

REFRACTIONS

(TSB FRIENDS NEWSLETTER)

EDITORIAL

I am very aware that it has been some considerable time since you heard from The Band. We have been going through a number of changes in the administration department which, together with a very heavy schedule of jobs and rehearsals, has left us very short on time.

So! The Editor has changed and, having just possessed himself of one of these electronic masterpieces, he is learning how to put a Newsletter together without it looking too boring to read. As time goes by things may improve, so don't be surprised if the subsequent Newsletters show a changing face. It's only me experimenting; all the news will still be there in some form or other.

Because it has been such a long time since we last communicated, there is an enormous amount of news - well not exactly news; more like history - for you to catch up on, which I hope will be of interest. So, here goes.....

BAND SOLO CONTEST

We held our own Solo Contest way back on October 17th 2000. John Durrant, who is a well known conductor and lecturer in brass was invited to adjudicate the playing.

The main object of this internal contest is to help build confidence in playing before an audience and to measure progress, of the learners especially, against experience. Mr. Durrant was impressed by our youngsters in particular and was able to give them some practical tips on technique and breathing during his summing up. All the competitors played very well, but the winners in each category were:

- Under 1year Playing.....Sophie Hempstead
- Under 12years Old.....Andrew Hornsby
- 12 - 14years Old..... Victoria Hammond
- 15 - 19years Old.....Paul Radford
- Over 19years Old.....John Hammond
- Duet (under 15years old).....Andrew Hornsby
and Joe Wilson

NEW STAND BANNERS

As mentioned in Edition No.7 of our Newsletter the Band has at last acquired new music stand banners - and exceedingly good they look too. Thanks to donations from Tate & Lyle; Cargills; Procter & Gamble; SCOOT Club, Tilbury; The Mayors Community Chest and Jackie Firman (who is always helping us) of The Foxhound Inn, Orsett our costs were significantly reduced. Banners purchased with the donations have been appropriately embroidered with the donor's name on the reverse and these were officially presented to the Band by the donors at a band concert we performed for the Woolmarket Music Association in the Horndon Church last October.



THE BIG BAD BASS



After purchase of the banners, our next main project was to acquire an E flat Bass. New, these instruments cost over £4,500 and a good s/hand model is about £2,500. We used the Christmas Carolling period to raise the necessary funds. Thanks to the generosity of the public and many organisations together with a grant of £500 from the Mobil Centenary Trust fund, we have now obtained the bass. Good looking isn't it? The bass I mean, not the object pretending he can play the thing. So! If you know of any bass players who would like to join the Band, there is an instrument available; Bflat or Eflat.

Our next major project will be 'UNIFORMS

BAND SIGNATURE MARCH

Thurrock Arts Council, through their Quality Fund, generously supported the Band in their quest for their own identity, by funding the commissioning of an original work that the band could use as its signature tune. The conductor of the Southend band - Andrew Hurrell - was invited to compose the work which he duly presented to us. It is a march, aptly named '**FULL SPECTRUM**'. Andrew came to rehearse the Band before invited officers of The Arts Council (Chairman, Treasurer and Press Officer attended). The performance of the conductor and the response of the band to his requirements so impressed these officers that they encouraged us to conduct more similar training sessions.

'Full Spectrum' was given its first public performance at our Easter Concert held in Grays Parish Church on March 31st. Ticket sales for the concert mounted to over £400 which was shared equally between Band and Church. The associated Easter Egg raffle (77 donated eggs) raised £ 355. We have also been invited by the Chairman of The Arts Council to play our march at the opening of the next Arts Council A.G.M. in the Thameside Theatre on Friday 29th June.

ONE LINER

Percussionist: What do they call two thieves working together?

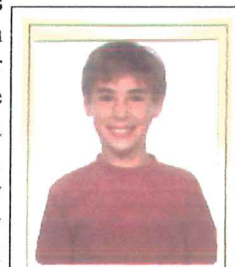
Bass Player: I don't know. What do they call two thieves working together?

Percussionist: A pair of (k)nickers.

(Published courtesy of my Grand - son)

THURROCK YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR - 2001

A number of the entrants to this year's competition happen to belong to our band. They are Charlotte Robertson, Victoria Hammond, Ben Sullivan, Daniel Skinner, Matthew Holding and Andrew Hornsby. All acquitted themselves extremely well and in particular, Matthew won in the



Andrew Hornsby

category 'Under Two Years Playing Experience'. Andrew Hornsby's performance brought him a very close second in the 'Lower Brass' category - only two points behind the winner of this class who eventually won the overall title. So! That's a great achievement. Well done Andrew!!!

ASSOCIATED BOARD EXAMINATION RESULTS

Since the last edition of the Newsletter many of our members - particularly the youngsters - have been very busy studying music theory and practice. They have entered and passed a number of examinations. I list them below and hope that I have named them all. Many apologies if I have happened to miss anybody:

THEORY RESULTS

Grade One

Joe Wilson 83%

Grade Two

Andrew Hornsby 73%
Sophie Hempstead 86%
Victoria Hammond 86%
Ben Sullivan 90% (D)
Jennie Gargano 93% (D)

Grade Three

Pam Gargano 94% (D)

Grade Four

Susan Evans 86%
Greg Evans(Sue's Dad) 93% (D)

Grade Five

Greg Evans 94% (D)

(D) means Distinction

PRACTICAL RESULTS

Grade One

Martin Falder (Trombone) 121 (M)

Grade Two

Matthew Holding (Cornet) 125 (M)

Grade Four

Adam Pitt (Tenor Horn) 116
Ben Sullivan (Trumpet) 117
Victoria Hammond (Cornet) 131 (D)

Grade Five

Greg Evans (Euphonium) 117

Grade Seven

Sarah Scowen (Cornet) 130 (D)

(D) means Distinction

(M) means Merit

LEARNERS WANTED

A total of eleven new players were introduced into the band in January and they took part in our Easter Concert at the end of March; such was their progress.

Rosemary wants to start an absolute beginners class in mid May - on Monday evenings. So if you know of anybody who wants to learn to play, whether they be young or not so young, please get them to contact Rosemary Mann(Mrs.) on 01375 891653 as soon as possible. There has never been a better, or cheaper way to use up some leisure time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

You might be interested in going to some of the events we shall be playing at this Summer, so here at least are some of them:

19th May Horndon School 2.00 p.m.
9th June North Stifford Fete 2.00p.m.
17th June Grays Beach 12.15p.m.
23rd June Orsett Church Fete 2.00pm
24th June Horndon Feast & Fayre
30th June Thurrock Hospital Fete.
15th July Thurrock Festival of Sport.
1st Dec Concert atThamesideTheatre
19th Dec Carols @ The Pound ,Orsett