



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st August 2024 To: 31st July 2025

Charity name: Chess Valley Barbershop Singers

Charity registration number: 1134927

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	SORP reference 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:

Policy on grant making	SORP reference 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.
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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	We have continued to score consistently above 70% at the national BABS Sing contest since 2023 and the 2025 contest was no different. Whilst we didn't improve our 7 th overall position from 2024 (we equalled that feat), the positive results have spurred the chorus onto future improvement and development of our sound. The chorus entertains the public via sing outs and shows which it attends throughout the year.

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	£29,474
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), occasional 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 1.48	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 1.48	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 (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The charity has a constitution and guidelines for its executive leadership team Unincorporated.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	
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
	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 Peter Hawes	Vice chair		
3 Steve Freestone	Treasurer		
4 Sam Winwood	Music director		
5 Jeremy Elphick	Secretary		
6 Ian Jones	Marketing		
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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	Stephen Freestone
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Treasurer

Date 22 05 2026



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Chess Valley Barbershop Singers

On accounts for the year
ended

31st July 2025

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 31/07/2025.

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: 29 May 2025

Name: Peter Golby MENG ACA

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

Chartered Accountant - ICAEW

Address:

21 Loudhams Road

Amersham. Buckinghamshire


HP7 9NY

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 Balance Sheet at	31 Jul 2025		31 Jul 2024	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
4th Step Risers		1,144		1,307
Risers		2,629		3,005
Back Rail		114		131
Side Rail		363		415
Container		415		475
Net Book Value		<u>4,665</u>		<u>5,332</u>
Bank current account - CAF		24,809		22,649
Total at Bank		<u>24,809</u>		<u>22,649</u>
Creditors		-		-
Total Net Assets		<u>29,474</u>		<u>27,981</u>
Accumulated surplus fund				
Balance at start of year (General)		26,611		18,186
Excess of Income over expenditure		1,625		8,425
Balance at End of Year		<u>28,236</u>		<u>26,611</u>
Round Table Fund				
Balance at start of year		1,370		1,370
Use of Round Table fund		-132		-
Balance at End of Year		<u>1,238</u>		<u>1,370</u>
Total funds end of year		<u>29,474</u>		<u>27,981</u>


 TREASURER
 SFREESTONE
 29.05.2026

CVBS Income & Expenditure for the period Aug 2024 to Jul 2025
General Income & Expenditure

	Actual Year 24/25 £	Actual Year 23/24 £	Variance 23/24 to 24/25 £
Income			
Membership Dues	13,465	13,003	462
Grants	-	250	-250
Saturday Knights Donations	-	-	-
Donations	1,076	562	514
Donations - J Tarbit	50	-	50
Donations - other	1,500	4,300	-2,800
Singout Fees	1,471	465	1,006
Annual Show	3,604	4,351	-748
Annual Dinner	-	1,290	-1,290
Other Dinners	1,263	1,597	-333
All day rehearsals	2,706	2,420	286
Gift Aid	-	3,767	-3,767
Uniform	28	596	-568
Click online	-	16	-16
Riser hire fees	-	300	-300
Sundries	-	-	-
Bank interest	51	45	6
Football draw	1,355	1,320	35
Teas	277	484	-207
Total Income	26,846	34,764	-7,918
Expenditure			
Hall Storage	150	150	-
Hall/Venue Hire	2,636	2,800	-163
Weekend Hall Hire	250	205	46
Admin/Charges	85	60	25
Music	-	526	-526
BABS Membership dues	2,020	2,030	-10
Music Director	7,676	7,203	473
Annual Show - costs	3,048	2,348	700
Annual Dinner	250	1,311	-1,061
Other Dinners	1,289	1,482	-193
Convention & Competition Costs	1,430	1,481	-52
All Day Rehearsals	4,692	3,877	815

Coaching	450	0	450
Uniform/Clothing	362	1,791	-1,429
PR & Advertising	-	-	-
WebMMP	32	124	-92
Donations	-	-	-
Sundries	184	189	-5
Depreciation	666	762	-95
Maintenance	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	25,221	26,339	-1,117
Net Income	1,625	8,425	-6,800

