



The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 12 March 2023 at 11.00 am

The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP

Car parking available close to venue (NCP High Street or Mailbox – [more info](#))

Nearest station is Birmingham New Street (2 minute walk).

Video participation will be available, but limited in number to the most geographically distant

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To approve the minutes of the Autumn Members' Meeting 25 September 2022 (available on BABS website [here](#))
4. To consider any matters arising from those minutes
5. To note the Chair's and Trustees' Report and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2022 available on BABS website [here](#).
6. To receive reports from the Chair and individual Board members of activities since September 2022
7. To receive an update on BABS Barbershop Charity
8. To receive an update on ongoing discussions with LABBS

9. Resolution 1

Election of Chair & Vice Chair

To appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the two year period commencing immediately and ending at the AGM to be held in March or April 2025

Chair - Laurence Hasson

Vice Chair - Shanna Wells

Council Members are invited to endorse these appointments

Alan Hughes has served the Board of BABS with distinction for some years, and now steps down at the end of his two year term. He has previously served the board as Vice Chair, and before that as Music Services Director, and we thank him for his great leadership of the Association during his term of office.

10. Resolution 2

Election of Officers

Our Music & Education Director, Dale Kynaston, resigned during the last year, and has been ably replaced by Simon Arnott, who was then co-opted to the board. We are grateful to Dale for his contributions, and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

Our Director of Marketing & Events, Shanna Wells, is stepping down from her roles, and the Board has taken this opportunity to split the Trustee roles back out into a Director of Marketing and a Director of Events, as before. We are immensely grateful to Shanna for her contributions in both roles over the past few years.

Our Director of Administration, Pat Perridge, is retiring from the Board after a number of years. We are very grateful to Pat for his contributions, and wish him well for the future.

As required by the Constitution, all the Trustees retire at this AGM, and, with the above exceptions, the remainder offer themselves for re-appointment, or first appointment in the case of Alistair Lamyman, Simon Miskin, Matt Thomas, and Simon Arnott. They are:

- Peter Bryant, Director of Membership
- Simon Arnott, Director of Music and Education
- Alistair Lamyman, Director of Administration
- Liz Smith, Director of Finance
- Simon Miskin, Director of Marketing
- Matt Thomas, Director of Events.

Council Members are invited to approve their appointment or reappointment.

11. Resolution 3

Constitutional Amendment

To approve the following resolution of the Board

That Clause 13 (9) of the constitution which reads

Not more than two Trustees who are paying members of any one BABS Club may hold office at any one time.

be amended, subject to the agreement of the Charity Commission, to substitute the word 'three' for 'two'. This will be for a period limited by the term of the next Chair (Laurence Hasson), who will serve for two years until the AGM in March or April 2025.

This amendment was approved by the Council at the AMM, but unfortunately not passed on the Charities Commission within the necessary time frame so it is offered once more for approval

12. Resolution 4

Gendering the Constitution

With the proposal of Shanna Wells as Vice Chair, it becomes pertinent to update the language in our Constitution. Council Members are invited to approve the following action. See Appendix 1 for additional information

"To change all instances of 'he' 'him' or 'his' appearing in the constitution to 'they' 'them' and 'their' respectively".

13. Question from Don Amos Club (Pippa Goodall)

Regarding the announcement about the youth chorus age range being extended from under 26 to under 30 - this creates inconsistencies across youth membership. For instance, a 26-29 yo can be in youth chorus, but does not get the benefit of youth membership or pricing. They also cannot compete in the youth quartet competition, nor be eligible to compete internationally at youth level. Additionally, if a 26-29 yo only had the time/funds to join one chorus and chooses the youth chorus, it may stop them from joining and growing one of our BABS clubs that have lost members due to the pandemic. What was the reasoning behind this change, and why was this particular strategy chosen to address it?

14. To confirm the date of the next Annual Members' Meeting on *Sunday 24 September 2023 (online)* and the next AGM on *Sunday 17 March 2024 (in person)*

15. To close the meeting.

Appendix 1

The decision to de-gender the constitution is one that comes from a place of trying to be as inclusive an organisation as possible. The phrases "he or she", "his or hers", and "him or her", currently used throughout the constitution, are not gender-inclusive as they do not include people who identify as non-binary, nor those who are genderfluid. As an organisation, BABS has a long term goal towards 'developing our diversity', which the Board described at last year's AGM as "ensuring we are effectively catering for the needs of all BABS members". As such, the Trustees feel that we cannot continue to have a governing document that uses these non-inclusive terms. As we found in our D&I survey, we already have at least 4 members of BABS who would not describe their gender as either Male or Female and our Constitution in its current form discourages them at best, and completely disenfranchises them at worst. We encourage the Council to support this motion.