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HEX

The official publication of The British Association of Barbershop Singers

HARMONY EXPRESS



**The Royal Northern College of Music
Quartet Prelims 2015**



HARMONY EXPRESS

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Editorial

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See costs on the Harmony Express
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Cover

External photograph of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, which will be hosting the BABS Seniors & Youth/College Quartet contests and the Quartet Prelims in October. See page 19 for details.

Diary Dates

- 2015 -

28th - 30th August	BABS 37th Annual Harmony College	Nottingham
12th September	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Birmingham
13th September	BABS Autumn Members Meeting	Birmingham
10th October	BABS Youth & Seniors Quartet Contest	Manchester
11th October	BABS Quartet Prelims	Manchester
30th Oct - 1st Nov	LABBS Convention	Bournemouth
1st Nov	Barbershop in Harmony Mixed Quartet Contest	Bournemouth
14th November	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
21st - 22nd November	Guild of Judges Seminar	Walsall

- 2016 -

16th January	Guild of Judges Exec Meeting	Walsall
23rd January	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
26th - 31st January	BHS Mid-Winter Convention	Reno, Nevada
20th - 21st January	Guild of Judges Seminar	Walsall
19th March	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Birmingham
20th March	BABS AGM	Birmingham
31st March - 3rd April	SABS Convention	Calpe, Alicante
27th - 30th May	BABS 42nd Annual Convention	Harrogate
18th & 19th June	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
3rd - 10th July	BHS International Convention	Nashville
23rd & 24th July	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
26th - 28th August	BABS 38th Harmony College	Nottingham
10th September	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Birmingham
11th September	BABS Autumn Members Meeting	Birmingham
15th - 16th October	Guild of Judges Seminar	Walsall
19th November	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry

- 2017 -

26th - 29th May	BABS 43rd Annual Convention	Bournemouth
2nd - 9th July	BHS International Convention	Minneapolis



SABS Convention 31 March - 3 April 2016 in Calpe, Alicante

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Non-Members: 60€
Members: 50€

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The British Association of Barbershop Singers is affiliated to the Barbershop Harmony Society in America. Members of Making Music and the Association of British Choral Directors in the UK.

The Chairman Signs In

Ian James



LETTER FROM AMERICA

By the time you read this it'll all be over. What am I talking about?

Well People have asked that of me for years with no meaningful response but on this occasion, I am referring to the International Convention in Pittsburgh.

I am writing this in my hotel overlooking the Monongahela river in downtown Pittsburgh and, for me, the Convention has only just begun. I'm here as your Chairman to do two things: Firstly I will be representing BABS at the various meetings held with the Barbershop Harmony Society and the leaders of various other World Harmony Council member organisations to discuss the future of World barbershop and the role which BABS will have in it - more of this at the Autumn Members Meeting - and, Secondly, I am giving my support, on your behalf, to Hallmark of Harmony, Reckless and The Emerald Guard who have taken part in the competitions.

You, of course, will already know whether the best wishes for success which I will be passing on to them from the Association have worked (the results are shown elsewhere in this issue) but, as I write this, they are still polishing their performances in their respective hotels. Strange time warp provided by HEX.

Going back in time (much less confusing) we can reflect on how successful our 41st convention turned out to be. The Mayor of Llandudno himself commented on how he was impressed by the warmth and friendship which BABS brought to his town.

Our guests this year, The Vocal Majority, were completely blown away by the reception and hospitality they received. As their President, Brian Armstrong, said in his email just a few days later...

"On behalf of the VM, thank you, thank you, thank you! The guys cannot stop talking about our time in Wales. We had the best time, memories to last a lifetime. We

were blown away with the kindness of the people and the red carpet you rolled out for us. Everyone with BABS was fantastic. Please pass along our gratitude." What more can be said?

The competition itself was very close this year as we thought it would be. But, when the points were in, the Great Western Chorus of Bristol had taken first prize with their highly entertaining performance, very well done guys - whilst the young guns of 'Tag-Line' had the purple ribbons and quartet Gold medals placed around their necks following one of the highest scoring and closest competitions for many years, congratulations lads. I'm sure you'll all do BABS proud in Nashville next summer.

On a more somber note, you may recall that we celebrated the 100th birthday of our oldest member, Glyn Evans from the Taunton club, in the May edition of HEX. Well, sadly, on May 24th, Glyn passed away peacefully at the residential home where he was living. You can read a moving tribute from the club further on in this issue.

Finally, I think we must all thank Derek Parmenter, our Special Events Director, for providing one of the finest Convention Fringe Events I have ever witnessed. I'm not sure what he has planned for Harrogate next year but he'll have to go some to surpass the Red Arrows display team he arranged this year - Go Derek.

Ian James
BABS Chairman





What Are Members Meetings?

There are two Member Meetings every year - the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March and the Autumn Members Meeting (AMM) in September. Both meetings allow the BABS Board to give an update on the workings of the Association over the year as well as taking care of official actions.

The AGM is used to officially receive the previous year's accounts and the Annual Report, as well as appoint the auditors for the coming year.

The AMM is used to elect the board of directors for the following year (who have a term of one year) as well as the chairman and vice-chairman every 2 years. It is also the time that vote on the annual subscription is taken as well as receiving the budget for the following year.

These meetings are a democratic function of the Association, and we would encourage all Company Members to attend, so that their club is represented and more importantly, can report back to their club members the current status of events.

Prior to each one, an Agenda is issued along with any supporting documentation and a Proxy Form, which allows the Company Members' who cannot attend the meeting, to vote on the Resolutions.

How do I get my voice heard at these meetings?

Each BABS club can nominate one of their members to become a BABS Company Member who represents them at Member Meetings, clubs with over 40 members are allowed 2 representatives. The BABS Company Member can be any member of your club, although it tends to be the Secretary or Chairman as they naturally have a close relationship with the club committee.

These nominated representatives sign a disclaimer which gives them the legal right to vote at the AGM - sounds scary but it's really not! However, it does mean that if this disclaimer hasn't been signed, that person does not have the right to vote.

The BABS Company Members are listed on the membership returns your Membership Secretary fills out every 6 months, so check this carefully to make sure we have the right names. Any club wishing to check who their nominated representative is or change it should contact Stuart Lines, Membership Secretary, on membershipsecretary@singbarbershop.com

What does a BABS Company Member do?

It is the BABS Company Member's job to represent his club's views at Member Meetings, so he should speak to his club's members to ask if they want to raise any agenda items for discussion, request a vote, or have any other questions. The Company Member should share the meeting agenda as well and the minutes with the club members so they get to know what happens - the agenda and minutes are only sent to the Club Members and Club Secretaries, but can be shared with other people within the club.

BABS members are welcome to attend the AGM or AMM, but if they are not the official club representative they will be classed as an Observer which means they are not allowed to vote and will only be able to address the meeting if the Chairman allows them to do so.

BABS is a Company Limited by Guarantee and the Directors, who are all volunteers and don't receive any remuneration, must comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and of the Charities Acts. The objects of the Charity are to further the education of the general public in any and all aspects of Barbershop Harmony and singing in the Barbershop Harmony style.

There are two official documents; the Articles of Association and the Memorandum of Association, which outline how the Association functions and the rules regarding how BABS is managed, both of these can be viewed in the Document Centre of the BABS web site: www.singbarbershop.com/documentcentre.htm



I would like to encourage every club to send their democratic representative. Whilst there are official tasks to be done, the meetings do provide the opportunity to network with other club representatives, to share experiences and to put your club at the centre of the development of barbershop harmony in the UK. If any member has any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Ashley Baker
BABS Administration Director

Web Site Document Centre



News from International



We are very proud of each of our representatives in Pittsburgh. Reckless, The Emerald Guard and Hallmark of Harmony can only be congratulated. Not only did they act as true ambassadors for BABS, but also performed at a high level in their respective contests.

Reckless came an outstanding 21st, just missing out on being the first UK quartet to make the Semi-Finals by just 9 marks, that's 0.3%! So close guys - maybe next year! The Emerald Guard scored 2353 (78.4%) just 47 marks behind Reckless, but in a tight contest that meant a 35th place finish. What do they say about small margins?

Again in a tight contest, Hallmark of Harmony came 19th with a credible score of 2432 (81.0%). Just one percentage point separated 7 choruses!



Quarter-Finals	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg
21 Reckless	<i>The Very Thought Of You</i>	407	401	400	2400	80.0
(1) [BABS]	<i>(Love Is) The Tender Trap</i>	399	397	396		
22 Hot Air Buffoons	<i>Last Night Was The End Of The World</i>	394	414	400	2399	80.0
(1) [JAD]	<i>Cecilia</i>	394	403	394		
23 Zero Hour	<i>Things Are Looking Up</i>	394	398	397	2392	79.7
(1) [NSC]	<i>Danny Boy</i>	401	401	401		

33 Absolut	<i>Ain't That A Kick In The Head?</i>	387	396	388	2360	7
(1) [SNOBS]	<i>Volare/An Evening In Roma (Medley)</i>	394	408	387		
34 North of the Border	<i>Oh! Look At Me Now</i>	396	393	391	2359	7
(1) [FWD]	<i>Mona Lisa</i>	395	395	389		
35 The Emerald Guard	<i>Ray Charles Medley</i>	392	402	389	2353	7
(1,2) [BABS]	<i>Oklahoma</i>	388	399	383		

International Chorus Contest

16 Sunrise, FL	<i>Somebody Loves Me</i>	406	405	414	2453	81.8	57
THX [SUN]	<i>Try A Little Tenderness</i>	406	407	415			
17 Greater Gaston, NC	<i>Love Me</i>	405	404	413	2439	81.3	96
Carolina Vocal Express [NSC]	<i>Open Arms</i>	388	415	414			
18 Bay Area, CA	<i>You Don't Know Me</i>	403	406	411	2435	81.2	39
Voices In Harmony [FWD]	<i>I Can't Give You Anything But Love</i>	402	406	407			
19 Sheffield, England	<i>My Romance</i>	402	407	397	2432	81.1	66
Hallmark of Harmony [BABS]	<i>I Won't Dance</i>	405	420	401			

Instant Classic Wins Quartet Gold

Results

1. Instant Classic - 92.7%
2. Forefront - 92.7%
3. Main Street - 92.4%
4. Lemon Squeazy - 91.3%
5. Throwback - 89.7%

Westminster Wins Chorus Gold

Results

1. Westminster Chorus - 97.5%
2. Ambassadors of Harmony - 95.6%
3. Central Standard - 92.8%
4. Alexandria Harmonizers - 90.2%
5. Music City Chorus - 89.7%

BABS Web Sites Keeping You In Touch

These three web sites provide all you may need to help finding out information relating to BABS, its events and other areas of interest. By logging on to these sites on a regular basis, it will keep you in touch with the very latest news and up dates.

Lots of members are already doing that - so if you're not, then make these a regular part of your internet activity.

www.singbarbershop.com

Contains almost everything to do with BABS. From Find a Chorus to information on Learn to Sing courses. It gives you access to music, documents, contacts, diary, Hall of Famers, contest entries and a whole host more.

The Home Page brings you Online News, highlighted events and information on BABS educational events. There are also easy links to other relevant areas of the organisation and external resources.

www.sing2016.com

A comprehensive guide to next year's Convention in Harrogate. It contains 10 pages of information including registration, shows, guests, contests, timetables, events, travel, marketing and news. These pages are regularly updated, as information becomes available in the build-up to Convention. So start planning your visit to Harrogate by visiting the Sing2016 web site.

www.babsguildofjudges.co.uk

This site provides current information about the Guild, including contest results, contest rules, judging categories, contest timing and reference material for BABS members and other people interested in barbershop. You can also access the Contest Briefing documents for both chorus and quartets and obtain contact details of relevant GOJ individuals.

Have You Got The Signature Factor?

Musical Director

Signature A Cappella singers are looking for a musical director to provide inspiration, guidance and leadership to a group of ambitious and talented women.

We are a group of a-cappella singers which was established in 2003. Since then we have performed at many concerts, festivals and other musical events in the UK and Europe.

We are members of the Ladies Association of British Barbershop singers and have enjoyed success at national competitions. We are proud to be the current UK Bronze Medal Chorus. It is important to us to embrace many forms of a-cappella music and we have various styles of song in our current repertoire.

We are looking for a dynamic, collaborative and motivational Music Director who has experience directing at a high level and proven musical experience to work with us. Experience in stagecraft/visual performance would also be helpful.

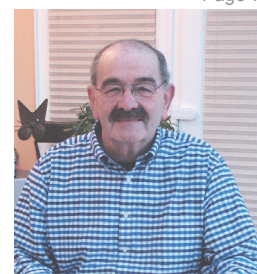
We can promise you our enthusiasm, support, attention to detail and the chance to learn and develop with us, together with a ready supply of humour! We meet every Monday evening at Iver Heath Village Hall near Slough and have exciting plans ahead for 2015-16.

For further information contact:

Sue Burgis

soobie@btinternet.com

Tel: 07861651658



Mike Lofthouse
BABS Music Advice Service

Changes to Purchase of Published Music from BHS

We now understand that BHS is no longer able to supply around 60% of its catalogue of songs (published and unpublished) for use outside USA and Canada. This means that there are still over 4000 songs that we can use, available to order as hard copy or purchase via download from their revamped on line Harmony Marketplace.

While the BABS Music Advice Service continues to investigate other means to legally access the complete catalogue, the best practice process for BABS member groups to obtain BHS music is currently as follows:

- * To obtain a copy for review, I suggest you contact me first as I have access to a great deal of music. If I don't have a particular piece, I'll try to obtain a copy of it for you.
- * Then having found something suitable, and to avoid infringing copyright, you should acquire a licence from the UK copyright owner(s) or their agent(s) to make the number of legal copies required by your group. The owner(s) is (are) most often UK based but can also be based overseas. Many UK copyright owners provide a free licence to small groups, quartets/octets, as long as their terms and conditions of use are accepted.
- * If that isn't the case or other difficulties occur the alternative is anyway for members of a small group to download individual copies from BHS which would cost around £12-16 for a quartet.

Again, don't struggle, just contact me for advice. Obtaining a licence can involve all methods of communication and consume considerable time and effort so start early. Full details of the music will be required and perhaps a copy of it will need to be sent. The

Music Advice Service volunteers do not have the resources to follow this process through, so each BABS group should have someone able and willing to take it on. We will, though, be pleased to help get the process underway by providing you with contact details of the UK copyright owners which we are able to locate via the Music Industries worldwide database.

We've probably also dealt with many of these organisations before and our advice based on that experience may also enable a more efficient process. But please don't let things slide, contact me as early on as you can. The current process and forms for obtaining copyright licences located under the Music tab on the BABS web site are still valid and will be upgraded and moved to the, soon to be launched, Songs To Sing page.

This has been delayed by having to be modified to cover the recent changes to BHS availability, and I'll also run one or more sessions covering this whole topic at Harmony College. We understand that BHS owned Learning Tracks will remain available for international use, as will current Song Books including Yuletide Favourites and Barber Pole Cat Vol.1. As regards the new BPC Vol. 2 collection, I am working to enable its legal use by BABS members and will report back in due course.

For clarification or assistance please contact me.

Mike Lofthouse

BABS Music Advice Service
email: musicadvice@singbarbershop.com
Tel: 01305 265374.

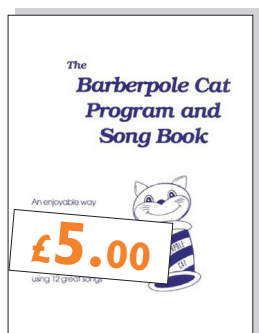


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The One Show Does Barbershop

'Just how scratch was the 'One Team One Dream' quartet of BBC One Show presenters that closed the Quartet Semi-final on Convention Friday?



As a new Director I was already looking forward to being 'on duty' at Llandudno and helping out where I could when this happened- **February/March 2015:** BABS was contacted by a One Show Producer in BBC Belfast, where the programme's filmed items are organised. From the beginning they wanted the quartet to be judged in competition in Llandudno, so we proposed how we could facilitate that, outlined a schedule for their preparation, provided a full mix track and dots of 'With A song In My Heart' and named some experts to talk to for background, voice selection and coaching. We also decided that a Director should oversee whatever transpired and who better than he without portfolio.

Wednesday 6th May: Having heard nothing for 7 weeks, Rod Butcher received a call to check that he was OK to start coaching and had found a venue for the Producer, Executive Producer, two Cameras, Sound Engineer and Quartet to arrive at in two days time. The full technical crew was indictative of the 'importance of the piece' ie" the cost of four presenters for at least two days in different locations, hotels, etc.

Rod arranged to use Jake Samuel's traditional Barber Shop in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, where he still goes to reminisce about once having hair and the time one of his medal-winning quartets was filmed there, in black and white!

Friday 8th May: The quartet was introduced as Alex Riley, comedian, not even allowed to sing in the bath at home; Michael Douglas, the Street Barber and singer in a rock band; Joe Crowley, plays guitar, writes and sings; Richard Mainwaring, pianist, singer, teacher, director, composer (thank goodness). No voice parts had been assigned, however Michael was always going to be Lead and the two musicians were prepared to apply themselves to Bari (Joe) and Bass (Richard) which left Alex, with no real idea of what he'd signed up for and very evidently a fish out of water, as the fall guy.

Although they all came clutching copies of the dots, only two could read them and none had learned the words or even heard the track, setting Rod the considerable challenge, with a three week deadline, of knocking them into a shape recognisable at least to a (hopefully empathetic) audience of barbershoppers and, of course, to the Judging Panel.

Progress was made over a couple of hours, albeit at the pace of the least capable and with interruptions to get various bits and pieces filmed, so by lunchtime and bar 15 what concentration had been applied to singing had waned.

Then we heard that the afternoon's filming was to take place in the Bull Ring Shopping Centre. The story board required that the quartet wear their stage gear for this so the tastefully designed costumes were donned. With a firm word in the Producer's ear to the effect that "if they appear at our Convention dressed like that and singing like that, it'll look like a massive Ant and Dec style p*ss take so best think again" Rod then showed them pictures in HEX of how our quartets dress for competition. Needless to say a busy Shopping Mall isn't an ideal rehearsal space so little further progress was made.

Thursday 21st May: Producer, Alex and Joe arrived in Llandudno and Ian James arranged to coach them at his hotel starting at 9pm. Coincidentally, the same hotel where the Clancy's and several VM

chorus members were being accommodated and who, once the scenario was explained, were too easily persuaded to drink beer well into the night in the interests of helping the BBC to maintain its global renown for high quality programming.

Friday 22nd May: With 8 hours to go, camera, sound plus Lead and Bass arrived and 'flying by the seat of your pants' took on its full meaning for yours truly. A quick shuffy round the venue then into the rehearsal room for a final 2 hours with Rod.

Seemingly, Richard's professional pride had taken charge since the first rehearsal and he had obtained and manipulated the tracks so each had what he needed to get to grips with his voice part, and they had actually got together once (unpaid) to practise. But what miracles Rod performed in first floor room 5 to get them through the whole song, only he, they and the editor know.

The song was as good as it was going to get so the afternoon was spent vox popping and doing interviews!



The One Show Quartet prior to going on stage

Then into the system. Crikey, they listened, no stripey blazers and boaters. A quick chat with Reckless, Ian James goes on to the contest stage and introduces 'One Team One Dream' they perform then it's done.

A standing ovation from an audience genuinely appreciative of their efforts, and selfies taken with more than a few people who now recognised those guys who had been filming all day. And from the judges a score of - well you'll just have to watch the show for that final detail.

On a personal note, I must express my immense gratitude to the BABS people and others mentioned above and to everyone else who became involved whether they wanted to be or not, including Alan Bithell, Dick Knight and the Guild of Judges, Laurie Whittle, Donn Roberts, Eddie Evans, Andy Smith from AndyCam, Bob Hodges from VM, and our Courier Team leader.

Colin Roper

Director Without Portfolio incorporating Membership Services (DWOPIMS) and One Show Fixer.

At the time of writing we await notice of the transmission date. We will issue an Intouch message.



2800

**join the majority at the
Biggest Barbershop Event
Outside North America**



**BABS Chairman Ian James
blows pitch to officially
open the 2015 Convention**

A Five Star Event Enjoyed by the Majority!

Congratulations if you were one of the 2800 fortunate enough to attend convention this year. The sun shone; we enjoyed fantastic contests and shows; The Vocal Majority were a true inspiration to us all and the Air Show and Red Arrows provided a perfect backdrop to our event.

With more than just a "Song in their Hearts" our Texan friends did not fail to deliver. I know that the welcome and reception you gave them was a talking point in Dallas long after the event. BABS has always had a reputation of being 'special' but Sing 2015 had so many golden moments it's hard to capture the experience in words, but as they would say in Texas, it was "just awesome".

Thanks to all our members for your continued support at our events and an extra special 'thank you' to everyone on the Convention Team for making all the planning and all those sleepless nights worthwhile - and there wasn't a fire in sight! In the words of the VM's opening song "We're on our way" already planning for next year. Exciting times ahead...

See you in Harrogate

Derek Parmenter
BABS Special Events Director.



Derek piloted a very successful Convention, but hasn't yet got a licence to take to the air!

Vocal Majority bid Fond Farewell

As The Vocal Majority prepared to come to Llandudno, we remembered all our friends and emotions from our previous visits to Harrogate and Glasgow. We could not have fully prepared for the outpouring of love and brotherhood that Y'All shared with us whilst we were here in Llandudno.

Music more than entertains us; it bonds us together on personal and spiritual levels. We leave today changed as a chorus, changed as men, bettered because of you. We take home the best of memories.

Texans' say that everything is bigger in Texas. We found nothing bigger than the hospitality, the love and the warmth of every BABS member, and the Welsh people. We are honoured to have been here. With a song in our heart for you.

Richard Strunk
VM Travel Coordinator

The Convention Interview



On the Friday of Convention, Alan Goldsmith spent 45 minutes interviewing Jim & Greg Clancy in front of a live audience. What we got was a rare insight into their history, experience, methods and commitment. Thanks to them for such an interesting session.

Massed Sing on the Prom



Barbershoppers enjoying the sea air on Sunday, at the Massed Sing on the Promenade.



Alan Bithell, BABS Convention Manager organising the crowd.



British Association of Barbershop Singers

HARMONY STORE

THE VOCAL MAJORITY COMMEMORATIVE CD

Limited Edition!

Specially Produced for BABS by The Vocal Majority

A special commemorative CD of recordings has been created by the Vocal Majority to celebrate their recent visit to our Convention in Llandudno. This is a limited-edition CD, so once they are sold-out, they won't be available again.



Includes these Vocal Majority favourites.

1. I'm on My Way
2. Tonight
3. Bridge Over Troubled Water
4. A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square
5. I'm the Music Man
6. Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head
7. With a Song in My Heart
8. A Beatles' Celebration!
9. I'll Be Seeing You
10. Amen
11. The Lost Chord
12. You Raise Me Up
13. Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho
14. The Lord's Prayer



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2015 Convention Contests - An Analysis

This year both the Quartet and the Chorus Contests were very closely fought, with great performances throughout.



The Chorus Contest had 36 entries, with the Great Western Chorus of Bristol coming out on top to win their 9th gold medal with a score of 80.9%, just edging the Cottontown Chorus who scored 80.3% with the Grand Central Chorus taking the bronze medals with 79.1%.

Fewer choruses scored above 71% this year, just 7 compared with 9 last year, and across the whole contest 21 choruses scored lower than last year, with just 12 showing an increase, which raises the question of whether the judges are marking harder than previously! Having said that, the average chorus score increased for the sixth consecutive year, reaching 64.1% but, before getting too excited, is probably due to some of the lower scoring choruses not participating this time round.

Divisional Awards

For the second year we also had divisional contests, with the Major Oak Chorus winning division 2 (and the most improved chorus trophy), Fine City Chorus winning division 3 and Hereward Harmony division 4. The small chorus trophy was won by the Cambridge Chord Company.

After last year's competition I wrote: "Interestingly, there are 18 choruses that have competed every year since 2010, and of those only one has shown improved scores every year - well done Clwyd Clippers!". So did they continue this remarkable run? Not quite, but amazingly they scored exactly the same number of points, 1217 or 67.6%, as last year, so the run isn't over yet!

Over the next few weeks all choruses will be allocated their divisions for next year, based on the break points of below 56% for division 4, up to 61% for division 3 and up to 71% for division 2, with the 7 choruses that scored over 71% this time, plus the 2014 champions Hallmark of Harmony, being in division 1. The chairmen of all clubs will shortly be receiving formal notification of the division in which they can compete next year.

Contest Judges

Thanks go to all the judges in this year's chorus and quartet contests. We really appreciate the time you spend judging at Convention.



Contest Judges

Helen Brown
Rod Butcher
Rob Campbell
Barry Clinton
Jon Conway
Bob Croft
Paul Davies
Pat Deeble

Cherry Hartshorn
Nickie James
Dave King
Rhiannon Owens-Hall
John Palmer
Mike Taylor
Lucy Van de Ven
Mike Warner

Contest Admin Team

Chris Tideman
Peter Hughes
Phil Mobsby

Helen Ring
Samantha Roberts
Alastair Taylor-Payne
Dick Knight



Following very close scores in last November's Prelims, the Quartet Contest also promised to be exciting, and it was.

In the Prelims *Finest Hour* had scored highest, averaging 79.0%; in the semi-finals *Tagline* scored highest with an impressive 80.2%, and in the final *Finest Hour* again scored highest, edging *Portobello Road* by just one point.

Over the two rounds of the contest that count towards the final positions, *Tagline* triumphed, nine points ahead of *Portobello Road* with *Finest Hour* a further nine behind. With the total points each quartet scored being in excess of 2800, a gap of a mere 18 points between 1st and 3rd shows what a great contest it was.

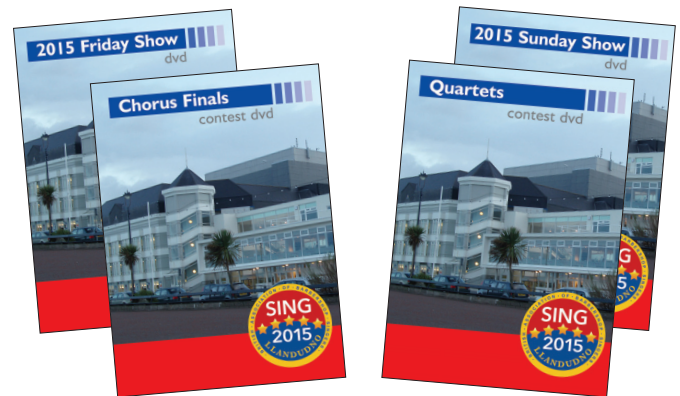
Two further quartets, *Reckless* and *Park Street*, both scored well enough to be nominated to compete at the International in Nashville next year but, as with this year's medallists, entries are at the invitation of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

It's also worth mentioning that all six finalists in this year's BABS' contest scored over 73% - which is believed to be the first time this has been achieved.

Alan Goldsmith

BABS Music Services Director

Convention DVDs



Convention Memories

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BABS HARMONY STORE



1,100 BABS members take part in the big 2015 Chorus Contest Chorus Awards



The Great Western Chorus of Bristol
2015 Chorus Champions



First Placed Chorus
Great Western Chorus of Bristol

Second Placed Chorus
Cottontown Chorus

Third Placed Chorus
The Grand Central Chorus

Highest Placed Small Chorus
Cambridge Chord Company

Most Improved Chorus
Major Oak Chorus

Division 2 Winners
Major Oak Chorus

Division 3 Winners
Fine City Chorus

Division 4 Winners
Hereward Harmony

LABBS Entertainment Trophy
Great Western Chorus of Bristol



BABS Chorus Champions

BABS 2015 Chorus Champions Great Western Chorus of Bristol

Under the direction of Linda Corcoran



The Cottontown Chorus

Under the direction of Neil Firth



Grand Central Chorus

Under the direction of Zac Booles & Kevan Liebling



- 1974 No Contest
- 1975 **Crawley**
- 1976 **Crawley**
- 1977 **Great Western**
- 1978 **Crawley**
- 1979 No contest
- 1980 **Great Western**
- 1981 **Great Western**
- 1982 **Roker Peers**
- 1983 **Great Western**
- 1984 **Crawley**
- 1985 **Pilgrimages**
- 1986 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 1987 **Pilgrimages**
- 1988 **Great Western**
- 1989 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 1990 **Great Western**
- 1991 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 1992 **Rainy City**
- 1993 **Grand Central**
- 1994 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 1995 **Shannon Express**
- 1996 **Grand Central**
- 1997 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 1998 **Shannon Express**
- 1999 **Cambridge**
- 2000 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 2001 **Grand Central**
- 2002 **Cambridge**
- 2003 **Grand Central**
- 2004 **Cambridge**
- 2005 **Bolton**
- 2006 **Cambridge**
- 2007 **Bolton**
- 2008 **Great Western**
- 2009 **Bolton**
- 2010 **Great Western**
- 2011 **Bolton**
- 2012 **Grand Central**
- 2013 **Bolton**
- 2014 **Hallmark of Harmony**
- 2015 **Great Western**



4 - Spirit of Harmony

Under the direction of Sally McLean



5 - The Royal Harmonics

Under the direction of John Palmer



6 - Cambridge Chord Company

Under the direction of Bob Croft



7 - Tuxedo Junction

Under the direction of Rob Barber



8 - Shannon Express

Under the direction of Tony Bylett



9 - The Major Oak Chorus

Under the direction of Joe Knight



10 - The ViPs

Under the direction of Gaynor Schofield



11 - Mantunian Way

Under the direction of Seb Marshall & Tom Guyer



11 - Anvil Chorus

Under the direction of Rod Butcher



13 - Clwyd Clippers

Under the direction of Rhiannon Owens-Hall



14 - The Telfordaires

Under the direction of Andy Funnell



15 - Knights of Harmony

Under the direction of Mark Grindall



15 - Thames Valley Chorus

Under the direction of Peter Cookson



17 - The Kentones

Under the direction of Peter Kennedy



18 - Capital Chorus

Under the direction of Pippa Goodall



19 - Southern Union

Under the direction of Mike Lofthouse



20 - 5 Ways

Under the direction of Shanna Wells



21 - The Sussex Harmonisers

Under the direction of Zoe Peate



22 - Fine City Chorus

Under the direction of Carol Logan



23 - Solent City Chorus

Under the direction of Vincent Lyengar



24 - Wight Harmony

Under the direction of Dave Bryant



25 - Vale Harmony

Under the direction of Chris Hartwright



26 - MK Acapella

Under the direction of Lyn Kidby



26 - Three Spires Harmony

Under the direction of Andrew Kneeshaw



28 - Kings of Herts

Under the direction of Roger Chantrelle



29 - The Pilgrimaires

Under the direction of Steve Neck



30 - Ocean Harmony

Under the direction of Graham Frampton



31 - Harmony Lincs

Under the direction of Jeremy Curtis



32 - Hereward Harmony

Under the direction of Mike Sampson



33 - The White Rose Chorus

Under the direction of Hazel Jiggins



34 - Oxford Harmony

Under the direction of Anna Shackelton



35 - Western Approach

Under the direction of Tom Knight



36 - East Kent Chorus

Under the direction of David Holloway

2015 Quartet Awards



Gold Medal
Tagline

Silver Medal
Portobello Road

Bronze Medal
Finest Hour

Most Improved Quartet
Tagline

Novice Quartet
Hustle



**Proper Sound
Youth Quartet Winners**



**The Grand Dads
Seniors Quartet Winners**

2015 Quartet Awards

The Tyneside Trophy
First Placed Quartet

Tagline

Michael Sides Rose Bowl

Second Placed Quartet

Portobello Road

Ian Stone Trophy

Third Placed Quartet

Finest Hour

BQC Trophy

Most Improved Quartet

Tagline

Sheng Pitch Pipe

Novice Quartet

Hustle

Youth/College Quartet Trophy

Proper Sound

Seniors Quartet Trophy

The Grand Dads



Tagline 2015 Gold Medal Quartet

Congratulations to

Ben Ferguson, James Gower-Smith, Chris Langworthy and Rob Foot



Quartet Winners

- 1974 **Ringleaders**
- 1975 **Five Bridge Four**
- 1976 **Barrytones**
- 1977 **Fortunairs**
- 1978 **Newtown Ringers**
- 1979 No contest
- 1980 **Par Four**
- 1981 **Regency Pride**
- 1982 **Limited Company**
- 1983 **Mancunian Way**
- 1984 **On Spec**
- 1985 **Gilt Edge**
- 1986 **Junction 33**
- 1987 **Times Square**
- 1988 **High Time**
- 1989 **Quartz Precision**
- 1990 **Curtain Call**
- 1991 **Talk of the Town**
- 1992 **Quattro**
- 1993 **Island Engagement**
- 1994 **Sound Assembly**
- 1995 **Smilin' Thru**
- 1996 **Hooked on Harmony**
- 1997 **Cambridge Blues**
- 1998 **Chordial Exchange**
- 1999 **Shockwave**
- 2000 **Likely Lads**
- 2001 **Matrix**
- 2002 **LICS**
- 2003 **Sound Crew**
- 2004 **Prime Time**
- 2005 **The Works**
- 2006 **Pitch Invasion**
- 2007 **Q.E.D.**
- 2008 **Monkey Magic**
- 2009 **Evolution**
- 2010 **Steel**
- 2011 **Crossfire**
- 2012 **iQ**
- 2013 **The Emerald Guard**
- 2014 **Park Street**
- 2015 **Tagline**

Silver Medal Portobello Road

Ian James, Brian Schofield,
Steve Emery and Stuart Owen



Bronze Medal Finest Hour

James Williams,
Eddie Williams, Nick Williams,
and Phil Cuthbert





4 - The Locksmiths

Richard Fisher, Simon Lubkowski, Zac Booles, Andrew Walker



5 - Hustle

Neil Firth, Giovanni Arsciwals, Scott Tatton, Dale Thompson



6 - Blueprint

Alex Edwards, Dave Brown, Paul Grier, Timm Barkworth



7 - Quantem

Simon Hunt, Guy Dowling, Peter Nugent, Jon Dawson



8 - Identity

Sam Hubbard, Peter Bryant, Ash Baker, George Turner



8 - South Parade

Andy Salter, Dean Whitehouse, Paul Grier, Peter Blackeby



10 - The Grand Dads

Mick Barnacle, Rob Parnham, Dave Hughes, Bob Taylor



11 - QM

Paul Jeffrey, Trevor Dawson, Adrian Armstrong, Steve Cox



12 - Blue Ray

Stephen Green, Erik Kerr, Giles Ratcliffe, Alan Lamprell



13 - Frank'nSense'nMirth

Chris Blatchford, Peter Walters, Dave Hughes, Frank Salter



13 - The Geysers

Mark Constable, Peter Chapman, Simon Hilton, Mick Thurman




15 - The Amazing Greys

Bob Devine, Brian Tutt, Colin Maskrey, Mick Nadin



16 - The Simpletones

Nick Pawley, Simon Lubkowski, Nik Robinson, Ian White




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Quartet Prelims

NEW VENUE

Royal Northern College of Music

DATES

10th & 11th October 2015

ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC

After researching and visiting various venues, the decision has been taken to choose the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. It meets all of our requirements: a prestigious music educational college: a modern environment; excellent stage; good sized theatre: ample rooms for changing, warm ups and evaluations. In addition, there is plenty of space for spectators both in the theatre and in the lobby area. It also has a large refectory area, where hot and cold food will be made available across the weekend. Bar facilities are also available.

CONTEST FORMAT

The enforced change of location has also given us the opportunity to try a new contest format. So instead of running contests in two rooms, as we have done over the last two years, we have split the contests across two days.

Saturday 10th October - Senior and Youth Contests

Provisionally starting at 17.00, these contests will run together, with the winners announced on the day with medals and trophies being presented at the end of the contest on Saturday. Evaluations will be given on the day.

NB: Eligible Senior and Youth scores will be carried forward to Sunday's draw for the semi-finals.

Sunday 11th October - National Prelims Contest

Provisionally starting at 11.00, all quartets will be competing in the same theatre. Evaluations will be given on the same day. At the end of the contest, the draw will be made for the semi-finals. The draw for the Chorus Finals will also be made.



Closing date for entries to all quartet contests will be the 11th September 2015.

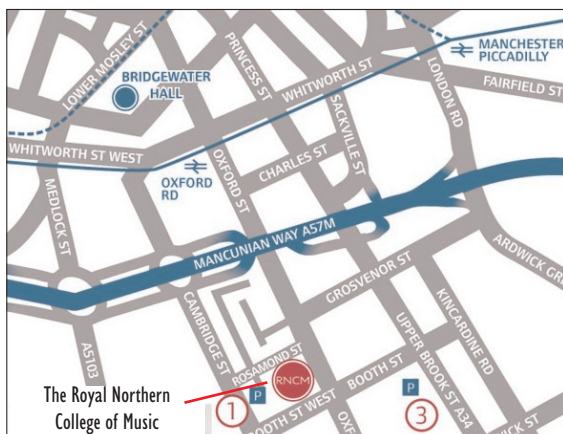
LOCATION



The Contest Theatre

The Royal Northern College of Music is located on Oxford Road in the university quarter, just south of the city centre. Piccadilly and Oxford Road stations are within walking distance. The Metro tram service is not far away either. There is also parking close by.

For directions to the College visit www.rncm.ac.uk/visit-us/getting-here



2015 Quartet Prelims

Audience Wanted

Free Entry on Both Days

Come along to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester to watch and support all the quartets competing in the three BABS National Quartet contests.

This is going to be another unmissable BABS event. Experience exciting contests in a prestigious venue, accompanied by a large collection of barbershoppers.

- * Comfortable Theatre * Excellent Viewing
- * Food Available * Bar * Car Parking Close by
- * Near to Railway Stations * Metro Tram Close By

SING**2016****42nd ANNUAL
BARBERSHOP CONVENTION**

The Big Singing Event is Heading Back to Harrogate

Barbershoppers' Favourite Destination

Harrogate is one of the most beautiful towns in the UK, this former Spa town has wide leafy avenues, pavement cafes, boutique shops and many bars and restaurants. Characteristic architecture, grand boulevards, immaculately maintained green spaces, Harrogate is consistently voted as one of the best places in the UK and has just been crowned the happiest place in the country.

A shoppers paradise; independent boutiques nestle alongside High Street names offering something for everyone. There are many restaurants within walking distance of the International Centre including, of course, the famous Bettys Tea Shop.

Harrogate sits on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors within moments of leaving the centre of you are surrounded by rolling hills and amazing scenery. So why not plan to extend your convention visit to take in all that is on offer.

Start planning your 2016 Convention now!

Visit the BABS web site: www.sing2016.com



Harrogate International Centre 27th - 30th May 2016

Message from the BABS Convention Manager

It's only a couple of months since our fantastic convention in Llandudno. Apart from the amazing performances, many new friendships were made and our bond with our comrades from BHS is growing. Approximately 2,800 people were able to enjoy the event. Convention 2015 will certainly be a talking point for years to come.

So, the big question now is how to maintain the momentum? Well, the plans for Convention 2016 is already well advanced, when we can look forward to the renowned quartet Accoustix and also Main Street who have just achieved third place at International in Pittsburg. Yet again, the biggest barbershop event outside the USA will be presenting an incredible array of talent.

Just so you know, BABS does not use any hotel booking agents. This leaves us and others open to negotiate and take advantage of our own discounts with hotels. However, you may find it easier for you or your club to consider using an agent. BABS are not in a position to recommend one agent over another, so the convention website will usually provide links to local tourist services where you will usually find links to accommodation agents if that is your choice.

I am keen to hear about what you think goes particularly well at convention or what you think goes less well. If you have a view about something you would like to see, or consider changing, please do not hesitate to drop me an email. Do not be offended if I am unable to reply to everyone who writes, but I will certainly read and consider every comment.

Keep your eyes on the BABS website for details about registration and show tickets. If you purchased a group Early Bird registration, in Llandudno, you will shortly be asked for the delegate names, but do not worry if it is a little later than the deadline shown on the application form.



Alan Bithell

Convention Manager

conventionmanager@singbarbershop.com

**Box Office
Opens in September**

At the Double in Harrogate

Double the Quality - Double the Pleasure



Main Street were placed 3rd at International in Las Vegas, scoring only 0.4% less than winners Musical Island Boys.

Mike McGee, Myron Whittlesey, Tony DeRosa and Roger Ross bring a combined 100+ years of barbershop experience. Past quartets include Keepsake, Max Q, Metropolis and Platinum. A true pedigree!

Whilst their involvement within BHS is impressive, all four members have been or currently are performers at Walt Disney World.

Entertaining audiences outside of barbershop include performances in film, television, radio and musical theater. A high quality quartet that will grace the stage in Harrogate.

www.mainstreetqt.com



This dynamic foursome has been electrifying audiences around the world for almost 25 years. Todd Wilson, Jason January, Rick Middaugh and Joel Rutherford make up the current day Acoustix.

The quartet has made close to 1000 appearances around the globe including the USA, Canada, Japan, Great Britain, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Germany, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland, visiting over 300 cities on the way.

Acoustix showcase a wide variety of musical styles that appeal to audiences of all ages. We look forward to welcoming Todd, Jason, Rick and Joel to another unmissable convention in Harrogate.

www.acoustix.com

2016 Chorus Divisions

Division 1 (71%+)

Cambridge Chord Company
Cottontown Chorus
Grand Central Chorus
Hallmark of Harmony
Spirit of Harmony
Great Western Chorus of Bristol
Tuxedo Junction
Windsor A Cappella

Red Rose Chorus
Rolling Hills Chorus
Solent City Chorus
The Kings of Herts
The Pilgrimages
The Rivertones
The Sussex Harmonisers
Three Spires Harmony
Vale Harmony
Wight Harmony

Division 2 (61.0 - 70.9%)

5ways
Anvil Chorus
Capital Chorus
Clwyd Clippers
Granite City Chorus
Knights of Harmony
Major Oak Chorus
Mantuanian Way
Shannon Express
Sound Company
Southern Union
Thames Valley Chorus
The Kentones
The Kingsmen
The Telfordaires
The ViPs

Division 4 (<54.9%)

Derby Acappella
East Kent Chorus
Friends in Harmony
Harmony Lincs
Harmony Revival
Heart of England Chorus
Hereward Harmony
Magna Carta Chorus
Northern Acchord
Ocean Harmony
Ouse Valley Chorus
Oxford Harmony
Rainy City Chorus
Surrey Fringe
The Downsmen
The Grand National Chorus
The Piertown Chorus
The Wayfarers
The White Rose Chorus
Western Approach
Wye Valley Chorus

Division 3 (55 - 60.9%)

Close Shave
Essex Chordsmen
Fine City Chorus
MK Acappella

Fancy Being a Contest MC?

This is Your Chance

BABS are currently offering aspiring emcees the opportunity to show their talents at this year's BABS Quartet Prelims Saturday 10th to Sunday 11th October.

Places will be strictly limited to fit in with the live running of the contest.

Interested in finding out more? Just email your expressions of interest, together with a brief background of yourself and the name of a nominated club contact for any follow-up reference.

Send to
Derek Parmenter
BABS Special Events Director
specialeventsdirector@singbarbershop.com

**Closing date for consideration
1st September**

The Vocal Majority Leap!

The Man in the Picture

Remember the action picture of The Vocal Majority that was all over our Llandudno Convention advertising?



Well one of these two guys is VM's Charles Kennedy, 'The Leaper', 8 years a First Bass who has been airborne at three Internationals, his first in Anaheim 2009 (Pink vests), Philadelphia 2010 (Gold vests) and Vegas 2014.

Let Charles tell the story of The Leap in Vegas, "Actually this is a full flip and is receiving more attention than I could have ever imagined.

A photographer in the audience caught me in the air, right at the end of it. What a shot! The stunt itself wasn't too difficult

but the accompanying choreography and stage dimensions made it really challenging. Just hours before performance, I learned I only had a 6 feet wide runway across the front of the stage to work in, which became 4 feet due to the position of the quartet microphone. I knew I'd have to make some quick adjustments on stage with no rehearsal time. I had to remember - Not to kick the microphone, Not to collide with the other stuntman coming from the opposite side, Not to kick the Soldier coming from within the Chorus, NOT TO KICK GREG CLANCY! and of course Not to fall off the stage onto the Judges table. No pressure, right?

Several prayers later we were on stage. Everything went smoothly and I was incredibly relieved, not only for being Blessed to accomplish my 'Not' list, but to also bring home my First Gold Medal. What a Thrill!"

Meanwhile, the other guy in the picture is Mike Hendrikson, Anvil Chorus Tenor who was introduced to Charles in the bar as 'someone in my chorus who has been signing autographs and impersonating you all weekend'.

Charles did apparently offer Mike the role of his stunt double but Mike's eye is fixed on stardom in his own right now as he



hasn't stopped saying 'I can beat that' and suggesting that Anvil's moves for next year should incorporate his skills as both Chemistry teacher and Apprentice Frogman into something incendiary and amphibious, albeit with significantly less acrobatic flair but certainly providing more of a shock factor. So remember the face, Mike is on the left.

The last word from Charles "Thanks to you guys and the Vocal Majority, I had an unforgettable time in Wales, sang tags until I had no voice left and made new friends. What a great group of guys 'yall' are. I hope we are able to visit you again soon!"

Colin Roper
PRO Anvil Chorus

Youth/College Quartet Contest

2014 Winners
PROPER SOUND



Contest sponsored by
The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Closing date 11th September 2015

Saturday 10th October 2015
The Royal Northern College of Music

Contest open to all young men 25 years of age and under. If you know of a college quartet, music school quartet or other singers who want to try the barbershop experience, then this is for them. They just have to sing two barbershop songs. Entry is Free! Closing date 11th September. The contest starts around 17.00, and in addition to winning the title of the National Barbershop Youth Quartet, they will be presented with a trophy and medals. Also, if the winner achieves the qualifying score, they will be eligible to enter the International Collegiate Contest held in the USA, with some financial support provided by the BABS Harmony Foundation charity.

Get Details Today!

Open to BABS and non-BABS members - for further details contact:

Alan Goldsmith - Tel: 01673 860366

email: musicservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com

SING BARBERSHOP
It's the Harmony that makes the difference

We came. We performed. We entertained. We delivered. We won!



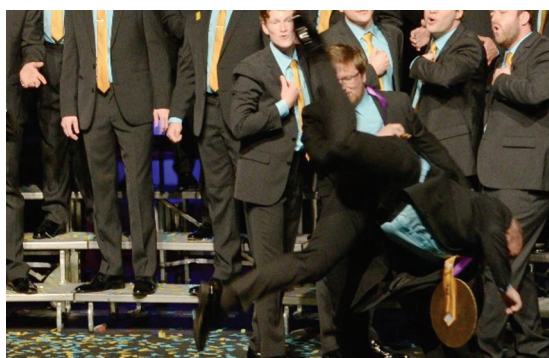
Linda Corcoran and Alan Theobald receive the Cup!



Adrian, Mike and Joyce with Crawley Cup



Some of our younger members celebrate with the Cup



The amazing flying Adam Rich



Terry Barton with his 9 Gold medals!

The Great Western Chorus of Bristol win a record-breaking 9th BABS Chorus Championship

We are really proud of The Chorus's ninth gold medal, humbled by the audience reaction and in awe of our Terry Barton who has all nine gold medals! (Actually, he would have 18 chorus medals if silvers and bronzes had always been handed out!). We suspect it will be a while before this individual chorus singer's record is surpassed.

Donn, as you know, we are truly sorry about the flutterfetti on the carpeted stage, but it had to be done and now José Mourinho knows how you feel! Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to personally congratulate us over the Convention weekend and since, in person and online.

We are all blown away by all your good wishes. We have been working so hard to reach that 80% mark. Huge thanks are due in particular to Linda, the amazing music team, Alan '57 jobs' Theobald, Cindy Hansen and of course, the incomparable Mark Hale for hammering us into shape. And, like the acceptance speeches at the Oscars and the BAFTAs, there is a huge cast of supporters and workers in the background making it all happen in their own quiet way that we owe a huge amount to too.

Our aim was to entertain you all and showcase what or chorus is really about at the same time. We hope we demonstrated our motto of "Fun, singing well" to the full. If you have never been to one of our shows please put it on your to do list - you won't regret it.

Among our membership we had one young guy, Zac, whose first sing out

with us was the contest performance and one of the youngest chorus gold medalists for a while at 14 and just over one month, Alistair.

Also, among our crop of new recruits, we found a natural fall guy and bumbling buffoon in Adam. Yes, he did get bruises and no he hadn't let on to his girlfriend, Kim how he was getting them - the first time she saw him being thrown was on the contest stage! A particular favourite picture is of Adam's feet passing the front row at eye level!

A weekend that memories are made of was wonderfully rounded off by squeezing GWC, The Vocal Majority and the men from the audience on to the risers on the Theatre stage on Monday morning!

We have yet to vote as a chorus regarding accepting the invitation to compete in Nashville in 2016. Those who have previously represented BABS at International will appreciate that this decision is not to be taken hastily or rashly, given the costs and fundraising efforts required to get a large chorus there. It's already going to be a busy championship year and we are already excited about performing at LABBS in October in Bournemouth.

At the time of writing, our next show is at Marlborough College on Friday 31 July with Havoc and Jigsaw. Look out for more shows and appearances throughout the year: we'd love to see you there and the word is we throw a good afterglow!

Chris Wall

The Great Western Chorus of Bristol



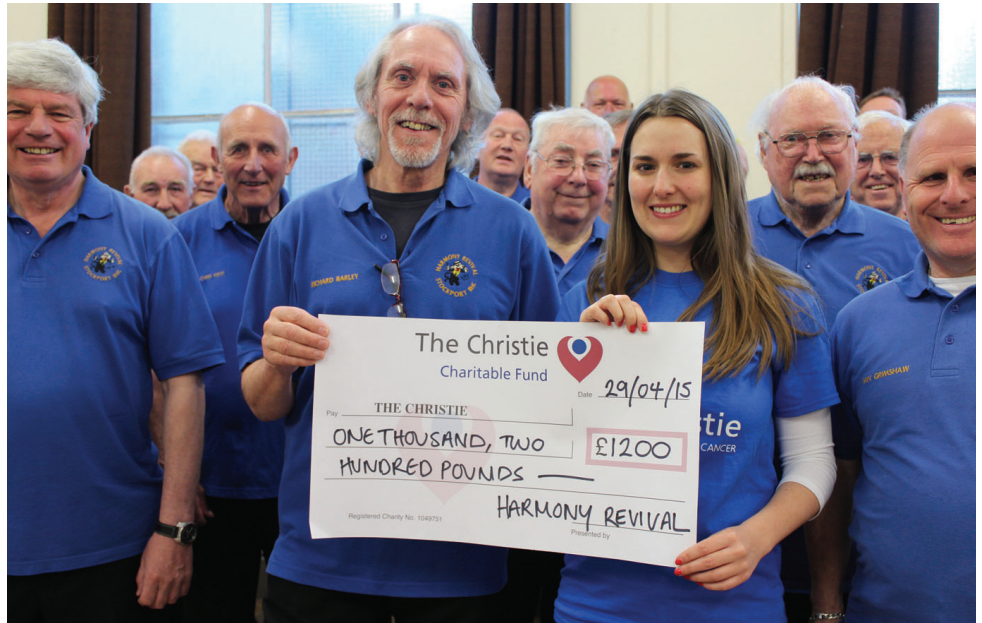
Harmony Revival's Singing Success

Raising £1,200 for Christie's Hospital

Big-hearted barbershop chorus Harmony Revival, from Stockport, found a novel and charitable way to celebrate their 40 year anniversary in 2014 - by embarking on 12 months of events and shows to raise money for much-loved local charity the Christie hospital, one of the country's leading cancer care units and a pioneering centre for research into the disease.

Over the course of the year, the group organised several singing sessions at local shopping centres in the area, and even donated the proceeds from their 40th anniversary commemorative show to the fund.

Recently, the fruits of their labour were finally revealed, £1,200 was presented to Stefanie Underhill, the charity's Community Fundraising Officer. Speaking at the Wednesday night rehearsal at Hazel Grove Methodist Church, chairman Richard Barley said: "We are so pleased to be able to hand over this amazing sum of money today to a local charity which is dear to our hearts. We're so lucky to have an organisation such as this one literally on our doorstep and we just wanted to help in some way. We hope that the money raised over the past year will make a difference and contribute to the amazing work that The



Stefanie Underhill, Christie's Community Fundraising Officer receives a £1200 cheque from Harmony Revival Chairman Richard Barley.

Christie is known for nationally and globally."

So what's next for the charitable chorus?

With new musical director Jack Haslam (who also sings with the Cottontown Chorus in Bolton) at the helm since early June this year, there may be some exciting changes in store for the group's repertoire.

It's unlikely that this will be the end of

Harmony Revival's generosity - as after the past year's success, there is bound to be another campaign on the horizon sometime soon.

Richard Barley

Harmony Revival - Stockport

BABS Seniors Quartet Contest

2014 Winners
THE GRAND DADS



Contest sponsored by
The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Closing Date
11th September 2015

Saturday 10th October 2015

The Royal Northern College of Music

The contest rules state that the minimum age of a seniors quartet member is 55, with a combined total age of at least 240 years. So why not form a quartet and start planning now for your chance to be the best senior quartet in the UK.

The contest will start around 17.00 on Saturday 10th October. The winning quartet will be presented with a trophy and medals at the end of the contest.

Eligible Senior scores will be carried forward to Sunday's draw for the 2016 Semi-finals in Harrogate .

The winning quartet may also be eligible, as long as they achieve the qualifying score, to compete in the Seniors contest in the USA.

Enter now at www.singbarbershop.cm/contest-application/



SING BARBERSHOP
It's the Harmony that makes the difference

Ocean Harmony's Fundraising Success

Raising £1,000 for Two Local Charities

Riding for the Disabled is a wonderful local charity which has been enabling life-changing activities for more than 40 years, by making available equestrian activities to all age groups of people with disabilities.

Ocean Harmony, the Southampton based Chorus, recently staged a concert to raise funds for Riding for the Disabled and our picture shows the Ocean Harmony Chairman, Dudley Stone, presenting a cheque for £500 to Midge and John Hargreaves.

Riding for the Disabled takes great pride in the exceptional standard of their 30 well qualified instructors and volunteers. Together they provide expert instruction in sessions for up to 10 disabled children at their indoor equestrian centre in Brockenhurst and for adults at the Amiss Equestrian centre in Fordingbridge.

Another great attraction for the children is that they are encouraged to become involved with grooming and general stable activities for the ponies at the centre. After a period of riding instruction and stable activities, the young riders are always very proud to receive a certificate.

The local Gift of Sight charity was established at the University of Southampton in 2006 to fund research into prevention and treatment of blindness. The current emphasis is on stem-cell projects with the intention of replacing lost vision, gene therapy to remove faulty genes and research into age-related Macular Degeneration.

This world class and quality-of-life enhancing research at University Hospital Southampton, is led by Professor Andrew Lotery, supported by academic research staff, PhD students and specialist technicians.

All of this wonderful research, the team dedicated to furthering the understanding of the causes and treatments of blindness, the equipment and consumables to enable vision scientists to move projects forward without delay, requires considerable funding from many charitable sources.

Ocean Harmony recently staged a concert to contribute funds for this vital work. The £500 raised and the valued contributions from other fund-raising organisations will enable 'Gift of Sight' to continue providing funding for critical research to help a huge number of patients who are accepted into the system each month and need to return for injections to the eye until their vision is stabilised.

Joe Hayward
Ocean Harmony PRO

£500 to Riding for the Disabled



Ocean Harmony Chairman, Dudley Stone, presenting a cheque for £500 to Midge and John Hargreaves.

£500 to Support Gift of Sight



Ocean Harmony Chairman, Dudley Stone, presenting a cheque for £500 to Ailsa Walter, the Fundraising Manager of the University of Southampton 'Gift of Sight' Appeal.

**Closing Date for Entries to the Chorus Contest
at Convention is 30th September**

Grand Central Chorus Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Llandudno!



Grand Central Chorus enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Llandudno beginning with three of our quartets involved in the Semi-Finals on the Friday afternoon. *Finest Hour* (Eddie, Phil, James and Nick) *Frank n' Sense n' Mirth* (Frank, Peter, Dave and Chris) and not forgetting the current BABS Senior Quartet Champions, *The Grand Dads* (Rob T, Dave, Mick and Rob P). They all performed really well in front of the large and knowledgeable audience in the Convention Centre with *Finest Hour* qualifying for Sunday's Final, *The Grand Dads* finishing in 10th place and *Frank n' Sense n' Mirth* in 13th place. Our MD, Zac Booles was singing Baritone in another quartet, *The Locksmiths*, who also qualified for the final.

Chorus Finals day began early for us all with a chorus breakfast at 6.30am! This was a great start to the day with everyone able to meet up for the first time since our last rehearsal four days before as well as take on board adequate sustenance for the big day ahead. It was also a wonderful demonstration of the team spirit and collective camaraderie we now have in the chorus. We then moved onto our warm up and rehearsal venue, located conveniently only a few hundred yards down the Esplanade where at just before 8am, we were all ready to begin our final preparations. We were also joined by our two guest coaches, Doug Harrington and Jo Braham, who have each given us so much invaluable help over the past months.

After an hour of vocal warm up and rehearsal, we moved further down the Esplanade to the Convention Centre, where we entered the superbly well organised competitors "pipeline" with changing, photographs and then a final run-through. Lifted by the wonderful words from bass section member, Tim Hilton, who had addressed the chorus at the previous weekend's retreat and did so again on Saturday morning, we finally went on stage at 11.22am and for the next ten minutes presented the packed auditorium with the result of all the days and hours of work over the past year!

Our contest package consisting of a "Wizard of Oz Medley", arranged for us by Zac Booles and Mark Burnip, followed by the hugely emotional Clay Hine arrangement of "If I Only Had a Brain" The videos of our contest performance can be seen on YouTube using the links below:

"Wizard Medley": <https://youtu.be/lmUbwAAJkfk>

"If I Only Had A Brain": <http://youtu.be/ylEghGTvm3k>

Overall, our performance went as well as we could possibly have wished for, resulting in a fantastic audience reaction, and with so many of our wives, partners, family, friends and supporters in the audience, it provided the real highlight of the weekend for everyone connected with the chorus.

The Chorus Competition results confirmed that, although we had

achieved our second highest ever score (79.1%) we had finished 3rd, behind Great Western Chorus and Cottontown Chorus, both of whom scored over 80%, the first time two choruses have done so in the same BABS Chorus Competition. As we saw last year in Harrogate, standards are increasing rapidly and this was confirmed by no less than 9 choruses scoring 70% or higher. Incredibly, the winning score the last time the BABS Convention was held in Llandudno, just four years ago, would have placed only 7th this year!

Grand Central Chorus are once again back in the medals and the whole chorus is delighted that we have been rewarded for all our work and effort over the past year and in particular that Zac Booles now has his first BABS medal as a MD. It was also a great moment in particular for the guys who have joined us in the past three years and who have brought so much to our collective sound.

Sunday afternoon at Convention brought the much anticipated Quartet Final, and *Finest Hour* once again made us all from Grand Central Chorus very proud with a great package that deservedly got a standing ovation, claiming bronze in another outstanding BABS quartet contest, with *The Locksmiths* in 4th place. As a chorus, we're delighted that five of our members sing in the top four quartets in the country - as well as another four members who are the current British Seniors Quartet champions, and not forgetting three other Grand Central singers whose quartets reached the BABS Semi-Finals!

Another wonderful Convention weekend - thanks to the BABS Directors and their incredible Convention team led by Special Events Director, Derek Parmenter, who do much to ensure everything happens on time and as planned, in particular the BABS Convention Manager, Alan Bithell and all the volunteers who spend their weekend working so hard behind the scenes, not forgetting the BABS Guild of Judges, without whom there wouldn't be a contest.

Thanks to our inspirational MD, Zac Booles, who is leading the chorus on such an exciting journey, Asst. MD Kevan Liebling, Vocal Coach Richard Curtis, who has made such a difference to our overall sound and to our Performance coach Peter Tatham. Thanks also to Martin York - who did such a great job in organising and securing excellent accommodation as well as those in both our Music team and Executive, led by our Chairman, Alan Goldsmith, not forgetting our wives, partners, friends and families who have helped and supported us throughout the year. We're already really looking forward to the next year and the 2016 BABS Convention in Harrogate!!

Nelson Blackley - PRO Grand Central Chorus

Eight New Members Join the Shannon Track to Llandudno

Amongst the colourful ups and downs of Convention we held a presentation ceremony of certificates to members competing in the chorus competition for the first time under the direction of Tony Bylett. United by the pleasure from singing, this is a snapshot of our new members and their journey to Llandudno (yes, I know, most came up the M6 but it is the bit before that!)

After a few years away, Pete Woods returned to Shannon only to have to cope with injuries from a motorcycle accident in the run up to Convention. He made it!

Rob Bridgeman travels two hours each way to rehearsal in Potton every week, in addition to singing with another chorus. He had a busy Saturday but still managed to catch a bit of the Red Arrows display between performances.

Peter Agar came across the world of barbershop a couple of years ago in the shape of Hallmark of Harmony, not as a singer but through a work connection at Sheffield University. When he saw one of our recruitment flyers last autumn he recalled the previous encounter and was curious to find out more - thanks Hallmark!

A special mention goes to Will Lomas, despite being blind he insisted on playing a full part in our competition performance. Not surprising really as he is a bit of a party animal!

Last summer Enzo Frangiamore was enjoying a pleasant day out with his wife at a classic car show when he was accosted by one of our members (the Shannon Express Car Club was there in force). Enzo falls into category of 'immediately smitten' so it was



Shannon Express new members at Convention
Pete, Thom, Enzo, Rob, Will, Peter, Carl and Jeremy

a joy to see him experiencing his first Convention!

As he accompanied his teenage son Tom to rehearsals and concerts Carl Sturges spent eighteen months stoically denying that he could make any kind of melodic sound. Late last year he threw in the towel and is now one of three father/son pairs in Shannon Express.

Just over a year ago Jeremy Clarke was looking for an Antiques Fayre taking place in a community hall next door to where we were rehearsing and wandered in to hear Shannon Express in full song. Antique collecting may have taken a back seat now as he is now part of our front row.

Last but not least, what can we say about Thom Box? A barbershopper of many years

standing, he joined Shannon very recently and we could tell he was looking forward to Convention, but we did not know why? As he slipped on his tuxedo to comper the Friday Evening Show it all became clear. What a pleasure for him to walk out on stage and introduce those fabulous fellow Texans. Nice one Thom!

Paul Browne
PRO,
Shannon
Express



BABS Lifetime of Harmony Awards

We are pleased to acknowledge those members who have given 25, 30 and 40 years service to barbershop. Many received them on the stage at convention, others chose to have them presented at their club rehearsal. It is a great testament to our hobby that so many members have sung barbershop for this length of time.

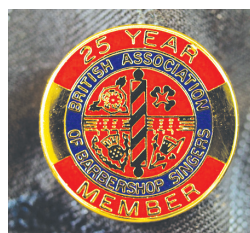
40 Year Awards



Graham Starkie
John Beck
Derek Symonds
John Measure
Frank Taylor
Stuart Lines
John Griffin

Richard Knight
George Stansfield
John Grant
John Archer
Mick Barnacle
Bernard Davis

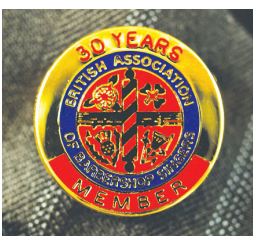
25 Year Awards



Ken Meadows
Ron Jefferies
Ken Godsell
Bill Holyday
David Whittle
David Talbot
Alan Lamprell
Peter Goodyear
Gerry Darvill
Malcolm Board
Alan Hooke
David Proud
Jim Dyson
Rod Adams
Bill Williamson
John Hadfield

Jack Bailey
Rob Dawson
David Wheeldon
Alan Hinkley
Alf Fisher
Ken Mills
Ed Deacon
Barry Howard
Mervyn Clark
Jonathan Beard
Simon Littlewood
Arnold Uphoff
Chris Robertson
Stan Francis
Alan Clarke
Windsor Rackham

30 Year Awards



David Brown
Brendan Fitzmaurice
Bill Miller
Brian Tutt
Denys Foster
Chas Owen
Barry Hine

David Mason
Eric Kingston
Tim Jenkins
Peter Gover
Peter Hughes
Dale Kynaston
John Pearson

Sussex Harmonisers 10th Anniversary Concert

A Wonderful Evening of Celebration and Song

On the 6th June, The Sussex Harmonisers celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a Concert that also featured two guest groups: The Royal Harmonics from Windsor, and the ladies of Coastline Harmony Chorus from Southwick. A large audience thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment at St John's Church in Burgess Hill.

In the May 2015 version of HEX, our Musical Director Zoe Peate described the history and development of the chorus which includes two founder members of BABS, Brian Shorrocks and Robin Pond. We have also been pleased to welcome six new members this year, mainly as a result of a Learn to Sing course in January.

At the concert, The Sussex Harmonisers sang songs from their repertoire under the direction of Zoe Peate. Highlights included *I Wish You Love* and *The Sweetheart Tree*. One new member of the chorus, Martin Bolton-Smith, provided additional entertainment acting the part of an impatient postman while an octet sang *Please Mr Postman*. Tony Pelling, who founded the Sussex Harmonisers in 2005, conducted the group for *If I give My Heart to You*.

Under the direction of John Palmer (JP), The Royal Harmonics demonstrated their musical and presentation skills in a diverse range of songs including the two they performed in the Chorus Competition in Llandudno: *Since I Don't Have You* and *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*.



For their encore at the end of their second set, one female audience member was lucky enough to be the focus of attention as JP led the chorus down the aisle of the church to express their devotion to her.

Coastline Harmony are a women's capella chorus who sing under the direction of Miguel Fernandes. Their varied set ranged from a rousing version of *Rock Around the Clock* to the more gentle *And So It Goes* which was particularly appreciated by the enthusiastic audience.



The Sussex Harmonisers with Musical Director Zoe Peate

Photo: Heather Grant

For the final item in each half of the concert, the two male choruses squeezed on to the staging to sing a song together: *My Girl*, arranged by John Palmer for the first half, and *Hello Mary Lou* at the end of the second half.

During the Afterglow, the choruses and their friends were able to socialise, sing, drink and eat some more of the delicious food that had been prepared for the evening.

The next major concert organised by the Harmonisers will be at Clair Hall in Haywards Heath on Friday 11th December. This will be a show themed around music from different parts of the 20th century, and will include Sound Company from Horsham, the women's choir Cantatrice Voices, a guest soloist and dancers, and of course a range of chorus numbers.

Further details about the chorus and the show can be found at www.SingBarbershopInSussex.com/sussex-harmonisers/

David Waterhouse

The Sussex Harmonisers

**the audience went
away with smiles on
their faces after an
evening of
high quality singing**

The Royal Harmonics Encore photo taken by David Waterhouse



The Sussex Harmonisers joined on stage by The Royal Harmonics

Photo: Tom Brierley

Anvil Chorus Latest Medal Winner

A British Empire Medal for Colin Bower

Of the three Colins in Anvil Chorus only one rides an enormous Kawasaki, plays guitar in a rock band and was awarded a British Empire Medal in this years Honours List.

'Big Col' Bowen was nominated for a gong by his employer in recognition of 20+ years voluntary work in youth development in Birmingham, particularly in Scouting and specifically for organising the sold-out Scout and Guide Gang Shows that have become such an eagerly anticipated event in the fund-raising programme for the Lord Mayor's Charities every year.

Similar to our BABS long-service pins you can, apparently, choose to receive your BEM through the post, from a Queen's representative at any location or from a member of the Royal dynasty at the Palace.

Colin was determined however to share this award with the Scouts, Guides, leaders and parents who work so hard to stage the Gang Shows, so he invited everybody to a celebration party at a local Church Hall where, in May, he received his BEM from Peter Sabapathy CBE, the Queen's representative and Lord Lieutenant of West Midlands County.



Colin Bower receives his BEM from Peter Sabapathy CBE, the Queen's representative and Lord Lieutenant of West Midlands County.



Colin shares his award with Scouts, Guides, leaders and parents

Not one to take his foot off the gas though Big Col's cunning plan was obviously to feed, water and generally soften up those in attendance, then hit them with a presentation of the plan for next year's Gang Show which is best described as challenging. All will be revealed at Birmingham Town Hall next Spring.

Colin didn't disappoint the Royal personage though as they eventually met at last month's Palace Garden party. Unfortunately there's nothing to see as you're not allowed to take selfies with Her Majesty.

Colin Roper
PRO Anvil Chorus

Northern Acchord's Running Man

Northern Acchord have an inspirational running man among our ranks in the form of Phil Holbrook, who has recently completed his 50th park run in spite of sustaining catastrophic injuries in a car crash just over two years ago.

Phil, who lost his wife in the crash, is invariably cheerful and is one of life's Mr Nice Guy's and a pleasure to sing alongside.

He has a 'dodgy' side in that he supports Hartlepool United and is rumoured to 'mime' a lot when we are singing, but the world of Barbershop is a better place for having the likes of Phil around.

Northern Acchord are now around 40 strong and although we did not compete at Convention this year, however, we are already gearing up for Harrogate which we consider to be our 'home' ground.

If we take Phil as our inspiration, we should be in the 'running' for a medal!

David Slimings
Public Relations Officer
Northern Acchord - Teeside



BABS Founder Members Meet up at Convention



Four members of the BABS founding choruses met up for a meal at Llandudno, Pete Powell & Barry Nowell, originally from Reading and Bob Walker & Robin Pond, originally from Crawley.

Also in the picture are Jan Walker, Beth Powell & Margaret Pond. Gerry Holland and Alan Johnson sent their apologies.

Pete Powell



Hannah and the Hurricanes Mix it up in Pittsburgh

With our baritone, Tim singing with Hallmark of Harmony and The Emerald Guard, our Bass, Duncan singing with Reckless in the quarter finals and mic testing the semi-finals, our tenor, Andrea taking part in the Harmony Platoon (like Extreme quartets!) and our lead, Hannah being an afterglow tag master - the visit to Pittsburgh for the BHS International competition was always going to be a busy week.

Alongside all this competition are evening events and shows, one of them being the World Harmony Jamboree; a showcase of the best of barbershop from around the world, with a focus on groups from outside of the USA.

Each year, LABBS and BABS are invited to nominate a quartet to appear on this special show and this year, Hannah and the Hurricanes were there representing the UK as the Mixed Quartet Champions.

Although the Mixed Quartet Champions, Double Date are American, mixed quartets in the States are still a very rare occurrence; many people approached us after the Jamboree to find out more about us and told us that we were the first mixed quartet that they had ever heard! It was a great



experience for us to open the eyes (and ears) of so many people to how much fun it could be.

Continuing with the success that we had at the Jamboree, the President of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Don Fuson, invited us to perform for all the dignitaries at the Presidents reception after the quartet finals, normally something that is reserved for the top 10 competing quartets that have just finished on stage.

From there we were whisked straight to the Chorditorium, an informal stage area where acts are invited to perform throughout

the evening and into the early hours of the morning where we were welcomed off the stage with a standing ovation - what a thrill!

The next UK Mixed quartet championships will be held at the LABBS convention on the 1st of November and for the first time it will be run by Barbershop in Harmony (BinH), meaning that all Sweet Adelines R31 members are welcome to compete without having to join LABBS.

We are really excited to see the wealth of talent from all three UK barbershop organisations that crosses the stage as part of the competition. We hope to see you at #LABBS15 convention!

Tim, Duncan, Andrea & Hannah
Hannah and the Hurricanes

a standing
ovation
what a thrill

MP says 'on yer bike' to barbershop

Classmates is a popular quartet of Anvil Chorus stalwarts who are often seen and heard supporting local charities at fund-raising events such as this one for the Epilepsy Society in Sutton Coldfield.



In the run up to the recent election, local MP Andrew Mitchell was in attendance and donated a whole box of House of Commons chocolates to the raffle.

Perhaps understandably though, having recalled recent past events at the gates of that establishment, Mr Mitchell appears not to be too impressed by another four guys 'in uniform' singing the same tune, albeit with indisputable accuracy this time.

Colin Roper
PRO Anvil Chorus



OBITUARY

GLYN EVANS

1915 - 2015



On the 24th May Glyn Evans, a much-loved figure in the Wellington & Taunton area, died peacefully at the Court residential home.

He celebrated his 100th birthday last February at a party attended by BABS Vice-Chairman, Peter Cookson.

Born in 1915 in Pontypridd he was a very proud Welshman. His love of rugby meant he was to be avoided whenever Wales beat England!

After leaving school he began training as a dentist at Guy's Hospital and later Bristol University. This was ended when the war broke out and he joined the Tank Regiment. He saw action in North Africa and Europe.

After leaving the army in 1946, he trained as a teacher and came to teach at Beech Grove Primary School, Wellington where he remained until his retirement. He married Mollie in 1951 and they lived in Wellington until she died in 2000.

One of Glyn's great passions was singing and he sang in a local harmony group for a number of years before becoming a founder member of The Rivertones (Taunton BHC) in 1983. He was a talented baritone singer and was Chairman for many years. Latterly he was proud to be our Life President. Glyn enjoyed singing and attending Convention. He was delighted to be part of the group crowned Small Chorus Champions in 2000.

In the past few years Glyn has not been a regular attendee on club nights but always enjoyed his visits and proved he could still sing and remember words! He always hosted a birthday celebration at his beloved Cottage Inn and enjoyed singing with the group. His last performance with the chorus was at our variety show last October when he sang in an octet and did remarkably well.

Glyn leaves a niece and nephew and several subsequent generations. One of Glyn's former pupils and a former Assistant Chorus Director of The Rivertones, Nick Graves, has many happy memories of Glyn:- "I remember bringing my meths operated steam engine to school and when it did not work properly Glyn poured more meths onto it managing to set the whole desk top on fire! Just before close of school Glyn could be persuaded to tell his eager class about his wartime exploits. The tales always had a moral for example remembering passwords and listening carefully to instructions."

When talking about being called up he used to say that the King asked him to win the war for him so he did! Glyn ended the war as a RSM in the Tank Regiment spending most of his time as a Bren gun carrier. On one occasion his vehicle was broken down and another vehicle was sent ahead to scout and the replacement was completely destroyed. On another occasion a sniper killed Glyn's best friend who was standing next to him.

Nick recalls Glyn's generosity in keeping the club afloat out of his own pocket and paying the subs of members who were short of money and doing things with great discretion.

Through teaching, skittling, barbershop singing, membership of the local operatic society and love of life, Glyn touched the life of so many and their lives were the richer for it. He will be really missed by his many friends in this area.

As he donated his body for medical science there will be no formal service but his friends gathered together on the 20th June to give thanks for the life of a remarkable man.

Jack Dennis
Rivertones PRO

P.S. We were all touched by the wonderful message from BABS Chairman Ian James, and we send our thanks.

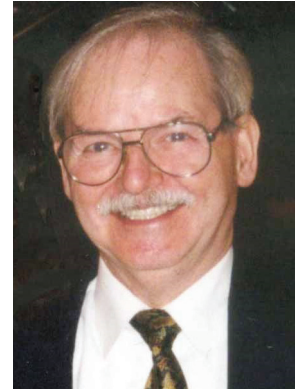


Glyn's 100th Birthday Cake as featured in the May issue of HEX

OBITUARY

DON TAYLOR

1932 - 2015



Harmony Revival are very sad to announce the passing of truly great man, Don was a member of the chorus for over 20 years, starting in the lead section and later transferring to sing baritone.

He was an amazing man with a great sense of humour and an infectious loud laugh, which encouraged everyone to join in.

Don was a multi-talented person, painting hundreds of pictures using a mix of Bee's wax and oils, he even painted a mural on the side of a 90ft building in Warrington.

He ran a screen printing business and provided wonderful promotional leaflets and posters for the chorus, and other clubs.

Don also joined the Northern Airs and they performed in Holland in 1986, and in 1988 went to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the American barbershop organisation in San Antonio.

Due to heart problems Don had a triple bypass operation and was not able to continue singing and had to retire. This gave him more time to play with his 3 year old granddaughter Katheryn, he took large card board boxes and turned them into Pirate ships, castles and many other creations. It was just magic to see them on their knees like two children living a dream story. Later on when he found out Katheryn's infant school had no art teacher he volunteered his services, Don's creative talent worked wonders and inspired all the children to love art.

We shall miss this truly inspirational and giving man. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Beryl and all the family.

Harmony Revival
Stockport Barbershop Harmony Club



Consider Making a Bequest to Barbershop in your Will



BABS Harmony Foundation Secretary
email:
administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com

