



## Region 31 Convention 2010

### Pre-Convention Reminders for ALL Competitors

Hello to all competing Choruses and Quartets!

Well, we're almost there!

As you know, this year, we are not having an official Chorus Director/President/Quartet briefing. Instead I am sending you a document which contains information you already will know, but will act as a reminder and will perhaps prompt any last minute questions you may have!

#### Welcome!

Firstly, I would like to welcome to all brand new Choruses, Chorus Directors and Quartets – we hope you have a fantastic Convention. What a contest it will be, with 28 choruses and 21 quartets!

Our brand new Quartets are:

**SHINDIG**

**Backchat**

**Steren**

**Elixir**

**Let's Be Frank**

**Tabasco**

Our newly chartered Choruses are:

**London City Singers** under the direction of Carolyn Cotton

**Cheshire A Cappella** under the direction of Wally Saunders and Angela Lewis

**Milltown Sound** under the direction of Dian Sandefur

**Viva Acappella** under the direction of Gaynor Dugay

Our new Directors are:

**Chris Smith** of Lincoln Sounds

**Kit de Bolster** of New Land Singers

**Neil Firth** of Heartbeat UK

**Kate Shipway** of Stockport Liberty Belles

**Stuart Sides** of Flying High Singers

**Paula Taylor-Williams** (co-director) of Spinnaker

**Helen Glavina** of Rhapsody UK

**Hilary Allen** of County Connection

## Seating at the Sage (FINAL Seating Plan is attached)

Please note that the Sage is absolutely FULL this year (due to our fantastic ever-growing membership), so please ensure that you fill up every seat in your allocated chorus block.

There will be copies of the seating plan available at the Sage however please do check and memorise where you will be sitting!

## List of Competing Members (List of Competing Members Form is attached)

It is so important that a representative from your chorus hands in **2 signed copies** of the **List of Competing Members Form between 12noon and 12:30pm on Friday**. If you haven't already, please let me know if you can't make this time slot.

## Timing and Traffic Patterns (FINAL Traffic Patterns are attached)

As you know the Quartet contest will start promptly at 15:00pm on Friday and the Chorus contest will start promptly at 11:00am on Saturday.

**Please ensure that you adhere to your traffic pattern schedule allocated.** There is plenty of time for quartets and choruses to get through the pattern, however we do have to be extremely strict on timings and there are a LOT of competitors to get from A to B.

Competitors will meet your courier at the West Entrance at the specified time. Our **couriers** this year are from LABBS and BABS and will all be wearing Black Polo shirts with COURIER in Yellow text on the back.

If competitors haven't already, please notify me of any **mobility issues** in your Quartet or Chorus – there are lifts that can be used.

Both Quartets and Choruses will **warm up for 10 minutes in the Northern Rock Foundation Hall on Level 1**. Before entering the Northern Rock Foundation Hall you will put your A5 bags on a trolley and they will be taken to the stage exit door for you to pick up after your performance. Please ensure that bags are no bigger than A5 size.

Please do not sing in any of the back stage areas as you will be heard on stage and please keep the noise down to an absolute minimum.

**Coaches** who may be going through the traffic pattern with you must leave after the warm-up room, only competitors will be allowed in the backstage area.

**Synchronised clocks** will be present at all stages of the traffic pattern and **water** will be available in the Northern Rock Foundation Hall

Any contestant not ready to perform at the designated time is penalised 25 points, loses position and performs at the end of the competition. The penalty may be withdrawn at the discretion of the Panel Chair and a majority of the judges. If lateness is determined to be pre-meditated then the group will be disqualified

## 6 minutes of FAME!

Quartets will be able to see the toe line markings on stage during their walk-on on Friday morning as well as the centre line indicated on the stage.

As you are look at the stage, all competitors will be **entering from the right and exiting to the left**. The podium for our Emcees is on the left of the stage. Once competitors have left the stage they will exit and then come back into Hall 1 via other external doors.

Quartets will be announced on by Emcee – like last year, the announcement will be ‘We are ready for the next contestant, from the most “Awesome Chorus”...”Awesomeness quartet”. Backstage staff will be there to tell you when to walk on. Once off the stage, courier will be waiting for you with your A5 bags!

Choruses will be directed on stage before the announcement has been made. There may be a short wait whilst the judges are making final preparations for your performance. But don’t panic, just smile. **DO NOT go on stage until directed to do so and choruses should start to sing AFTER Emcee announcement**. After final photo pose, stage lights will dim after performance for your exit. Venue staff will be waiting at stage exit with your A5 bags.

When going back into auditorium to seats, again I would like to stress to members that we have a very FULL house this year so please fill up all rows before starting a new one. Will make for as little disruption as possible.

A note to **Directors** – foot tapping or singing may be heard by the judges and may be on official recording

Note to everyone, **please turn off (completely off, not silent/vibrate) mobile phones/pagers when in Hall or in backstage areas** – interference with sound and signalling system.

Please also note that house lights will be completely down throughout all performances, so the Hall will almost be pitch black.

## Post Quartet Contest

Immediately after our last contestant, we will have the Welcome Ceremony and then once you get the cue, please can ALL quartets as quickly as possible, make their way to the backstage area in order to line up on the stage (like in international). It’s a great way to get all quartets together in one place and be recognised! You will go on stage in order of appearance (contestant number), and fill up risers stacked one behind each other (in whatever order you please).

## Post Chorus Contest

Immediately after the last contestant, the Mass Sing (directed by David Sangster), the awards will be presented. Chorus Directors and Presidents will be called to come on stage for their recognition certificates (presented in alphabetical). All Directors and Presidents will then remain on the stage for the awards ceremony, line up on risers like quartets, directors in front with president standing behind.

## Smile!

There will be candid photos taken throughout all performances. Choruses – there will be no flash during photo session at the end of your performance, **please hold a pose for around 5-10 seconds**. Chorus poses must be planned, there is no time to figure it out on stage! Quartets can have posed photo shots taken in the photograph studio on Level 2 – Stewart has a booth set up for you - you can visit at any time, either before or after your performance!

## Score sheets and audio/visual recordings

After approximately 30 minutes of the contests finishing, Quartet and Chorus packs will be available for collection in the Northern Rock Foundation Hall. Choruses, please can only your Directors and/or Presidents collect the packs. Don't forget to collect them!

## You're on Camera!

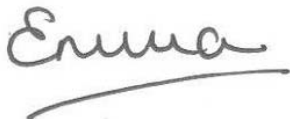
Our fabulous audio/visual partners Cam3Media will have DVDs available for order so check out their booth on Level 2.

## And Finally ...

If you have any questions at all throughout the weekend, the RMT and Convention Team will be more than willing to help.

Finally, **GOOD LUCK** and have fun on the stage - show your passion for our fantastic hobby!

In harmony,



**Emma A. Duguid**

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[http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk/convention\\_2010.htm](http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk/convention_2010.htm)

Encore! Quartet | Pros. Vocal Dimension Chorus