



Wilton and District Band



Newsletter: Spring 2013

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Torquay

On Friday 8th March, the Band hit the A303 for the annual trek to Torquay for the 2013 Regional Brass Band Finals. An excellent rehearsal in the evening was followed by a brief sojourn to the hotel bar and an early night. The following morning was leisurely for a change, as we knew we were in the 2nd half of the draw. After another good rehearsal we



made our way over to the Riviera Centre. The usual signing on and waiting rituals were followed and then we were on stage. A great start built in a glorious whole band sound and we were on our way. The music flowed and everyone did their bit! We knew we'd played well when we heard the last note of the piece ring out across the (notoriously dead-sounding) auditorium. As we played so late, there was no long agonising wait for the results. We were soon into the

adjudicators' summing-up and then the nerve-wracking reverse-order of results from 6th to 1st. By the time the adjudicator had reached 2nd you could feel the tension, but when he announced that we were placed 2nd, the tension was broken by the loudest cheer of the weekend. Not only had we qualified for the National Finals for the second time ever (and in a row) but had been promoted to the 3rd section for the first time in the band's history. The band meal that night was a sober affair. Actually, that's not quite correct! With plenty of beer and wine and Jon Chalk handing out fines, the evening went off splendidly. Well done all – the results are a testament to the players' commitment to improving and to Colin's leadership with the baton. With last year's experience behind us, and a still-improving band, who knows what awaits us at Cheltenham in the autumn!



AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 25th March. The report from Colin Herbert, the Band's Musical Director, started by saying that at this point last year we were looking forward to the National Finals. There had been changes in personnel with Simon James and Bill leaving us and Natalie and Izzie joining. The finals were well organised and were a great experience. The Band gave a good overall performance and the result was ok. He praised the soloists who played



well, in particular Helen and Juliet. After the finals we said farewell to Pete and have since welcomed Anthony. The Christmas concert was good fun and we had then made an early start in rehearsing for Torquay. All the hard work paid off and the Saturday morning rehearsal at Torquay set the scene for our performance. Colin said there were good performances from all players but special mention should go to Sam Topp (Baritone), Laura Hillman (Trombone), Simon Topp (Euphonium) and Juliet Cook (Principal cornet) who led the band. It was also good to see Dave Dyer back playing after his illness. Colin said that his primary aim when he started was to get to the Third Section, which we had now achieved, and we now as a band need to work together and decide where we want to go. He said that last year had been a good year and congratulated everyone for their efforts.

The membership of this year's Committee was determined:

Chair – Bob Stephens

Treasurer – Sue Stephens

Committee members – Andy Bell, Vikki Bone, Jon Chalk, Sharon Chalk, Juliet Cook, Dave Dyer, Laura Hillman, Colin Moulard, Jonathan Reynolds, Lu Yarwood.

The annual award winners were announced. These were:

Mary Webb vase – Alexander Bell

Coffin family award – Heather James

Chris Brown cup – Simon Topp

John Hand Memorial trophy – Juliet Cook on behalf of the whole band.

The AGM was also the point at which Dave Topp stepped down as Band Secretary. His selfless commitment to the cause over the last few years has played no small part in the recent success of the Band. He'll be sorely missed in that role. Thanks, Dave, from all the Band!

Wiltshire Life Awards

Earlier this year the Band was nominated for the Wiltshire Life Awards Initiative in the "Creative Arts Practitioners of the Year" category. We were featured in the April Wiltshire Life magazine along with all the other nominees. At the award ceremony on 15th March, hosted by Sue Davies from BBC Wiltshire, the band was awarded second prize and received a framed certificate to mark the achievement. The May edition of the magazine featured the awards ceremony and shows Dave Topp collecting the certificate

Quiz Night

Having not sold a ticket up to the Monday before the quiz Jonathan was a little concerned, but as it turned out, things couldn't have ended better: the hall was packed – in fact an extra table had to be found! As ever, Jonathan organised the quiz very professionally and it was presented with his usual wit and charm.



As well as the quiz, Jon persuaded virtually everyone to part with £2 and play heads and tails. Seven prizes from business and elsewhere ensured that all seven rounds were very entertaining. Sharon and her team prepared an excellent ploughman's supper and they certainly didn't skimp on the cheese. During the break a cheque for £500 was presented to the charity Factor 50, collected from our Christmas efforts – thanks all. The whole evening was excellent and provided a major contribution to band funds of approximately £590. Well done and thanks to all who put in such hard work.

Jumble Sale

Sue Stephens organised a Jumble Sale at the Church Hall in Harnham in April, following our previous efforts at this venue last year. To advertise the event, band members delivered flyers to homes in the area. Sue and her team collected jumble in and around the area during the week and on the Saturday morning, resulting in a huge amount of jumble to sell. A good number of members turned up on the day of the sale – thanks to all for their hard work and to those who produced the delicious array of cakes! It was well worth the work, with £389 raised for band funds.



Training Band

The Training Band continues to develop and improve, under the baton of Stéphane Barbey. Help is always welcome, so if you're at a loose end at 1730hrs on a Sunday, for an hour, please feel free to pop along. We are also always on the hunt for new players of any age and ability, and wouldn't it be great to see the junior section of the band flourishing as it once did? If you know of family, neighbours, and/or friends who might be interested, please do encourage them to give the Training Band Manager, Jonathan Reynolds, a call on 01725 519341.

Fund-raising

We didn't quite break even, last year. That's not sustainable and, of course, we need to make sure that we maintain a level of income that can support the development of both the Senior and Training Band. If you have an idea about how to raise additional monies (no matter how daft it might sound!), please do get in touch at the email address below.

Summer Engagements

Hopefully we'll have more of a summer this year. We've got a number of concerts lined up already and are looking for more, so please do put the word out! The main concerts we do are in the Band Stand in the Winter Gardens at Bournemouth. These are on Sunday 30th June and Sunday 11th August.



Another date for the diary is the now annual Proms Concert, which this year will again provide a focus as we build for the National Finals. It will be held on Saturday 31st August. A full list of engagements can be found on our website, [here](#).



Building Support

Whilst we already have a strong supporter base, we can always do better! We would like to increase the circulation of this newsletter so please do forward by email or print to those whom you think might be interested. We want to build a "friends and supporters" distribution list, so if you'd like to receive updates about the band (ie this quarterly newsletter, plus notice of upcoming concerts and events) please pass your email address to the address below. For existing members, please track down as many ex-players as possible and see if they'd be interested in receiving information – especially as the band will be celebrating its 50th birthday in 2015 and we will be inviting ex-members to celebrate!

Website

Finally, please do take a look at our website: <http://www.wdyb.co.uk/images.html>. Our Web Master (Chairman Bob) puts a lot of effort into this and we'd like it to be a major source of information about the band, so it's useful for people now and also for maintaining its history. If you've any comments, suggestions or information relating to anything on the site, please contact the address below. Further, we would love to receive any old photos of the band to help build a detailed history (see [some examples](#) on the site). If you have any, please send them in!



Queries, information, suggestions to: andyb.wdb@gmail.com