

BAND PARADE No. 4**B.M.C. BAND**

President: Sir George Harriman, C.B.E.; Musical Director: H. Mortimer, O.B.E.; Bandmaster: C. J. Edmunds; Band Manager: T. F. Morcombe; Members: G. Davies, A. Sutherland, D. Jenkins, J. Howells, J. Noall, R. Cutting, M. Holmes, T. Brotherhood, F. Campbell, J. Pickering, H. Simpson, I. Parker, B. Thompson, D. Williams, M. Platts, G. Morgan, J. Parker, P. Mayhew, C. Jones, D. Eggleshaw, S. Ferguson, R. Wassell, M. Hughes, D. Baxter, C. Bell, G. Newlands, J. Nicholls.

In 1924 a group of musically minded employees of Morris Motors Ltd., of Cowley, formed a band.

In those days, the repertoire consisted of ten items, but today the band have an impressive library of some 1,600 musical works.

Originally formed for recreation purposes, as part of the extensive welfare organisation which is provided by the management of Morris Motors Limited, the band soon felt the competitive urge.

Intensive training brought its reward, prizes in many parts of the country were taken, and this phase ended with the winning of the Crystal Palace Grand Shield in 1931, this lifting the band to the premier section of the band world.

In 1945 Mr. Harry Mortimer, O.B.E., the world famed brass band expert, was called in to direct operations, and very soon his expert guidance proved successful.

The band entered its first contest under him in 1946, winning the first two prizes.

In 1947 in the London and Southern Counties Area Contest for the National Championships, third prize was secured and 1948 found Morris Motors champions of the area.

This coveted title was successfully defended in the 1949 Area Championships, since then the band has had many area successes and 1955 again found them Southern

Area Champions and qualifying for the All Britain Finals.

By retaining the Area Championship Title in 1956 and 1957 they secured their ambition of performing the "Hat Trick" and 1958 found the band placed fourth in order of merit at the "Daily Herald" All Britain Finals, held in London. The Southern Area Championship was successfully defended in 1959/61/62/64/65 and confirmed their reputation of being one of Britain's leading bands.

The Brass Quartet Championship and the Solo Championship of Great Britain are organised by the band and are recognised as two of the major contests held in the country.

During its 41 years the band have made regular broadcasts and performed at many types of entertainment — music halls, park concerts, film production, recording and international folk dancing and also television appearances.

The band are also members of the now famous "Men o' Brass," a massed unit comprising the Fairey Band from Stockport, Foden's from Sandbach, Cheshire, and the BMC Band.

West of England Champions, Bugle, Cornwall, 1960; Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1961; Northern Ireland, 1962; Holland, 1964; Denmark and Sweden, 1964; Switzerland, 1965.