



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Charity number 1162618

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About Lace City Chorus

The only barbershop chorus for women in Nottinghamshire was founded in 1992 by a group of teachers and students at Arnold Hill Comprehensive School. After two years of lunchtime rehearsals at the school, there was a need to take it all rather more seriously and the Lace City Chorus was born.

The chorus now has over 75 members from all over the East Midlands ranging in age from 14 to 80+. Women of all ages, backgrounds and all musical abilities join together to sing, have fun and make lifelong friendships. Our members are from a variety of backgrounds and hold jobs such as sales manager, accountant, nurse, doctor, solicitor, chemist, social worker, student, executive director, and teacher - as well as being wives, partners, mothers, grandmothers and aunties.

These days the chorus is highly regarded as one of the premier barbershop choruses in Europe, having won the regional championships (UK, Ireland and the Netherlands) a total of seven times. These successes have led to the chorus competing at the [Sweet Adelines](#) International Convention (the world championships of Barbershop) in Detroit in 2005, Calgary in 2007, Nashville in 2009, Houston in 2011, Las Vegas in 2015 and St Louis in 2018. At the International contests in 2015 and 2018 we were ranked 16th in the world.

Our charitable aims

Lace City Chorus is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charities Commission as Registered Number 1162618. The Chorus is also a member of the Sweet Adelines International organisation with complementing governance arrangements.

Objectives

The objectives of the CIO are:

- 1) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of barbershop music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

2) To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

Board of Trustees (Management Team)

Table 1: Board of Trustees / Management team for the period April 2022 to March 2023:

Name	Position
Deborah Pollard	Team Coordinator / Chair of Trustees
Tasha King	Chorus secretary / Trustee
Eleanor Blackeby	Musical Director / Trustee
Liz Clunie	Treasurer / Trustee
Carole Bowman	Trustee
Heather Ankers	Trustee
Sara Grant	Trustee
Lynn Woods	Trustee
Sue Wheeldon	Trustee

Directing Team

Table 2: Chorus Directing Team for the period April 2022 to March 2023:

Name	Position
Eleanor Blackeby	Musical Director
Helen Abbott	Assistant Director / Choreographer
Jo Bird	Assistant Director

The team are supported by a Music Team consisting of Section Leaders and Assistant Section Leaders.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by its chorus constitution which describes the charitable aims, how the chorus elects the trustees and how members are involved in the governance of the charity and chorus. The Constitution lays out the governance and decision-making powers the structures that sit beneath the Board of Trustees have. The Sub Teams are expected to report regularly to the Board of Trustees making recommendations for approval at Board meetings.

The Chorus is a member of an International Barbershop organisation called Sweet Adelines International. This membership requires the Chorus to be compliant with their respective governance rules and regulations largely translated for choruses into a document called the 'Standing Rules'. When the CIO was established the leadership team ensured alignment between the two documents (Charity Constitution and Standing Rules).

Membership of the CIO

Eligibility

Membership of the CIO is open to women aged 14 and upwards interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated her agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members.

Admission Procedure

The admission procedure is laid out in both the Chorus Constitution and the Chorus Standing Rules which contain the detail of the music and performance level that needs to be attained before admission is recommended to the Trustees.

Duty of Members

The duty of members is also laid out in both the charities governing documents (Constitution and Standing Rules). This is usually described in the Sweet Adeline International by laws as being in 'good standing'.

Membership Fees

The monthly fees are set by the Trustees and voted on by the CIO.

Member decisions

Most decisions are made by a simple majority vote including the appointment of Trustees.

Trustees

The Board of Trustees is constituted by up to a maximum of 9 trustees. During the period of this report the Board was made up of 9 Trustees. Half of the Trustees stand down each year on rota by those longest standing on the board subject to re-election or substitution. Trustees are voted for at the chorus Annual General Meeting (AGM). The arrangements for the AGM and elections are detailed in the Constitution.

Priorities for 2022/2023

Our priorities for the year included:

1. To strive for excellence in everything we do, whether in rehearsals, performances, competitions, show planning, rehearsals, music learning and section work.
2. To recruit excellent new members through singing courses and open evenings and to further develop a high-quality Public Relations function which makes full use of social media platforms.
3. To develop our skills by training our members in a variety of different ways (individual and collective vocal lessons, developing visual and performance skills including emcee work, blending rehearsals, and by developing and expanding the song evaluation process) and enlisting the help of high-quality coaches.
4. To enhance our members' own skills by encouraging attendance at regional educational workshops.
5. To build our reputation and increase our target audience.
6. To strengthen our finances.

Meeting our charitable aims

Weekly rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals are held at the Colonel Frank Seeley school, Calverton, Nottinghamshire every Wednesday from 19:15 to 21:30. Rehearsals feature:

- Physical and vocal warmups and mental check-in to prepare members for a productive rehearsal.
- Song learning, although members are expected to use the learning media provided to learn the songs at home before rehearsals. During rehearsals the aim is to bring all the voices together into a well-blended unit.
- Skills building (vocal, mindset and visual) during the development of songs for performance and competition facilitated by a team of in-house coaches and the director.
- Section rehearsals facilitated by section leaders during which section unity is developed. Section rehearsals are also part of the process for learning new songs.
- Teaching and practicing visual plans for selected repertoire and competition songs.
- Preparation (vocal, visual and mental) for performance and competition depending on where we are in the annual cycle.
- Vocal and visual evaluations in the lead up to competition.

Coaching and education

We bring in a variety of coaches every year to help us develop our skills and understanding of our music. Two coaching weekends were held during the year with our regular coach, Nicky Salt in November 2022 and March 2023. We welcomed Anna Rosenberg, director of the Pearls of the Sound chorus (Sweden) for an evening in February 2023 to help enhance our visual communication.

We were also delighted to host a joint education day in July with Ignite UK chorus. This event used our own musical leaders to provide a variety of educational classes. In addition, we reinstated our Quartet Club to build confidence in our singers.

As members of Sweet Adelines International, (UK and Netherlands region) many of our members attended national workshops, including the 'Big Dreams' quartet workshop in Birmingham in July, the 'Spotlight' event in Stockport in October and the 'Let it Go' workshop in Coventry in February 2023. The opportunity to learn alongside barbershop singers from across the UK is invaluable in building networks to learn from each other and to share our experiences.

Shows, performances and special events

In May 2022 we were delighted to place fourth in our first regional competition in five years, the first under the direction of Ellie Blackeby. Scoring over 600 points meant that Ellie became a 'master director', a prestigious award presented to Directors of high scoring choruses.

In September 2022, we celebrated the chorus' 30th anniversary. It was a joyous occasion reflecting on the life of the chorus to date and welcoming back some familiar faces from the past.

Performances during the year included the Arnold Women's Institute, the Museum of Timekeeping in Upton and the Winter Wonderland in Caythorpe. We ended 2022 with a sell-out Christmas Show.

During the year our membership increased with six new members and four 'returners' – past members who rejoined after a period of absence.

HEADLINES

4th place in regional contest – after 5 years! ❤️

6 new members & 4 returners welcomed back

Ellie is MASTER Director!

3 new songs added to our repertoire

Christmas Show Success & performances 🔔

Ignite City Day

Coaching with Anna and Nicky

Attendance at regional workshops – 'Big Dreams' & 'Let it Go'

Happy 30th celebrations 🎂

ANNUAL DINNER

Quartet-ting and small group practice

LACE CITY Chorus 🎵

Financial position 2022/23

Summary

Our income and expenditure this year had returned to the normal 'pre-pandemic' levels due to an increase in membership and funds generated from our Christmas Show. Costs, however, also increased resulting in a small surplus of just over £1,454 for the year.

Income

Total income for the year was £44,282, a significant increase on the previous two years, where income and membership had been impacted by Covid19. Just under £21k of this was from member subscriptions. Approximately £3,200 came from our Christmas show and other performances and a further £1,993 from Gift Aid. Just over £580 came from fundraising efforts. £16,293 of income represented deposits for convention costs collected from members to cover registrations and accommodation.

Expenditure

Expenses were £46,259 including £18,198 of convention costs. Our biggest expenses were member subscriptions to our international organisation and regional dues (£7,221) and compensation for our Musical Director (£3,675). We also spent £4,675 for rehearsal venue hire and riser set up and £2,540 on coaching. There was also £1,472 of direct show-related costs covered by ticket sales. We spent £596 on new music and a little over £2k on new costumes for the chorus.

Reserves

The chorus has reserves of £17,900 at the end of the 2022-23 financial year - a small reduction on the previous year's balance (-£1,451). £81 was held as Petty Cash.

Future finance considerations

Appropriate use of the chorus reserves will be considered, such as, purchase of new technical equipment to use at rehearsals.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Lace City Chorus

1162618

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2022

To

31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' Dues	20803		-	20,803	13,794
Donations			-	-	9
Grants			-	-	
Happy Birthday recordings	10		-	10	
Singing Course	295		-	295	-
Easyfundraising	144		-	144	161
Other Fundraising	443		-	443	56
Show Revenue	2843		-	2,843	
Performances	375		-	375	
Funeral Singouts			-	-	
Riser Hiring Out	650		-	650	
Visitors Fees	322		-	322	1,084
Bonus Ball			-	-	125
Interest	6		-	6	4
Water Sales			-	-	
Sundry Income			-	-	
Social Events			-	-	
Angel Fund			-	-	400
Convention deposits	16293		-	16,293	
Annual Dinner			-	-	
Deposits			-	-	
Sundry	21		-	21	
SAI	-764		-	-764	
Sundry Creditors	848		-	848	
Gift Aid	1993		-	1,993	1,516
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	44,282	-	-	44,282	17,149
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Costume Sales	523	-	-	523	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	523	-	-	523	-
Total receipts	44,805	-	-	44,805	17,149

A3 Payments

Show Costs	1472		-	1,472	
Publicity			-	-	150
UK Convention	2488		-	2,488	52
Costume	2015		-	2,015	
International Convention			-	-	
PRS Fees			-	-	
Website	439		-	439	390
Sundry Items	44		-	44	78
Gifts	290		-	290	141
Rehearsal Venue	2585		-	2,585	1,329
Risers Pay Men	2090		-	2,090	380
Riser Transport	85		-	85	
Director Compensation	3675		-	3,675	3,300
Director Expenses	34		-	34	
Training & Education	2540		-	2,540	1,703
Music Purchase	596		-	596	215
Repairs & maintenance	54		-	54	
Telephone/Internet	34		-	34	144
Printing, Stationery & Postage	13		-	13	31
Making Music fees	53		-	53	52
Social Events	202		-	202	
Angel Fund	251		-	251	
Accountancy & Audit Fees	50		-	50	
Charter				-	45
Regional Dues	1430			1,430	1,340
SAI subscriptions	5791		-	5,791	5,021
MHBO	1830		-	1,830	
Convention	18198		-	18,198	665
			-	-	
Sub total	46,259	-	-	46,259	15,036

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Costume		-	-	-	157
Equipment		-	-	-	37
Sub total	-	-	-	-	194

Total payments	46,259	-	-	46,259	15,230
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Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,454	-	-	- 1,454	1,919
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,508	-	-	19,508	17,589
Cash funds this year end	18,054	-	-	18,054	19,508

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Nat West	17,973		-
	Petty Cash	81		-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,054	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Office equipment		-	293
	Costumes		-	1,888
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137

Fax: 1.918.665.0894

EACH CHAPTER AND REGION IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A VERIFICATION OF AUDIT ANNUALLY.

This is to verify that the chapter's or region's books and financial records for the period of APRIL 20
to MAR 23 for tax year 2022, (this is normally May 1st to April 30th, unless your year end is
December 31st) have been audited by an internal audit committee or an independent third party such as an
accounting firm. When making arrangements for a third party to conduct the audit be sure to discuss the
fee. It is not necessary for the auditor to do a complete audit and issue a formal or unqualified opinion.
However, please provide any written opinions or statements issued by a third party. The auditor should
primarily seek to verify bank balances and the proper recording of receipts and disbursements.

If receipt of delivery is desired, send via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.

☒ Internal Audit Committee
☐ Accounting or bookkeeping firm *
☐ Non-chapter member, non-accounting professional *
☐ Non-chapter member, accounting professional *
☐ Other *

*Please provide Name, Contact Information, and Signature of Auditor:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, AS APPLICABLE, FOR EITHER
THE CHAPTER OR THE REGION.**

CHAPTER NAME LACE CITY CHORUS REGION # 31

OR

REGION NAME _____ REGION # _____

The financial records of the before mentioned chapter or region have been reviewed and/or audited to ensure that all transactions have been recorded properly and that no discrepancies have been identified.

SIGNATURE OF FINANCE COORDINATOR E. L. L. L. L.
DATE 15-7-23

*****PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN PDF OR WORD DOCUMENT FORM, ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 2023.**