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HEX

The official publication of The British Association of Barbershop Singers

HARMONY EXPRESS

Time to Sing

Merry Christmas





HARMONY EXPRESS

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Editorial

Please send all articles and photographs to:
harmonyexpress@singbarbershop.com

Moving House? Change of Email?

email: membershipsecretary@singbarbershop.com

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Cover

Time to Sing

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

Diary Dates

- 2016 -

16th January	Guild of Judges Exec Meeting	Walsall
16th January	BABS Quartet School with Reckless	Coventry
23rd January	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
26th - 31st January	BHS Mid-Winter Convention	Reno, Nevada
6th February	BABS Quartet School with Reckless	Warrington
20th - 21st February	Guild of Judges Seminar	Walsall
27th - 28th February	BABS Directors Academy	Nottingham
13th March	BABS Quartet School with Reckless	Bristol
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
30th May	Mixed Voice Barbershop Chorus Competition	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
28th - 30th October	LABBS Convention	Harrogate
5th & 6th November	BABS Quartet Prelims, Seniors & Youth Contests	Manchester
19th November	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry

- 2017 -

17th - 22nd January	BHS Mid-Winter Convention	San Antonio, TX
26th - 29th May	BABS 43rd Annual Convention	Bournemouth
2nd - 9th July	BHS International Convention	Minneapolis
26th - 29th October	European Convention	Bournemouth

- 2018 -

1st - 8th July	BHS International Convention	Orlando
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Musical Director Wanted

The Sussex Harmonisers chorus is one of the leading male barbershop choruses in South-East England with a forty+ membership of friendly, enthusiastic and ambitious singers.

We recently celebrated our tenth anniversary and take great enjoyment in performing for county-wide audiences as well as competing at the national BABS Convention and at music festivals.

We are seeking someone with a strong musical background and experience of conducting a chorus, who can guide the development of our singing and performance.

Barbershop experience is preferred, but is not essential.

The club rehearses on Tuesday evenings at St Paul's College, Burgess Hill, RH15 8GA close to the A23.

For further information contact: Derek Morris

Email: derekmorris@sussexharmonisers.org.uk

Visit our website: <http://singbarbershopinsussex.com/sussexharmonisers/>



The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Executive Directors & Charity Trustees

Chairman

Ian James

T: 07974 459421

E: chairman@singbarbershop.com

Vice Chairman

Peter Cookson

T: 01635 528316

E: vicechairman@singbarbershop.com

Finance Director

Paul Williams

T: 02476 415112

E: financedirector@singbarbershop.com

Marketing Director

Laurie Whittle

T: 01606 259997 M: 07919 236561

E: marketingdirector@singbarbershop.com

Administration Director

Ashley Baker

T: 07821 896311

E: administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com

Music Services Director

Alan Goldsmith

T: 01673 860366

E: musicservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com

Membership Services Director

Colin Roper

T: 07889 843934

E: membershopservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com

Special Events Director

Derek Parmenter

T: 01925 637394

E: specialeventsdirector@singbarbershop.com

Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court,
Corunna Road, Warwick CV34 5HQ
Registered as a Company No: 3823721
Registered Charity No: 1080930

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



AUTUMN LEAVES

Autumn Leaves and Winter draws on - a good time to reflect on all that's happened during the past few months. Let's begin with a word to the wise - taking a ten day family holiday (Nickie, me and 5 kids in one car in France) a week after moving home which itself came 4 days after International Convention is not a plan you would, in hindsight, describe as 'good' let's get back to the barbershop for some sanity.

Following our Board budget meeting in July, Peter and I attended the Barbershop in Harmony planning meeting on behalf of BABS to continue our involvement in the planning for both this year's mixed Quartet competition (more of this a little later) and the European Barbershop Convention which LABBS will be hosting during their convention weekend in 2017. It is still early days for this event but the plans so far lead me to believe it will be a spectacular weekend.

Harmony College this year was another huge success and showed a different aspect to the college chorus - there were two. The usual 'great fun - big sound' college chorus was led by Duncan Whinyates with talented leadership from Reckless quartet. The second group, a first for HC, was an 'auditioned' chorus. The two songs were challenging to start with and the direction by the outstanding Jack Pinto (International Quartet GOLD with Old School in 2011 and director of 'The Brothers in Harmony' Chorus of New Jersey) was both inspiring and very demanding, prisoners are not taken by Jack. I went to their first session and was highly impressed by the commitment from the whole group. The final performance was definitely a memorable HC moment.

Steve Tramack, MD of the New Hampshire 'Granite Statesmen' chorus, was our other US guest educator and he brought a wealth of knowledge and gave us all a whole bunch of great techniques to make us better singers. If those present on this fabulous weekend apply just half of what they learned we'll be a better organisation all round.

The BABS Autumn Members Meeting (AMM) took place in September. This is the second of two occasions in the year where our membership get to see behind the scenes at what the BABS board is doing to promote our hobby. The AMM this year saw the unveiling of our plan to introduce a Mixed Chorus competition at the end of our Convention next May. More detail

for this event will be provided soon - very exciting.

The IABS convention this year was in Castlebar in the west of Ireland. The warm enthusiasm of the Irish never fails to impress and this year was no exception. Shannon Express came a creditable third in the International Chorus contest whilst two young Irish male quartets vied for top honours in their domestic contest. Both quartets scored in the 74% range and were very entertaining - watch out guys the Irish are coming.

The Quartet Prelims had to be moved this year due to the rebuilding of the Birmingham Conservatoire - to be truthful we were a little concerned in case it didn't work out, particularly when the date had to move forward by more than a month. We needn't have worried though - the two day format was a great success and the venue, the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, provided tremendous facilities. At the end of the first day we had our new Youth and Seniors champs - Trailblazers and South Parade in that order. Very well done guys. The qualifier for convention next year came out with Finest Hour on top with a terrific 80% average - its going to be a fab convention.

The season finished with a trip to sunny (and warm - yes really) Bournemouth for the 39th LABBS Convention. I thought that the LABBS event was supposed to be an easy weekend for the BABS Chairman? Not so, compering the Friday night show and directing our ladies chorus (Chorus Icen) on the Saturday it was quite exhausting. Follow that with a part comper job for the first ever Barbershop in Harmony Mixed Quartet competition on the Sunday and it was a full on weekend indeed. Hannah and the Hurricanes won the event and go on to represent the UK barbershop organisations in Germany at next years' 'World Mixed Quartet' championships in Germany - good luck guys.

A busy season indeed and before you can say mince pies it'll be Christmas. Good luck to all those who are having Christmas barbershop events and to you all - a Merry and Harmonious Christmas.

Ian James

BABS Chairman

The British Association of Barbershop Singers
42ND ANNUAL CONVENTION



UNMISSABLE BARBERSHOP

**Up to 60 hours of Entertainment,
Socialising, Singing & Fun!**

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
27th to 30th MAY 2016
www.sing2016.com

The Big Singing Event of 2016

Up to 60 hours of Entertainment, Socialising, Singing & Fun!

News from the Convention Manager

Last week I had an overnight break in North Yorkshire. I could not resist the opportunity to have a wander around Harrogate. How different it all looks when the streets are not full of barbershoppers with convention registration badges around their necks, and singing in the various bars and cafes. I almost wanted to call in to the shops and eating places and say "don't worry – we are on our way, see you all in May".



So, are you thinking about next May yet? Have you registered and taken advantage of the discounted 'pre-event' rates for both registration and shows? Over the past few years, Venue Cymru have mastered our requirements and are able to respond to our needs, so do not hesitate to contact them via the links on our webpages.

I'm already talking to our special guests Mainstreet and Accoustix about their visit and what we will be sharing with them in terms of shows and masterclasses. What a wealth of talent from some incredible performers. It is amazing when you think about how lucky we are every year to have the opportunity to experience barbershop and make friends with some of the world's greatest performers.

The draft show timetable is now looking quite packed and I will let you know as soon as my invitations have been accepted. Oh, and just so you know - there WILL be a (short) interval in each show so apologies to those who struggled with crossed legs or numb bums in Llandudno.

I am sure you will recall from 2014 that the Harrogate International Centre is now bigger than ever and we are carefully checking out the rooms to make best advantage of space. You will need to keep your eyes on the Convention web pages as May 2016 gets closer. Every year there are small changes to our event and this year we will be looking forward to the first mixed chorus contest which will be taking place on the Monday. Like you, I am keen to hear what will be involved and am excited to know how our hobby is developing.

The countdown has started.....

Alan Bithell

BABS Convention Manager

Email: conventionmanager@singbarbershop.com

Register Now!

The full adult rate, if bought before 11th May is £60 - that's just £1 an hour for a full convention weekend. You will get up to 60 hours of Convention activities in what will be an exciting and full weekend of barbershop fun and enjoyment.

Full Weekend Registration

This gives you access to Convention for the whole weekend from Friday morning right through to Sunday afternoon, including entry to the quartet and chorus contests, all the fringe events every day, afterglows, workshops and masterclasses the Sunday Night Party and the new Mixed Chorus Contest on the Monday. The only things not included are the shows.

Two-Day Registration

Whether you choose Friday/Sat or Sat/Sun options, you will have access to all events on those days, other than the shows.

One-Day Registration

Whichever day you select (Fri/Sat/Sun) you will have access to all events on that day only, except for shows. Those taking the Saturday option will not have access to the activities on the Friday evening.

Booking details are available on the Convention site www.sing2016.co.uk

2015 Prices Held for 2016

Everyone attending, or wanting to enter the convention centre, must either register and pay a registration fee or purchase a separate show ticket as appropriate.

The purchase of a show ticket gives limited access for a period of 30 minutes prior to and immediately after a show for the selected show only. Entry or access to any other event(s) or activity is not permitted.

Buy your registration and show tickets before 12th May to save against buying at Convention.

BOUGHT BEFORE 12th MAY

Registration Prices

	1 Day Registration	2 Day Registration	Full Registration
Adult	£30.00	£55.00	£60.00
Under 26	£20.00	£40.00	£45.00
Junior (5-16 yrs)	£10.00	£15.00	£20.00
Under 5's	Free	Free	Free

Show Ticket Prices

	Friday Evening	Saturday Evening	Sunday Evening
Adult	£18.00	£25.00	£18.00
Under 26	£12.00	£18.00	£12.00
Junior (5-16 yrs)	£ 5.00	£ 5.00	£ 5.00

BUYING AT CONVENTION

Registration Prices

	1 Day Saturday	2 Day Sat/Sun	Full Registration
Adult	£35.00	£60.00	£70.00
Under 26	£25.00	£45.00	£55.00
Junior (5-16 yrs)	£10.00	£15.00	£20.00
Under 5's	Free	Free	Free

Show Ticket Prices

	Friday Evening	Saturday Evening	Sunday Evening
Adult	£21.00	£30.00	£21.00
Under 26	£15.00	£21.00	£15.00
Junior (5-16 yrs)	£ 5.00	£ 5.00	£ 5.00

The Biggest Barbershop Event Outside North America

Harrogate

42nd Annual Convention
27th - 30th May



Barbershoppers' Favourite Destination

Harrogate is one of the most beautiful towns in the UK, this former Spa town destination has wide leafy avenues, pavement cafes and boutique shops. Characteristic architecture, grand boulevards, immaculately maintained green spaces, Harrogate is consistently voted as one of the best places in the UK to live.

A shoppers paradise; independent boutiques nestle alongside High Street names offering something for everyone. There is a world of food on to choose from, with restaurants offering the best choice from around the globe, plus of course, the famous Bettys. Many are within walking distance of the Conference Centre.

Harrogate is the home to the award-winning Turkish Baths and Health Spa. Restored to its original Edwardian glory, it offers the very latest in spa treatments as well as a traditional Turkish Bath experience - not to be missed.

Harrogate sits on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors. There is much to visit in the area including Bolton Abbey, Fountains Abbey and Harrogate's RHS Garden Harlow Carr. Why not bring the family and consider extending your stay and enjoy the special atmosphere of Harrogate and North Yorkshire.

Start planning your 2016 Convention visit now!

Two First Class Quartets from the USA

It's double the quality and double the pleasure with Main Street and Acoustix, the two quality quartets attending our 42nd convention.

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.

Acoustix 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 visiting over 300 cities on the way. They showcase a wide variety of musical styles that appeal to audiences of all ages.

We look forward to welcoming both quartets to another unmissable convention in Harrogate.

Don't miss them. Book your show tickets now!

UNMISSABLE

The Big Singing Event of 2016

CHORUS CONTEST DRAW

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Hallmark of Harmony | 23 Rolling Hills Chorus |
| 2 Ouse Valley Chorus | 24 Vale Harmony |
| 3 Wight Harmony | 25 Granite City |
| 4 The Pilgrimages | 26 Harmony Revival |
| 5 The Kentones | 27 Northern Acchord |
| 6 The Telfordaires | 28 MK Acapella |
| 7 Fine City Chorus | 29 5 Ways |
| 8 Mantunian Way | 30 Solent City |
| 9 Knights of Harmony | 31 Spirit of Harmony |
| 10 Hereward Harmony | 32 TUBBS |
| 11 Cottontown Chorus | 33 Oxford Harmony |
| 12 Anvil Chorus | 34 The ViPs |
| 13 East Kent Chorus | 35 Kings of Herts |
| 14 Vocal Fusion | 36 Shannon Express |
| 15 Red Rose Chorus | 37 White Rose Chorus |
| 16 Cambridge Chord Company | 38 Harmony Lincs |
| 17 Capital Chorus | 39 Grand Central Chorus |
| 18 Tuxedo Junction | 40 Thames Valley Chorus |
| 19 Close Shave | 41 Three Spires Harmony |
| 20 Western Approach | 42 Essex Chordsmen |
| 21 Major Oak Chorus | 43 The Royal Harmonics |
| 22 Sound Company | 44 Ocean Harmony |

QUARTET SEMI-FINAL DRAW

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 4 in a Bar (IABS - Int) | 13 The Brit Pack |
| 2 The Locksmiths | 14 Finest Hour |
| 3 Frank'nSense'nMirth | 15 Emerald Guard (Int) |
| 4 Portobello Road | 16 Hustle |
| 5 The Autotunes (IABS - Int) | 17 Tonic |
| 6 South Parade | 18 The Perfect Pitchers |
| 7 The Grand Dads | 19 EQ |
| 8 4 on Demand | 20 The Travellers |
| 9 Hanfris Quartet (SABS - Int) | 21 Blueprint |
| 10 Reckless (Int) | 22 Tagline (Int) |
| 11 GSOH | 23 Three 'n' Easy |
| 12 The Need for Swede | |

Mike Warmer 1: Northern Quarter Mike Warmer 2: Youthless

Reckless, Emerald Guard and Tagline (BABS), 4 in a Bar & The Autotunes (IABS) and Hanfris (SABS) are competing to achieve a qualifying score for the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Quartet Contest.

NEW MIXED CHORUS CONTEST

This brand new contest takes place on the Monday morning of Convention. Open to non-barbershop choirs as well as barbershoppers, this will be an exciting introduction to mixed chorus contests.

Those people who pay for the full weekend will be able to watch the contest free, as part of their package, for everyone else there will be a small fee to pay on the door.

Maximum Enjoyment!

Convention is more than competitions. From Friday right through to Monday, there is so much to do, so much to see and so much to enjoy.

Registration gives you access to all events except for the three shows below. The biggest barbershop event outside North America brings you a full weekend of Singing, Fun & Entertainment!

Superb Entertainment!

Choose from three great shows, each one offering real value entertainment with prices starting at just £10.

You can purchase a show ticket without a registration, but it only gives limited access for a period of 30 minutes prior to and immediately following that show.

Exciting Contests

Starting with the Quartet Semi-Finals on Friday, the Quartet Finals on Sunday. The Chorus Finals on Saturday sees 44 choruses compete, with over 1200 competitors on stage. Plus the added bonus of the new Mixed Chorus contest on Monday morning. It is going to be an unmissable.

Singing for Pleasure

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to sing during the weekend, plus of course, in the afterglows.

Great Company

Conventions are a great time to socialise, meet up with old friends and more importantly make new ones. Barbershop singers are renowned for being friendly, so if you've not been to convention before, you will soon be amongst the action.

Let Your Hair Down

We will be offering an alternative to barbershop on the Sunday evening. Once again a Tribute Band will help us on the way to sing a long, dance and relax!



BARBERSHOP



QUARTET COMPETITION

New Prelims Venue Exceeds Expectations

Prelims 2015

When we were informed that the Birmingham Conservatoire would not be available for Prelims this year we were rather worried that we wouldn't be able to find a suitable venue for what has become an important event in the BABS' calendar; needless to say, our Special Events Director, Derek Parmenter, rose to the challenge and identified the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester as a likely candidate.

After a site visit and some negotiation over the date, we had our new setting. On a couple of occasions in recent years we've had to run two contest stages side by side in order to accommodate so many entries, but at the RNCM we were able to have the one hall from late Saturday afternoon, which enabled the Seniors' and Youth contest to take place that evening, with the remaining competitors singing the following day.

Youth Contest

There were 6 entries in the Youth Contest on the Saturday evening, with "Trailblazers" winning with a score of 72.8%, enabling Alastair Hay-Plumb and Simon Arnott to add another gold medal to the ones previously won with "Park Street" in the 2012 Youth Contest and the 2014 BABS' Quartet Contest. It's also worth mentioning that one of their songs, "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" was arranged by Simon, the first time that one of his arrangements has been sung on the contest stage. In a very close second place were "Harmonopoly", scoring 71.8%, with "The Perfect Pitchers" in bronze medal position with 69.9%. All three, together with fourth placed "4 On Demand", qualified for the semi-final round at Harrogate next May.



Seniors Contest

This year there were four entries in the Seniors' contest, with "South Parade" winning gold with a score of 69.1%, "Three 'n' Easy" coming second with 68.7% and "YOUTHLESS" third with 64.1%.

National Prelims

Including qualified youth quartets, and it's not a requirement that the youth entries are all BABS' members, there were 29 quartets vying for one of the 16 semi-final places at Harrogate.

Leading the field, with a tremendous score of exactly 80%, were "Finest Hour", our current bronze medallists, the highest score recorded at Prelims in recent years - and possibly at any time!

Four other quartets scored over 71%, and all sixteen qualifying for Harrogate scored over 65%. At Harrogate they will be joined in the semi-finals by "Portobello Road", to whom the Guild of Judges gave a bye in Prelims this year as the rearranged date clashed with the Sweet Adelines International contest in Las Vegas in which the wives of two of their members were competing and they had prearranged flights and registrations. We'll also have some BABS' quartets singing for a qualifying score for the BHS International quartet contest in Nashville next July, "Reckless", "Tagline" and "The Emerald Guard", together with "Hanfris" from Spain and "4 In A Bar" and "The Autotuners" from Ireland. What a prospect that will be - it will probably be the best BABS' quartet contest ever staged.

So, the move to Manchester worked exceptionally well and Prelims will be held there again next year on the 5th and 6th November. Huge thanks to the judges for a monumental task exceptionally well managed, to the stage crew and technical teams, to the large number of spectators who were enthusiastic throughout, and, most importantly, to each and every singer who participated - a truly great job!

Alan Goldsmith
BABS Music Services Director.



Buy Your Quartet Photograph Online!

Purchase photographs of
your quartet online from

www.event-photos.co.uk



October 2015



Finest Hour - 80.0%



The Brit Pack - 74.8%



Hustle - 74.7%



The Locksmiths - 73.3%



Blueprint - 72.1%



The Perfect Pitchers - 69.9%



South Parade - 69.1%



Three 'n' Easy - 68.7%



The Grand Dads - 68.3%



The Travellers - 68.1%



4 On Demand - 68.0%



Tonic - 66.8%



Frank'nSense'nMirth - 66.2%



The Need for Swede - 66.2%



EQ - 65.8%



GSOH - 65.6%



Northern Quarter - 64.7%



Youthless - 64.1%



The Quadranauts - 63.7%



Alias - 62.8%



Stepping Out - 61.9%



Apocappella - 60.9%



Routemasters - 60.0%



Student Unison - 60.0%



Johnski Goes to Hollywood - 59.3%



Open Road - 57.4%



Four Shades of Grey - 55.2%



Cabin Crew - 54.8%



Jack The Cat - 51.7%

Quartet Prelims Scores

A Summary of the Prelim results is shown below. The full scoresheet, including songs sung by each quartet, scores for each song and the performers names can be found on the BABS Guild of Judges web site. www.babsguildofjudges.com



QUARTET PRELIMS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF BARBERSHOP SINGERS

OFFICIAL CONTEST RESULT

NATIONAL QUARTET PRELIMS (NATIONAL STREAM) - NEW: 2015/2016

Scores from semi-finals are normalised to take account of any panel size differences. Decimal fractions may therefore exist.

Category rankings are calculated on the category totals including semi-final scores where these exist.

Contestant	Mus	Pres	Sing	Ch.Pen	Total	%
1: Finest Hour	478	485	477	0	1440	80.0
2: The Brit Pack	458	444	445	0	1347	74.8
3: Hustle	446	447	452	0	1345	74.7
4: The Locksmiths	442	431	446	0	1319	73.3
5: Blueprint	431	436	430	0	1297	72.1
6: The Perfect Pitchers	431	429	399	0	1259	69.9
7: South Parade	411	418	414	0	1243	69.1
8: Three 'n' Easy	412	420	405	0	1237	68.7
9: The Grand Dads	408	421	401	0	1230	68.3
10: The Travellers	417	410	399	0	1226	68.1
11: 4 On Demand	416	404	404	0	1224	68.0
12: Tonic	398	406	398	0	1202	66.8
13: Frank'nSense'nMirth	391	401	399	0	1191	66.2
13: The Need For Swede	398	406	387	0	1191	66.2
15: EQ	382	409	394	0	1185	65.8
16: GSOH	393	396	391	0	1180	65.6
17: Northern Quarter	397	388	379	0	1164	64.7
18: YOUTHLESS	394	395	365	0	1154	64.1
19: The Quadranauts	381	391	375	0	1147	63.7
20: Alias	376	384	370	0	1130	62.8
21: Stepping Out	363	382	369	0	1114	61.9
22: Apocappella	364	372	361	0	1097	60.9
23: Routemasters	370	363	347	0	1080	60.0
23: Student Unison	373	356	351	0	1080	60.0
25: Johnski Goes To Hollywood	364	352	351	0	1067	59.3
26: Open Road	344	341	348	0	1033	57.4
27: Four Shades Of Grey	340	327	327	0	994	55.2
28: Cabin Crew	331	328	327	0	986	54.8
29: Jack The Cat	327	297	307	0	931	51.7

Music: Helen Brown, Rob Campbell, Paul Davies

Presentation: Pat Deeble, Andy Funnell, Bob Walker

Singing: Cherry Hartshorn, Barry Hine, Stuart Lines

CA: Phil Mobsby, Chris Tideman, Yvonne Hughes, Alastair Taylor-Payne, Peter Hughes

See next page for
Youth and Seniors
contests



QUARTET COMPETITION

Youth Quartet Contest
Royal Northern College of Music
Saturday 10th October 2015

BABS Youth Quartet Winners Trailblazers

Alex Sanctuary, Alastair Hay-Plumb, Nick Jones, Simon Arnott



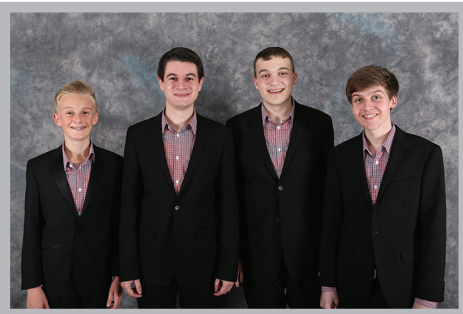
Trailblazers - 72.8%



Harmonopoly - 71.8%



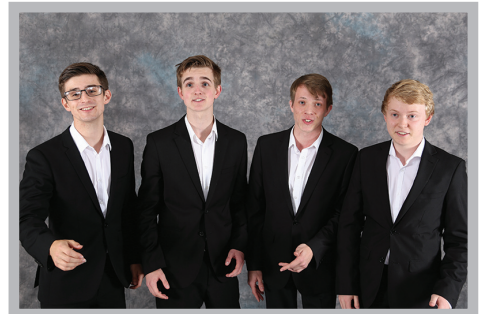
The Perfect Pitchers - 69.9%



4 On Demand - 68.0%



Northern Quarter - 64.7%



Student Unison - 60.0%

NATIONAL QUARTET PRELIMS (YOUTH STREAM) - NEW: 2015/2016

Scores from semi-finals are normalised to take account of any panel size differences. Decimal fractions may therefore exist.

Category rankings are calculated on the category totals including semi-final scores where these exist.

Contestant	Mus	Pres	Sing	Ch.Pen	Total	%
1: Trailblazers	436	446	428	0	1310	72.8
2: Harmonopoly	428	421	443	0	1292	71.8
3: The Perfect Pitchers	431	429	399	0	1259	69.9
4: 4 On Demand	416	404	404	0	1224	68.0
5: Northern Quarter	397	388	379	0	1164	64.7
6: Student Unison	373	356	351	0	1080	60.0

Music: Helen Brown, Rob Campbell, Paul Davies

Presentation: Pat Deeble, Andy Funnell, Bob Walker

Singing: Cherry Hartshorn, Barry Hine, Stuart Lines

CA: Phil Mobsby, Chris Tideman, Yvonne Hughes, Alastair Taylor-Payne, Peter Hughes



Seniors Quartet Contest
Royal Northern College of Music
Saturday 10th October 2015

BABS Seniors Gold Medal Quartet
South Parade

Andy Salter, Dean Whitehouse, Paul Grier, Peter Blackeby



South Parade - 69.1%



Three 'n' Easy - 68.7%



Youthless - 64.1%



Four Shades of Grey - 55.2%

NATIONAL QUARTET PRELIMS (SENIORS STREAM) - NEW: 2015/2016

Scores from semi-finals are normalised to take account of any panel size differences. Decimal fractions may therefore exist.

Category rankings are calculated on the category totals including semi-final scores where these exist.

Contestant	Mus	Pres	Sing	Ch.Pen	Total	%
1: South Parade	411	418	414	0	1243	69.1
2: Three 'n' Easy	412	420	405	0	1237	68.7
3: YOUTHLESS	394	395	365	0	1154	64.1
4: Four Shades Of Grey	340	327	327	0	994	55.2

Music: Helen Brown, Rob Campbell, Paul Davies

Presentation: Pat Deeble, Andy Funnell, Bob Walker

Singing: Cherry Hartshorn, Barry Hine, Stuart Lines

CA: Phil Mobsby, Chris Tideman, Yvonne Hughes, Alastair Taylor-Payne, Peter Hughes

Oxford Conference Attended by 35 Barbershop Clubs

A successful launch to the Young People in Harmony Programme



Two years of preparation came to successful conclusion at the King's Centre in Oxford on November 7th, when 35 LABBS & BABS Clubs came together for the launch of the Youth Development Project trial.

Supported by both Boards, the trial is the largest joint project undertaken together and aims to set the foundations for a long-term recruitment programme which should see more people entering our hobby at a younger age, eventually.

Although the interest at Universities is already established and growing, there is a problem before this at secondary level where not enough youngsters are getting involved in singing in the first place and therefore not providing a source of interested and inspired students. Challenged music funding also means many schools are not meeting Government targets for musical attainment.

After lengthy discussion, it has been decided that we, as the two largest a cappella singing organisations in the country, should not stand by and allow this situation to continue. We are sitting on a wealth of talent in the form of educators, arrangers, coaches and musical directors. But, perhaps more importantly, we have 5000 enthusiastic and motivated singers between us, many of whom would welcome the chance to spread the benefits they all get from singing barbershop to a wider, younger audience.

Exactly how we bring our organisations and the music establishment together, effectively, is what the trial is all about.



Some of the delegates attending the launch in Oxford

We started off earlier this year inviting Clubs to appoint a Youth Development Officer who would make contact with schools and music hubs, to establish a series of workshops, coaching sessions, festivals and other activities in support of the singing ambitions and needs locally. They would liaise with other Clubs in their areas and ensure that where necessary, a joint approach would be made by both ladies and men.

Over 50 Clubs volunteered to participate and many are now taking the first challenging steps to establish communication with each other, and the music establishment, locally. Already we are aware of some very interesting relationships developing between Clubs and Schools.

At the launch Seminar itself, delegates heard talks from leading speakers in music education and youth singing who conveyed, in no uncertain terms, how important and valued they regarded this initiative and welcomed our involvement. Delegates were then issued guidelines and 'best practice' information on how to proceed and work together and introduced to a very exciting next step - the production of a new music resource pack bringing together arrangements, tags and rehearsal routines geared especially towards a younger audience. This will be available for participating Clubs in 2016 to use when they start working in schools.

The whole Project is being coordinated by Windsor Rackham from the Royal Harmonics with a team consisting of Ashley Baker, the BABS Administration Director, Alison Harbord, the LABBS Special Projects Director, Paul Kaiserman from Spirit of Harmony and recently, the newly appointed LABBS Youth Coordinator, Rebecca (Boo) de Bruin.

If other Clubs would like to be involved or to know which local clubs are participating to offer their help, they are welcome to contact me direct.

Windsor Rackham
Youth Project Coordinator
ypih@singbarbershop.com

Youth Conference Material

Roll up Banners

A4 Delegate Folder

Three Example Letters

A5 8-page Delegate Notebook

Name Badges

Representing the best of a cappella singing in the UK
The British Association of Barbershop Singers Registered Charity No: 1080930
The Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers Registered Charity No: 1151161

All the Conference material was designed and produced by the BABS Marketing Department

BABS Harmony Foundation Launches New Community Fund

Have you got a great idea to take Barbershop onto the community? Then read on to see how you can get funding for your project.

Hi I'm Les Ashton, I'm the new manager of Harmony Foundation and I want to tell you about the launch of the new Community Fund.

Among the objectives of Harmony Foundation is to help educate and bring to the general public singing in four part harmony the barbershop way. To promote this the BABS board has decided to launch this new and exiting initiative.

The aim and criteria of the fund is that it must take barbershop to parts of the Community that would not normally be aware of it. Applications for funding should be made via the Harmony Foundation Grant Secretary; each application will be evaluated individually to decide if and how much funding it should receive.

So, this initiative is not just about recruitment. It's about reaching out into the wider community. It could be to disadvantaged or minority groups, youth clubs, ethnic groups, any age or gender but who would be enthused by barbershop singing.

As with our very successful "Learn to Sing" courses most of our great ideas come from the clubs and members themselves and this project allows for an almost unlimited range of ideas and projects, so get your thinking caps on and send in your ideas and applications for consideration in 2016.

To Summarise

- * Funding available for Community based projects through Harmony Foundation
- * Application forms available from the Harmony Foundation Secretary.



**HARMONY
FOUNDATION**

* Criteria are that the project must take barbershop to parts of the community that would not normally be exposed to it.

The fund was launched at the Autumn Members Meeting in September and all clubs have been mailed with details. The first wave of applications were due in by 31st December 2015. These to be assessed by the Charity Trustees on the 23rd January 2016.

A bit more about Me

I am a lead singer with the Peterborough based Hereward Harmony Chorus. I have been with them for 10 years and in that time have served as Vice Chairman, Chairman and I'm currently a committee member and club secretary.

I have for some time been really keen to put something back into this great hobby of ours so was absolutely delighted to take on the roll of Harmony Foundation Manager.

If you have any questions about the Community Fund then please contact me direct. Email: hfmanager@singbarbershop.com

Yours in Harmony.

Les Ashton

BABS Harmony Foundation Manager

New!

MIXED VOICE
BARBERSHOP
CHORAL
COMPETITION



SING BARBERSHOP

Mixed Barbershop Chorus Contest

BABS Convention - Monday 30th May 2016

Exciting changes are happening to Barbershop four part harmony singing in the UK. With the success of the mixed quartet contest, we are trialing a mixed chorus contest. The big difference is that we are encouraging SATB choirs to compete in harmony too!

BABS is inviting mixed voice a capella groups to vie for the inaugural UK Mixed Voice trophy, which comes with a £500 cash prize, at its dedicated Open Barbershop Choral Contest to be held on Bank Holiday Monday morning, the 30th May, at the Harrogate International Centre.

Entries will be welcome from choruses and choirs with between 18 and 80 singers, minimum age 14, with no more than 70% of the group being of the same gender. Perform two barbershop songs for adjudication by music festival judges.

Closing Date for Entries: 9th April 2016.

Send for Details Today!

For full details of this exciting new competition please email:

mixedchoralcontest@singbarbershop.com

The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road, Warwick CV34 5HQ

Registered Charity No: 1080930



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

At our Autumn Members Meeting (AMM) in September we saw that while membership numbers almost reached 2400 at the time of our 40th birthday Convention in 2014, the recent trend, allowing for the usual ups and downs through the year, has actually been much less exciting, such that we are now back to the level of three years ago, around 2250.

More recently an age profile of members tells us that 53% of members are over 65 (30% over 70%), so while no better proof is needed that once hooked you're a Barbershopper for life, and we continue to attract the under 35s, it's the potential in the 35 to 65 bracket which needs to be tapped in a big way, since 15 years ago it accounted for 60% of us, yet today only 39%.

The good news is that the average age of our members has stayed at around 61, and the average age of those new members who have joined us in the last 12 months is 49, which is not only encouraging, but it also shows that we are able to recruit new members in our prime target age group.

The figure on the right confirms what we all know to be the overwhelming importance that the direct influence of members and their clubs has on attracting new members and shows that, while BABS itself can do very little directly, it must develop its role in

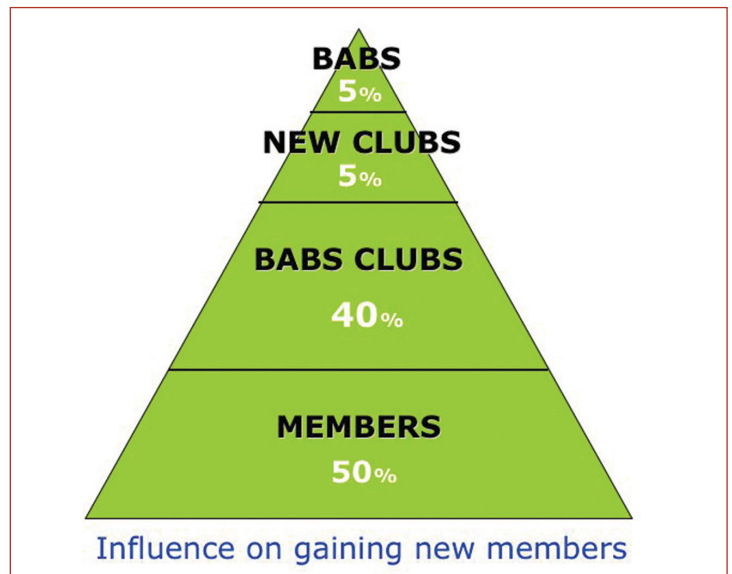


Looking Forward to 2016

making expertise available to assist you in your front-line efforts.

Of course, the nature of that assistance may differ between clubs in line with your resources and objectives, and as means and styles of promotion alter. Thus it's vital that you feed back to us what works and what doesn't, and what you've seen other organisations do that just might be worth a try. All to help BABS to spend our subs in ways that bring the biggest bang for our bucks in terms of recruitment.

Before Harmony College, every club received an InTouch email from me asking if it would participate in a National Learn to Sing event over a particular period in the Autumn of 2016 and if such an event would benefit from new branding. By the AMM I'd received only 11 replies so asked the attending club reps to take the question back. No further responses were forthcoming so I'm left to plan 2016 activity on the basis that the 80% who were not in favour of such an event are representative in preferring instead, for a variety of sound reasons, to set their own dates and take advantage of the grant and discount leaflets.



So no National Learn to Sing during 2016, however the main branding will become "Time To Sing". The usual grant may be applied for and the portfolio of promotional and event support material provided by BABS will be enhanced. For example, all those who've attended Laurie Whittle's Harmony College presentations of the Acorn Demographic Area Analysis System will be pleased to learn that each club will be provided with its own data set in the near future. and so will be equipped to benefit from, perhaps, more appropriate targeting of mailings and publicity. More on 'Time To Sing in 2016' will be sent to clubs early in the new year, so please ensure that BABS has your club officers up to date contact details.

Colin Roper
BABS Membership Services Director
membershipservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com

Harrogate Harmony

Musical Director REQUIRED

Harrogate Harmony, a small friendly men's barbershop chorus seek a person to take over from our recently moved Musical Director.

Rehearsals are on a Wednesday evening at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate.

If you have an interest in directing (previous experience not essential), please contact us.

For further information contact:

Harold Blackburn

haroldblackburn2@outlook.com

Tel: 07949 26344 or 01765 604871

Latest News from the BABS Music Advice Service

The objectives of the recently announced BABS Music Advice Service team are:

- * Help members find music to suit their needs.
- * Get copies of music for members to preview.
- * Find the owners of copyright in the UK and link that to whoever holds print rights for that music.
- * Provide support to members to work through the above process.
- * Assist in finding learning tracks for members. If needed, purchase on their behalf learning tracks.
- * Where appropriate advise on arrangers fees and how best to pay them.

New Page on BABS Web Site

A new Music page on Singbarbershop.com will be in place early in the new year and will have information relating to each of the above objectives.

In the meantime I have been asked to comment on some exchanges on copyright that are really Myths. For example:

- * It is my understanding that there is no difference between soft and hard copy. You need a print licence or have purchased hard copy to have the required number of copies "in circulation" whatever the means.
- * If you own a legal copy there is no reason why you can't pass it on when you've finished with it as long as the total number of legal copies "in circulation" is not exceeded and it was not licenced specifically for one person or group.



BABS Music Advice and Acquisition Service

A recent worrying example is that of buying a single copy of the BHS Polecat book download and passing on copies electronically. This is putting more copies than you have a right to in circulation so is a blatant violation of the rules - do not do it.

On the other hand, requesting help from fellow Barbershoppers to find a reference copy of a piece of music or a learning track should be OK as long as it is then licenced properly for use.

Learning tracks are in effect an educational tool (for learning purposes only) so if the tracks were originally purchased legally then there is no problem passing them on electronically as MP3's to enable someone else to learn the song. This was checked with and confirmed by PRS in 2012.

Remember that the penalty for copyright violation can be very large so please take care.

Mike Lofthouse

BABS Music Advice Service

email: musicadvice@singbarbershop.com

Tel: 01305 265374.

Back by popular demand - the Reckless Quartet School 2016!

Last year 17 quartets and 69 people attended the Reckless quartet schools across three different venues around the UK and it was an absolute privilege to see so many on the LABBS and BABS prelims stages with many going forward to sing at the quarter finals at their respective conventions.

The quartet schools for 2016 will build on the success of the last ones with focused and specific coaching for all the quartets that attend interspersed with dedicated rehearsal time to ensure that you are able to solidify the new techniques that you have picked up in each session.

At the end of the day, you will have the unique opportunity to perform one of the songs that you have been working on in a mini show - a perfect way to showcase your hard work in a safe environment with a very supportive audience.

Each member of Reckless is an experienced coach having worked with mens, ladies and mixed quartets and choruses, from first timers through to champions, so no matter what level you are

working at and whatever type of quartet you are, you are sure to take away new skills that will continue your quartet's improvement towards your next goal.



Duncan Whinyates

Reckless Quartet

Book your quartet in now!

For full details see the full page advertisement on page 20. Choose from three venues: Warrington, Coventry and Bristol.

Inspire
Quartet Development Programme

BABS Quartet School

RECKLESS

Exclusive Coaching Days With RECKLESS
£120 per Quartet
Book Now!

Choose your preferred location and email
babsquartetschool@singbarbershop.com
or Tel: 07891 245757

Coventry 16th January 2016	Warrington 6th February 2016	Bristol 13th March 2016
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British Association of Barbershop Singers



HARMONY COLLEGE

**Encouraging Improvement
Enhancing Knowledge**

38

**38th BABS HARMONY COLLEGE
NOTTINGHAM 2016**

**Save the Date
26-28 August 2016**

Prospectus Due Out in the Spring!

www.babsharmonycollege.co.uk

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 much 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.

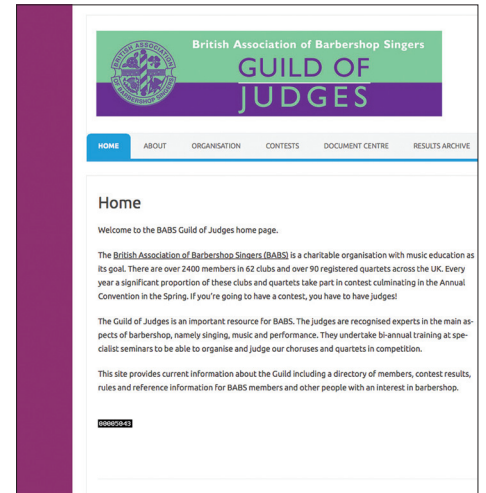
www.sing2016.com



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, 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.



LoveNotes
+
Musical Island Boys
+
sun, sea and singing...

CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS IT?





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

REGISTRATION
Non-Members: 60€
Members: 50€

INCLUDES ENTRY TO ALL CONVENTION
CONTESTS & SHOWS

Places limited - please book early

Email: registrations@sabs.es
www.sabs.es

Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS)



Fine City Chorus Celebrates 40 Years of Harmony

Way back in September 1975 eight men decided they wanted to try a new hobby that had travelled across from America, that hobby was singing Barbershop.

Those men persuaded Rosemary Kimmins, a graduate of the Royal College of Music and former Head of Music at Old Hall School, Hethersett, to help them master four part harmony, from there they formed Norwich Harmony Barbershop Club (Now Fine City Chorus) and the rest is history!

This year saw Fine City Chorus come top of their division at Llandudno and they were runners up in the most improved small chorus as well.



Club Chairman Ken Mays and Director Carol Logan receiving the Division 3 winners certificate and trophy from BABS Chairman Ian James.

To celebrate 40 years of singing barbershop, the club held a 40th Anniversary concert to a capacity audience at The Assembly House in Norwich, they were supported by their sister chorus Norwich Harmony and several quartets, this was a great success.

They then held a Ruby themed 40th Anniversary party where they were joined by past members and the original chorus director Mrs Rosemary Kimmins who was a guest of honour.



Fine City Chorus at BABS Convention in Llandudno



Mrs Rosemary Kimmins

The picture on the right shows chorus director Carol Logan and husband John at our 40th Anniversary Party resplendent in a lovely red dress and John in his kilt.



Brian Pincher
Fine City Chorus Public relations Officer



Save the Date
26-28 August 2016

A Unique Barbershop Experience! Join the College Chorus

Provides the opportunity to experience singing in a large chorus, learning new songs and receiving top class coaching. Ideal for beginners and those who wish to enjoy the camaraderie of being with a large group.

Stream led by Reckless Quartet

Prospectus Due Out in the Spring!

BABS 38th Harmony College, Jubilee Campus - Nottingham

Golf, Gareth Malone and Quartet Prelim Success

A Grand Central Chorus Report

Golf, Gareth Malone and Quartet Prelim Success for Grand Central Chorus!

On August the chorus held its first Golf Day for several years - at the picturesque Rutland Water Golf Course, in Rutland, with 17 golfer participating - both chorus members and their guests. The overall winner was one of our guests but the best score by a Grand Central Chorus member, and so winner of the Pat Mac Trophy for 2015 - donated and presented by Mike McWhinney - was Bill Traynor (picture).



Thanks to Martin York for organising the day so well and we are now all looking forward to repeating the event in 2016!

Millions of viewers across the UK have enjoyed the latest singing series hosted by Gareth Malone, BBC2's "Naked Choir", where the search was on for the country's best a cappella group. Hundreds of groups applied but only eight were selected for the televised stages, including YesterYear, a Derbyshire-based singing group of 13 men, in whose fortunes we had a special interest, since the majority are either current or ex-members of our chorus. Despite being asked to perform songs that were out of their "comfort zone" YesterYear showed

their spirit, skill and versatility, getting through the first programme, and so reaching the final six, before eventually being eliminated. A great experience and national exposure for YesterYear and given the popularity of the programme, it will certainly have increased the awareness and interest in a cappella singing generally, and hopefully the Barbershop style specifically.

At the chorus AGM in September, vocal coach Richard Curtis won the "2015 Barbershopper of the Year" Trophy, reflecting his leadership of the small group extra rehearsals ("Saturday Club") which have proved so helpful to both individual members and the chorus collectively. Mark Burnip, who, along with Richard and our MD, Zac Booles has arranged several of our competition songs over the past two years, won the Musical Director's Special Award.

16 Members Compete in Prelims



For the second consecutive year, a total of 16 of our singers, which represents a quarter of our total membership, competed in six different quartets at the BABS Quartet Prelims in Manchester over the weekend of 10th/11th October - and with outstanding success! All 16 of them qualified for the BABS semi-finals on 27th May at Harrogate with their quartets. Congratulations guys! Frank'nSense'nMirth (Frank Salter, Dave Hughes, Peter Walters and Chris

Blatchford) The Grand Dads (Rob Parnham, Rob Taylor, Mick Barnacle and Dave Hughes) and Finest Hour (James, Eddie, Nick Williams and Phil Cuthbert) as well as GSOH, (including GCC members Mark Soave, Peter Sayer and David Tanner) The Locksmiths (including our MD, Zac Booles) and last but not least our newest and youngest member, Nicky Bryant also made it through to the BABS Semi Finals with his quartet 4 On Demand.

As in 2014 Finest Hour qualified first from Prelims, but this time history was made when they scored 80% for their package, the highest ever score at BABS Prelims. The BABS bronze medalists from 2015 have now set a very high standard!

A special mention to our tenor Mick Barnacle, (singing with The Grand Dads) along with his son-in-law Tim Braham (singing with Blueprint) and his grandson Jamie Braham (singing with 4 On Demand).

We believe this to be the first time in BABS history that three generations of the same family will have appeared in the BABS Quartet Semi-Finals!

Finally, Grand Central Chorus are now looking forward to singouts before Christmas but then our big 25th Anniversary Show "A Grand Celebration - 25 years of Harmony" with not only our full chorus, but also guests, Tagline, YesterYear and Hannah and the Hurricanes on Sunday 17th April at Derby Theatre (more news about this in the next issue).

Meanwhile, please follow us via Twitter @GrandCentralMen on Facebook or visit our website www.grandcentralchorus.com

Nelson Blackley
PRO - Grand Central Chorus



Save the Date
26-28 August 2016

A Unique Barbershop Experience!

Join the Audition Chorus

Not for the new singer, but for those who've been singing for some years, even if not barbershop. Work at a high level stream under the leadership of a guest director. Requires the completion of an audition recording.

Stream led by Joe Cerutti

Prospectus Due Out in the Spring!

BABS 38th Harmony College, Jubilee Campus - Nottingham

www.babsharmonycollege.co.uk

Wight Harmony's Learn to Sing Course - the Best Yet!



Wight Harmony, based on the Isle of Wight, started their 2015 'Learn to Sing in Harmony' course in September. This was one of the club's most successful courses in terms of singers wishing to continue their training after the six weeks, and also in the level of singing quality of those who attended, partly because we were able to attract a higher proportion with previous singing experience.

Following weeks of promotion, including the local press and radio stations and the distribution of BABS leaflets across the Island, 30 potential singers with ages ranging from teenagers to 60+, attended on the first evening, joining the 30-strong Wight Harmony Chorus.

This settled down to an average of 25 per night over the six week course. Currently 21 singers have signed up to progress to the next stage - an encouraging start and a far greater proportion than on previous courses.

The six weekly sessions, supported by BABS both financially and with publicity and course material, was headed up by Wight Harmony Music Director Dave Bryant supported by voice coach Steve Morris and section leaders Graham Maitland, John Kerr, Nick Gale, and Eric Hoare plus a host of other members assisting in a wide variety of essential roles such as course administration and attendee processing, car park supervision, the riser team, the

"The Learn-to-Sing Course has proved to be a valuable tool in attracting potential singers"

audio-visual team, and of course the all important tea & coffee team.

The course followed BABS guidelines for these popular events, and included sessions led by visiting BABS coaches Lucy van de Ven, Mike Taylor and John Palmer. Using the Christmas song 'Winter Wonderland' as the basis for the course, a specific topic was the focus of each week's training including: Posture and Breathing, the Vocal Mechanism, Resonance, Vowels, and Consonants.

For the final week a mini-concert was arranged, which saw twenty-six LTS singers on the risers with the regular Wight Harmony chorus to perform for friends and family who packed our rehearsal church.

Comments about the course were overwhelmingly positive - 'Enlightening' 'Very friendly people', 'Informative', 'Excellent', 'Leader and instructors very good', 'Useful to any singer', 'A most enjoyable course', 'Excellent course, very well run and tutored. Wight Harmony is a superb choir, very well run.'

As a departure from previous courses, the chorus is running a free six week extension in order to further encourage retention. In addition to building on the singing and performance techniques learned during the initial course, it will also incorporate songs from our repertoire to accelerate the new singers' progress and facilitate their integration into the main chorus more rapidly. After that they will have the opportunity to join the club and become fully paid-up members of BABS!

Wight Harmony are fortunate to enjoy a high retention of their regular members, and a high turnout at both rehearsals and performances. Inevitably some have to leave due to health, family or employment reasons, and, as with many other choruses, it is vital that new members are attracted to the club.

The Learn-to-Sing Course has proved to be a valuable tool in attracting potential singers to our hobby and generally promoting Barbershop singing and, whilst it involves a lot of hard work by all the club members to make it a success, it is always a lot of fun, a highly rewarding experience, and of great benefit to the on-going success of the club.

Dave Vodden
Wight Harmony

Time to Take Pitch



£17.00
Delivered

ORDER NOW!

By Phone:

01305 265374

By Post:

Send cheque, payable to BABS,
to: Mike Lofthouse,
BABS Harmony Store,
35 Casterbridge Road,
Dorchester,
Dorset DT1 2AH



The Royal Harmonics at the Windsor Festival



Artistically and culturally speaking, mid-September to early October is a busy old time in the town of Windsor. This is the time of The Windsor Arts Festival which aspires to be amongst the premier Music and Arts Festivals in the UK.

It was founded in 1969 and aims to give visitors and residents the opportunity to enjoy high quality cultural events annually in the unique and historic venues of Windsor. It covers the gamut from world renowned musicians performing with leading orchestras in the grand interior of the Waterloo Chamber in Windsor Castle, to performances by local school orchestras. Not just music but art, exhibitions, open houses, plays, talks and walks around Windsor.

Outside of the main events, there is also a Schools' Programme to inspire musical and artistic appreciation and achievement and provide performance opportunities for local children.

Running concurrently with the main festival, the Windsor Fringe Festival (which also began in 1969) was started by a group of people who wanted to present a festival of all the arts at affordable prices. The Fringe are passionate about being a platform for promoting new talent with an eclectic mix of the arts and entertainment: music, drama, comedy, visual arts, film, poetry, informative walks, history and even gastronomy.

A highlight is the International Drama Writing Award sponsored by Kenneth Branagh. So imagine how delighted The Royal Harmonics were to be invited to participate in not one of these festivals but both this year!

On September 16th, RHX took to the stage of the premier performance venue in Windsor, The Theatre Royal, to entertain a sizeable and appreciative audience. We shared that stage with The Military Wives of Windsor.

For those of you not familiar with Gareth Malone and the Military Wives Choir, Gareth Malone formed a choir of military wives in 2011 from two army bases in Devon and they learned to sing while their husbands and partners were deployed for a 6 month tour of duty in Afghanistan. Gareth believed music and singing would help the women through a difficult time of worry and separation. He aimed too to give the women a 'voice' and an opportunity to express the emotions and hardships suffered by the wives of serving soldiers. A song was commissioned for the Military Wives Choir, "Wherever You Are", which they sang very movingly in front of the Queen and Royal Family at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. The song went on to become the Christmas number one for 2011 raising £500k for military charities. This was such a success that military wives choirs started up across the country.

The Windsor Military Wives choir being one such. On the night, they sang amongst other things popular songs from musicals (Les Mis and Sweet Charity) and of course "Wherever You Are" to close the first half. RHX performed two of our favourite sets - a tour through popular music and a love set. It was a splendid evening enjoyed by performers and audience alike.

Our performance at the Fringe Festival was exactly a week later and although we sang several of the same songs, it had a very different style and feel to it. This performance was held in our rehearsal venue and was very much a rehearsal come performance, where we encouraged participation and aimed to show the audience what our style of music is all about.

In addition to performing, we did a musical warm up, gave a demonstration of how the different voice parts come together to form a quartet, learned a tag for which some of the audience joined us on the risers and JP took us through our paces on a new song to demonstrate how many things we have to work on in pursuit of excellence.

We learned some choreography and treated the audience to a performance from "Putting on the Blitz", a quartet made up of RHX members that specialises in singing wartime songs.



All in all, the evening was a great success with some warm and appreciative feedback from a new audience who really enjoyed the intimate performance and the insight the evening gave them into what we do.

These two events offered RHX a great opportunity to showcase ourselves on home ground and we hope to do more next year.

We have been invited back to the Theatre Royal in March to perform as part of a charity gala and we shall hope once again next year to have the opportunity to perform in one or both Festivals. It's great to be a barbershopper!



Kingsmen Harmony Chorus on Friesland Tour

The tour was aptly named 'Brothers in Song'. The Kingsmen (under the musical direction of Mr Roy Hann) and supporters embarked on a concert tour of Friesland, Holland (Low-lying-lands) and were hosted by the 'Frisian Harmonizers' who are based in Sneek.

On our journey from Schipol Airport to Friesland we crossed over what once was the sea and the lands highest point is just 12 metres high but the land is actually 6 metres below sea level!! Everywhere you look there is water!

We were taken to visit the largest steam driven 'Pumping Station' in the world at Woudagemaal. Very interesting to the steam geeks amongst the group, but left some of the ladies with glazed eyes! Nonetheless, very interesting.

We met our hosts at a function in the hotel Amicitia in Sneek on the Friday night and afterwards were taken to our respective hosts homes where we were looked after very well. The following morning the guys and ladies had different experiences ranging from a windmill tour, speed skating, boat tour, bike rides to walking the family dog!

The concerts on Saturday night at Da Skans Theatre in Gorredijk and Sunday morning in Ysbrechtum Village hall were played out to packed and enthusiastic audiences.

We are particularly indebted to our excellent presenters from within the chorus ranks. John Meehan who had to introduce the song, YMCA without actually saying it! Stuart Newberry who had the audience in fits with his brilliant opening welcome in 'Friesland'!

Charles Grose for his excellent oration of our Jungle Book package and Greg Jarrett for his usual comedic introduction.

And then to the farewell 'Auld Lang Syne', with one of our guys smashing his tot glass when he should have kept it - each one was engraved 'Brothers in Song' and given to us as a souvenir! And then boarding the coach for our return journey we were treated to the Frisian's version of the Haka!

The return journey over the 32km Afsluitdijk (dike) followed by a visit to the World Heritage site of the Wadden Sea was eventful. We couldn't see a thing due to thick fog which actually cleared as we headed into Schipol Airport - but the damage had been done and flights were cancelled/delayed. The unexpected stop over gave the guys a chance to visit Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

All in all a fantastic tour where the delays were all part of the experience!

John Morris

The Kingsmen Marketing Manager



New Kingsmen Chairman

The Kingsmen celebrate their 25th Anniversary in 2016 and they have a new chairman in Dave Griffiths (lead) who is about to start his 3rd term since joining the Kingsmen 24years ago.

He surprised the chorus at rehearsal on Wed night to make his inaugural address, by changing into something more appropriate than working rig! He is the longest serving member who still sings with the chorus.

Roy Hann, Founder and Hon Life President is still the choruses Musical Director. Dave said that he is very honoured to be chairman again but especially as this is the choruses 25th Anniversary and is very much looking forward to his term in office.

John Morris

Marketing Manager

The Kingsmen - Kingsbridge

40 Years of Harmony in Chesham

This year is the fortieth anniversary of the Chesham Club becoming members of BABS. The club was actually started a year earlier when John Wiggins, largely encouraged by Gerry Holland, started to recruit new singers, as the picture shows. Some of those early recruits are still with the club and one of those is John Griffin, our Club Historian. The picture below was part of a super display, recording all the Club's history, which John presented at our Anniversary Lunch in September.



Press Release April 1974

The original stage name was Chesham Buckaneers, deliberately spelt wrongly as we were in Buckinghamshire. For around thirty of our forty years we have rehearsed at the same venue, the White Hill Centre Chesham, and we are especially pleased that we have recently raised over £1200 for the White Hill Charity's building restoration fund.

The club is very proud of its relationship with the Association and the BABS Board of Management. It seems fitting that both



Gerry Holland, Chas Owen, Stuart Lines, John Wiggins, Chris Tideman and Tony Searle
Previous BABS Chairmen from the Chesham club

Gerry Holland and John Wiggins, the inspiration for the club's founding, should both go on to become one of the six members, past and present, who have held the position of Chairman of the Association.

In addition to the post of Chairman, club members have held Board positions such as Director of Administration, Director of Music Services, Director of Special Events as well as non executive posts, such as Technical Manager, Harmony College Organiser, Chairmen of Judges, the list is endless. Unfortunately we have not yet reached the same high levels with our singing.

The picture above shows all six past

Chairmen together at our recent Anniversary Lunch, where we had almost 100 members, past and present attend a great event. A chance for fondly remembered friends to gather together and exchange memories plus doing a little singing.

So what do the next 40 years hold? Maybe we will increase our numbers, or increase our score in competition. Who knows, but whatever the Chesham Club does, it will always be done in close harmony, both within the chorus and the Association.

Chas Owen

The Knights of Harmony - Chesham

Shannon Express - The Last of the First

A milestone in the history of Shannon Express was reached in October with the retirement of Ray Bylett as a full time singer with the chorus after more than 37 year's continuous membership. Ray is the last founder member to sing regularly with Shannon Express.

He has held just about every position in the club's management as it grew from just a few singers to winners of the BABS UK championships, with all that that entails and beyond.

He has been involved with BABS too, not least, in the organisation and running of national conventions. From repairing the transport van to singing with world champions, you name it, he has probably done it!

Ray's passion for our hobby has remained as strong as ever over the years. As he said other evening "I have had a wonderful ride on Shannon Express and hope to continue, be it only as a passenger".

He is a life member so we will be seeing him from time to time. Ray's involvement with Shannon Express has been immense and unlikely to be witnessed again. His legacy continues into the future, with son Tony (our Musical Director) and grandson Freddie following in his footsteps.

To mark the occasion of his retirement, Club President Ian Russell presented Ray with an engraved crystal decanter 'Ray Bylett - The Last of The First'!



Shannon Express President Ian Russell (right)
presents the Decanter to Ray Bylett - The Last of the First

Paul Browne

PRO – Shannon Express



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Lest We Forget

Anvil Chorus sing at the National Memorial Arboretum



Retired Cricket Umpire, Raconteur and famous Barnsleyan Dickie Bird OBE was the main speaker at the COFEPOW (Children Of Far East Prisoners Of War) 70th Anniversary of VJ Day Commemorative Dinner at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Anvil Chorus were Dickie's warm-up act and brought tears to his eyes with our heartfelt renditions of "Abide With Me" and "I'll Be Seeing You".

Neither the marquee environment nor its loud air conditioning got the better of us although low fabric drapes almost prevented sight of David Williams (back row 2nd left) debut on the risers singing the six songs he learned in four weeks.

The members of COFEPOW are the babies and siblings of many thousands of men who died during WW2 on the Sandakan Death Marches, in copper mines in Formosa and steel factories in Japan, building the Thai/Burma and Sumatra railways, roads in Burma and air strips including Java, New Guinea and the Solomons.

Many more died on unmarked 'Hell ships' battered down in the holds or torpedoed by Allied submarines. And the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese took its toll of both British Servicemen and thousands of Civilians who were interned.

Those who survived to return often continued suffering for years after and many of the charity's members bear testament to their relatives constant nightmares and recurring illnesses.

COFEPOW has established the Far East Prisoners of War Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum which carries the name and rank of every prisoner taken during the South East Asia conflict, an unprecedented period in British history.

Lest we forget.

Regards

Colin Roper
Anvil Chorus



**Chorus act as
the warm-up
for
Dickie Bird OBE**

The Rolling Hill Chorus Farewell to the Fringe 2015 AD

Our fringe show is o'er but there's no need to feel glum
We've Midfest, an A capella course and Christmas singouts tae come
For a' the folk that helped wi the show
To thank them a' we should not be slow.

Oor man o' words and oor thespians did weel play their parts
Tis truly said that it's the most difficult of arts
White van man and Tee shirt boy
You too played your part so don't be coy.

Oor helpers a' were warm and mellow
And wonderfully dressed in a fetching yellow
The four sections o' the chorus the songs they well have sung
For each man did his part weel, wi heid, heart and lung.

She chivvied us long did oor Elaine
She didn't even flinch when oor singing, at time did give her some pain
A lady ca'd Pam wi sic a groove
Taught us all (help ma boob) that we could move!

MAC 4's glamorous gals
Help us wi the singing cause they're oor pals
A great deal of thanks is due to oor Nick
For without his efforts there'd be nae show and we'd still sing thick.

Tis certain tae say that the 21-23rd August 2015
will be remembered for a very long time
And that is where I'll end my rhyme.

Gordon Duncan

Rolling Hills Chorus - Edinburgh



The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world and takes place every August for three weeks in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city. The 2015 event saw a total of 50,459 performances of 3,314 shows in 313 venues across the city.



The ViPs Sing for Children in Need in Ipswich!

The Club donates £300



Gaynor Schofield with 'Pudsey Bear'!!

The ViPs were invited to sing live on BBC Suffolk during their Tea Party at Ipswich Town, Portman Road VIP Suite on Friday afternoon during Lesley Dolphin's regular programme. We have already established a well-established relationship with the station, having had one of our members, Jonathan Williamson speak before and after the Convention this year, and Gaynor and Brian Schofield as "sofa guests" a couple of weeks before.

We opened rather appropriately with "Teddy Bear" and followed this up with "In My Room", before being asked to close the show with a rendition of "Do You Hear The People Sing". During the performance we also handed over a £300 donation from the club and its members, and promised to sing again in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on 13th December at the BBC Suffolk Carol Concert for Children in Need.

Bob Sangwell

ViPs - Ipswich



Cambridge Chord Company is in Safe Hands



After a unanimous vote of confidence from the members of Cambridge Chord Company, Simon Hilton has taken over from Bob Croft as their Musical Director.

In 2007, Bob told the chorus he would direct for five years. After CCC won the Small Chorus Trophy in May, Bob carried out his long stated intention and resigned the directorship, handing over the baton to Simon - only three years late!

As well as winning the Small Chorus Trophy this year (the sixth time in the history of CCC) Bob has steered the chorus to a bronze medal at the European convention, a silver medal at IABS and three silver medals at BABS convention.

Simon, having already been assistant musical director and vocal coach, has hit the ground running at Cambridge with an exciting programme of new music to supplement existing repertoire.

Simon claims to have started singing barbershop in the womb. More substantive evidence shows that he and his father joined the Anvil Chorus in 1980. Eight years later when work took him away

from Birmingham he joined Preston Barbershop Harmony Club. On the night he joined Preston, the musical director resigned (no connection!) "There was a singout arranged for two weeks' time," said Simon. "I mentioned I had directed Anvil in the pub for a few polecats so could help out. All went well so I was offered the position of musical director!" Under Simon's direction, Preston went from 19 members and 34th place to a chorus of 58 coming 5th at convention (twice).

As well as singing with, directing and coaching quartets and other choruses, Simon has a special enthusiasm for the art and science of vocal craft, something which is dear to the heart of CCC. His team and project management experience in the aerospace industry is already proving very helpful to the chorus, the management of which has been compared with "trying to herd cats."

The chorus, recently expanded by seven new members, is preparing for a Christmas show in Cambridge on 12th December. Check out Events at www.cambridgechordcompany.co.uk for details.

Simon will be ably supported by Steve Green (currently tenor in Reunion, ex Blue Ray, Prime Time, Nickelodeon) as Assistant Musical Director.

Alan Conochie

Cambridge Chord Company



From left: Bob Croft, Chairman Stephen Brown and Simon Hilton with the Small Chorus Trophy

OBITUARY**JOHN LEWIS**

1942 - 2015

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of John. He was a lovely man, kind and generous and fun to be with.

He had a ready wit and could tell a good story. Born in Birmingham he started singing in school and church choirs. After coming across Barbershop whilst on holiday in Bournemouth in 1991, he joined Leicester as a lead singer, with a fine voice and a committed nature he soon established himself with the Leicester Heart of England Chorus.

Along with John Ryley, Fred Smith and Jim Pollock they formed "Top C" and became the Senior Quartet Champions in 2001.

He and his wife Pat moved to Shropshire some five years ago and we offer our sincere condolences to Patricia and family.

**P.J.Hunt**

Club Secretary & PRO

OBITUARY
PETER DONNELLY

1923 - 2015

Peter Donnelly joined Vale Harmony in 1989 and sadly passed away on 1st July 2015 at the age of 92.

Born in Lanarkshire in 1923, Peter started singing at a very early age and by the time he left school he'd become an accomplished singer.

He moved to Cheltenham in 1940 to do war work for Smiths Industries and the absence of regular eight-foot snow drifts soon quite endeared him to the place.

He joined, and played for, Cheltenham Town Football Club in 1945, organised fundraising activities, and joined its Board of Directors in 1950. He also enjoyed playing golf so he joined the Cotswolds Hills Golf Club, eventually becoming its Captain and then President, organising Burns Night concerts and many other fundraising events. In the late eighties he and his wife moved to a cottage in the Vale of Evesham, and that was when he found Vale Harmony.

Peter sang Lead - very well - and always promoted the need to sing the emotion of the lyric; he was never content just to hear words and notes (even when they were accurate!). During his many years with VH he filled at various times the roles of Librarian, Events Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Chairman. He will be remembered by us all for his wonderful sense of humour and fun, and, in his latter days when he was no longer able to sing with us, his determination to support us at singouts and competitions.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Sue, daughter Elaine, his many friends and by twenty-odd members of Vale Harmony who will always remember him as a unique and wonderful guy.

Jim Cook

Vale of Harmony - Pershore

**OBITUARY****BRIAN NEWMAN**

1936 - 2015

Brian Newman entered the world of barbershop singing with Solent City Chorus after a colleague (still with the chorus) and he met working in the Quality Group in the Portsmouth Naval Base. He seemed interested in four-part harmony but only after a year of mulling it over did he learn it wasn't just for quartets! He duly turned up to a chorus rehearsal the next week and never left - that was in 1997. That's Brian, too kind, he didn't want to push in!

Brian was a good friend to all, always willing to lend an ear, with a mischievous sense of humour and a huge laugh to match. He started as a Lead singer as he knew a lot of melodies, and he would practice the songs at home using his guitar. Later he moved to singing Bass as his confidence in harmonising grew.

Apart from singing, Brian was a keen clay-pigeon shooter and played bowls regularly. In 2015 he grew progressively weaker with PCD (a rare recessive genetic disorder affecting breathing). Brian obviously missed his singing and friendship with the Chorus - our sincere condolences go to Helen and family.

We will all miss Brian and hope he is now singing in the heavens.

Peter Mumford

Solent City Chorus

OBITUARY
DEREK HIRD

1933 - 2015

Members, past and present of Thames Valley Chorus were well represented at the funeral of former TVC member Derek Hird who passed away on 15th August. Derek joined Thames Valley Chorus in November 1991, at that time under the leadership of Tony Searle, and quickly established himself in the Lead section. A confident performer, Derek was frequently a lead character in the plays and farces brought to the stage by local theatre company, Woodley Players.

Originally from South Shields, at the age of 8 Derek had moved south with his family to Welwyn Garden City and it was there that he met his great life-long friend Mike and sometime later, at a bus-stop, his wife to be, Jean. Derek and Jean moved to Woodley in the early 1970's enjoying the family friendly location, great schools and excellent communication links.

Derek was an experienced traveller. In his role as a fabric buyer for Swan & Edgar Ltd he travelled to factories all over the world and shortly after retirement, Derek and Jean embarked on a marathon seven-week world tour. As lovers of Barbershop Derek and Jean enjoyed travelling together to BABS Conventions across the UK although in later years periods of ill-health interrupted Derek's full participation in chorus activities.

A particular highlight was TVC's trip to Krakow, Poland. Although that trip was not without its drama for Derek as standing at the airport check-in he suddenly realised he had left his TVC uniform on the bed at home. Fortunately a telephone call to Derek's son and a frantic (but legal) drive to the airport saved the day. Derek stood down from the chorus in October 2012 as his increasing frailty prevented him from participating to the degree that he would have wished.

A particular favourite song of Derek's was the lengthily entitled 'New Ashmolean Marching Society and Students Conservatory Band' sung with gusto by TVC at Harrogate in 2010, Derek's last Convention performance. However it was another favourite, the beautiful June Dale arrangement of 'Can you feel the love tonight', which at Jean's request, the Chorus sang at Derek's funeral service.

A much loved father and grandfather and always a gentleman Derek is going to be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Philip Paine

PRO - Thames Valley Chorus

OBITUARY JOHN MOULD

1942 - 2015

Harmony Lincs are saddened to announce the passing of one of its long-standing members. John joined the chorus in 1993, the year it was formed, and had been a loyal member until his short illness forced him to stop singing a few months ago.

Singing had been John's foremost hobby, having lived all his life in Lincoln, he sang in a number of choirs within the city. Up until joining Harmony Lincs he was a member of the Lincoln Orpheus Male Voice Choir, and his prominent bass voice was a feature of that choir, but for some time he had a hankering to find out what Barbershop Harmony was all about.

In November 1993 his wife, Linda, spotted an article in the local newspaper advertising the formation of a Barbershop group in the city. The following week he attended the rehearsal and was immediately hooked by the sound and the technical intricacies of its style. It wasn't long before John was appointed Bass Section Leader, and quickly gained the respect of all members of his section.

Quartets also featured in his life, and he sang Bass in 'Lynx' for a number of years alongside myself as Baritone, Colin Russell, Lead and Dennis Stubbings, Tenor. The quartet entered prelims on a number of occasions but never really gained any success, but we all enjoyed it which is what it's all about.

John also sang with Gentlemen Songsters/Crescendo, during which time he competed with the chorus in the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year, music festivals in Bangor N.I. and Dudley, and the IABS Convention in Cork.

I don't think he missed many UK conventions over the years, and also attended Harmony College, but having travelled to two International conventions - Montreal 2003 and Salt Lake City 2005 - he always said his highlight was experiencing the 900 strong combined Barbershop chorus and Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake City. A memorable moment.

Sadly, John's wife Linda passed away in 2013, but he remained a loving father to his two daughters Suzanne and Debbie and a devoted grandfather to three beautiful grandchildren. John will certainly be missed on the risers, a big man with a big voice - Rest in peace.

Tony Chapman
Harmony Lincs

OBITUARY CHRIS FARRAR

2015

Within the space of one week, another Harmony Lincs chorus member has passed away.

Chris loved his singing, and as a member of the chorus joined the ranks of that rare breed, the Tenors. He tried Lead and Baritone, but Tenor was well within his range so that was his chosen part.

The first impression of Chris was that he was a very quiet sort of person, but once you got to know him his bubbly personality and sense of humour came to the fore. He very quickly made friends and became an established member of the chorus.

In March 2002 his quartet 'Voice Quad' travelled to Bremen for the 'Bremen In Harmony Barbershop A-Capella Festival. With Steve Rose singing Lead, Chris Bennett, Bass and Harry Wells, Baritone they received a tremendous reception and acted as excellent ambassadors for the Barbershop style and the county of Lincolnshire.

Ill health forced Chris to stand down from the risers a few years ago, but he maintained his membership of the club and was always interested in what the chorus was doing. He made every effort to attend our shows, and participate in our Christmas dinners.

Although Chris had not been an active member of the chorus for some time, he was always with us in spirit and we are all saddened at his passing.

Tony Chapman
Harmony Lincs

OBITUARY BILL RIEHL

1947 - 2015

The Granite City Chorus are saddened to report the passing of Bill Riehl who was MD of the chorus and a prolific quartet member during his stay in Aberdeen from around 1999 to 2006, when he returned to his native America. He called it retiral but from various news sources, it was anything but. A music degree and heavy involvement in the local music scene of Aiken, S Carolina were just a couple of his retiral projects.

An oil industry geologist by profession, Bill and family, wife Pat and children Alex and Spencer arrived in Aberdeen from a stay in the Middle East at an opportune moment as our previous and original MD had intimated retiral due to poor health. Bill was a long time barbershopper who often described his frustrations when posted to places with little of a BBS scene, and willingly took over the helm after a couple of weeks on the risers.

Not one to just take over the helm and sail on as before, the Chorus were caught up in a pretty changeable journey and driven from their comfort zone on more than one occasion. I think folk will agree that you might not always agree with what he was proposing but my goodness, you had to have thought through any objections before voicing them. The instigator of our signature Royal Stewart waistcoats and with a move towards increasing our repertoire of Scottish songs in the BBS style, (well, what else would you expect from an American who loved everything Scottish) we soon made an impact on Convention by winning the Cambridge Scroll for Most Improved Chorus in 2001/2002 at Sheffield and Harrogate.

Embracing the Free "Learn to Sing" philosophy in 2005 as one of the first choruses to adopt this very successful recruitment technique, we had around 30 newbies at the final concert with Bill also singing lead with the Bon Accord quartet. Not a bad retention rate and a tribute to his teaching style. A Christmas show, a filmed musical with a local ladies chorus, a Doors Open appearance at a local closed theatre (now thankfully re-opened and the scene in November of our 25th Anniversary concert) and a variety of sing-out locations were his legacy to the continuing development of the Granite City Chorus.

He was a special talent and it was a pleasure to be part of the Chorus during his tenure as MD. The sincerest of condolences from the Chorus go out to his family.

Bill Good
Granite City Chorus - Aberdeen

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for further details contact

BABS Harmony Foundation Secretary
email:
administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com



BARBERSHOP IN HARMONY

A Mixed Quartet Success with Hannah and the Hurricanes

At just four years old, the Mixed quartet competition goes from strength to strength with a whopping 17 quartets that registered for this year's competition. It was the first year under the new rules and banner of Barbershop in Harmony which meant that the competition was opened up to all Sweet Adeline R3I members as well as just BABS and LABBS - and what a competition it was!

We are really proud to hold one of only 12 mixed quartet gold medals that LABBS ever issued and even prouder to be the recipients of the very first set of hopefully hundreds of BinH gold medals that will be awarded over the years. Congratulations to Mastermix and Mojo on their medals and every person that crossed the stage over the weekend.

There were commiserations as well as congratulations as our fellow competitors Delekate and Jigsaw had to pull out of the contest because of illness - we were so sorry to hear this and can't imagine the disappointment after all that hard work that we know you have put in - we hope to see you both back on top form in the competition next year.

One of the best things about mixed quartetting is that you have no idea what each quartet is going to pull out of the bag; we had songs in mens key, ladies key and something in between - but the "Biggest Surprise" award should go to Dick Knight, who not only performed in two different mixed quartets, singing tenor - but one of them in ladies key! Fantastic job!

Another great thing about the mixed quartet competition is what it leads to; this year the competition allowed three quartets to get an invite for the Mixed Quartet World Championships in Munich at the BinG convention in March. We are very excited to have an international platform for the genre and we will be sharing the stage with MasterMix and hopefully Way Out West representing the UK in a competition featuring the best of the rest of the world.



Of course, heading abroad to compete has its costs, so we need your help to make sure that we can get over there and have somewhere to rest our heads for the weekend - oh and have some songs to sing too! To help support us, we would love to come and sing on your club shows - not only does it help with our fund raising efforts, but it helps us improve our stage craft - not to mention that we really enjoy it! Get in touch hello@hannahandthehurricanes.co.uk.

Our new website will be live soon where you can hear more about our preparations for Munich along with keeping up to date on our Facebook site and we might even see you at the White Rosettes and Spirit of Harmony Show in December or the Grand Central Show in April.

Andrea, Hannah, Tim and Duncan
Hannah and the Hurricanes
Uk Mixed Quartet Champions 2014 and 2015

LABBS Newly Crowned Champions



LABBS held their 2015 Convention in Bournemouth over the weekend of the 30th October to 1st November.

Chorus Contest
Champions: The White Rosettes
Silver: Amersham A Cappella
Bronze: Gem Connection

Quartet Contest
Gold: Pzazz!
Silver: Tone-Acity
Bronze: Road Trip

2015 Chorus Champions
The White Rosettes



2015 Quartet Champions
Pzazz!



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