

SPLIT NOTES

Number 18

News from The Harrogate Band

June 1999

Uniforms "2000"

The Harrogate Band needs new uniforms! The current burgundy-coloured blazers have served the Band well for many years but are now reaching the end of their useful lives! To buy smart new uniforms for all thirty-five players (with a few spares) will cost the Band in the region of £6000. A major part of this newsletter is to let you know what we have done so far to raise money and tell you about our future projects with which you might be able to help!

We are very excited to see young talent striding forward to help our fund-raising in the shape of Karen Shore and Neil Cole. They bring with them some sparkling ideas and lots of enthusiasm. The rest of the team include Peter Andrews, Steve and Catherine Morland, David Cole and our treasurer, Ian Bristow.

So what has happened so far? Our first event was a cake stall held in Ripon Market Place. Thanks to the hard work of players and supporters we managed to raise £150. Many people spent lots of time baking and the results were obviously very tempting as we sold all of our wares. Thanks to Peter Andrews for all his organising. At the same time the Northern Regional Committee made a donation to the band following our help with the stage management at this year's contest, making our first mark on the uniform chart at £250.

Our next event was a 'racing' success at the first Harrogate Grand Prix. This event was organised by stewards Steve Morland and David Lancaster, both of whom are Scalextric enthusiasts! The Grand Prix started with qualifying stages before a knockout and final

team event. The whole evening was full of thrills and spills with games galore and even a bookie: "Honest Ian" Bristow. The food was the pits!! That is, food was served in the pits and liquid fuel was available all night, courtesy of Daleside Brewery! The hard work and good crowd meant that close to £200 was raised.

What Next?

Our next venture is very soon and needs your immediate support. On July 10th we are holding an Auction at Harrogate Grammar School and we need your help to find "lots" to auction. To make this a success we are asking people to provide goods or promises to go "under the hammer". We need over 100 items to make this auction attractive to buyers. Please have a look around for unwanted items which others may want, or think of ideas for pledges. Nothing will be wasted, as we will take all remaining items to a Car Boot Sale on the following day: Sunday 11th July. Please contact David Cole (01423 540526) or any other Band Member to arrange collection.

Early August will see our uniform appeal go nation-wide as flugel horn player Jason Harper begins a sponsored cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats. Jason will be supported on this gruelling ride by David Cole and we wish them both every success. If you would like to sponsor Jason please speak to David Cole to make your pledge.

Band member David Pye has offered to hold a Wine and Cheese Party in aid of our funds on Sunday 22nd August at his home in Bilton. Tickets (£5 each) will include fine wines, fine cheeses and fine music supplied by our own

Harrogate Band. Book early to avoid disappointment, and bring your friends to this unique occasion.

Our "Copper Amnesty" is proving to be a big success - the bucket in the bandroom is quickly being filled. Take this opportunity to lighten your pockets of all that loose change, copper or even silver, helping the band in the process. Save it in a jar or box and when it is full, contact any Band Member to add it to the bucket!

The Harrogate Band will present a major Gala Concert in the impressive setting of Ripon Cathedral on Friday 24th September, as the opening event of the Cathedral's Autumn Festival. The programme will include music to suit all tastes and will conclude with a performance of Tchaikovsky's magnificent 1812 Overture. For further details and ticket availability please contact David Lancaster (01765 608211).

If you can help with any of the above fundraising projects your support would be most welcome!

Millennium Dome

Visitors to the Millennium Dome will see life-size photographs of The Harrogate Band in the National Identity Zone representing the important role that brass bands play in Britain's culture. The band was chosen after organisers of the Dome's exhibits wrote to companies throughout the UK requesting suggestions for features they regarded as traditionally British.

Chris Horton, baritone player with the band, works for Sam Smith's Brewery and was one of those contacted. He proposed a brass band and, naturally enough, he mentioned The Harrogate Band as a possible contender. A photo-shoot was arranged in the Sun Pavilion in Harrogate's Valley Gardens to provide the images that will be used in "a multi-dimensional way" in the Dome.

The Band feels honoured to represent the brass band movement and the thousands of

other brass band players throughout the country in the UK's main celebration of the new millennium.

Lecture Recital

On 10 April the Band gave a lecture recital to the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres who were holding their Annual Study Weekend at the University College of Ripon & York St John. David Lancaster presented "*The World of the Brass Band*", a history of the brass band movement illustrated with readings from band members and performances by the band. The lecture was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and band alike. In roughly chronological order, and to illustrate the various styles, technical aspects and range of brass bands, the pieces played were: *Brilliant* - J Ord Hume, *Die Zauberflöte* - Mozart arr. Rimmer, *Labour and Love* - Percy Fletcher, *Elegy (Downland Suite)* - John Ireland, *Star Lake* - Eric Ball, *Elegy (Entertainments)* - Gilbert Vinter, *I Wish I Knew* - Billy Taylor arr Chris Horton, *Ticket to Ride* - Lennon and McCartney arr. Alan Fernie, *Vitae Lux* - F Anaes arr. Aagaard Nilsen, *Land of the Long White Cloud* - Philip Sparke.

Northern Championships

The Northern Region Championships were held at Darlington on Sunday 21 March. There were 53 bands competing for a chance to attend the National Finals in Nottingham in September and the Championship Section Final in London in October. The test piece in the Second Section was *Symphonic Suite* by Leighton Lucas - a very interesting and enjoyable piece to play. The Harrogate Band was pleased and confident in its performance as it left the contest stage and was convinced that it would be placed among the prizewinners, but disappointingly was only awarded 6th place out of the 11 competing bands.

Future Engagements

- 20-Jun-99 Recreation Field, Pateley Bridge (3.00 p.m.)
26-Jun-99 Easingwold March Contest (evening)
4-Jul-99 RAF Menwith Hill – Independence Day (5.00 p.m.)
10-Jul-99 Auction – Harrogate Grammar
11-Jul-99 Nidd Hall Hotel (12.30 p.m.)
25-Jul-99 Recreation Field, Pateley Bridge (3.00 p.m.)
31-Jul-99 Mowbray House – Kirkby Malzeard (evening)
1-Aug-99 Service, Birstwith Show Field (11.00 am)
1-Aug-99 Canal Gardens, Leeds 2.30 pm
22-Aug-99 Wine & Cheese Party (p.m.)
11-Sep-99 St James Church, Boroughbridge (8.00 p.m.)
12-Sep-99 Widnes Open Championships
24-Sep-99 Ripon Cathedral (evening)
21-Nov-99 Northern Open Championships (St Helens)
6-Dec-99 ASDA, Harrogate (6.00 p.m.)
11-Dec-99 ASDA, Harrogate (10.00 a.m.)
24-Dec-99 Oakdale Golf Club (evening)
26-May-00 Visit to GMK, Holland

Concert at St Peter's

Audiences in Harrogate were able to enjoy a feast of band music earlier in the year including a visit to the Royal Hall by the Black Dyke Band; the local school bands in the annual Competitive Music Festival (won this year by Tewit Youth Band); the International Youth Music Festival; and The Harrogate Band, who entertained a large and enthusiastic audience at St. Peter's Church, helping to raise money for the church's organ restoration fund.

The highlights of the band's programme included three excellent soloists: principal cornet Robert Illsley dazzled the audience with his exuberant and stylish rendition of Harry James' *Trumpet Concerto*, David Gall gave a demonstration of virtuoso technique in Monti's *Czardas* and Jason Harper showed off

the lyrical voice of the flugel horn in a haunting arrangement of a Scottish folksong entitled *Mull of the Cool Bens*. Cornet and horn sections were also featured in *Trumpet Blues and Cantabile* and Vivaldi's *Winter* respectively.

The most weighty musical items were provided by Leighton Lucas' fine *Symphonic Suite* which was given a robust and well-shaped performance in anticipation of the forthcoming regional competition and a sprightly overture to Mozart's *Zauberflöte* in William Rimmer's arrangement. The Harrogate Band also included a rare performance of the lovely *Elegy* from Gilbert Vinter's suite *Entertainments* in their programme. The Band was clearly in good form and the acoustics at St Peter's allowed the audience to savour their rich tone.

Since the evening was all about raising money to support the church organ, MD David Lancaster selected Ray Farr's arrangement of Bach's *Toccata in D minor* to conclude the programme.

Scarborough Triumph !

The Band won first prize in all three contests within the First Section at the Yorkshire and Humberside Brass Band Association's Annual Contest in Scarborough on 18th April. It took first place, by a margin of **five points**, in the hymn tune, playing Eric Ball's arrangement of *Jesu Meine Freude*. The march trophy was gained by a sparkling rendition of Eric Ball's march *Star Lake*, and the selection prize, with a convincing lead of three points, was won with another superb rendition of Philip Sparke's *Land of the Long White Cloud*. The day was thoroughly rounded off by the presentation to Musical Director David Lancaster of the "Conductors' Cup" for the conductor of the band gaining the highest aggregate score of the whole day! For those with long-ish memories, you may recall that we last performed this particular hat-trick in 1985 under the baton of Peter Littlewood who, coincidentally, played with us at Scarborough to complete the trombone line up.

Players

Welcome to Jennie Roberts who has joined the Band on Trombone recently. But a sad farewell, for the time being, to Denise Suggitt, who has had to give up the Band to concentrate on her work. We will miss her contribution to the solo cornet line-up and wish her well, hoping to see her back with us in the future.

Come Follow The Harrogate Band

Copies of this recording are available (£10 CD, £5 cassette) from the Band at most engagements, or contact Gavin Holman – see below.

John Hallums' 80th

The recently restored Sun Pavilion in Harrogate provided a suitably spectacular setting in which to celebrate John Hallums' 80th birthday, and The Harrogate Band provided a short programme to begin the evening's entertainment. John is a founder member of the band and has served as chairman and committee member for many years. He continues to dedicate much time and effort in supporting the band and it seemed fitting that so many former players and supporters were in the audience.

The evening also included a presentation to John from the band, and a few well-chosen pieces played by John's four grandchildren, one of whom, Ashley, is a member of Harrogate's training band, The Brass Class. The only note of sadness was that John's wife Joan was unable to be present, having recently undergone a major hip operation.

The band - in relaxed mood and clearly enjoying the occasion - played several light

pieces to get the party under way before demonstrating their skills (!) on the dance floor. Many thanks to John for inviting the band to his special event and for all the support over the last 29 years.

The Brass Class

This continues to develop well and the young players are gaining confidence and skill in their playing. We still seek interested young players and potential players to boost the strength of the Brass Class and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to take part. Instruments, tuition and music are all provided free of charge!

Web Site News

Visitors now exceed 7,500, and it continues to keep the world informed of the Band's activities. The *Internet Bandsman's Everything Within*, which forms part of the website, now consists of over 1,500 contacts and links to brass bands and organisations around the world together with various reference articles, humour, and the definitive brass band bibliography.

www.harrogate.co.uk/harrogate-band/

Keeping in touch

If you have any news or information you would like to see in future issues, please let the Editor know.

Also if you know of anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please give their details to any Band member.



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