



Wilton and District Band



Newsletter: Spring 2015



Torquay

It's that time of year! Christmas is but a distant memory and the hard graft gets underway for the annual regional qualifiers at the Riviera Centre. And that's what we've been concentrating on - the blood, sweat and tears culminating in a weekend away in the southwest on the 14th and 15th March. The 3rd section test piece was "Evolution: 5 states of change" by Philip Sparke and was judged by many to be the best test piece we've played for years. It had its challenges, with a pianissimo opening from the back row, tricky time signatures and rhythms, canon-style sections and the use of a vibraphone (you can look that up!), but the Band, as one, pulled together as we moved towards the contest. The week before, our friend Derek Broadbent came down and took us, and with the subsequent rehearsals that week, we felt prepared. This year we played on the Sunday, which rather hit the social aspects of the weekend, as we rehearsed on the Saturday evening, but with Colin very content, we all went to bed happy. Unlike last year, when we were drawn 1st, we played 14th (out of 16) and were very pleased. We had a short rehearsal in the morning and then went over to the venue.



Mr Broadbent helping prepare the Band



Rehearsing in Torquay

There was a heady mix of confidence and nerves as we occupied the stage...and then we were off. The back row started the piece superbly, with the trombones following and euphonium and cornet getting us into the heart of the first movement. The piece went by in a blaze of accurate rhythms and exciting dynamics, and by the time we reached the end we all knew that we had played it the best we had yet. Back in the auditorium, waiting for the results, a wave of excitement went through our players and supporters as the brass band website, 4barsrest, predicted us to win! Unfortunately, though, with the unfurling of the results, it soon became apparent it wasn't to be. We came 7th in the 3rd section - still our highest position ever, and something to be proud of - with the subjectivity of brass band contesting being highlighted. Needless-to-say, we performed, in all likelihood, the best we ever have on the contest stage, which gives us hope and confidence for the future! Many thanks to all those who supported the build-up to the day and to those intrepid supporters who accompanied us to Devon.



Always a happy Band!

Annual General Meeting

Archie Barr started the meeting by stating that he'd thoroughly enjoyed his first year as Chair of the Band and had some great memories. He thanked two Trustees for attending the meeting (Lord Congleton and John Harris) and went on to thank outgoing committee members Jon Chalk and Dave Dyer for their hard work and dedication over many years, adding that Jon had agreed to move into a Trustee



role. He also stated that the Band needed to focus on fund-raising if it is to continue to develop and grow as we wish.

Andy Bell then provided a view from the committee. He stated that the Band needed to make sure that it was financially viable and that in order to do so, the whole Band membership needed to support events, concerts and fund-raising initiatives. He went on to state that the Training Band had moved forward very positively and that a new Conductor - Lloyd Bartlett - had recently taken over.

Sue Stephens, Treasurer, provided an overview of the accounts and explained that the Band has made a loss over the last few years and re-iterated that we need to address this. Sue then put forward the committee proposal to raise monthly subscriptions for Senior players and non-playing members, amalgamating the annual membership fee. New subscriptions proposed were: £8 per month for senior players and non-playing members. The Training Band subscription will incorporate the annual membership fee resulting in a monthly fee of £6.50. The proposed changes were accepted by the meeting.

Musical Director Colin then began by saying that the aims of the band are youth development, to provide quality music and to enjoy doing so. He cited the growth in skill and confidence of a number of younger members including Rachael Cook, Andy Drake, Laura Hillman, Russell Mouland, Sam Topp and Simon Topp, as well as the improvements seen in the up and coming senior band youngsters Jamie Barker, Alex Bell and Rebecca Ingram. He also thanked the players who had moved on; Lloyd Crowley, Alex James and Matt Kinsey. Colin spoke about the two contests (Evesham and Torquay) and stated that whilst we didn't receive recognition in the results, he feels we have reached a standard well beyond his original expectations. Colin went on to thank Jon Chalk and Dave Dyer, who have both announced that they will be retiring later in the year.

Colin then handed out the annual awards:



Training Band Award (for ability, improvement, attitude, and support).
Katherine Murphy (Eb Bass)



John Hand Trophy (for outstanding contributions - playing or non-playing). **Sue Stephens**, for her role as treasurer and her dedicated and unstinting hard work behind the scenes.



Mary Webb Rose Bowl (for most improved player). **Russ Mouland (Eb Bass)**



Coffin Family Award (for family contribution). An unusual one this year - our very own **Bass family!**



Chris Brown Award (for bandsman/woman of the year). **Rachael Cook (Flugel)**

Colin proposed that next year the Chris Brown award be voted by the players as a "Players' Player" award. This was accepted.

The officers and committee were then proposed and accepted. The committee is now made up of:

Chair	Archie Barr (non-player)
Secretary	Juliet Cook (player)
Treasurer	Sue Stephens (non-player)
Vice Chair	Andy Bell (player)
Members	Nick Barker (non-player)
	Colin Mouland (non-player)
	Mel Murphy (non-player)
	Sam Topp (player)
	Lu Yarwood (player)

At AOB Jon Chalk reminded attendees of the upcoming Quiz Night on the 25th April. Attendees were also asked to promote the celebration CD.

The Chair, Archie Barr, then closed the meeting.

Training Band

The training band entered its first contest for some years in January. The event was the Wessex Brass Band Association Youth contest in Downton. The Band - entered as a training ensemble - played a varied programme and performed really well. Whilst we didn't win the section, the remarks from the adjudicator were very positive and encouraging, and the band did come away with a big cup - the Department prize - for the smartest band over the whole day, last won by WDYB in 1979! (And yes, we have senior players who played in the band that won it then!)



Before the contest we had advertised for a new conductor for the Training Band to take over from Andy Bell, who had been standing in. We had a number of interested parties, three of whom were spoken to, and one of whom was auditioned. Following a very successful evening, Lloyd Bartlett was offered and accepted the position and started with the Training Band on 22nd March. Lloyd is a Trinity College-trained player and conductor with wide experience. We welcome Lloyd, and with

his passion for training youngsters and wanting them to develop into senior players, we look forward to the band flourishing.

As ever, if you know of someone who might be interested in joining - even as an absolute beginner - please do ask them to get in touch, via the email address at the end of the newsletter.

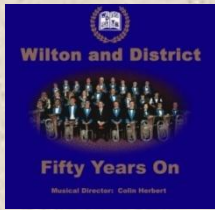
Wilton & District on the Airwaves

Following our nationwide advertisement for a new conductor for the Training Band, we were contacted by Chris Helme, the host of a Yorkshire-based Brass Band radio show called "Sunday Bandstand". He'd seen on our website that we had a new CD out and he asked if we could send him some tracks for his programme. We duly sent him two (A Wilton Theme and Toccata, and New York, New York) and on Sunday 15th February, together with a good introduction to the band, and following on from Black Dyke Mills Band, he put us on the airwaves. You can listen to the show at:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/ChrisHelme/sunday-bandstand-8-february-2015/>



CD



Please do continue to promote and encourage sales of our latest CD, recorded in celebration of 50 years of Wilton and District Brass banding. The CD contains a mixture of popular tunes, excellent solos and features, and a new piece written especially for us. If you haven't ordered one, please do (via the email address at the end or through any band member), and also do let others know that it's available.

More Player Profiles

This is the fourth edition of Player Profiles providing information on personal banding history, likes and dislikes, and aspirations. (There's a bit of a theme develops this time around - we hope Mr Broadbent doesn't mind!)

Jon Chalk

When did you start playing? In 1965 when everything was brown and white.
Other bands played/playing for? Contested with Sixpenny Handley, back in the day. Also guested with many desperate bands that were short on the day.
Instruments played previously? Only ever played trombone plus a little piano. (Well, actually, a normal sized piano, but played it a bit.)
Instrument and position you currently play? Usually 2nd Trombone. 1st Trombone in the recent contest.

Who were/are your banding inspirations? DGC (*Dennis Chalk, Dad - Ed.*) always inspired with his dedication and endless enthusiasm. Also Dave Shelley (Woodfalls) who convinced me it was ok to play football, cricket, like girls and also play the trombone (not all at the same time, though).

Best banding moment to-date? In the Albert Hall in 1967 witnessing Dad playing 2nd man down for Woodfalls in the National Finals for the first time, playing my favourite ever brass band piece "Journey into Freedom" by Eric Ball. Playing-wise it has to be concerts in Ecternact and Berne when on tour in Switzerland in 1982.

Most embarrassing banding moment, to-date? During an interval at a Woodfalls Concert as a little chap I wandered on stage and trod on the slide of a trombone that was on the floor, completely reshaping it. I was whisked away pretty sharpish!

Favourite piece? Listening - see above. Playing - Crimond or Golden Lady.

Least favourite piece? "Flippin" Floral "Flippin" Dance

Banding aspirations? To play as well as boundaries permit whilst having a cracking time on and off stage.



Rachael Cook



When did you start playing? I started playing when I was 6, so in 1999.

Other bands played/playing for? I have also played for Sandleheath.

Instruments played previously? I have only ever played the cornet or flugelhorn.

Instrument and position you currently play? I currently play flugelhorn.

Who were/are your banding inspirations? I was taught to play by my Grandad who played for Woodfalls. He had so many amazing banding stories and I have always wanted to follow in his footsteps. It's also a huge pleasure to get to play in the same band as my mum! It makes the banding even more special!

Best banding moment to-date? My first best banding moment has to be qualifying for the national finals for the first time in 2012. Such an amazing feeling and achievement! And secondly, being kissed by Derek Broadbent! What a lad!

Most embarrassing banding moment, to-date? Unfortunately there are too many to mention. However, having to run off stage at Salisbury City Hall to get a piece of music that I'd missed out of my programme was a low point. It's lucky for me that Colin likes to talk!

Favourite piece? Swedish Folk Song and Evolution after our recent fantastic performance!

Least favourite piece? I don't really have any strong feelings against any particular piece, however, pieces with a joint rep/flugelhorn part annoy me - I feel cheated.

Banding aspirations? It has to be to win a National Finals with Wilton, and I'm not planning on going anywhere any time soon, so I'm super sure that will happen one day!

Kevin Hillman

When did you start playing? I started playing when I was about 9 years old.

Other bands played/playing for? Downton Band.

Instruments played previously? I have played cornet including soprano, tenor horn, euphonium and Bass (only percussion left).

Instrument and position you currently play? I currently play Eb Bass

Who were/are your banding inspirations? Ken Palmer for getting me started.

Dennis Chalk for improving me as a bandsman. Glynn Bosanko for making me a better player. Colin Herbert for getting my enthusiasm back.

Best banding moment to-date? 4th section finals 1984, walking out on Albert Hall stage.

Most embarrassing banding moment, to-date? Playing a solo on tour in Jersey after a lunchtime of red wine with members of WDYB, including musical director.

Favourite piece? Most things by Goff Richards.

Least favourite piece? Floral Dance

Banding aspirations? To consolidate and improve our current crop of players.



Other News/Upcoming Events

- Very many thanks to Sue Stephens, Sharon and Jon Chalk, Lyn and Dave Grover, Margaret Penny, Ivy and Clive Ingram, Ellie Yarwood, John and Jane Musselwhite, for running the Jumble Sale and for Archie Barr, Andy and Alex Bell and Juliet Cook for helping set up in the morning. We made over £200!
- April 25th: Quiz Night (1930hrs Broad Chalke Village Hall)
- July 4th: 50th Anniversary concert (1700hrs Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton)
- Re-launch of the 100 Club - in the near future...
- Don't forget to save your aluminium foil for the band - contact any member for them to take it off your hands!

If you wish to receive regular updates, including this Newsletter, please drop a note to the address below.

Website: <http://www.wdyb.co.uk>

Queries, info to: andyb.wdb@gmail.com



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