



THE TRUMPETER

www.totnesband.co.uk

November 2000

TOTNES BAND

Contents:

Xmas Concert (date changed!)

.....

Training band

.....

Contest Reports

.....

Diary

swimming and ball games will be included, involving the young players and their parents.

It is intended to report on the progress of the Training Band in future issues, however I would like to leave you with a final thought:

Teaching brass instruments to students of all ages is a challenge and a responsibility, which is extremely gratifying. The rewards of teaching young students are one of the most enjoyable of all. They are enthusiastic and keen to learn, and so eager to play.

This is the beginning of a lifetime experience for many young musicians. It can either be exciting and interesting, in which case they will be set up for life; or it can be mundane and predictable. It is our intention to make it as exciting and interesting as possible.

Bob Julian

Xmas Concert

We have moved the date forward to

Thursday 7th December.

We are pleased to announce that the Harbourne Singers will be taking part in the concert.

Admission price £3. Friends of the band see enclosed voucher for special offer.

Training Band

The purpose of the training band is to teach people of all ages to play a brass instrument and provide an introduction for the individual into the wonderful world of music. The band is seen to embody the future of the senior band and members are, on reaching the appropriate level of competence, encouraged to sit in on Senior band rehearsals and eventually become a full time member.

The training band currently rehearses on Thursday evenings for an hour a week. The strength of the band currently stands at 13, with ages ranging from 8 to 16 years, learning basics such as scales and note values under senior band Bb bass player John Lewis and an intermediate group who play various selections of music under myself.

Future plans include:

Increasing membership and raising the awareness of the junior band within the community, this will be achieved by word of mouth through players and parents, Christmas concerts and promotional/recruitment visits to local schools within the area by a small group of senior band players planned for early in the new year.

Two Christmas carol concerts at a local Garden centre on the 2nd and 9th of December and a weekend Teach in / Stop over for early spring next year. This will involve a mixture of rehearsal and tuition by invited guests, a range of leisure activities such as,

Pontins 2000 Championships

The big day arrived and, for once, our beloved secretary managed to get the coach to us on time. This was fortunate, considering the foul weather and how wet we would have been waiting for them. Everyone was picked up at their arranged pick up point, although our bass trombone player did try to get a crafty fag break at every stop. I wonder if he could hold the world record for the fastest smoker of a cigarette in the world?

Anyway, it was a fairly uneventful journey for most of the trip to North Wales. The Chairman, in his wisdom, organised a quiz that was different to say the least but kept everyone quiet for a short while (apart from the odd mobile call to ask left behind children and spouses for answers to questions). Mention should also be made of the Chairman's generous nature that saw the Band, and its supporters, supplied with a large quantity of pies and pasties - so generous we were still eating them on the way back on the Sunday. So mention the above to those on the coach at your peril!

After getting lost in Prestatyn, and then getting past the guards at the gate, we dumped our gear in the chalets and set off to the band room at Point of Ayr for a rehearsal. A wrong turn saw the coach driver doing what seemed like a hand-brake turn to get on the right road. It certainly woke everyone up and, dare I suggest, moved a few of the pasties and pies nearer the mouth. Anyway we got there and to be honest we wished we hadn't. The rehearsal was the worst we had played the test piece - BLACKFRIARS - and Mr. ADAMS, our conductor for the contest, let us know. He did however appreciate that we had a long journey and it was late at

night. It was therefore a pretty subdued Band going back to Pontins that night.

A good night's sleep, if you did not share a room with Derek of the bass section, was had and the day of the contest was upon us. We went to the British Legion club at Flint for another rehearsal and the Band's playing was better and we were more confident, ready to do the business at the contest. We got back to the camp and the guards on the gate weren't going to let us back in, which would have been a shame. Anyway our secretary is not known amongst his Red Indian relatives as 'OLD SMOOTH TONGUE' for nothing and through we went. Drawn to play at number 11 we eventually went on stage, although we nearly lost our repiano, Keith, due to an administration problem.

As a performance we played with loads of confidence and overall it was not that bad. To be honest we knew it was not a winning performance but one that might have gained a place. Unfortunately the adjudicators did not share our optimism and we finished 7th out of sixteen. Disappointing to a degree but nevertheless it was still a creditable position considering the opposition in our section; Bands from all over the country. Being a brass banding event I knew many people and had played previously with some of the bands, including two in our section. Obviously there was a little bit of ribbing going on before the contest and how they were going to beat us. Suffice to say we beat them comfortably as I took the opportunity to remind them later.

Saturday afternoon was spent either listening to other bands contesting or just relaxing. Some of us went swimming, including the Chairman who will never make the swimming Olympics and so nearly drowned. It was due to the fact he nearly lost his trunks and shouted 'Oi' and water went into his mouth. Unfortunately he nearly drowned his wife, helpless to save him as she was too busy laughing. Needless to say he survived although he is still looking for the person responsible described as 'white, short hair, wearing goggles and trunks and swimming south'. Saturday night was a chance to relax and most people finished up in one of the ballrooms to listen to the Bavarian Oompah Band. What really upset you was the guy who just picked up any brass instrument, large or small, and played it how it should be played and as if it was the only instrument he ever played. Sour grapes....you bet!

Everybody got to bed fairly early apart from one or two night owls....who, to protect their identity, will not be revealed other than to say trombone section, bass section, cornet section. We were extremely glad the clocks went back that night. One band member when speaking to their spouse later was heard to reply when asked what time they had got backGreenwich Mean Time----ish. Return journey was notably for more of the chairman's generous nature, the foul weather, and Derek being woken up by his mobile with the message....'WAKE UP IT'S TIME FOR YOUR SLEEPING TABLET'

One sad fact to report was that it was our principal cornet, Andy LEWIS, last contest as he is having to step down through work and family commitments. We appreciate all he has done for the band both playing and on the committee and we shall certainly miss him. On a personal note I shall miss Andy as we have worked well and hard together on the cornet

bench and had some laughs. On the plus side I will not have to worry about counting his bars rest as he always got them wrong.

Pontins - you either love it or hate it, there seems to be no dividing line. I like to think that as a group, despite all the hard work, it was not that bad a week-end. Hopefully we shall return in 2001 and in a stronger position to bring a trophy back to Devon. It is an experience to be sampled, 97 bands from the four corners of the country, renew and make new acquaintances, hear some top playing, and they have a great swimming pool there too!

David J. Wilkinson.

Sponsorship

We are still looking for sponsorship if anyone has any spare cash.

Thanks

The band would like to thank everyone for their support during the past 12 months. We would also like to wish everyone a Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

If you know of anyone that might like to become a "Friend of the band" contact the Secretary.

Contact

Secretary
Phil Cleave
Lower Cholwell farm,
Harberton,
Totnes
TQ9 7RZ
Email: secretary@totnesband.co.uk

Band Diary

November

Sat. 25th Trago Mills. 10.30 - 1.00pm.
Sun 26th Trago Mills. 10.30 - 3.00pm.

December

Sat. 2nd Trago Mills. 10.30 - 1.00pm.
Sun 3rd Trago Mills. 10.30 - 3.00pm.
Carols by Candlelight. Civic Hall
Totnes 7.30pm.
Thu 7th Glorious Sounds of Christmas. St John's
Church. Bridgetown. Totnes. 7.30pm
Sat. 9th Trago Mills. 10.30 - 1.00pm.
Fermoys. 12.00 - 2.00pm.
Sun. 10th Trago Mills. 10.30 - 3.00pm.
Concert Civic Hall Totnes. 7pm.
Sat. 16th Trago Mills. 10.30 - 1.00pm.
Band Dinner. 7.30pm. Steam Packet.
Sun. 17th Trago Mills. 10.30 - 3.00pm.
Mon. 18th Old Inn. Widecombe. 8.30pm.
Wed. 20th League of Friends. Totnes Hospital 8.30pm

2001

March

Sat 31st Area Contest. Torquay