

# SPLIT NOTES

## The Harrogate Band Newsletter

3 June 1991

Issue #4

### New Format

From this issue onwards, *Split Notes* will be produced more regularly. It will serve primarily for communications between the Committee and Band Members. We intend to provide a precis of news, arising from Committee meetings together with updates on engagements etc. which will supplement verbal announcements. Other contributions on any topic, criticisms, praise, anecdotes, news..... are still welcome from anyone - please let any Committee member have them.

### Players

We are still short of several players, and are trying to acquire new members by any means. Advertisements are being inserted in the press and on the radio, and any Member who has any contacts with other bands or players is urged to sound out the possibilities. We need a trombone, baritone, & basses, and could also do with additional cornets and a horn. Other bands in the area are also suffering similar problems at the present so we need to continue the search as strongly as possible - particularly so that we can field a full band for the National Championships. Peter Heckingbottom, Charles Hindmarsh & Charles Grainger, all ex-members and Bass players, may be willing and able to rejoin us in the near future - but these are the only positive leads that we have at the moment.

For the future, it is possible that we can persuade local brass tutors to divert some promising young players towards our Band, rather than to the existing route of school bands/Tewit. We could also try and establish a junior group of young players who could feed into the main Band when appropriate, under the direction of some suitable tutor. These will be investigated.

Our best wishes, and hopes for a speedy return to the Band, go to Stan Stockdale, who is recovering from his fall in which he badly injured his shoulder. We hope it will not be too long before he is able to wield his Euphonium once more.



## National Championships

A provisional booking has been made at a hotel in Ealing for the weekend of the Contest, which will be held at the Wembley Conference Centre. The test piece is *Landscapes* by Stuart Johnson and it should be available from the publishers from June. Following our placings in the last three Area Qualifying Contests, we will be promoted to the 3rd Section from January 1992. The restructuring of the sections to allow the creation of a new First Section, between Championship and Second, is taking place, and as a result all regradings this year are mandatory, with no appeals being allowed.

Boosey & Hawkes, who organise and control the National contesting scene, are moving the British Brass Band Registry from Manchester to London and will be computerising it.

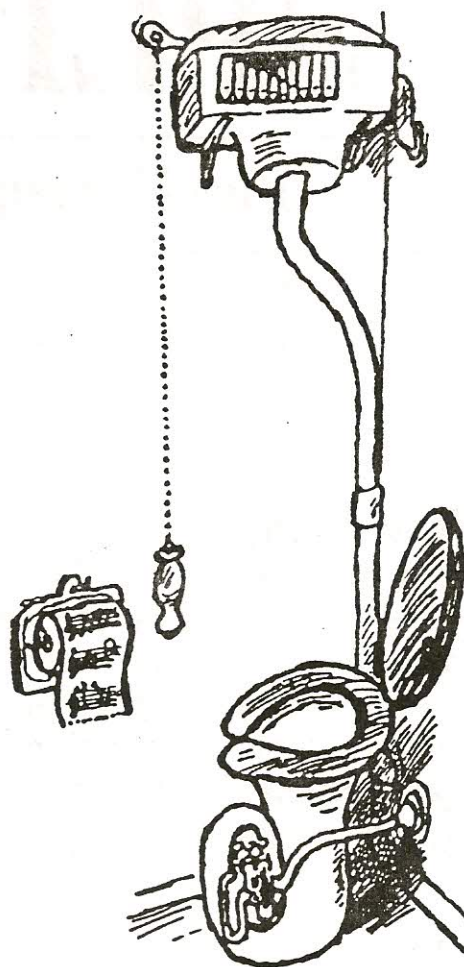
Proposed changes to the Registry Rules have been postponed, as a result of the upheaval, but the good news is that fees are not being increased (even being abolished for Youth Bands).

## Supporters group

We plan to hold the inaugural meeting of this group on Tuesday 18th June at the Band Room at Harcourt Road. The group's role could include:

- organisation & assistance with fund-raising and social activities
- assistance with concert arrangements, ticket selling & collecting
- assistance with PR & publicity of the band
- support of the Band at concerts and contests
- improvement of the public awareness and appreciation of the Band in the Harrogate area.

We intend to invite Members' families and friends, and the general public to join the group, through letters via Members and press announcements. Watch this space for more details....!





## **Policy/objectives/rules**

A sub-committee is currently discussing these matters, and a number of ideas are taking shape. Some of the policy topics being looked at include membership & recruitment, relationships with other bands, playing standards & grading, social events, trips, public relations & advertising, internal administration & communications, morale & involvement of Members, concert staging, sponsorship. We should be in a position, very soon, to be able to provide drafts for comment by Members, possibly also including feedback in the form of a questionnaire. In the meantime, if anyone has any comments, please pass them to any Committee member.

The establishment of a set of Band Rules is something that the Committee started to look at several years ago, but did not manage to progress further than some initial ideas. In forming these Rules we would hope to lay out certain aspects of conduct and procedure that should be adhered to. Most Members will be implicitly aware of the general expectations the Band has regarding conduct, uniform, absence, membership, property etc., but we do need to have some written documentation for new Members and to remind others of their responsibilities. We will be seeking your comments on a draft set of Rules before establishing them.

## **Administration**

Dave Cole has accepted the role of Bandmaster, and Steve Morland will act as his deputy. Together, they will co-ordinate equipment transport, stage management and the attire, conduct and attendance of Members. Lynn Stockdale is looking after the Band Uniforms. Michael Dawes has been co-opted to serve on the Committee. Peter and Pauline Littlewood have taken joint responsibility for the music library.

## **Attendance**

Attendance at recent rehearsals and particularly engagements has been poor. We accept that players cannot necessarily attend on every occasion, but would hope that they make every effort to do so. It is crucial that we know well in advance of absences especially for engagements, so we have time to find replacements. It would also help, if you expect to be absent from a job, if you could suggest a replacement for yourself. Don't forget to fill in the engagement and rehearsal sheets with your availability.

## **In Brief**

Mr Sergeant, an ex-Vice President of the Band, and long-time supporter, died a few weeks ago, at the age of 91.



Desford Colliery Band are giving a concert at St Wilfred's Church on Wednesday 31st July, as part of the Harrogate Festival. As a number of players may wish to attend, it has been suggested that we do not have a rehearsal that day. The programme includes Ireland - *Comedy Overture*, Golland - *Euphonium Concerto*, Arnold - *Fantasy for Band*, Bliss - *Checkmate Ballet Suite*, a Baroque Suite, Simpson - *Vortex*, Butterworth - *Passacaglia* & Bernstein - *West Side Story Symphonic Dances* (an expansion of the programme they played in the recent BBC Festival of Brass on Radio 3). We could make a block booking of tickets on behalf of interested Members - let us know what you think.

## Feedback

Let us have your views and comments on Band topics - either personally to any Committee member, or in writing to *Split Notes* (via Gavin).

## Future engagements

Sunday 9 June	Valley Gardens, Harrogate
Sun 30 June	Knaresborough Castle Yard
Sat 6 July	Burton Leonard Feast Day
Fri 12 July	Ashville College - with Wirral C.Y.O.
Sat 13 July	Dishforth Fete
Sat 10 August	Ripley Show
Sun 11 August	Valley Gardens, Harrogate
Mon 26 August	Knaresborough Castle Yard
Sun 8 September	Hardraw Scar Contest
Sun 15 September	Butonwood Contest, Widnes
Sat 5 October	National Brass Band Championships, London
Tue 17 December	St Paul's Church, Harrogate

## Recent recordings

Brass & Drums	Solna Brass	Oompha
Prisms	John Laing (Hendon)	JLB (cassette)
Sovereign Soloists	Misc. soloists	Doyen
BBC Festival of Brass	Misc.	Doyen
Rule Britannia	Britannia BS	Doyen
Flower of Scotland	CWS Glasgow	Doyen
Reflections	Sellers Engineering	?
Recorded Delivery	Sun Life	Stanshaw
Stars in Brass	Misc. soloists	Redacre
Lighter side of Maurice Murphy	Maurice Murphy	Doyen
Traditionally British	Black Dyke	Chandos
Famous Marches	Black Dyke	Chandos
Brass Favourites	Fairey	Chandos