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HEX

The official publication of The British Association of Barbershop Singers

HARMONY EXPRESS



**Sing 2017 Bournemouth
The King's Singers in Concert**

THE GREAT WESTERN CHORUS OF BRISTOL

PRESENTS



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LIVE IN BRISTOL

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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



LET'S MIX IT UP

One thing I can talk about with some confidence is how terrific our own convention was this year in Harrogate.

Well done Cottontown, you have, once again, shown that consistent commitment can bring great rewards - a distinguished 82.4% put you in Gold medal position. I find it utterly fantastic that we had all three chorus medal winners scoring over 80% - that's a first! I would like to congratulate Cottontown, Grand Central and Hallmark and all the other choruses for providing the best competition we have seen in a very long time.

In any other year, if my quartet Portobello Road had scored 79.7% as an overall score we would have been champions - not so this time. Three young brothers - James, Eddie and Nick - and a (not so) young Phil had other plans. The hard work and dedication of Finest Hour has given BABS its first ever straight 'A' quartet champions with a stunning 82.9% overall. Worthy winners in every sense.

As a matter of interest for those quartet nuts out there, that score would have placed Finest Hour 15th in the World last year - food for thought eh? I for one am really excited to see what these guys can do on the American stage so we need to give them all the support we can to get them to International in Vegas next year.

Obviously I need to thank and applaud my fellow quartet buds in Portobello Road for our Silver medal and The Locksmiths for their Bronze medal - a 77.7% for them shows that our standards are increasing across the board - it's all very exciting for the future.

Another triumph for Harrogate was the successful introduction of the Open Mixed Voice Barbershop Choral Contest. The Monday afternoon at convention was where we discovered the joys of

mixed voice Barbershop choruses. The competition was won in fine style by Strictly Barbershop who gave a lively performance and walked away with the award and the £500 prize. Plans are already in place for the 2017 competition and with an earlier announcement, we are confident that we will see even more groups taking up this exciting challenge.

I was thrilled to be in one of the 4 quartets who represented the UK at International in Nashville, Tennessee. Reckless did a fabulous performance, but once again they just missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals, coming 21st for the second year running! My own quartet, Portobello Road whilst scoring 78.3%, came 40th out of 57. We also had two quartets in the Youth competition; 2015 champions Tagline, who came 6th with a magnificent score of 79.7%, Trailblazers, the 2016 BABS Youth quartet champs, finishing 12th with 76.8%. We are so very proud of all four quartets.

We had another very successful Harmony College in August, with Around Midnight quartet as our guest educators plus Joe Cerutti leading the Audition Chorus. The reports back from everyone, really shows the appeal of this annual event. .

And finally, as part of our development strategy a 'Top Gun' quartet weekend was held early Sept in Nottingham, with educators Rich Knight, Doug Harrington, Sally McLean and Paul Davies. Another huge success and one that was well appreciated by the quartets attending.

Regards

Ian James
BABS Chairman



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

The editor reserves the right to edit any material in the interest of clarity, accuracy or suitability to fit the space available, and the decision of the editor as to the publication of any material is final.

Advertising in Harmony Express

See costs on the Harmony Express page of the BABS web site or contact:
harmonyexpress@singbarbershop.com

Diary Dates

- 2016 -

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 -

14th January	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
17th - 22nd January	BHS Mid-Winter Convention	San Antonio, TX
28th - 29th January	BABS Directors Academy	Nottingham
18th February	Great Western Chorus Show (see advert p2)	Bristol
18th March	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Birmingham
19th March	BABS Annual General Meeting	Birmingham
6th - 9th April	Spanish Association Annual Convention	Benalmadena
26th - 29th May	BABS 43rd Annual Convention	Bournemouth
17th June	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
2nd - 9th July	BHS International Convention	Las Vegas
22nd July	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Coventry
23rd - 30th July	BHS Harmony University	Nashville
25th - 27th August	BABS 39th Annual Harmony College	Nottingham
19th September	BABS Board & Charity Trustees Meeting	Birmingham
20th September	BABS Autumn Members Meeting	Birmingham
26th - 29th October	European & LABBS Convention	Bournemouth

- 2018 -

25th - 28th May	BABS 44th Annual Convention	Harrogate
1st - 8th July	BHS International Convention	Orlando

- 2019 -

30th June - 7th July	BHS International Convention	Salt Lake City
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Next Issue: December 2016 - Copy Date: 25th November

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

The screenshot shows the homepage of the British Association of Barbershop Singers website. It features a navigation menu with links like Home, Contact us, About Us, Document Centre, Harmony College, and Conventions. There are several featured sections: 'The Big One' for the 43rd Annual Barbershop Convention in Bournemouth, 'Try Judging for Yourself' for Quartet Prelims, and '2nd Barbershop Harmony Contest for Mixed Voiced Choirs'. There are also links to 'Quartet Prelims' and 'National Chorus Final'.

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 other information. There are easy links to relevant areas of the organisation and external resources.

www.sing2017.com

The screenshot shows the registration and show tickets page for the 43rd Annual Barbershop Convention in Bournemouth. It includes a navigation menu with Home, Register, Shows, Guests, Contests, Timetable, Events, Travel, and Market. The main content is titled 'Registration & Show Tickets' and provides details on how to register, including online booking, phone bookings, and group bookings. It also mentions 'The Big One' as a featured event.

Start to plan next year's Convention in Bournemouth. It contains information including registration, shows, guests, contests, timetables, events and travel. These pages will be regularly updated, as information becomes available during the build-up to Convention. So start planning your visit to Bournemouth now.

www.babsguildofjudges.com

The screenshot shows the homepage of the British Association of Barbershop Singers Guild of Judges website. It features a navigation menu with Home, Organisation, Contests, Document Centre, Education, Diary, and Contact. The main content is titled 'Home' and provides a welcome message and information about the Guild of Judges, including its role in providing training and support for judges.

The Guild of Judges site provides information on Judging, Contest Rules, Contest Timings and Scores. You can also Find a Judge, access relevant documents and much more..



Looking Forward to 2017

If your club hasn't staged a Time To Sing event this year then it's probably passed you by, so better start planning for one in 2017.

BABS promoted a National Learn To Sing Day in 2012 and 2014, however there hasn't been one this year nor will there be next year, since the majority of Club Chairmen who responded to my InTouch email last August asking if they would participate in such an event replied that they preferred to organise events that specifically suited their local needs and at times of year of their choosing.

Unfortunately we can't do both since, for a National event, all the funding normally allocated to providing clubs with individual grants and subsidised promotional material has to be diverted to nationwide media promotions and advertising if sufficient coverage and momentum are to be achieved.

At time of writing, 25% of clubs have already held, or intend to hold, Time To Sing events this year having taken advantage of a BABS grant, subsidised promo material, leaflet distribution and Acorn Demographic analysis to better target potential attendees, details of which are in the Grants & Support document to be found in the Document Centre on www.singbarbershop.com or by email enquiry to me.

While the typical Time To Sing course is still of 4-6 weeks duration I am happy to consider, for BABS financial support, different types or formats of event as long as the main objective is to recruit singing members to BABS Male and/or Mixed Voice Chorus.

We're always encouraging you to share your recruitment and retention experiences for the greater good and Pat Perridge, Chairman of Thames Valley Chorus, did just that

at September's AMM with a lively and discussion-provoking outline of the organisation and effort that went into their recent Learn to Sing in Harmony course, including a taster You Tube video produced by the club that received over 100 hits. I'll be sending an InTouch email to all Club Secretaries with a link to Pat's presentation however if you'd like to contact Pat for more information his email is pat@perridge.net.

And a last thought on LTS from the ever-active mind of Laurie Whittle our Marketing guru. There's room on both sides of the new-design Time To Sing Leaflets for a Local Sponsor's logo, so why not consider, say, a 20,000 leaflet drop based on the latest Demographic Analysis of your area and invite local businesses to include their logos in return for sponsorship to further help with your costs.

Now We Have 62 Clubs!

Those of you who attend our AGM and/or AMM will have heard me refer to the 'Growing Our Numbers' strategy (ask your Club Company Member for sight of it) and its gratifying to see that 2016 has, so far, seen the registration of two new competing clubs, Vocal Fusion in West Sussex and Meantime in, where else but, Greenwich which, taking into account the closure of Western Approach and the transfer of its members to Plymouth BHC, brings the number of 'local' clubs to 60. Add in our Don Amos colleagues and our British Quartet Champion Chorus and we have a fantastic 62 clubs in total, the greatest number of BABS clubs ever!

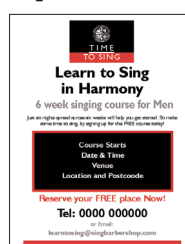
Colin Roper

BABS Membership Services Director

membershipservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com



Use Time to Sing to help Recruitment



Time to Sing is designed to provide support to clubs with their recruitment campaigns. You can choose the length of any course, be it one day or 12 weeks. Financial support is still available along with 1,000 free leaflets. Extra copies of the leaflets are on offer at very substantial discounts.

Learn to Sing remains the most effective approach, but this will be just one of the options available. A wider choice of Course Headings are available to provide flexibility and course emphasis. Some of the leaflet options are shown above.

Lifetime of Harmony Awards

We are pleased to acknowledge those who have been BABS members for so many years. It's a testament to our hobby that so many have sung barbershop for this length of time.

40 Year Awards



Ian Taylor
Stuart Wineberg
John Willoughby
Kevin Coughlan
Alf Chalmers
Joe Bygroves

Terry Cahill
Peter Topp
Terry Bryant
Roy Kidd-Stanton
Clive Landey

30 Year Awards



Rob Connor
Jon Conway
Dave Ellwood
Peter Kennedy
John Hannay
Steve Allen
Julian Clarke
Brian Robinson
Chris Bradley
Al Lines

Terence Jowett
Steve J.E. Green
Alan Senior
David Garrett
Mike McKeown
Harry Ambler
Tony Riley
Dave Tyson
Peter Stocking
Martin Baglow

Trevor Vicary
David Tanner
Peter Wickham

25 Year Awards



Tony Hutton
Mike Sampson
Bill Payne
Brian Hocken
Jon Dawson
Stuart Owen
Derek Hollis
John Mallett
Peter Coombe
Chuck Cheshire
David Codd
Bill James
Keith Wilkinson
Colin Sellers
Michael McWhinney
Tom Osmond

John Price
Steve Anderson
Tom Ramsden
Ronnie Sheppard
Peter Hill
Bob Lowther
Tom Watson
Phillip Ward
Syd Boyd
Chris Brian
Allen Day
David Hardie
Barrie Newman
Chris Sydee
David Mann
Stephen Brown

Jim Morgan
Simon Gutteridge
Thomas Bryant
Chris Young
Frank Salter
Malcolm Mitchell
Richard Skilton
John Green
Alan Conochie



Autumn Members Meeting - Summary

The BABS Autumn Members Meeting (AMM) took place on 11th September and there were several important resolutions voted on by Members present at the meeting and those who had sent in their proxy voting forms. The results were as follows:

Resolution 1: Subscriptions

Members voted in favour of raising annual subscriptions from £44 to £45 from 1st January 2017.

Resolution 2: Harmony Express

Members voted against reintroducing a hard copy of HEX and to remain with the online version.

Resolution 3: Chairman 2017/18

Members voted in favour of electing current Vice Chairman Peter Cookson as BABS Chairman for the period 1st Jan 2017 to 31st Dec 2018.

Resolution 4: New Vice Chairman 2017/18

Members voted in favour of electing Martin Baglow of Bristol as BABS Vice Chairman for the period 1st Jan 2017 to 31st Dec 2018

Resolution 5: New Music Services Director

Members voted in favour of electing Alan Hughes of Sheffield as Music Services Director for the year commencing 1st Jan 2017

Resolution 6: Other Directors

The members voted in favour of re-electing the following directors for the year commencing 1st Jan 2017:

Ashley Baker (Admin Director), Derek Parmenter (Special Events Director), Laurie Whittle (Marketing Director), Paul Williams (Finance Director), Colin Roper (Membership Services Director)

If you have any questions, please ask your club's Company Member or contact me direct.

Ashley Baker

BABS Administration Director

Chorus Divisions 2017

Division 1

(71%+)

Cambridge Chord Company
Cottontown Chorus
Grand Central Chorus
Great Western Chorus of Bristol
Hallmark of Harmony
Mantunian Way
Spirit of Harmony
Thames Valley Chorus
Windsor A Cappella

Division 2

(61% - 70.9%)

5ways
Anvil Chorus
Capital Chorus
Clwyd Clippers
Granite City Chorus
Kentonones
Knights of Harmony

Major Oak Chorus
Rolling Hills Chorus
Shannon Express
Sound Company
Southern Union
The Kingsmen
The Telfordaires
The ViPs
Tuxedo Junction

Division 3

(55% - 60.9%)

Close Shave
Essex Chordsmen
Fine City Chorus
Harmony Lincs
Kings of Herts
MK Acappella
Ouse Valley Chorus
Red Rose Chorus
Solent City Chorus
Sussex Harmonisers
The Rivertones
Three Spires Harmony
Vale Harmony

Vocal Fusion
The White Rose Chorus
Wight Harmony

Division 4

(<55%)

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



Making Music and You

You may have heard us mention Making Music, but what is it and how does it impact you?

Who are Making Music?

Making Music is the UK's number one organisation for amateur music, with a membership of over 3,000 groups representing around 170,000 music makers across the UK. BABS has an agreement with Making Music which means your BABS membership automatically makes you a member of Making Music.

Main benefits of Making Music

Insurance

Perhaps the most significant benefit is Public Liability Insurance - every BABS registered Club and Quartet is covered by public liability insurance. Your club secretary will have received confirmation of this directly from Making Music, although if you have any questions please contact me for more information

(Note – this does NOT include trailer insurance, although you can contact the insurers directly to add the contents of trailers to your cover)

DBS Clearance Checks

You and your club can apply for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for your members at a very reasonable cost of £5 per application (does not apply in Scotland). This is especially important as we ask all clubs to have members with DBS clearance as part of our Children and Vulnerable Adults policy.

Promotion

Your club is added to the Making Music register of clubs so prospective members or concert organisers can search for you when looking for music groups in your area.

HighNotes Magazine

Each club should receive a copy of the Making Music membership magazine High Notes full of interesting and informative articles about other music groups from across the country.

Resources

Making Music have prepared a whole library of useful guides and toolpacks to help you and your club, covering a



wide range of topics such setting up as a Charity, help with social media and guidance on things like child safeguarding.

Workshops

Similar to the resources, Making Music also run many workshops to help you out on topics such as helping you manage your finances, best practice for running your group and ideas on how to increase audiences.

If you have any questions about Making Music contact either myself or Colin Roper, Membership Services Director, for more information.

Ashley Baker

BABS Administration Director and Company Secretary

Chorus Medals Available from BABS Harmony Store



Harrogate Convention in 2006 saw the first awards of medals to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed choruses, and the BABS board made it possible at the time for members of choruses so placed prior to 2006 to purchase the appropriate medal(s) for £5 each.

Now, in response to a number of requests from members who didn't take up the offer back in 2006, we're about to repeat the exercise, and at the same price per medal, £5 including postage and packaging from Harmony Store with all proceeds going to the Harmony Foundation Community Fund to support requests for grants to take Barbershop Harmony to new places in local communities.

If you're still with the chorus that was placed and there are others there who also who want to take up the offer, perhaps one of you would place a blanket order and save BABS a bit on postage.

If you've since moved to a different chorus then you're welcome to place an individual order.



The medals will be sent on trust that they have all been 'earned', so all we need on the order is your name, address, BABS membership number, the name of your chorus, it's placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd and the year of competition.

And of course you can purchase a medal for each year you sang in a chorus that was placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at BABS Convention prior to 2006. Please note medals, as illustrated, are not engraved or personalised in any way.

Payment can be by cheque, BACS or credit or debit card. Please include full address and card details when placing the order.

For further details and to place orders please contact Mike Lofthouse by email: harmonystore@singbarbershop.com or by calling 01305 265374.





QUARTET COMPETITION

Quartet Prelims

VENUE

Royal Northern College of Music

DATES

5th & 6th November 2016

ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC

A superb venue for another unmissable BABS event

The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester meets all 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. It also has a large refectory area, where hot and cold food will be made available across the weekend. Bar facilities are also available.



The Contest Theatre



**Audience Wanted
It's Free to Watch!**

CONTEST FORMAT

The quartet contests will run across two days.

SATURDAY

5

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5th November - Senior and Youth Contests

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. 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

6

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th November - National Prelims Contest

Starting at 11.00, all quartets compete in the same theatre. At the end of the contest the draw will be made for the semi-finals to be held in Bournemouth. Evaluations will be given following the same format as previous Prelims. The draw for the Chorus Finals will also be made.

LOCATION

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.

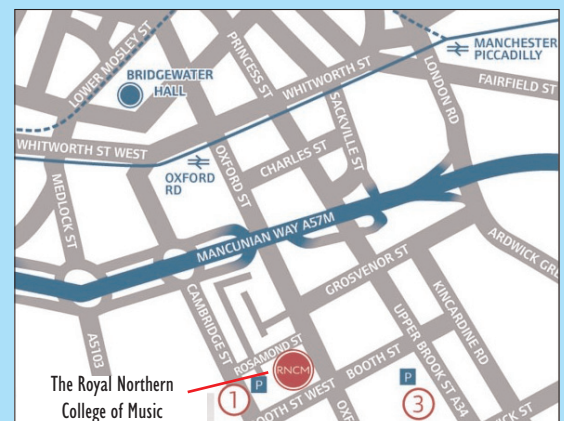
For directions to the College visit www.rncm.ac.uk/visit-us/getting-here

Travel Information

Train: www.thetrainline.com

Air: www.manchesterairport.co.uk

Tram: www.metrolink.co.uk



Youth & Seniors Contest Draw - Saturday 5th November

Quartet Name	Youth/Senior	On Stage
Mike Warmer (tbc)		17.00
Diminished Fifth	Youth	17.12
Sound Hypothesis	Youth	17.22
Timeless	Seniors	17.32
Harmonopoly	Youth	17.42
Waikikamukau	Seniors	17.52
The AmazingGreys	Seniors	18.02
Eclectic Mix	Seniors	18.32
Wavelength	Youth	18.42
Intersection	Seniors	18.52
Northern Quarter	Youth	19.02
Cemetery Junction	Seniors	19.12
Three 'n' Easy	Seniors	19.22
4 On Demand	Youth	19.52
Student Unison	Youth	20.02
QM	Seniors	20.12
Jerry Hat Tricks	Seniors	20.22

The winners of each contest will be announced on the day with medals and trophies being presented at the end of the contest. 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.

There are two intervals scheduled during the competition at approx 18.10 and 19.30. These may vary according to the running time of the contest.

Timings correct at going to press

Prelims Contest Draw - Sunday 6th November

Quartet Name	On Stage
Mike Warmer - Finest Hour	11.00
Benner, Benner, Bari and Tenor	11.12
HeadQuarters	11.22
Wrekin Havoc	11.32
Platform I	11.42
Cheers	11.52
Borderline	12.02
Diversion	12.32
The Codebreakers	12.42
No Borders	12.52
Half Eight	13.02
Mic Drop	13.12
The Quadranauts	13.22
Blueprint	13.52
The Locksmiths	14.02
Tonic	14.12
The Four Posters	14.22
Oakie Dokie	14.32
Nova	14.42
Class Act	15.12
South Parade	15.22
Open Road	15.32
Incline	15.42
Shoreline	15.52
The Brit Pack	16.02
Thumbs Up	16.32
Hustle	16.42
Portobello Road	16.52
HD	17.02

All quartets will compete in the same theatre. At the end of the contest the draw will be made for the semi-finals to be held in Bournemouth.

Evaluations will be given following the same format as previous Prelims.

There are four intervals scheduled during the competition at approx 12.10, 13.30, 14.50 and 16.30. These may vary according to the running time of the contest.

Timings correct at going to press

Good Luck to all competing quartets in Manchester!

A Brilliant Barbershop Event

Over 330 Attendees

90 in College Chorus

50 in Audition Chorus

11 Coached Quartets

5 Guest Educators

3 Enjoyable Days

1 Brilliant Weekend



Alan Goldsmith
Harmony College Organiser



**HARMONY
COLLEGE**



Some Views from the Weekend



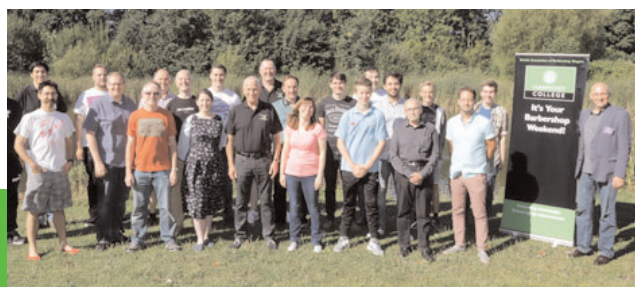
"Just to say I had a great time with the College Chorus!"



"We met amazing people and incredibly gifted singers, we learned so much with the coaches"



"It was an honour to be part of this experience, and I look forward to sharing it with my chorus!"



International News from Nashville

The BABS representatives at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention in Nashville were; Reckless and Portobello Road in the Quartet contest, with Tagline and Trailblazers competing in the International Youth Quartet contest. Unfortunately, The Great Western Chorus of Bristol could not take up the invitation to compete in the International Chorus contest.



**Reckless Achieve 2 1st Place for the 2nd Year Running!
Score: 80.9%**

Just 0.4% away from qualifying for the semi-finals.

Photographs courtesy of Lorin May, Barbershop Harmony Society

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, BHS, International Convention
International, Quartet Quarter-Finals, Nashville, Tennessee, July 6, 2016
 Contest Legend: 1=International Quartet (3 Rounds), 2=International Dealer's Choice Award (3 Rounds)

Quarter-Finals	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg
21 Reckless	A Sunday Kind Of Love	403	401	408	2427	80.9
(1) [BABS]	Feeling Good	406	399	410		
22 The Crew	Baby Mine	402	407	408	2414	80.5
(1) [JAD]	Black Eyed Susan Brown	400	400	397		



Portobello Road Scores 78.3% but come 40th!
Out of 57 competitors

38 Let's Sing!	At Last	392	391	400	2349	78.3
(1) [NSC]	Hey Good Lookin'	387	389	390		
38 Midnight Croon	Everybody Loves Somebody	392	390	391	2349	78.3
(1) [LOL]	A Foggy Day In London Town	389	394	393		
40 Portobello Road	Wouldn't It Be Lovely	393	396	393	2348	78.3
(1,2) [BABS]	You Took Advantage Of Me	390	389	387		
41 SNAFU	I Told Them All About You/You Dear (Medley)	393	396	388	2346	78.2
(1) [EVG]	Five Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue	390	389	390		
42 SwitchBack	If I Love Again	397	389	394	2345	78.2
(1,2) [CSD]	Taking A Chance On Love	389	387	389		

Tagline Placed 6th in the International Youth Contest. Scoring 79.7%

(1,4) [FWD]	Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)	242	249	242		
3 The Mission	For Once In My Life	244	244	244	1464	81.3
(1,4) [BHNZ]	Ain't No Mountain High Enough	241	245	246		
4 Ohana Means Family	Guilty	238	243	246	1452	80.7
(1,4) [DIX]	Proud Of Your Boy	235	243	247		
5 Frontier	Sunny Side Up	235	234	240	1436	79.8
(1,4) [PIO]	In His Eyes	242	239	246		
6 Tagline	The Nearness Of You	231	240	246	1434	79.7
(1,4) [BABS]	L-O-V-E	230	243	244		
7 Eclectones	Bright Was The Night	239	236	238	1422	79.0
(1,4) [FWD]	All Aboard For Dixie Land	235	236	238		



... and Trailblazers Score 76.8%



10 Lockness	Jeanie With The Light Brown Hair	222	241	232	1394	77.4
(1,3) [SNOBS]	'Deed I Do	225	240	234		
10 Students of the Game	Oh Suzanna, Dust Off That Old Pianna	232	234	228	1394	77.4
(1,4) [MAD]	I Miss Mother Most Of All	232	239	229		
12 Trailblazers	Almost There	233	229	228	1382	76.8
(1,4) [BABS]	Goodbye Yellowbrick Road	231	230	231		
13 Brothers In Arms	Meet Me In Rosetime Rosie	221	232	232	1376	76.4
(1,4) [MAD]	I'll Be Seeing You	226	233	232		



THE BIG ONE

BIG STAR GUESTS

BIG VENUE

BIG SHOWS

BIG CONTESTS

BIG WEEKEND

**BIC, Bournemouth
26th - 29th May 2017**

**Biggest Barbershop Event
Outside North America**

43rd Annual Convention

SING 2017

Featuring
THE KING'S SINGERS



and **LEMON SQUEEZY**



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The Big Singing Event of 2017 -

BIG SEASIDE RESORT

Bournemouth offers all the facilities for a family visit, the beach and pier is two minutes from the Convention Centre. There is a wide choice of restaurants and shops within easy walking distance, for those who like to add something extra to their weekend away.

BIG VENUE

The BIC is a purpose built convention centre, located close to the beautiful beach and pier, with plenty of room for everyone. The large auditorium is cool and airy with floor and tiered seating giving good views of the stage. There are ample bars and plenty of food options.

BIG CHOICE OF HOTELS

There is a good selection of accommodation from 4-star to friendly B&B's, the choice is yours. We would recommend that you book early as Bournemouth is popular a seaside town. BABS does not offer a hotel booking service or a preferred booking agent for convention.

BIG STAR GUESTS

The headline guest for the Saturday evening show will be The King's Singers. Acclaimed for their virtuosity and irresistible charm, The King's Singers are in global demand. Show tickets will be on sale to the general public as well as the barbershop community.

BIG INTERNATIONAL SILVER MEDAL QUARTET

Lemon Squeezy, from Sweden, will be our headline barbershop guest for the weekend. Placed 2nd in the recent Barbershop Harmony Society's International contest in Nashville, this outstanding quartet will make a big impression throughout their visit. We can't wait to see them.

BIG BARBERSHOP CONVENTION

Sign up for what will be a very special 2017 BABS Convention. The full weekend registration takes you from Friday right through to Monday, including the Mixed Chorus Contest.

The **BIG** International Saturday Night Show

Featuring



The King's Singers
Internationally Acclaimed
Vocal Ensemble



Lemon Squeezy
2016 International
Silver Medal Quartet

9.00pm Saturday 27th May 2017 - Tickets £30

Up to 60 hours of Singing, Socialising & Fun!

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. The biggest barbershop event outside North America brings you a full weekend of Singing, Fun & Entertainment!

Exciting Contests

Starting with the Quartet Semi-Finals on Friday followed by the Quartet Finals on Sunday. The Chorus Finals on Saturday sees clubs from all over the UK compete, plus the added bonus of the Mixed Barbershop Chorus contest on Monday morning.

Singing Time

There will be plenty of opportunities to sing over the weekend, including Sing-a-Tag sessions with Lemon Squeezy, and in the three afterglows and other Fringe Events.

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.

Superb Entertainment!

Choose from three great shows, each one offering real value entertainment. The Saturday night show is unmissable with both the King's Singers and Lemon Squeezy headlining. 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.

Convention Party

A Beach Boys Tribute Band has been booked. A nice alternative to barbershop on the Sunday evening. This event just gets bigger, and we look forward to the unique Californian sounds of the Beach Boys.

SING 2017 43rd ANNUAL BAR
Bournemouth Internatio

Home Register Shows Guests Contests Timetable Events Travel M

Registration & Show Tickets

Venue Cymru based in Llandudno, have done a superb job for us since 2011, and we have them to act as our booking office for SING2017 in Bournemouth. They will handle sales and all registrations and show tickets bought before the 7th May.

Registration Options
Full Weekend: Access to all contests and events (except shows) from Friday through to Monday.
Two-Day: Access to all contests and events (except shows) for either Friday & Saturday or Saturday & Sunday.
One-Day: Access to all contests and events (except shows) for either Friday, Saturday or Sunday.
Book Now! The Box Office will be open Monday to Friday for telephone orders (China is open 24 hours, 7 days a week) with registrations and show tickets being issued from January. All payments will be processed by Venue Cymru.
 Please provide actual name and chorals/quartets title for each person, this information will be on the Registration Badge. If you use Ditto, then Ditto will appear! Corrections or amendment you have received your badges, will be subject to an admin charge. So take care!
 Payment must be made in full to confirm the booking.

Bookings for 10 People or Less

You can purchase your registrations and show tickets as follows:
 • On line: [Click Here](#).
 • By telephone: 01492 872000 (Weekday office hours only)
 Once payment for your registration and tickets has been made, you will be contacted by the team Venue Cymru to provide the same details for each attendee along with the club, chorale or quartet.

THE BIG ONE

Keep up to date by visiting the **BABS Convention Web Site.**

It's Showtime!

FRIDAY SHOW
8.30pm

Featuring a great line up of high quality Barbershop quartets and choruses. Guests to be confirmed.

Tickets: £18
£21.00 if bought at Convention

SUNDAY SHOW
8.30pm

Celebrating champions. A mix of award winning quartets and choruses. Acts to be confirmed.

Tickets: £18
£21.00 if bought at Convention

BOX OFFICE OPEN

The BABS Box Office is operated by Venue Cymru in Llandudno.

Book online or by telephone.

Visit the BABS Convention Web Site

www.sing2017.com

Prices Held for Third Year

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.

Buy your registration and show tickets before 7th May to save against buying at Convention.

BOUGHT BEFORE 7th 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	£30.00	£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

You can purchase a show ticket without a registration, but it only gives access for a period of 30 minutes prior to and immediately following a show for the selected show only. Entry to any other Convention event(s) or activity is not permitted.

SABS Convention 6-9 April 2017 in Benalmádena, Málaga



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Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS)

Bolton Chorus Say Hurrah for Harrogate

At the time of writing this it's three weeks since Harrogate. And I've still got a smile on my face. What a great convention that was with some stunning performances from choruses and quartets alike.

Thanks to all the BABS team for organising it so well - and fortunately there were no heavy rains and flooded electrics this year!

We were really pleased with the audience reaction to our two competition songs and thank you to everyone who took the trouble to come and compliment us on our performance.

For Cottontown the 28th May was the focus for everything we did last year. Having taken home a silver medal in 2015 we were determined to go one better and put in a performance worthy of a gold this year. Our planning was thorough and detailed and the commitment that every member showed through the year was tremendous.



We had three of the world's leading coaches spend full-on weekends with us and each one brought something new and special to our performance. Many, many thanks to Doug Harrington, David McEachern and David Wright.

John Kelsey

PRO - The Cottontown Chorus, Bolton



The Cottontown Chorus on the Sunday Convention Show.

6th Chorus Championship for Bolton



Grant Giving

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Grants Available

To take barbershop to parts of the community that would not normally be exposed to it

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Essex Chordsmen Entertain 27,000 People Across Four Days in August

The Essex Chordsmen sang to entertain the 27,000 guests at the RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show from Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th August. This is an annual event and the attendance grows every year.

The intention was that we sang each day for four 30 minute slots at 10.00am, 11.00am, Noon and 1.00pm to welcome the guests as they entered the grounds.

We opened at 10.00 am on the first morning and we had an audience right away which meant we had to move as they were so taken with the singing they blocked any one else coming in. We settled in among the exhibitors around 300 yards from the entrance and there we stayed for the rest of the event.

The Chorus is 26 strong currently and we had between 14 and 16 members in attendance each day. We sang without any amplification for the whole time in the open air, sixteen singing sessions in total. We have a good repertoire and are probably capable of singing 40 songs straight off, but we picked the livelier songs which were better suited to the occasion, singing 22 songs in all. We did not over sing but we did sing



slightly louder than usual and the sound carried well, we had some of our ladies check for distance. No one lost their voice I am pleased to say.

Some of the staff and volunteers were disappointed that they could not get to hear us, and three times we sang especially for individuals much to the surprise and delight of the customers and staff who happened to be there by chance.

We have made many friends and I think we already have two possible bookings for next year on the strength of our performance at Hyde Hall.

We have to do it all again at RHS Hyde Hall on 3rd and 4th December when we sing for their Christmas Sparkle Gift Fair but indoors this time.

Dave Worley

Essex Chordsmen Bookings Manager and Public Relations Officer

PS. The RHS have a number of Flower Shows across the UK, so there might be an opportunity for other Choruses to cover other venues. It would be a good way to get some good local publicity and club funding.

Overseas Holidays in South Australia

My name is Tony King, formerly a member of BABS, a few years ago. Recently my wife Sheila and myself have set up a B&B accommodation on our hobby farm in South Australia, approx 45 kms south of Adelaide city on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Located in the heart of the vinyard/wine country, yet close to the pristine beaches of Aldinga and Sellicks.

Having spent some 28 years involved in barbershop harmony in both countries, which incidently started when we resided on the Gold Coast in Queensland in the early 80s. I joined a small chorus of barbershop singers called the "Gold Tones" which eventually became known as The Banana Blenders.

We returned to England for a few years. I joined and sang with Carshalton Concorde in Surrey. We were both born and bred in Brighton, and once hooked on barbershop, we returned to Adelaide and joined The Festival Statesmen in the early 90s then become founder member and chorus director of Fleurieu Harmony Chorus and original Nostalgia Quartet.

Currently, we have a small chorus on our property of 10 acres, complete with chickens, a couple of alpacas and various fruit trees, peaches figs and apricots naturally for our own use, with ample accommodation plus music room for singers, with a grand piano and small risers etc.

Yours truly has recently converted an original 30ft in diameter

concrete water tank complete with french door entrance plus high light window surrounds and facilities to suit entertaining.



BABS members and their wives/partners are most welcome to stay with us, should they ever want to holiday in South Australia.

We are members AIRBNB which are currently worldwide, we can arrange pick ups if required for couples or groups from Adelaide Airport, should they wish to take advantage of us as hosts to all surrounding facilities.

Yours in Harmony

Tony King

email: yeoldfarmlodge@bigpond.com



The Fleurieu Peninsula offers some of the best food, wine, wildlife and events in the State. As a peninsula, water plays a major part in the recreational activities with long sandy beaches, rugged cliff-scapes and sheltered coves.

Heart of England Chorus from Leicester appoints new Musical Director (and an Assistant!)

Meet our new MD and Assistant MD, how lucky are we?

In February our MD Dave Codd informed us of his imminent move from the area, our thanks and good wishes go to him and his wife Penny in their new home, and we thank him for his help and encouragement over the past 6 years.

So the search for a new MD started in earnest, adverts place, the word spread around and within a few weeks not one but two applicants both experienced in Barbershop.

Ian Phillips Becomes our New MD

Ian Phillips has rejoined Barbershop after a long time away, giving our chorus years of experience, he joined Barbershop in the 70s along with his late father Roy, who was the founding member of the Leicester chorus, and became the youngest judge for BABS at the age of 20, so is steeped in Barbershop singing.

Christine Dickens appointed Assistant MD

Christine Dickens sings with LABBS Gem Connection, and quartets with "In Seventh Heaven". She has great musicality and is able to correct all sections, which has started to improve the chorus already.

So with two such skilled "shoppers" it can only be onwards and upwards and we look forward with not a little excitement to this new era in the chorus history.

P.J. (Jan) Hunt

Club Secretary - Heart of England Chorus, Leicester



Ian Phillips and Christine Dickens

The Ouse Meets the Cam



There was excellent singing and great fun when Cambridge Chord Company hosted a joint rehearsal on 21st July with Ouse Valley Chorus. Musical Director Paul Clay brought the men from Huntingdon down to Cambridge to see what life is like in another part of East Anglia.

The idea of a joint rehearsal cropped up one evening when Cambridge MD Simon Hilton was coaching Ouse Valley. Simon and Paul set their members to learn 'Chances Are' and 'I'm Gonna Live Till I Die' which they all had pretty well off the dots on the night.

"After some fine tuning the combined chorus was sounding great with either of us directing," said Simon. "Even our sweatshirts blended."

Alan Conochie

Secretary, Cambridge Chord Company

More Trophies at Grand Central Chorus

On 30th August the chorus held its annual Golf Day, again the picturesque Rutland Water Golf Course, in Rutland, with 13 golfers participating, both chorus members and their guests.

The best score by a Grand Central Chorus member, and so winner of the Pat Mac Trophy for 2016 was Derek Dodman our ex-Chairman. Derek now lives in France, but had travelled across especially to take part!



Derek Dodman with the Golf Trophy

One of our guests won the prize for the longest drive but the prize for being the nearest the pin (at the short par three 12th hole with an elevated tee and a lily pond just in front of the very narrow green!) was hotly contested with Peter Tatham hitting a great shot to just a few feet away until Keith Harding, playing in the final group, managed to get even closer!

The weather could not have been better and the event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Martin York, Bill Traynor and Mike McWhinney for all their help in organising the day so well, and for Wendy's work in supervising (and scrutinising!) all the scorecards. We are now all looking forward to repeating the event in 2017!

At the chorus 2016 AGM held on 14th September, our vocal coach Richard Curtis won the "2016 Barbershopper of the Year" Trophy, repeating his success in 2015, and reflecting his leadership of the small group extra rehearsals ("Saturday Club") during the year and which have proved so helpful to both individual members and the chorus collectively.



Richard Curtis with his Barbershopper of the Year Trophy



Peter Tatham (Left) with Zac Booles after being presented with the MD's Special Award.

Peter Tatham, our performance coach, whose work has been instrumental in improving our performance (and us winning the LABBS entertainment trophy in this year's BABS Chorus Contest won the Musical Director's Special Award.

Nelson Blackley
PRO - Grand Central Chorus

Follow us via Twitter @GrandCentralMen on Facebook or visit our website www.grandcentralchorus.com



BARBERSHOP HARMONY KEEPS ITS FIZZ

CONGRATULATIONS TO LABBS ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The BABS Board of Directors,
on behalf of all its members,
sends best wishes and congratulations
to all LABBS members.

Exciting. Dazzling. Powerful. Unifying.

That's Barbershop by Nazir Khan - A new member from the Capital Chorus

Exciting. Dazzling. Powerful. Unifying. I wouldn't have described Barbershop singing in any of these ways before joining Capital Chorus. To me Barbershop seemed a little fusty, a genre from a bygone era, not one to appear in my Spotify playlists. Despite this I had a real desire to sing and became more open to exploring unfamiliar styles like Broadway and Gospel.

As my tastes and confidence grew, I came across a colourful flyer for Capital Chorus' Learn To Sing course. It looked like a fun way to spend a Monday evening but it soon became the outlet for singing I had been looking for.

Though I had no previous Barbershop experience, I was carried on a wave of enthusiasm from those in the Chorus and began enjoying the repertoire. It was a non-pressure environment with the benefit of safety in numbers which meant the inevitable tongue trips and timing errors could be gradually overcome.

As a baritone I started to learn how important it was to listen and blend with the other parts and to regard the sound we created as a dynamic force which could have an emotional impact. I liked the idea that I could learn a polecat and use it as a bridge to connect us with people from other Choruses. I began to see I had underestimated Barbershop.

To find that harmonic sweet spot, a lot of work is involved. In fact I still find myself having to dig deep to match the vigour fellow Chorus members bring to songs such as Ebb Tide or The Ballad of Springhill.

To feel up to par I would listen to my Baritone part repeatedly through my headphones on long walks, drilling sections with the Chorus or taking part in rotating quartets.

As I don't read music, I had moments of feeling discouraged or overwhelmed but this was eased by having supportive fellow Baris and a patient Musical Director to turn to for guidance. That's part of the camaraderie of Barbershop -



Naz (centre) pictured with Musical Director Pippa Goodall and three fellow baritones Khus, Tim and Rory

no one wants you to give up and you'll be still asked to join a quartet at break time to sing a tag or two. So when it came to auditioning to become a fully fledged member of the Chorus, I was ready to take that step.

Now that I've been part of the Chorus for nine months, I feel I can finally call myself a Barbershopper. Every Monday I find myself surrounded by talented people with a deep love of music and a wicked sense of fun. What started off as a hobby has evolved in to membership of BABS and a memorable performance at this year's Convention in Harrogate. As I soon found out, no two performances are the same and you'll only make it through together as a chorus, bringing an audience along with us on an emotional journey. So in the end really quite exciting, dazzling, powerful and unifying.

Nazir Khan
Capital Chorus, West London

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Harmony Lincs Have an Awarding Convention

When Harmony Lincs returned from Llandudno after the 2015 Convention having come 31st with a score of 54.6% there was determination to improve.

Like all choruses we had experienced fluctuations in membership. Numbers were low and the voice sections lacked balance. The Exec and the Music Team made changes that soon showed improvement and laid a sound foundation for our Learn to Sing in Harmony course later in the year.

The course provided us with an enthusiastic intake of new members who, together with individual additions before and after the course, resulted in having 37 on the risers in Harrogate compared with 23 at Llandudno.

Raising our score to 59.3 this year (in 19th position), winning Division 4 and being runners up for the 'Most Improved' category was very satisfying. Also, completely unexpected, was the Tony Big T Foster Shield for recruitment over the past year.

Our Chairman Richard Marriott and MD Jeremy Curtis were delighted to risk the obstacle course from the auditorium to the stage to receive the awards and needless to say we had great afterglow in the hotel that night.

The timing of our rehearsal at our hotel and the performance on stage allowed us to see some of the top choruses and the quartets. This experience and the performance that we all shared is of great value as we plan for next year.

The 14 members who had not sung at convention before had some interesting observations to make including two very interesting articles from John Watson and Barry Bray on their First Impressions. Both of these articles are shown on the next page.

Steve Bradley
Harmony Lincs Chorus - Lincoln



Some of the first timers photographed with the two awards at the club's rehearsal venue at the Lexus workshop in Lincoln



Barry Bray (left) and John Watson (right) with the Big T Membership Recruitment Trophy. See their First Impressions articles on the next page.

Convention Photographs

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Close Shave at Convention Raises Funds for Prostate Scotland

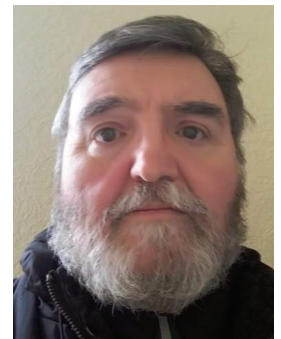
Walter Dods, a long standing member of the Rolling Hills Chorus was informed last year that he would have to lose a lot of weight before they would consider putting him forward for a hip replacement.

Since last September, Walter has lost a staggering six stones in weight. To mark this, Walter decided to raise fund for Prostate Scotland, the chosen charity of the Rolling Hills Chorus.

Walter had his ample beard (see above) shaved off on Saturday morning prior to going on stage. Walter would like to thank Michael of Barber and Mack of Harrogate for kindly offering to do the deadly deed and to those who have made a contribution.

So far, over £300 has been raised including a £100 donation from the Cottontown Chorus.

Walter Dods



Impressions of a First-Timer at Convention

John Watson - Harmony Lincs Chorus

I joined Harmony Lincs Barbershop Chorus in November 2015. If you had said to me that 6 months later you will be singing 2 songs on a professional stage in the Harrogate International Centre at the BABS Convention in front of over a thousand people, I would have laughed in disbelief.

Well on Saturday 28th May, I and 34 of my fellow members did exactly that. Also 14 of us did it for the first time!

I arrived on Friday afternoon with the quartet competition in full swing. I thought it would be a good idea to have a look at the auditorium, just to get an idea of the size, check out the layout and the atmosphere. I knew that it could hold 2000 people and had been a venue for the Eurovision Song Contest so we were talking about the real deal.

However, when I saw how big the auditorium was; how many people were in the audience and how enthusiastic and vocal they were; how close the 9 judges were (basically in the orchestra pit if there had been one), the professional MC and the quality of sound from the quartets, I was very aware this was a long way from my only 2 previous performances at a local village hall in front of 50 people and the Lincoln Central Methodist Church before 120. The reality of the situation came home quite quickly.

For me, learning to sing in harmony within a group of good, experienced singers and with very knowledgeable music directors was, in itself, outside my comfort zone. To sing in front of 1000 plus in a national championship was on a completely different plane.

We all gathered in the Centre's lobby and seemingly off the cuff launched into "Can You Feel the Love Tonight". Now whether that was a psychological master stroke by Jeremy, our Chorus Director, you would have to ask him but the song went well and our atmosphere changed dramatically. What I shall always remember is that we were in the busy lobby with lots of people milling around but many stopped and listened and some even joined in. A testament to the Barbershop fraternity.

By the time we had changed, had been photographed and lined up waiting in the wings, I really wanted to get on the stage and for all of us to perform to the best of our ability and just hoped we would do ourselves justice. I can honestly say I wasn't nervous and just concentrated on what we had to do. Looking at peoples' faces just before we went on, everyone seemed calm (perhaps that wasn't the case) but were all focused on a good performance.

To walk on to a stage to applause and cheering for the very first time is a great experience. To see a large number of expectant people in front of you is exciting and to see them disappear into darkness as the house lights go down gradually is something different. The "old hands" said just be prepared for a big shock when the stage lights suddenly come on. I was ready and to be honest I don't remember them coming on or that they had an effect on me. I was just so intent on singing as best I could- making sure all those hours of practice came to fruition, remembering to smile and perform.

After the performance, was there a sense of relief? Yes, of course, but also of pleasure and satisfaction. We had just performed in front of a large audience and been scrutinised by knowledgeable judges but I had really enjoyed the experience. That first time feeling will never be repeated.

Further First Impressions by Barry Bray

I also joined Harmony Lincs in Nov. 2015. I took the Learn to sing course, not actually realizing initially that it was Barbershop. That soon changed once I saw the chorus sing a couple of songs and I thought 'Yes, that was for me'. I wanted to be part of that.

It seems incredible that within only six months I have sung in this competition amongst those same guys, in front of an audience of over a thousand, and probably most of that audience knowing a lot more about Barbershop than I do. Then there's the judges, and what they don't know about Barbershop wouldn't be worth knowing anyway. You would

think that would be enough to set the knees knocking, the pulse racing and an immediate scanning of the vicinity for the nearest Gents. Surprisingly I didn't feel nervous, just focussed and quite confident, and I think that came from not only the trust I have in our Director and his leadership, but also the trust and confidence I've got in the guys around me.

Harrogate is beautiful, the HIC is splendid and the auditorium awesome. I've played and sang on stage before but in nowhere as large as that, and it's a different ballgame when you're playing an instrument as well. It's a lot easier to sing in tune with a guitar in your hands. The lights weren't as distracting as I thought they would be, but I did find myself wondering what we sounded and looked like to the audience. Were we looking confident? Were we sounding confident? Well, we must have been pretty good, going on the results and I think we all knew that, even as we walked off stage. The audience were terrific and gave us enough applause and 'Whoops' to let us know we'd done well.

The whole BABS set up was very impressive, very organized and you felt reassured by their competence, which must also have contributed to the lack of last minute nerves. Looking back now, I was keen to get in there and perform, enjoyed every minute I was up there, but regretted the fact that we had to come off stage after only about six minutes and that it will be another year before I will be able to experience it all again. The Afterglow was a celebration not to be missed, and a chance to thank our Director and other invaluable Chorus members who had worked so hard to make the weekend such a success. The Afterglow is ongoing and I suspect will still be felt at rehearsals for quite a while, which I look forward to immensely, as always. It has made all that hard work and travelling (100 miles round trip every week) worthwhile and given me the incentive to continue and improve on what I feel this year was a splendid result.

What Great Contests!

Although Convention is much more than a series of competitions, there is little doubt that the chorus and quartet contests are key events, and the better these are then the better the whole Convention will be. This year we had two first class contests, showing how British barbershop is continuing to raise the levels of performance.



In the chorus contest the average score of 63.55% was slightly down on 2015 (64.06%), but the trend is still upwards. Of the 27 choruses which competed both in 2015 and 2016, 15 increased their scores, and 12 scored lower, with 8 choruses now moving into a higher division for 2017, and only 3 dropping down.

The winners, Cottontown Chorus from Bolton scored 82.4%, a brilliant achievement, with second placed Grand Central Chorus and third placed Hallmark Of Harmony both also breaking the 80% score.

Special mention should be made of Thames Valley Chorus, under the direction of Liz Croft for the first time, who increased their score from 66.7% to 73.8% this year, thereby winning the Cambridge Scroll for the most improved chorus and, along with 'Mantuanian Way', moving up to Division 1.

The Rolling Hills Chorus from Edinburgh topped Division 3 and Harmony Lincs did the same in Division 4.

The Jim Carter trophy for the Small Chorus award went to 'Mantuanian Way' and the LABBS Entertainment trophy to the Grand Central Chorus for their imaginative and innovative set based on The Wizard Of Oz (with a little help from Elton John!).

the investment in coaching and development is driving up the standard across all levels of performance



The atmosphere for the quartet final on Sunday afternoon was super-charged, and the competing quartets matched that with superb performances.

It was probably one of the best in our history, with the champions, Finest Hour, scoring 82.9%, and they were one of the six quartets that scored more than 76% and hence could be nominated to compete at International in 2017.

It is really encouraging to see so many of our gold medal quartets staying together following their win as this longevity is so important in driving up the standard to be able to compete effectively on the International stage. Reckless have shown that this commitment to hard work and development does pay off as they steadily rise through the ranks at International Conventions.

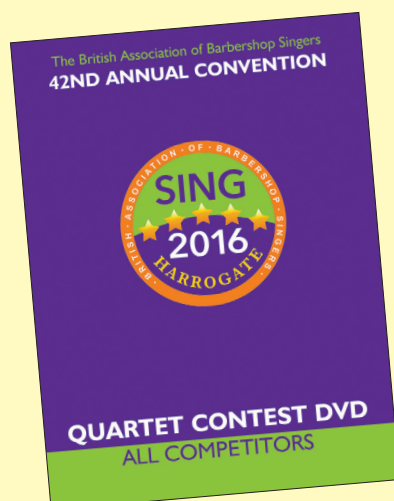
Equally pleasing was the emergence of a very young quartet, 4 On Demand who scored 70.8% in coming in fifth place and who won the Sheng Pitch Pipe as the highest placed novice quartet.

So two great contests which show how the investment in coaching and development is driving up the standard of our choruses and quartets, not just at the highest level but across all levels of performance. Long may it continue!

Alan Goldsmith

BABS Music Services Director

Convention DVDs

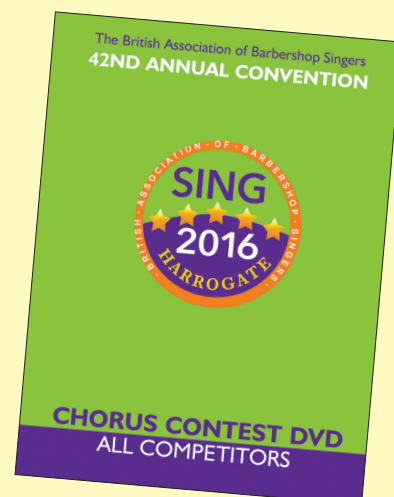


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35 Choruses and 1,050 members on stage in the BABS 2016 Chorus Contest National Chorus Awards



The Cottontown Chorus from Bolton
2016 Chorus Champions

First Placed Chorus
Cottontown Chorus - Bolton

Second Placed Chorus
The Grand Central Chorus

Third Placed Chorus
Hallmark of Harmony

Highest Placed Small Chorus
Mantunian Way

Most Improved Chorus
Thames Valley Chorus

Division 2 Winners
Mantunian Way

Division 3 Winners
Rolling Hills Chorus

Division 4 Winners
Harmony Lincs

LABBS Entertainment Trophy
The Grand Central Chorus



Grand Central Chorus
Second Placed Chorus



Mantunian Way
Highest Placed Small Chorus Award



Hallmark of Harmony
Third Placed Chorus



Thames Valley Chorus
Most Improved Chorus Award



Mantunian Way
Division Two Winners



Rolling Hills Chorus
Division Three Winners



Harmony Lincs
Division Four Winners



Grand Central Chorus
LABBS Entertainment Trophy

BABS Chorus Champions

BABS 2016 Chorus Champions The Cottontown Chorus - Bolton

Under the direction of Neil Firth



Grand Central Chorus

Under the direction of Zac Booles



Hallmark of Harmony

Under the direction of Tim Briggs



- 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**
- 2016 **Bolton**



4 - The Royal Harmonics

Under the direction of John Palmer & Sean ????



5 - Cambridge Chord Company

Under the direction of Simon Hilton



6 - Spirit of Harmony

Under the direction of Sally McLean



7 - Mantunian Way

Under the direction of Seb Marshall



8 - Thames Valley Chorus

Under the direction of Liz Croft



9 - Tuxedo Junction

Under the direction of Rob Barber



10 - The Anvil Chorus

Under the direction of Rod Butcher



11 - Knights of Harmony

Under the direction of Mark Grindall



12 - Shannon Express

Under the direction of Tony Bylett



13 - The Kentones

Under the direction of Peter Kennedy



14 - The Telfordaires

Under the direction of Andy Funnell



15 - Capital Chorus

Under the direction of Pippa Goodall



15 - Granite City Chorus

Under the direction of Colin Reid



17 - 5 Ways

Under the direction of Shanna Wells



18 - The Rolling Hills Chorus

Under the direction of Nick Hayes



19 - Harmony Lincs
Under the direction of Jeremy Curtis



20 - Fine City Chorus
Under the direction of Carol Logan



20 - Wight Harmony
Under the direction of Dave Bryant



22 - Essex Chordsmen
Under the direction of Martin Bunting



23 - Vocal Fusion
Under the direction of Zoe Peate



24 - Solent City Chorus
Under the direction of Vincent Iyengar



25 - The White Rose Chorus
Under the direction of Hazel Jiggins



25 - Three Spires Harmony
Under the direction of Andrew Kneeshaw



27 - Oxford Harmony
Under the direction of Anna Shackleton



28 - Ouse Valley Chorus
Under the direction of Paul Clay



29 - MK Acapella
Under the direction of Lyn Kidby



30 - Western Approach
Under the direction of Tom Knight



31 - Harmony Revival
Under the direction of Jack Haslam



32 - Ocean Harmony
Under the direction of Graham Frampton



33 - The Pilgrimages
Under the direction of Delyth Knight



34 - Hereward Harmony

Under the direction of Mike Sampson



35 - Northern Acchord

Under the direction of Les McGhee

2016 National Quartet Awards



FINEST HOUR



PORTOBELLO ROAD

Gold Medal
Finest Hour

Silver Medal
Portobello Road

Bronze Medal
The Locksmiths

Most Improved Quartet

Tonic

Novice Quartet

4 On Demand



THE LOCKSMITHS



TONIC



4 ON DEMAND



**Trailblazers
Youth Quartet Winners**



**South Parade
Seniors Quartet Winners**

BABS 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
- 2016 **Finest Hour**



Finest Hour 2016 Gold Medal Quartet

Congratulations to

James Williams, Eddie Williams, Nick Williams and Phil Cuthbert



Silver Medal Portobello Road

Ian James, Brian Schofield,
Steve Emery and Stuart Owen



Bronze Medal The Locksmiths

Richard Fisher,
Simon Lubkowski,
Zac Booles and Rob Foot





4 - The Brit Pack

Alex Sanctuary, Kenneth Nilsson, Peter Nugent, Jon Dawson



5 - 4 On Demand

Jamie Braham, Peter Bryant, Nick Bryant, Calvin Laverick



6 - The Perfect Pitchers

Luke Freeney, Danny Gortler, Josh Betley, Joe O'Leary



7 - Blueprint

Alex Edwards, Dave Brown, Tim Braham, Timm Barkworth



8 - Tonic

Craig Kehoe, Alex de Bruin, Paul Hargest, Ian Maslen



9 - GSOH

Peter Sayer, David Tanner, Mark Soave, John Riseborough



10 - EQ

Andrew Edgley, Mark Gooch, Nigel Smith, John Williams



11 - South Parade

Andy Salter, Dean Whitehouse, Paul Grier, Peter Blackeby



12 - The Grand Dads

Mick Barnacle, Rob Parnham, Dave Hughes, Bob Taylor



13 - Three 'n' Easy

Gary Roussak, Paul Gidney, Paul Tatton, John Clarke



14 - The Travellers

Andy Woolley, Tony Parton, Derek Harris, John Kenny



15 - The Need For Swede

Stephen Cox, Henrik Rosenberg, Jake Waghorn, Rob Barber



16 - Frank'nSense'nMirth

Chris Blatchford, Peter Walters, Dave Hughes, Frank Salter



17 - Northern Quarter

Jeremy Jacomet, Claren Wilson, Seb Marshall, Matt Thomas

MIXED VOICE
BARBERSHOP
CHORAL
CONTEST

BABS
Mixed Chorus
Champions

2016: **Strictly Barbershop**



BABS 2016 Mixed Chorus Champions
Strictly Barbershop - Hertfordshire



2 - EQMC



3 - Planet 24



4 - Southern Acappella



5 - Bristol A Cappella



6 - Guys and Dolls

Strictly Barbershop a Part of Barbershop History

First Winners of the BABS Mixed Voice Barbershop Chorus Contest

Ask a busy person if they'll take on yet another musical venture and of course, they will maturely say no. But, the new Barbershop Mixed Chorus Competition was too exciting an opportunity to miss. Hence, the birth of Strictly Barbershop, under the direction of Helen Lappert.

The Chorus was made up of members from far and wide, including about a third coming from the mixed non barbershop chorus Strictly A Cappella in Radlett.

Rehearsals were a lively and creative experience, where new friendships were born and musical minds came together. We mainly rehearsed in the games room of one the members and chief organizer of the event, Babs Wilson.

Full attendance was an impossibility given the distances and other chorus commitments that members had. Hence, choosing different days of the week and quite a number of weekends. Also we were grateful to member Phil Brant who diligently recorded every rehearsal and also Helen hosted a number of impromptu sessions at her house.

In the short preparation period we still managed to fit in three coaching sessions and also two dress rehearsals, courtesy of the Knights of Harmony and The Royal Harmonics, who both generously allowed us to gatecrash their dress rehearsals. Members from both the above choruses were also part of SB.

So less that eleven weeks later, this fledgling chorus found itself in Harrogate, very eager to get on stage and perform their set! For many it was their first experience of a Barbershop Convention.

We enjoyed listening to the other mixed choruses and impressed by what they had achieved too. However, we were ecstatic to be awarded first place in this inaugural event.

Soozi Hyde

Member of Strictly Barbershop, Strictly A Cappella, Amersham A Cappella!



MIXED VOICE BARBERSHOP CHORAL CONTEST



2nd Year
29th May 2017
Bournemouth

www.singbarbershop.com

British Association of Barbershop Singers

GET IN THE MIX FOR 2017

If you like the idea of mixing it up in harmony, then start thinking about who you can get together with to form a mixed barbershop chorus



BABS is inviting mixed voice Acappella groups to enter the second UK Mixed Voice Barbershop Choral Contest.

The open contest will be held at the BABS 43rd Annual Convention in Bournemouth on Monday 29th May 2017.

Entries are welcome from choruses and choirs of between 18 and 80 mixed voice singers (min age 14). The winner will receive a £500 Bursery.

The contest will be judged under normal barbershop judging rules and categories.

Send for Details Today!

For full details and conditions of entry please email:
mixedchoralcontest@singbarbershop.com

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OBITUARY PRU VAN DE BILT

8th JULY 2016

Pru was the first Dutch person to join the BABS Guild of Judges and to our knowledge is the only judge worldwide to be able to score and evaluate performances in 3 languages.

Pru regularly attended and was inspired by BABS events; trained with us, and was a qualified BABS Presentation judge for over 10 years. During that time he fought off cancer twice before finally succumbing to it. He was extremely proud of wearing his judge's badge and without doubt, when he requalified after fighting through his cancer was the proudest person BABS have ever had the pleasure to recertify as a judge. You had a real sense that "earning his badge" as Pru said it was one of the main driving forces for his fight through disease.

Pru was a fighter, he liked overcoming things, particularly fear and regret. As such he made it his mission to be the first Dutch judge in BABS. Pru spread his talent not only with BABS but at his home DABS/Holland Harmony and BinG. He had ambitions for higher achievements within BABS: becoming Category director, chairman of judges and his ultimate goal of becoming a qualified BHS judge but his time was cut too short.

Pru leaves a legacy of encouragement on how to beat the language barrier, beat cancer and even it would appear the grave - as his ability to orchestrate a great emotional performance even after death proved, with his plans and wishes of how his funeral should be conducted.

Pru celebrated life in a believable way, communicated with his audiences (often his friends and admirers), performed, and was committed to always encourage others to perform their music.

Lucy van de Ven, Faybianne and Mike Warner represented his BABS/LABBS friends and the Guild of Judges at his funeral.

OBITUARY DAVE COLLINS

1936 - 2016

It is with great sadness that Oxford Harmony announces the death of one of its longer serving members.

Dave originally joined White Horse Harmony (Wantage) in 2001 before the club morphed to Oxford Harmony in 2007, where he was a great stalwart of the baritone section.

He rarely missed Conventions, always staying the complete weekend with his devoted wife Torose and enjoying extra days wherever the venue was. Dave was always amongst the first to volunteer for singout and also foreign tours.

His skills and quiet unflappable nature made him an ideal "techie" for the group, providing audio visual support plus teach CDs when needed. He never complained and just got on with what was asked of him. He will be sadly missed.

Mike Thompson
Oxford Harmony

OBITUARY TIM HADLEY

24th July 2016

It is with deep sadness and regret, that Hereward Harmony have to inform BABS of the loss of one of our founder members. Tim Hadley (86) who passed away peacefully after a short illness on 24th July 2016.

Tim had been a stalwart member of Hereward since its beginning in January 1988. He was the life and soul of our bass section, and a truly enthusiastic follower of BABS, he just loved 4 part harmony. He would sing it anytime and anywhere. He also sang in a local quartet for many years called Double Century, in and around the Peterborough area.

Tim had two other hobbies which he pursued with great vigour. Bowls, and collecting postmarks and unusual franking stamps. The latter which he continued to catalogue until 2 weeks before he passed away.

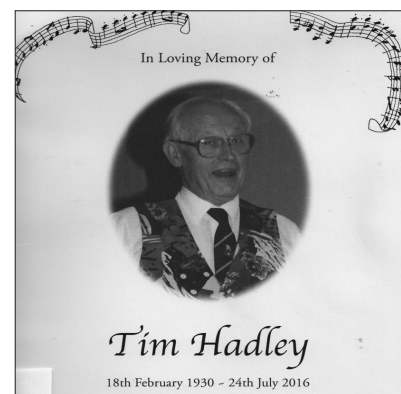
Tim worked for Thomas Cooks for many years here in Peterborough until his retirement. He will be sorely missed by both the chorus, and more so by his loving family. He is now back again with his devoted wife Pam, whom Tim lost a year ago. Tim had a reasonably short illness, but finally succumbed to lung cancer. He was still singing with us until 2 months before we lost him.

Tim's burial service was indeed one to remember. There were so many mourners that Peterborough Crematorium was overflowing. What a service, it began with Fats Waller singing "Ain't Misbehavin", then Tim and Pam's favourite hymn "Abide with Me". Then as Tim had planned, HH sang "Amazing Grace", "Under the Boardwalk" and "Brightside of Life". Then the congregation were invited to join in with a rendition of "Nellie Dean" in 4 part harmony, this followed by "3 Wheels on my Wagon". We all said goodbye to our friend to the strains of another Fats Waller number, "A Good Man is hard to find".

Tim and his humour will stay in our minds for a very long time together with his rich bass voice.

From us all at HH, rest in peace dear friend.....

Dave Wheeldon
Hereward Harmony Club
Welfare Officer



Consider Making a Bequest to Barbershop in your Will



for further details contact

BABS Harmony Foundation Secretary
email:
administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com



Harmony Express
Next Issue - December
Copy Date 25th November

