

SPLIT NOTES

The Harrogate Band Newsletter

August 1991

Issue # 6

Congratulations

It is with great pleasure that we can announce the election of five new Life Members of The Harrogate Band. These are members who have provided at least fifteen years Full Membership and who have rendered special service to the Band. Ian Bristow (Baritone) who has been the Band's Treasurer for many years, John Hallums (ex-Chairman), Dave Pye (Flugel), Bob Roper (Horn) and Noel Taylor (Cornet) all of whom have contributed significantly to the success and running of the Band over the years. They join the ranks of our two other Life Members - Les Mackown (Secretary) and John Lofthouse (ex-Trombone).

Members

We are pleased to officially welcome Charles Hindmarsh (Eb Bass), Eddie Fearnley (Bb Bass) and Nicholas Froggatt (Cornet) who have been accepted as Full Members of the Band.

Welcome also to David Gall (Baritone), Peter Howarth (Horn) and Nicholas Howarth (Trombone), who have recently joined us as players. We hope to see them as Full Members in the near future.

Michael Dawes and Sarah Leng were elected as Committee members at an EGM earlier this month, filling two vacancies that existed.

We were very sorry to lose Lynne Stockdale from the Band, when she resigned recently. For several years she was the youngest Member of the Band and we thoroughly enjoyed her company. Over the years she progressed through the cornet line-up to repiano and solo cornet positions, and we will miss her contribution to the Band, particularly as she had just been elected to the Committee. We wish her all the very best for her work and studies in the future.



More recent recordings

Classic Brass	Black Dyke	Chandos
Music of Eric Ball	Brighthouse & Rastrick	Harlequin
Convergents	Brighthouse & Rastrick	
Robert Simpson	Desford Colliery	Hyperion
Endeavour	IMI Yorkshire Imperial	Doyen
European Championships	Misc.	Heavyweight
Gala Concert 1990	Misc.	Heavyweight
R3 Festival of Brass	Misc.	Doyen
Celtic Brass	NFD (Parc & Dare)	
Le Roi d'Ys	Sun Life	Stanshaw
Rondo	Steven Mead + Rigid Containers	Heavyweight

Developments in Contesting

- 1845 Band screened from judge, draw for position of play, drums not allowed, maximum 12 players, own choice of piece
- 1855 Test piece plus own choice
- 1856 Test piece only
- 1868 Names of bandsmen submitted one month before contest
- 1886 Initial grading system
- 1889 No pre-performance of test piece, conductors not allowed to play
- 1893 Maximum of 24 players, approved adjudicators only, players to be registered with only one band
- 1895 Two sections
- 1900 Three sections
- 1902 Five sections, Championship section bands in uniform, players must be members of a band for three months minimum
- 1923 Championship bands play seated
- 1924 All bands play seated
- 1946 Regional qualifying contests, National Register of Brass Bandsmen
- 1973 Percussion in Championship section
- 1976 Percussion in all sections

Supporters group

We now intend to launch this group, initially under the name of *Friends of The Harrogate Band*, after the London Finals. In the meantime, if you know of any people or organisations who might be interested in participating, please inform any Committee member - these could include family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, ex-members etc..

Subscriptions

A number of Members' subscriptions are overdue, please ensure that these are paid as soon as possible. Since the closure of the 200 club, these subscriptions are a much more significant source of our income.

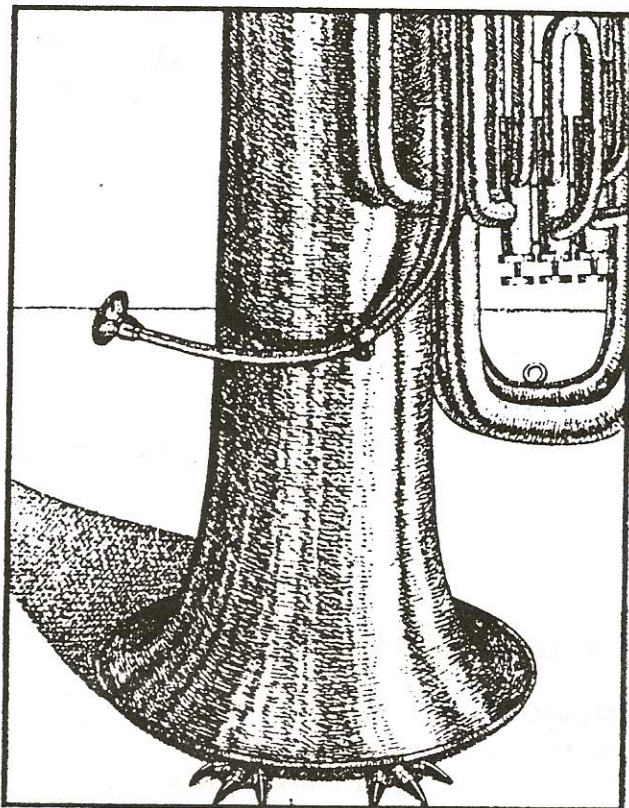
London

The National Finals are only a month or so away now, and we should not need to remind players of the importance of regular attendance to rehearsals in preparation for the contest. Let's try and achieve as many fully attended rehearsals as possible. Remember, we are going to London to **WIN!** On the return journey, we plan to stop in Cambridge for lunch, more details of this will be forthcoming

Engagements

Over this summer season we have had problems at some engagements in getting a reasonable band together. We have been lucky, in most cases, in being able to borrow extra players from neighbouring bands, and we would like to thank the individuals concerned, and their bands, for helping us out. In return, a few of our Members have assisted other bands with their jobs on occasions and our thanks go also to them for reciprocating on the Band's behalf. We must stress, again, the importance of early notification of your availability or otherwise for engagements so that necessary arrangements can be made. Apart from the importance of providing a good concert, in a professional manner with a high quality of playing - which we are quite capable of - these engagements are a major source of income for the Band, and maintain its prestige and public awareness.

A touch of surrealism!

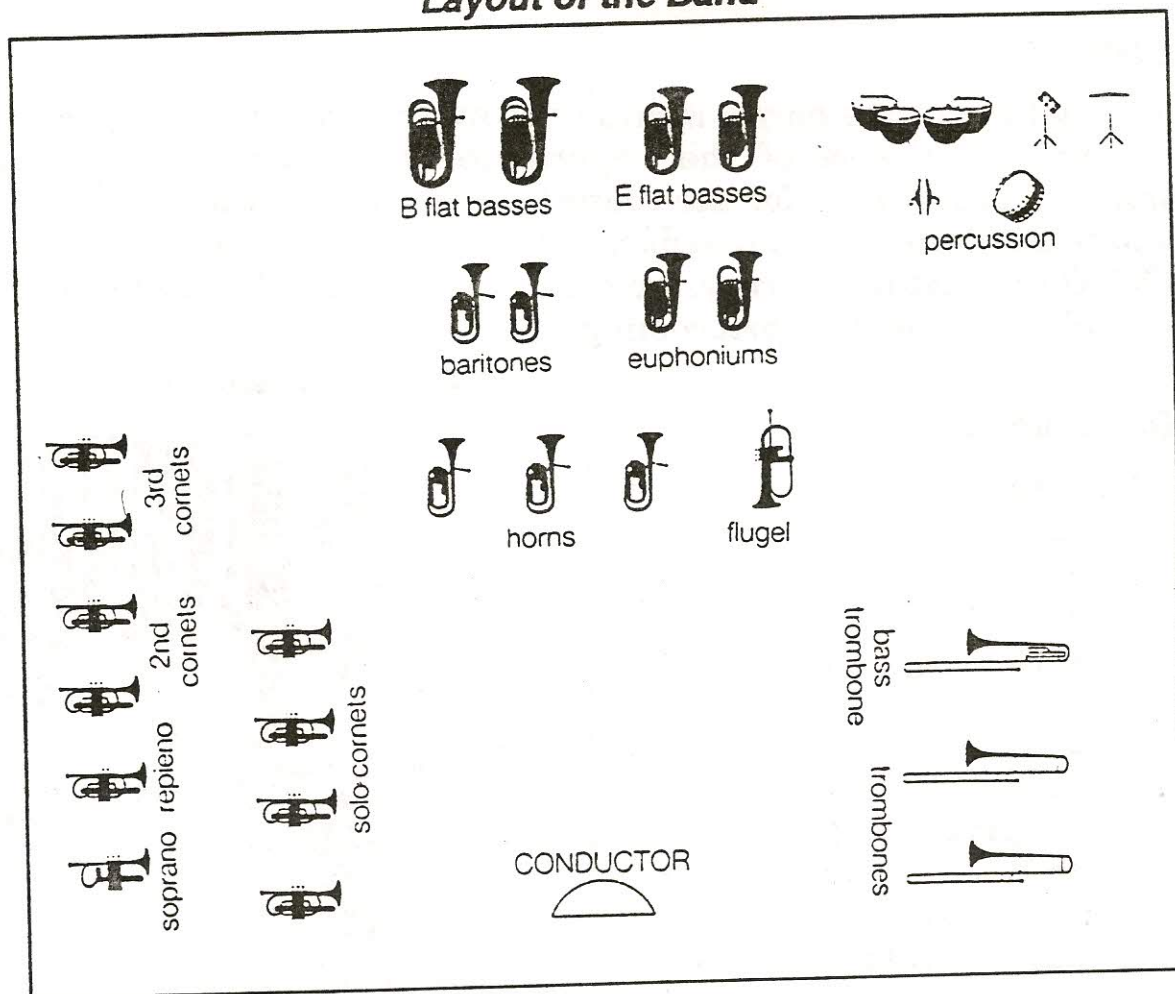


Penguins are masters of self-concealment.

Future engagements

Sun 8 September	Hardraw Scar Contest
Fri 4 - Sun 6 October	National Brass Band Championships, London
Thu 24 October	BoKaGe Big Band in Harrogate
Sat 26 October	Woodlands Church
Sun 3 November	BDBBA Contest, Keighley
Sun 24 November	Malton Contest
Thu 5 December	Town Centre, Harrogate
Thu 12 December	Town Centre, Harrogate
Tue 17 December	St Paul's Church, Harrogate
Thu 19 December	Town Centre, Harrogate

Layout of the Band



Contesting was rough in those days.....

Bacup Times 1869 - "Hundreds in our mills and workshops may be heard betting on the result of the contest. In addition there is a vast amount of foul language employed But worst of all, perhaps, is the general drinking and drunkenness that is occasioned by these contests Hundreds of drunken people were seen staggering in all directions The evils that flow from brass band contests we believe are far greater than those connected with bull-baiting and other sports put down long ago."

Manchester 1902 - journey from a contest - "In a compartment jammed with 18 people four of whom were drunk, six of whom smoked the vilest pigtail and the remainder passing the time up to Ramsbottom either quarrelling over the judges decisions or falling asleep and emitting ghoulisn nerve-trying snores."

Lincoln 1892 - The spectators gave chase to George Asch, the judge, who had to run across country to avoid being thrown in a nearby lake. He had been careless enough to read out the names of the winning bands in the wrong order.

Finally

Please remember to let the Committee, or *Split Notes*, know of any news, views, comments, ideas about the Band, its organisation, activities etc. either for information or publication. More contributions and feedback from Members is always welcome.

