



THE TRUMPETER

www.totnesband.co.uk

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TOTNES BAND

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rehearsals for Bugle contest.

Bugle is a small Cornish village, strung along the main St Austell road and dominated by spoil heaps from the china clay industry. For one Saturday in June, however, it is the focus for bands across the region who descend on the village for the open-air band contest. It starts with a march down the banner strung High Street where you are judged not just on your musical ability but on deportment as well. Hence the mime – we were supposed to look good as well as sound good. One player (name no names) took the preparation just a bit too seriously. Ready to march off he discovered he didn't have his mouthpiece.

The march ends in the contest field; an open air stage (with a canvas roof – thankfully not needed as the sun shone all day), a small tent for the adjudicator and rows of chairs occupied, not by the normal highly focused bandmen, but by families of all sizes and ages, chatting and dropping ice creams with often very little regard for what was happening on stage.

Even waiting to play was different. Normally we queue behind stage, listening nervously to the muffled sounds of the band before us and being silenced constantly by contest officials. Here we lined up in the sun at the edge of the stage, able to hear every note and watch every face. Indeed preparations on the stage were different too as we concentrated on pegging the music down and anchoring stands to the floor lest the wind do its worst.

What did I think of Bugle? It is what I believe brass banding is all about. Whole families, whole communities, music made accessible to all, everyone trying their best but equally everyone enjoying themselves (aided by the sun and despite the lack of a beer tent). It would have been nice to win – but I'd go again, although (knowing now what the toilets are like) I'd probably not drink for several days beforehand let alone on the day!

Joyce Lewis

Pontin's Finals

The band is travelling to Prestatyn in North Wales at the end of October to compete in the finals at Pontin's. This will mean a 300 mile round trip over a weekend. This will be the first chance to compete against 1st section bands from all over the country, 17 others to be exact.

SPONSORSHIP OF TOTNES BRASS BAND

COULD YOU HELP?

We at Totnes Band require some help and sponsorship is, we feel, now critical to help us achieve our goals. Admittedly, we have managed for thirty

New appointment of Musical Director.

The band is very pleased to announce that Terry Treherne has been appointed as Musical Director.

Terry Treherne is an enthusiastic devotee of Brass Bands and acquired his musical education through the Salvation Army, where, at the age of eight, he learned to play a cornet in a young people's band in Bristol. Later he became a peripatetic teacher of brass and in this capacity formed and conducted several school bands.

For some years Terry was the bandmaster of the Exeter Temple Salvation Army Band and then in 1989 was appointed Musical Director of Alder Valley Brass, a championship band based in Aldershot, Hampshire. During his time with Alder Valley he led them to several contest successes including the Southern Counties Area Qualifying Contest in March 1991 to enable the band to play in the National Finals in the Royal Albert Hall.

Following this he became bandmaster of the Hillingdon Salvation Army Band in London, which he held until last year when he returned to Devon.

The band has been very lucky to have had the services of Clive Sproston for 9 years. He has taken the band from the Third Section, into the First Section, for which we thank him very much.

We hope to continue this good work and move forward towards the Championship section.

Bugle

Anyone taking a stroll by the River Dart in June could be forgiven for thinking they were watching some kind of elaborate hoax. There we were, dressed in band uniforms, instruments to our lips, marching up and down but not making a single sound, It might have been a publicity stunt for new instruments – "band forced to mime as old instruments become unplayable". In fact it was yet another stage in our

years without sponsorship. However, we now find ourselves in the First Section of the brass band contesting circles. Having worked our way up to this Section, we can either go forward or we can return from whence we came. This would be a real pity and undo a lot of hard work by so many people.

To go forward means we must not only work extremely hard to consolidate our position in the First Section but also set our sights on achieving a place in the Championship Section. Our lottery grant was turned down in 1999 because it was felt that we were not expanding our horizons sufficiently by playing to a wide enough audience. The band has worked extremely hard this summer trying to rectify this criticism but we also accept that there is much work still to be done. New players with experience have joined us and other signings are in the pipeline for the very near future.

Sponsorship would help us because it would ease the strain of financing our bid for the top flight of the brass band world. For example, we need to contest against bands outside of the West Country so that we can assess our progress and at the same time gain further experience. Totnes Band is already taking steps in this direction. In October 2000 we shall be travelling to Prestatyn in North Wales to take part in the Pontin's Band Championships. This attracts many famous and successful bands but such a trip costs a lot of money and at present we are finding it difficult to raise the cash we require to make the journey. To continue to travel to other contests and to give concerts we really need the safety net of sponsorship.

So why sponsor a brass band? Why not? It makes good economic sense? Brass bands are considered by analysts to be an excellent marketing product. By sponsoring a band your name or logo would be advertised everywhere the band performed, on band banners, jackets, programmes stationery and in the band press. That is a vast arena. The band would also be available to play at corporate events. Many companies that have sponsored bands have found that they have been instrumental in turning potential customers into actual customers whilst they listened to their music in hospitality tents.

Another major plus point to this kind of sponsorship is that it helps to sustain an integral part of a local community. Totnes Band plays an active part in their local community, ensuring that it maintains its identity. As such it is very much part of an English tradition, a tradition which unfortunately is often under threat from financial pressures and the geographical relocation of people.

I am sure that there are many other ways that a creative sponsorship deal would be of real benefit to the sponsors and of course to the band. How much are we talking about? Well, that is the million-dollar question. Don't worry we really do not want that much but if you think your company could sponsor a sum of £30,000 over three years then please contact me. My phone and e-mail numbers are at the bottom of the page.

Alternatively, if you are an individual who would like to help in a smaller way then please again get in touch. We have all kinds of ideas to enable you too to participate in sponsoring the band. Thanks for taking time reading this. I hope that you can help us to achieve our dream of becoming the top band in Devon and making it into the top flight.

David J. Wilkinson - Publicity Officer - Totnes Brass Band

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Concert

We will be putting on our first concert with Terry at the helm, on Thursday 14th December 2000, in St John's Church, Totnes. This will be titled "Glorious sounds of Christmas". We hope to involve a school choir to make the evening more entertaining for more people. We will be sending out details nearer the time, or you can keep an eye on our web page for up to date information.

Training Band

The training band is going from strength to strength. If anyone wishes to learn to play a brass instrument then please come along to St John's Church Totnes, on a Thursday evening at 7pm. We will provide an instrument and tuition. This is open to anyone of any age.

Band Diary

October

Sat 28th Pontin's Finals

November

Sun 12th Remembrance Day Parade

December

Sun 3rd Carols by Candlelight. Civic hall Totnes
Thu 14th Glorious Sounds of Christmas. St John's

2001

March

Sat 31st Area Contest. Torquay