



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Charity name: Chess Valley Barbershop Singers

Charity registration number: 1134927

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objectives of the Charity are to further the education and practice of singing in an cappella style in four-part harmony. As members of the British Association of Barbershop Singers, the choir/chorus sings and performs in the Barbershop Harmony style.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The choir rehearses and sings in the local community, including schools, care homes and other areas with public access.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Charity, through education and practice of singing, continues to meet its charitable objectives. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have a due regard to the guidance on public benefit, published by the Charity Commission.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The chorus will from time-to-time offer grants or bursars in support of membership and for attending BABS' Harmony College for education purposes.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The chorus holds open days and time-to-harmonise educational courses. These serve to allow members of the public access to observe and take part in chorus rehearsal activities, learning and improving skills in the process.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The organisation is entirely volunteer run, with support from a range of skill-sets and experience across the chorus.

Other		A proportion of funds is held in reserve to support chorus members who may not have the means to participate in all activities. This fund is topped-up by donations from alumni as well as other active chorus members.
-------	--	---

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>After last year's success breaking the 70% barrier at national BABS sing convention, this year we improved our overall score and achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place nationally in the singing category.</p> <p>The chorus entertains the public via singouts and shows which it attends throughout the year.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The chorus continues to improve its fiscal position, restoring a healthier reserve in comparison with pre-covid and covid years. It is also working on recruiting new members to help improve the sustainability for generations to come.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The chorus aims to hold in reserve sufficient funds equivalent to 1 year of turnover.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£22,649
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Primary sources of income include membership subscriptions (paid by monthly standing order), grants from supporting local authorities and from BABS as well as fundraising from sing-outs, shows and donations from past and present membership.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The executive committee continue to focus on restoration of a sound financial footing and increasing subscription membership.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Whilst an auditioned chorus, we aim to reduce barriers to access and support diversity and breadth of appeal to new recruits. Potential loss of membership is the principal risk factor faced by the charity today.
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document ( <a href="#">trust deed</a> , <a href="#">royal charter</a> )	Para 1.25	The charity has a constitution and guidelines for its executive leadership team.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. <a href="#">unincorporated association</a> , <a href="#">CIO</a> )	Para 1.25	unincorporated
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The charity executive leadership team are non-beneficiary trustees in post for up to 5 consecutive years.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Chess Valley Barbershop Singers
Other name the charity uses	Knights of Harmony
Registered charity number	1134927
Charity's principal address	c/o 71 Vicarage Road Marsworth TRING Hertfordshire HP23 4LU 07771376567 chairman@knightsofharmony.org.uk www.knightsofharmony.org.uk

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Neil Kennedy	Chairperson		
2	Steve Freestone	Treasurer		
3	Sam Winwood	Music Director		
4	Peter Hawes	Vice Chair		
5	Jeremy Elphick	Secretary		
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

Director name		
n/a		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
n/a		

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	n/a
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
n/a		

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

The charity is volunteer run and has no employees
---

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

## Other optional information

--

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Neil Kennedy	Steve Freestone
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Treasurer
Date	25/05/2024	

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Neil Kennedy</i>	<i>S Freestone</i>
Full name(s)	Neil Kennedy	Steve Freestone
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Treasurer

Date 25/05/2024



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Charity name: Chess Valley Barbershop Singers

Charity registration number: 1134927

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objectives of the Charity are to further the education and practice of singing in an a cappella style in four-part harmony. As members of the British Association of Barbershop Singers, the choir/chorus sings and performs in the Barbershop Harmony style.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The choir rehearses and sings in the local community, including schools, care homes and other areas with public access.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Charity, through education and practice of singing, continues to meet its charitable objectives. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have a due regard to the guidance on public benefit, published by the Charity Commission.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The chorus will from time-to-time offer grants or bursars in support of membership and for attending BABS' Harmony College for education purposes.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The chorus holds open days and time-to-harmonise educational courses. These serve to allow members of the public access to observe and take part in chorus rehearsal activities, learning and improving skills in the process.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The organisation is entirely volunteer run, with support from a range of skill-sets and experience across the chorus.

Other		A proportion of funds is held in reserve to support chorus members who may not have the means to participate in all activities. This fund is topped-up by donations from alumni as well as other active chorus members.
-------	--	---

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>After last year's success breaking the 70% barrier at national BABS sing convention, this year we improved our overall score and achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place nationally in the singing category.</p> <p>The chorus entertains the public via singouts and shows which it attends throughout the year.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The chorus continues to improve its fiscal position, restoring a healthier reserve in comparison with pre-covid and covid years. It is also working on recruiting new members to help improve the sustainability for generations to come.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The chorus aims to hold in reserve sufficient funds equivalent to 1 year of turnover.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£22,649
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Primary sources of income include membership subscriptions (paid by monthly standing order), grants from supporting local authorities and from BABS as well as fundraising from sing-outs, shows and donations from past and present membership.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The executive committee continue to focus on restoration of a sound financial footing and increasing subscription membership.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Whilst an auditioned chorus, we aim to reduce barriers to access and support diversity and breadth of appeal to new recruits. Potential loss of membership is the principal risk factor faced by the charity today.
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document ( <a href="#">trust deed</a> , <a href="#">royal charter</a> )	Para 1.25	The charity has a constitution and guidelines for its executive leadership team.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. <a href="#">unincorporated association</a> , <a href="#">CIO</a> )	Para 1.25	unincorporated
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The charity executive leadership team are non-beneficiary trustees in post for up to 5 consecutive years.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Chess Valley Barbershop Singers
Other name the charity uses	Knights of Harmony
Registered charity number	1134927
Charity's principal address	c/o 71 Vicarage Road Marsworth TRING Hertfordshire HP23 4LU 07771376567 chairman@knightsofharmony.org.uk www.knightsofharmony.org.uk

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Neil Kennedy	Chairperson		
2	Steve Freestone	Treasurer		
3	Sam Winwood	Music Director		
4	Peter Hawes	Vice Chair		
5	Jeremy Elphick	Secretary		
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

Director name		
n/a		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
n/a		

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	n/a
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
n/a		

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

The charity is volunteer run and has no employees
---

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

## Other optional information

--

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Neil Kennedy	Steve Freestone
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Treasurer
Date	25/05/2024	

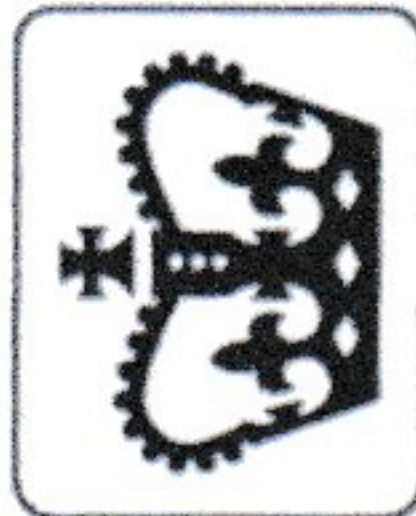
## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Neil Kennedy</i>	<i>S Freestone</i>
Full name(s)	Neil Kennedy	Steve Freestone
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Treasurer

Date 25/05/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Chess Valley Barbershop Singers

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1134927

Set out on pages

3-5

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above  
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2023. **4**

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation  
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act  
2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out  
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I  
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission  
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have  
come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with  
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material  
respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of  
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection  
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a  
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

31/05/2025

Name:

Robin Brookes

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

CIPFA

Address:

April Cottage

Church Farm Lane

Marsworth, Tring, HP23 4ND

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32,  
Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for  
examiners).

Give here brief details of  
any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose.



**CVBS Income & Expenditure for the period Aug 2023 to Jul 2024**  
**General Income & Expenditure**

	Actual Year 23/24 £	Actual Year 22/23 £	Actual Year 21/22 £	Variance 22/23 to 23/24 £
<b>Income</b>				
Membership Dues	13,327	12,435	11,685	892
Grants	250	1,100	1,800	- 850
Saturday Knights Donations	-	40	710	- 40
Donations	656	1,959	1,281	- 1,303
Donations - other	4,300	255	185	4,045
Singout Fees	265	475	250	- 210
Annual Show	4,326	4,007	-	319
Annual Dinner	1,290	1,254	587	36
Other Dinners	1,401			1,401
All day rehearsals	2,368	2,872	965	- 505
Gift Aid	3,767	5,915	-	- 2,148
Uniform	616	180	-	436
Click online	16	47	16	- 32
Riser hire fees	300	200	-	100
Sundries	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	45	27	1	18
Grand draw	-	-	-	-
Football draw	1,320	1,323	1,537	- 3
Teas	480	245	376	235
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>34,724</b>	<b>32,334</b>	<b>19,394</b>	<b>2,390</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Hall Storage	150	142	138	8
Hall/Venue Hire	3,005	2,822	3,157	183
WeekendHallHire	-	-	143	-
Admin/Charges	60	60	96	-
Music	526	797	225	- 271
BABS Membership dues	2,030	2,170	1,637	- 140
Chorus Director	7,203	8,085	7,533	- 882
Annual Show	2,348	4,396	12	- 2,048
Annual Dinner	1,311	2,056	1,110	- 745
Other Dinners	1,474			
Convention & Competition Costs	2,696	2,500	2,617	197
All Day Rehearsals	2,610	586	577	2,024
Retreat	-	-	-	-
Coaching	-	-	-	-
Uniform/Clothing	1,811	1,150	746	661
PR & Advertising	-	262	730	- 262
WebMMP	124	103	128	21
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	189	181	75	8
Depreciation	762	466	466	296
Maintenance	-	480	-	- 480
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>26,299</b>	<b>26,255</b>	<b>19,389</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,425</b>	<b>6,079</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8,421</b>

CVBS Balance Sheet at	31 Jul 2024		31 Jul 2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
4th Step Risers	1,307		1,494	
Risers	3,005		134	
Back Rail	131		149	
Side Rail	415		474	
Container	475		542	
<b>Net Book Value</b>		<u>5,332</u>		<u>2,793</u>
<b>Bank current account - CAF</b>	22,649		16,762	
<b>Total at Bank</b>		<u>22,649</u>		<u>16,762</u>
<b>Creditors</b>		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u><b>27,981</b></u>		<u><b>19,556</b></u>
<b>Accumulated surplus fund</b>				
Balance at start of year (General)	18,186		12,107	
Excess of Income over expenditure	8,425		6,079	
Balance at End of Year		<u>26,611</u>		<u>18,186</u>
<b>Round Table Fund</b>				
Balance at start of year	1,370		1,370	
Excess of Income over expenditure	-		-	
<b>Balance at End of Year</b>		<u>1,370</u>		<u>1,370</u>
<b>Total funds end of year</b>		<u><b>27,981</b></u>		<u><b>19,556</b></u>