

Wilton and District Band



Newsletter: Spring '14



Torquay – 7th & 8th March. History in the making! Wilton and District at the Regional Qualifying in the 3rd Section. No matter what, we were going to have a good weekend! Plenty of rehearsals (including an excellent weekend with Derek Broadbent) led us to a Friday evening practice in Torquay followed by an early night, as



Friday Night rehearsal in Torquay

we needed to be in the rehearsal hall the following morning bright and early as the section started at 1000hrs. Everyone was ready to begin at 0745 hrs. Simon James went to the draw and we played a few hymns to warm up. Then came the call – we were drawn first! Shock and intakes of breath (plus a few unprintables) soon were replaced by solid pragmatism as we cleared up in the hall and headed to the Riviera Centre. We signed on and were

led to the stage, to be greeted by a surprisingly large audience for that time of day. As the first band to play, we had the honour of playing the National Anthem, which we played with such conviction that at least one of our audience had a tear in the eye! We then launched into a rousing performance of “Partita for Band – Postcards from Home” by Phillip Wilby.

Everyone did their bit, with principals performing their solos admirably and Colin leading the band within a gnat’s whisker of the stated tempos. We finished with a flourish, maintaining our sound right to the end, demonstrating how much stronger we’ve become. Loud applause greeted our finale and we left the stage a very happy band. Then came the long wait! Band after band performed, and in the early afternoon, we re-grouped in an expectant auditorium. As the results were read out, we realised that we weren’t in the top six. On receipt of the adjudicators’ remarks we found we’d come tenth out of fourteen. Yes, we were disappointed; we had not played it in the style the adjudicators wanted, but we knew we put in a quality performance (confirmed by a number of independent observers) and know that we will do very well in this section, with this experience behind us!



Post-results relaxation!

What is it? Talking about making history, Bob Stephens played a miniature BBb at the contest for



Is it a bird...is it a plane...?

what, we believe, is the first time such an instrument has been used on a British Brass Band Association Contest stage. Whilst loving playing the bass, Bob was fed up with the space the instrument took up at home (as, probably, was Sue!) so bought himself a “mighty midget” compact BBb bass. It’s lighter weight than a full-sized instrument (5kg vs 12kg) and is obviously packed into a smaller volume. We checked before we went to Torquay that Bob would be allowed to play it, as we didn’t want any surprises on the day, and were given the all clear; and so, with many jokes about it shrinking in the wash, Derek Broadbent pitching in with “I saw an advert for one...in a Kinder Egg”, and Colin’s

“you can play that on your tenor horn”, Bob proudly played his bass at the contest. Do keep a look out for it when you next see the Band!

Annual General Meeting – 25th March. The AGM was the first with our new Chair at the helm. Archie Barr took the reins in February. He stated how honoured he was to be asked to take this role and is looking forward to helping the Band grow still further.



The meeting began with apologies and minutes of the last meeting. It was great to see so many non-players in attendance, including Lord Congleton, one of our trustees.

Andy Bell presented a report on behalf of the committee. He thanked those committee members who were stepping, or who had stepped, down: Laura Hillman, Bob Stephens, Jonathan Reynolds and Sharon Chalk. Sharon was presented with a bouquet from the Band to thank her for the many years she has served. This was followed by the election of officers and committee. The new committee make-up for 2014-2015 is:

Chair: Archie Barr

Secretary: Juliet Cook

Treasurer: Sue Stephens

Committee members: Andy Bell, Jon Chalk, Dave Dyer, Alex James, Colin Mouland, Mel Murphy, Lu Yarwood.

Andy Bell then spoke briefly about the Training Band, stating that whilst there was strong core of players, more were needed for the Band to continue to progress. He asked all that were present to help to find new players, young and old!

Musical Director, Colin Herbert, spoke about the progress the Band has continued to make and the good players we have. He spoke about the contest success we have had this year and how proud he was of the Band's performance at Torquay. Colin stated that for the Band to continue to develop, new players were needed and that it was not just the committee's responsibility but everyone's to seek out new Band members. Colin then went on to present the annual awards.

The Coffin Family Trophy

Chris Brown Award

The Mary Web Trophy

The John Hand Memorial Trophy

Dave Dyer, Helen and Andy Drake

Laura Hillman

Sam Topp

Andy Drake



Jon Chalk then presented a personal view of the Band's 49 years-to-date, leading to a request to all for ideas on how to celebrate the Band's 50th anniversary, next year.

There was no AOB, and so Archie thanked all attendees and the meeting closed with a rehearsal to follow.

Training Band. The Training Band is continuing to rehearse on Sunday evenings. Once a month this will overlap with a Senior Band rehearsal in order to provide experience and help to the members. New players are always welcome, from beginner up, and any age. Please do chase down family and friends who might be interested...and don't forget to tell them we supply instruments!

100 Club. Don't forget the 100 Club! £12 for the year provides you with a ticket for every month's draw. Do contact any Band member if you wish to join. The last three months' winners are:



January: 1st – Catherine Dyer; 2nd – Rob Dyer & Andy Drake; 3rd – Sue Gooden

February: 1st – Dennis Chalk; 2nd – Sharon Chalk; 3rd – Karen Jones

March: 1st – Jack Chalk; 2nd – Liz Barr; 3rd – Kev Hillman

The Build-up to the 50th Anniversary. 2015 is the Band's 50th birthday! As you know, we are starting to plan events, and our list of "Friend's of Wilton & District" (i.e. email addresses of those who'd like to know what the Band is up to) is growing. Please do encourage ex-players, parents of ex-players, tour hosts etc., no matter where they are scattered in the world, to send their email address to andyb.wdb@gmail.com, so they can be added, and thus receive this newsletter and other information. We are recording a celebratory CD in August – any suggestions for pieces to be included would be welcomed.



Summer Events. Roll on warm, dry weather! We are looking forward to playing with the sun on our backs (and, no doubt, the occasional dash inside from the rain!). The summer events, as we went to print, are shown below.

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sat 12 th April	Jumble Sale, Harnham	Set up 10am. Start 2pm
Sun 13 th April	Palm Sunday March - Wilton	TBC
Sun 8 th June	Larmer Tree Gardens	TBC
Sun 29 th June	Bournemouth Gardens	TBC
Sat 5 th July	Wilton Carnival	TBC
Sat 12 th July	Nunton Fete	TBC
Sun 27 th July	Bournemouth Gardens	TBC
Sat/Sun 23 rd /24 th August	CD recording	TBC
Sat 27 th September	Proms concert – Michael Herbert Hall	7.30pm

Further Information/Contact. For information and updates please check our website: <http://www.wdyb.co.uk/>. The website is regularly updated and is our main communication route. We also have a [Facebook](#) account and you can follow us on [Twitter](#).

For queries, contact: andyb.wdb@gmail.com



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