



**Thank you for showing an interest in our chorus.**

**We've put together some FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS to give you a better idea about what we do, and help you decide if you would like to join us.**

**When and where do rehearsals take place?**

Every Tuesday evening between 7.45 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. at the Badger's Mount Memorial Hall, just off junction 4 of the M25. We usually break for 2 weeks over Christmas and New Year. Throughout the year we have occasional extra rehearsals—these usually take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on either Saturday or Sunday. Typically we have no more than 4 of these in a year.

**How do I join?**

You will be invited to come along to one of our normal Tuesday evening rehearsals where you will be made very welcome. Many people joined on their own so don't worry that you don't know anyone when you turn up – you soon will.....!!

One of the Committee Members will meet you and look after you for the evening. You will not do much for the first week except listen but assuming you come back for a second week (and most people do) you will be asked to sing a few scales and a simple song of your choice privately with the Musical Director, so he can judge the range of your voice and where you would best fit in the chorus. You will then be allocated to one of the four sections in the chorus and given the music and an audio CD to learn one song. You will be helped to do this by your section leader and everyone else in your section so don't be afraid to ask.

When you are ready (3-4 weeks later) you will be asked to sing the song in quartet. Again, this will be done in private. We have all been through this process, so understand you may feel nervous, but before this happens you will have plenty of opportunities to practice to get used to hearing others singing with you. Just ask your section leader when you are ready to try singing with a quartet, we usually do this during the break. At your audition the Musical Director will assess your voice, the blend, how it fits or will fit with the chorus sound and if he is happy then – you're in.....!!

**Do I need to be able to read music?**

No – in fact many members don't read music. While it helps, particularly if you are learning a harmony part (anything that isn't the main melody), you will be given teach tracks (either download MP3s or CDs) as well as the music when you learn a new song.

**How much does it cost?**

Membership subs to the chorus are currently £25 per month. This pays for most items of stage dress (see below), hire of the hall, insurances, copies of music, fees for professional coaches who help us from time to time and LABBS membership (see below).

In addition, we compete in our national competition each year, which in recent years has been held in Harrogate or Cardiff or Bournemouth and we pay our own expenses for the weekend (usually 2 nights).

### **Do we perform in public?**

Yes, as well as attending our Annual Convention (see below) over recent years we have taken part in the Top Choir of Kent and Barnardos Choir of the Year competitions. We also perform at paid sing outs and have produced our own show jointly with a local brass band at The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. We also busk for charities at various times of the year.

### **What do I wear?**

On rehearsal nights we wear ordinary casual clothes. If we have a visiting coach we usually wear our black GSB t shirts with dark trousers and comfy shoes (everyone will be told if we are in GSB-mode) For stage and for competition we dress up!! The sky's the limit – glittery dresses, glittery shoes, glittery jewellery, fake tan, false eyelashes, red nail polish – the works. If this fills you with fear then you'll be like most of us before we started doing it....just go with the flow!

You will be provided with most costume items, but will be asked to buy chorus shoes (around £70). We have a dress representative who gives us a full list of everything for each occasion so we all know what we're doing.

### **What happens if I can't come to rehearsal?**

We all make every effort to attend each rehearsal, after all, who would want to miss out on the coaching and fun but "stuff happens" whether nice (holidays) or nasty (illness, emergencies, work commitments etc) so you should let your section leader, Chair and Membership secretary know if you won't be able to attend. This stops us worrying that you've had an accident or some other disaster has befallen you on the way to Badgers Mount. We all hope to achieve an 80%+ attendance record.

### **What about social activities?**

We try to celebrate GSB's birthday in January with a meal out in a local pub and often, after a singout some (sometimes all) of us go to a local pub/bar/restaurant and spend some social time together. We are a very sociable lot and you'll soon find out that you'll never be in want of someone to chat and have a laugh with during any of our social times

### **How does the Club run?**

The club has a constitution and is run by a Committee which is elected every year at the AGM which takes place in January. Everyone is encouraged to do a Committee job or one of the other essential non-Committee jobs e.g. keyholder for opening and locking the hall on a Tuesday evening. We are all busy people and therefore sharing the jobs out means that the workload is spread and everyone is involved with the running of the Club. The Musical Director looks after the music side of the chorus, and he is supported by the Music Team – our MD leads the chorus in all music related matters.

### **What is LABBS?**

This is the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers, the Association to which GSB is affiliated. For more information see [www.labbs.org.uk](http://www.labbs.org.uk)

### **What is Convention?**

Convention is the LABBS annual competition which takes place in October/November each year. There is a chorus and a quartet competition with gold, silver and bronze medals being awarded to the top three quartets and choruses. We have been bronze medallists a number of times in recent years and silver medallists in 2007.

**Check out more about us and the music we sing on our website**

[www.greenstreetblues.org](http://www.greenstreetblues.org)