

HANDSWORTH WOODHOUSE PRIZE BAND.

The present band was re-formed in the year 1872 under the leadership of Mr. William Cook (deceased), the present bandmaster's father.

In 1879 the baton was handed over to the present bandmaster, Mr. J. W. Cook. The band struggled on, making no headway, only as a small village band, eight players and the drum being considered a good muster in those days.

The committee bought a few old instruments to enable a few young hands to join, and after this things seemed to brighten up a bit as the population increased.

In 1888 the band resolved to try their hands at contesting, going to three contests with this old set of mixed instruments but failing to score. However, getting a little encouragement from the judge's remarks they decided to have a new set of instruments and in 1889 they procured a set of Silvani and Smith's Class A instruments, and shortly afterwards the band secured a first prize at Eckington, which seemed to liven the band up, every member sticking to practice. In 1890 they got a new uniform from Harry Wilson, of Leeds, also engaged the professional services of Mr. Fenton Renshaw, of Brockholes, and the band has never looked back since, as the following record will prove.

1889.

Date.	Contest.	Prize.	Conductor.
Dec. 14th	Eckington	1st	J. W. Cook

1891.

June 6th	Rotherham	3rd	F. Renshaw
June 13th	Wharnccliffe	2nd	F. Renshaw
July 6th	Sheffield div. 3rd & 4th		F. Renshaw

1892.

May 9th	Shelley	5th	F. Renshaw
May 28th	Hennor	2nd	F. Renshaw
June 7th	Wadsley Bridge	1st	F. Renshaw
June 7th	Wadsley Bridge	1st	F. Renshaw
June 12th	Castleford	5th	F. Renshaw
June 19th	Mexbro'	5th	F. Renshaw
June 28th	Eckington	4th	F. Renshaw
July 4th	Sheffield div. 2nd & 3rd		F. Renshaw
Aug. 13th	Lincoln	2nd	F. Renshaw
Aug. 27th	Hull	5th	F. Renshaw

Was awarded 1st at Lincoln, but the judge, Mr. Asch, altered his decision.

After this the band encountered great difficulties, it taking the committee all their time to keep the band together. They did no contesting in 1893-4 and 5, but in 1896 they tried their luck again.

1896.

May 23rd	Woodhouse	1st	J. W. Cook
May 23rd	Woodhouse	1st	do.
June 20th	Pleasley	2nd	do.
	Also Solo Cornet Medal.		
June 27th	Whittington	4th	do.
June 27th	Whittington	div. 2nd	do.
July 4th	Barrow Hill	1st	do.
Aug. 29th	Cotmanhay div. 3rd & 4th		do.

1897.

May 1st	Alfreton	1st	do.
	Also Soprano and Horn Medals.		
May 15th	Pleasley	3rd	do.
	Also Silver Medal.		
June 2nd	Matlock	2nd	do.
Aug. 7th	Lincoln	div. 3rd & 4th	do.

1898.

May 7th	Codnor	1st	do.
May 7th	Codnor	3rd	do.
June 14th	Alfreton	3rd	do.
Aug. 6th	Chapelton	1st	do.
Aug. 6th	Chapelton	2nd	do.
	Also Solo Cornet Medal.		
Aug. 22nd	Gleadless	2nd	do.
Aug. 22nd	Gleadless	2nd	do.
Aug. 27th	Mansfield	2nd	do.
Nov. 5th	Sheffield	Nil	do.

1899.

May 6th	Skelmanthorpe	Nil	do.
May 20th	Stocksbridge	3rd	do.
June 24th	Lincoln	div. 5th	do.
	Also Solo Cornet Medal.		
July 22nd	Matlock	1st	do.
July 22nd	Matlock (March)	1st	do.
	Also Euphonium Medal.		
July 27th	Grimsby	div. 5th	do.

Total number of prizes, 39 and 7 gold and silver medals. Played 13 different selections under 22 different judges. At the close of 1898 the band got a complete set of Besson's Prototype silver-plated instruments, which are proving very satisfactory. The band has had a good run of engagements for the past few years and has received lots of testimonials, which, however, we have not space to print.

The band consists of 30 playing members, all of whom are working hard at the "Cornet" Journal for 1900 under the esteemed and able instruction of their bandmaster, Mr. J. W. Cook, and hope to prove themselves still more successful during the forthcoming year.