



## Q&As

### **Why are the board considering this?**

The two boards believe that working together is the way to develop barbershop in the UK, and exploring a merger is a reasonable thing to do as we look to advance barbershop's status on the UK's musical landscape.

To our knowledge, no other European barbershop organisation is gender-specific, and at present there are many of our members who are involved in both BABS and LABBS. It is also important for us to regularise the position of mixed barbershop singing in the UK. Were the two organisations to decide to merge, the new organisation formed would be the largest barbershop organisation in the world outside America, and a world-leading presence.

### **What about our history and long service awards?**

Both boards appreciate that members have a strong affinity with their organisations and would be keen to preserve the history and culture of the respective organisations. If it was decided to form a new organisation, we have agreed that long service awards would continue to be given in the name of LABBS or BABS, and service would be continuous between the current organisations and any new organisation.

### **When will this happen?**

No decisions of any sort have been taken and there is a great deal of work to do before any concrete proposals might be made. Before any process towards merging could take place, both boards would consult with their members and a motion for voting on would be put forward in accordance with the governance of each Association. It is anticipated that any changes in structure, if so decided, would be some years away.

### **Will it cost me more?**

It is not anticipated that any such change would cost members more.

### **What will happen to my club?**

Both boards agree that any change would not affect individual members or clubs and that gender-specific and mixed ensembles would be able to operate exactly as before.

### **What will happen to convention?**

Nothing will happen to convention for the foreseeable future. In the event of any structural changes, both Boards agree that these will respect the history of the respective organisations. Meanwhile, the two Boards will continue to work together to develop a cohesive structure for mixed ensembles to compete within.

### **Are they taking us over?**

Both Boards are clear that this is a joint exploration of the way forward and in no way should be thought of as a takeover of one organisation by another. In terms of structure, if a decision were to be made to join the organisations, it would be necessary to have a completely new charitable organisation with a new name.

### **What about Sweet Adelines Region 31?**

If Sweet Adelines Region 31 were interested in our proposed direction of travel, we'd be very interested in talking to them. However, they are a Region of a US-based organisation, so we are not anticipating such interest from them.

### **What if I still have questions or concerns?**

The Boards of the two organisations fully appreciate that their members may have further questions or concerns about this announcement and wanted to reassure you once again that we are committed to consulting with our members in due course. We want to provide plenty of opportunities for you to ask questions or share your thoughts in a structured manner to ensure that your voice, along with the voices of others, is heard, so please keep your eyes peeled for announcements about when and where those structured opportunities will occur. In the meantime, the best way to ask questions or share concerns is through your club's Council Representative(s) and/or Chairperson.



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Chair, BABS



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