

International Band Parade No. II

BLACKHALL COLLIERY BAND

Presidents: A. Allen, Esq. and J. Everitt, Esq.; Musical Director: W. F. Buckley, Esq.; Manager: R. Jacobs, Esq.;
 Personnel: G. Slater, J. Featherstone, F. Marsden, J. Caswell, A. Cooper, —, Barker, —, Straugham, W. Gregory, W.
 Beddell, R. Cartwright, D. Cooper, L. Saunders, W. Hall, G. Gregory, F. Graham, D. Winning, D. Raine, I. Lee, H.
 Teasdale, W. F. Buckley (Bandmaster), R. Jacobs (Secretary), J. Jones, T. Burrell, T. Tunney, J. Tatters.

Formed over 50 years ago as the Blackhall Original Band, the band had to overcome many difficulties, however, in 1927 a new management took over as the Blackhall Colliery Band.

This was the opening to an era of success. Mr. Wilf Dawson was appointed bandmaster, he had had wide experience with St. Hildas, Carlton Main and Willington.

Mr. Noel Thorpe became the band professional coach and under his guidance they became famous throughout the country as a contest and concert band.

The services of several players were lost during the second world war, but in 1945 they won the First Northern Area Contest. On the retirement of Mr.

Dawson, in 1946, Mr. Harold Laycock took over; in 1949 Mr. Noel Thorpe returned, but he left in 1951. After a short period under Mr. G. Jacobs the band appointed their present M.D., Mr. W. Buckley. Unfortunately he had to withdraw for a period because of ill-health, but since his return in 1964 the band have made much progress. During Mr. Buckley's first period in office the band won the Belle Vue Grand Shield Contest and qualified for invitation to the famous September Festival.

During their history the band have broadcast on over 150 occasions and as Mr. W. Gregory is training a youth class the future should be assured.