

# THROUGH THE BABTAC & CIBTAC AGES

Formed in 1977, BABTAC remains the longest established and most widely recognized membership organisation in the beauty industry. As a non-for-profit company, BABTAC is masterminded and governed by an elected council of industry professionals that rally for best practice and industry development on behalf of the BABTAC members.

BABTAC & CIBTAC have come a long way in 40 years.

## IN THE BEGINNING...

In 1976 The Association of Beauty Therapists (chaired by Ray Cochrane) and The Society of Applied Cosmetology (chaired by Enid Venables) completed an amalgamation – by a ‘gentleman’s agreement’ to form The British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology, which was officially incorporated on 10 January 1977, under the chairmanship of Enid, to be followed by Ray, by agreed rotation.

CIBTAC was also founded in 1977, as the educational arm of BABTAC, with the objective of translating the ideals of the group and its vision for the industry into reality, by setting high standards of excellence in beauty and complementary therapy education and qualifications.

The inaugural celebration ball was held at the, then newly built, Intercontinental Hotel in Hyde Park, London.

## THE ‘80S...

Membership was growing rapidly, but it wasn’t until 1984 that BABTAC started to look for affordable office space. Prior to this BABTAC was largely based and run from freelance journalist Dorothy Parkes’ home, who was appointed the role of secretary in

1978. The first BABTAC & CIBTAC official office was opened in Cheltenham during the 80’s, and finally (in 1999) the association managed to purchase our own freehold property in Gloucester.

## THE ‘90S...

CIBTAC has long had a strong international presence already. During the 1990s various CIBTAC schools continued to grow worldwide, two of which were in Canada. Our recently lifetime achievement award winner Rita Roberts visited the two new Canadian schools – Goshen Academy of International Beauty based in Ontario, and Marvel School in Toronto – carrying out the school inspections on behalf of CIBTAC while she was there.

BABTAC’s member benefits go back to its birth but in the 90’s this including the Association’s first Member Publication – In Touch. It’s amazing how some things change and some things stay the same! A 1996 edition asks members ‘are you making the most of your membership benefits? That sounds familiar!

The 90’s also saw the introduction of Regional Seminars and Forums around the country with CPD becoming a major focus which saw extensive CPD events across the UK for both lecturers and therapists.

1997 was the inaugural year for the Annual



BABTAC Awards which took place at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel on Sunday the 14th September.

It was also an era that saw many of our past chairs awards top industry awards by Cidesco and even the Queen, with Dawn Mernagh-Ward receiving her OBE for her services to Education & UK Skills.

## THE ‘00S...

In Touch made way for the inaugural edition of Vitality in January 2001. The same year BABTAC became the first association to become a member of the Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA).

It was an era that saw many successful

BABTAC & CIBTAC conferences and one where BABTAC continually lobbied and campaigned on behalf of the industry. BABTAC also launched a ‘qualified, verified and insured’ campaign to encourage consumers to choose a BABTAC member to guarantee treatment by qualified and insured therapists.

2007 saw us celebrate 30 years in the industry with a celebration at our present offices in Ambrose House, Gloucester.

The CIBTAC international presence continued to expand into new countries while in the UK CIBTAC was also proud and honoured that its standards and quality were accepted by Ofqual for recognition as an accredited awarding organization.

## TODAY

BABTAC still stands strongly as a not-for-profit organisation, reinvesting all profits for the good of the industry. With an ever-growing membership base, it continually strives to educate and protect the general public and tirelessly continues with its advocacy and campaigning.

CIBTAC now offers a range of qualifications covering all levels and all sectors of the beauty and complementary therapy industry, as well as leading the way on formulating qualifications in the advanced aesthetics field, through the launch of Level 4 qualifications. ✔