

FRIENDS OF

Thurrock Spectrum Brass

NEWSLETTER

Edition No 3

Welcome to yet another edition of our newsletter. A great deal has happened in the few weeks since our last production. We hope this will bring you fully up to date with the latest news.

Bands First Solo Contest Success

On 27th November the band entered the London and Home Counties Brass Band Association Solo, Quartet and Ensemble competition. This was held at St Cleres School Stanford Le Hope. This was the second competition staged by the association this year, but it was to be the first competition that Spectrum Brass had attended. Much to everyone surprise, the band accrued enough points to share the Alan Costen Memorial Trophy with the Southend Band. Here is a summary of the bands medal winners. Well done to all those who took part, particularly to those who performed in quartets and ensembles. There were many extra practices organised for these groups rotating around different front rooms.

Under 12's 1 st Lauren Cave Cornet 2 nd Lauren Payne Cornet	Under 14's 2 nd Lauren Cave Cornet 3 rd Sarah Scowen Cornet
Under 16's 3 rd Lauren Cave Cornet	Under 18's 2 nd Lauren Cave Flugel Horn
Open Slow Melody 1 st Sue Cave Flugel Horn 3 rd Ian Spence Euphonium Best Bass John Mann Highest placed 'B' Division Daren Timson-Hunt	Open Duet 1 st Sue and Lauren Cave Cornet and Flugel Horn 2 nd Nicole Watts and Kevin Woodard Baritone x 2

Air Varie Under 19 years 2 nd Sarah Scowen Cornet	Air Varie Over 19 Years 1 st Sue Cave Flugel Horn
Open Quartet 1 st Thurrock Spectrum A 3 rd Thurrock Spectrum B Highest Unplaced under the age of 16 Thurrock Spectrum C	Ensemble 1 st Thurrock Spectrum A 2 nd Thurrock Spectrum B 3 rd Thurrock Spectrum C

A superb achievement

Bands New Home
At
The Grays School

From January the band has taken up residence in its new rehearsal facilities. The band is very grateful to The Grays School for offering rehearsal facilities in the music block at the School *free of charge*. It is hoped that the band can also assist in promoting the schools music department and encouraging pupils to learn to play. Without the financial drain of paying for weekly hall hire, it has greatly assisted in strengthening the bands bank balance. The band would like to thank Mr Winstone, the Headteacher and Mrs Winstone for their support towards aiding the development of the band. At present the main bands rehearsal takes place from 6.30pm on Friday evenings finishing around 9pm. On Monday evenings the rehearsal is for those members who have volunteered to be par of the 'Contesting Band'. This is a new venture for many members of the band. On March 14th, the band will be making its debut appearance at a full band competition at Stevenage. For those readers not familiar with the Brass Band world, here is a summary of the event. This particular contest is the Regional Area qualifying contest for the National Finals held later this year. As a new band, Spectrum will be playing in the fourth section. As you would expect there are a lot of entries in our section. The current entry stands at 34 bands. Each band in its section performs a set test piece. Usually, by the time the contest day dawns, players and families alike are hearing the music in their sleep. All the bands player members have to be registered in advance of the date, so there can be no last minute changes. The number of players is limited, so efforts have to be made to

ensure that a balanced band is produced. Spectrum did have a couple of 'gaps' to fill due to players not being available to play on the day. Our big 'hero' has to be Michael Stroud, who has agreed to temporarily move from Solo Horn to Principal Cornet. Without Michael, the band was unlikely to have been able to enter. Our thanks also extend to Clare Parker on Cornet, and Steuart Greig on Bass, who have kindly agreed to help out the contest band.

Good Luck every one on the 14th

Thurrock Spectrum Brass Stage First Solo Contest

On Sunday 18th April 1999, the band will be holding its very first own Solo Contest in which members of the band participate. The Grays School has yet again shown their support for the band by offering the Main School hall free of charge to the band, for which the band cannot thank them enough for all their help. The object of the competition is give all the band members from the youngest to the oldest, from the inexperienced to the experienced the chance to perform in contest surroundings. There will a professional adjudicator hired for the occasion, whose name is yet to be announced. There will also be an official accompanist booked to enhance the players overall performance. The proceedings will follow a similar format to that of the London and Home Counties Brass Band Association competition. So any members new to the competition scene or perhaps a little rusty, can gain some experience of such an occasion. This will be a useful practise run for many that will be taking part in the LHCBBBA contest on 23rd May 1998 at Leigh. The competition will be open to any spectators who wish to support the performers. Anyone wishing to donate a Trophy for the occasion will be most welcome. Just speak to any one of the committee members.

Christmas Carolling

The bands first carolling season was a very busy one. Our thanks go to Tesco's Lakeside and Safeway at Chafford Hundred for allowing us to play and collect inside their stores. The amount collected during this period far exceeded all expectations, and resulted in the band repaying the loan owed to Rosemary and John Mann, far earlier than anticipated. None of this could have been achieved without the support of its players and the army of collectors who braved all the elements.

Exam Successes

Shortly before Christmas a number of members took practical and theoretical examinations. Yet again they all passed with excellent results.

Theory

Grade 3	Lauren Cave	Distinction
Grade 5	Paul Radford	Pass
Grade 5	Lucy Radford	Pass
Grade 6	Michael Stroud	Pass

Practical

Grade 2	Adam Pitt	Merit
Grade 4	Julia Woodard	Pass
Grade 5	Chris Sin Chan	Pass
Grade 6	Kirsty Pitt	Pass
Grade 6	Nicole Watts	Distinction

49 Club

In our previous editions you may recall reading about the bands '49 club'. For those new readers, this is a weekly venture to enable fundraising, and is based upon the bonus ball drawn at the Saturday night National Lottery draw. The object is that individuals can buy a number between 1 and 49 for a pound each. The weekly prize jackpot will be half of the number of entries for that week. The mathematicians amongst you will have calculated that our weekly top prize can total £24.50p. Rollover weeks are added on accordingly. The odds of picking a winning number out of 49 are far better than matching three numbers just to get a tenner from the real lottery. We normally manage to sell around half to two thirds of the numbers, this means that some weeks we have no winner, resulting in a rollover. As we have numbers remaining on a regular basis, we would like to offer supporters not present at band practice on a Friday night, the opportunity to buy in advance a number or numbers of their choice. If this idea appeals to anyone please contact Jeff Cave or any of the contact names on the list who will pass your interest on to Jeff. Go on give it a try!!!!

It could be you!

The list of 49 club winners since the last newsletter are as follows:-

28th November	No draw	
5 th December	No winner	
12 th December	No winner	
19 th December	No winner	
26 th December	No draw	
2 nd January	No draw	
9 th January	No winner	
16 th January	John Mann	£45.50
23 rd January	No winner	
30 th January	Jeff Cave	£19.50
6 th February	John Masters	£10.50
13 th February	No winner	
20 th February	Michael Stroud	£24.50

Band Uniform

In January we had a visit by a well know band uniform supplier. The objective was for members to view and consider a variety of uniform colours and styles. Although no firm decisions were made, it was at least possible to assess the views of players and allowed an 'estimate' to be produced. Unfortunately the cost exceeded several thousand of pounds and is far from achievable at present. This means that during the coming summer months the band will have to perform in shirt sleeves. As you will appreciate our 'summer' weather often is neither dry enough nor warm enough. The band would like to acquire two gazebos. One large enough to cover the band and another for the band stall which is usually present at our engagements. The band has already proved last year that 'rain does not stop play'. Anyone who can assist in

supplying free or at cost this type of equipment to the band, please contact one of the committee members.

Donations

The band would like to thank Lakeside Shopping Centre for their kind donation of £200. Richard Belt, the centre manager, handed the cheque to Rosemary Mann and Nancy Spence at a special presentation ceremony. The money will be put towards the purchase of instruments for a new learners class.

Forthcoming engagements/events

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| Sunday 14 th March 1999 | National Regional Area qualifying contest at Stevenage. |
| Friday 19 th March 1999 | Easter Concert at Grays Parish Church. 7.30pm
Tickets Adults £3 with £2 concessions.
Easter Egg Raffle draw also taking place. 25p a ticket.
Any Easter Egg donations welcome. |
| Sunday 18 th April 1999 | Bands own Solo Contest 12.30pm The Grays School.
Full band photo (all players) 12.30pm prompt. |
| Saturday 22 nd May 1999 | East Tilbury School Fete. |
| Sunday 23 rd May 1999 | LHCBBA Solo Contest at Leigh. |
| Saturday 12 th June 1999 | North Stifford Fete |

Contact Names and Numbers

Rosemary and John Mann	01375 891653
Jeff and Sue Cave E-mail jacave@globalnet.co.uk	01375 480155
Nancy Spence	01375 408237
Claire and Michael Stroud	01375 851497
Greg and Jane Evans	01375 480152
Maureen Woodard E-mail woodard.horndon@virgin.net	01375 641801
Nicole Watts	01375 378619

