of the ‘Petite Theatre’
stage and can accommodate persons sitting or standing
4 platforms 34cm high which when placed end to end will also span a lot of the stage and will
accommodate standing persons only
Jack took away the top surfaces for storage. Geoff (C) took away the supporting sides for a little ‘slot’
adjustment and painting.
With Christmas Cornucopia 2014 only days away, we hope that more of the KeyNotes singers can
now be seen and heard from here on!