

CHESTERFIELD TEMPERANCE PRIZE BAND.

In the year 1891 some half-dozen working men decided to try and start a brass band in Chesterfield on strictly temperance principles. Notwithstanding the fact that there were already two bands in the town, the difficulties were overcome and a band of twenty men was formed on November 29th, 1891. A set of Messrs. Higham's instruments was ordered and every man signed an agreement to pay for his own instrument. The next difficulty was the learning to play, as only two of the members knew anything about brass instrument playing. However they were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. J. G. Wood (the present bandmaster), who spent considerable time and patience in learning the men. The result soon showed that the choice was a wise one, Mr. Wood being determined that whatever was done should be done thoroughly.

During the first three years of its existence the band had many changes in its members, but nevertheless continued to make good headway. The first professional conductor they had was Mr. Colin Thom, of Sheffield, and during the time they were under his baton they made good progress and attended three or four contests, though without success.

About this time (1896) the band decided that if they were to go on contesting they would have to buy a new set of instruments and after several meetings being held it was finally decided to buy a complete set of Messrs. Boosey and Co.'s first class silver-plated compensating instruments at a cost of about £390. Soon after receiving the instruments they were approached by the officers of the "A" Company 2nd Vol. Battalion Sherwood Foresters as to their becoming the Volunteer Band, and an agreement was made by which the band derived considerable financial help. They hope by the end of 1899 to clear off the debt remaining on the instruments.

Mr. Charles Elsom at this time took over the band, and with Mr. Gladney's arrangement of "Meyerbeer's Works" attended a few contests and won several prizes.

The band continued contesting with "Meyerbeer" until the end of 1897, when it was decided to buy "Rossini's Works" from A. Owen, Esq. Some unpleasantness occurred amongst the members after this, the result being that the Solo Cornet, Solo Euph., Tenor Horn, and Drummer resigned.

At first, this seemed a serious drawback, but the committee soon filled up their places, and with Mr. C. Elsom were soon hard at work with "Rossini." The record with "Rossini" speaks for itself and every credit is due to the Bandmaster, Mr. J. C. Wood, also the individual members for the results accomplished.

LIST OF PRIZES WON.

1896.		
Date.	Contest.	Prize.
June 20th	Pleasley	3rd
July 4th	Barrow Hill	3rd
July 18th	Ripley	2nd
Aug. 8th	Lea Mills	4th
Aug. 22nd	Whittington Moor	4th
1897.		
May 1st	Alfreton	2nd
May 8th	Codnor	3rd
July 12th	Alfreton (Class 1)	div. 2nd & 3rd
July 12th	Alfreton (Class 2)	3rd

July 19th	Ripley	3rd
Aug. 9th	Whittington	4th
Sept. 18th	Hucknall	3rd
Sept. 18th	Hucknall (March)	1st

1898.

May 7th	Codnor	4th
May 7th	Codnor (March)	2nd
May 7th	East Kirkby	2nd
May 7th	East Kirkby (March)	2nd
July 30th	Belper	1st
Aug. 13th	Eckington	1st
Aug. 13th	Eckington (March)	1st
	(Also Euphonium Medal.)	
Aug. 20th	Woodhouse	1st
Aug. 20th	Woodhouse (March)	2nd
	(Gold Medal for Euphonium and Silver Watch for Trombone.)	
Aug. 27th	Mansfield	1st
Nov. 5th	Sheffield	4th

1899.

April 1st	Kippax	1st
April 3rd	Colwick	6th
May 22nd	Nottingham	4th
June 17th	Pleasley	4th
June 24th	Cawthorne	3rd
June 24th	Cawthorne (March)	1st
July 1st	Alfreton	1st
July 1st	Alfreton (March)	2nd
July 8th	Alvaston	3rd
Aug. 5th	Bolsover	1st
Aug. 5th	Bolsover (March)	2nd
Aug. 26th	Buxton	2nd
Aug. 26th	Buxton (March)	1st

Appended are Mr. J. Walker's remarks at Kippax Contest, April 1st, 1899:—

"No. 9 Band (Chesterfield Borough Temperance; conductor, Mr. C. Elsom; selection, "Rossini's Works.")—Maes.: Splendid opening and Tromb. very good. Allo. Cor. Brio.: Here we have an excellent example of ensemble playing, attack, precision, and tune being of a high order. Recit.: Cor. gives an excellent declamation, and shots by band were exact. Andtno. (Quartette): Horns good, and the whole in good sympathy; from letter D every man is working hard, and the result is excellent. Vivace: Another excellent movement. Allo. Recit.: Euph. gives a good account of this section, and band is in good hands. Andtno.: Tromb. proves himself a capable artist, everything being done in good style. Sop. also does good work; Cad. by Tromb. good. Allegro.: This movement receives good attention, and though Sop. is hardly up to previous form, he does fairly well; closing bars very good. Adagio: Band now very nice, and Cor. artistic. Allo.: Everything continues in excellent style. Andte.: Very good. Largo: Soloists in this section are each giving an excellent account, and the Accompts. are carefully rendered. Recit.: Trom. again well to the front, but has a slip. Mod.: Good throughout; Sop. and Horn are in good tune, and move well together; Euph. Cad. very nice indeed. Andtno.: Euph. commences well, and Cor. again very good; Accompts. are splendid. The repeat strain was excellently given by Cor. and Euph.; Duo Cad. splendid. Vivace: Opens clear, and the attack is very precise all through. Cors. and Bases at stringendo were capital, and closing bars were excellent. A very fine performance.— (First prize)."