

HUCKNALL TEMPERANCE BAND.

The Hucknall Temperance Band was started some 12 years ago by a few young men attending the Butler's Hill Primitive Methodist Chapel, Hucknall Torkard. The chapel was their practice-room, and the first members were S. Haslam, J. Wardall, S. Austin, H. Dobson, J. Shepherd, E. Berrington, J. Bettinson, W. Cook, and W. Spewage. Of these J. Wardall (solo horn) is the only one now remaining with the band; Cook is connected with a band in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.; Dobson is a professional singer; Austin is a member of the choir at the chapel, and the rest have retired from music.

The new band scouted the services of Mr. S. Taylor as teacher, and he has been their conductor ever since. The members worked together agreeably and enthusiastically, and soon were able to fulfil engagements satisfactorily. Their first engagement was at a great Band of Hope demonstration at Nottingham Arboretum, on Whit Monday, 1884.

After 2 or 3 years' practice and a good many changes in membership, they decided to try a little contesting. The first attempt was at a quartette contest in Nottingham in 1887, and they were awarded 2nd prize. In the following summer they took part in their first full-band contest, at Eastwood, and were unsuccessful. At their next venture the same year at Derby they secured first prize amongst 10 competing bands. Since then they have been very fortunate, as in all the full-band contests they have attended they have not returned empty-handed more than 5 times. They have also done well at quartette contests, several times winning more than one prize, and at one at Radford they took 1st and 3rd in quartette, and 1st in duet contest in one night, and in another at Arnold they secured 1st and 2nd in quartette.

Their prizes of all kinds number over 100, and the results of this year's full band contests are:—

Sheffield	“Verdi”	1st
Heanor	“Martha”	1st
Heanor	Quickstep	2nd
Hathersn	“Torquato Tasso”	3rd
Hathersn	“Martha”	4th
Belper	“Martha”	1st
	And special for Euph.	
Shottle	“Martha”	1st
Derby	“Torquato Tasso”	3rd
Denby	Quickstep	1st
Hucknall	“Torquato Tasso”	1st
Hucknall	Valse	2nd
Belle Vue (July)	“Hymn of Praise”	2nd
Wirksworth	“Torquato Tasso”	
	divide 1st and 2nd	
St. George's	“Torquato Tasso”	2nd
St. George's	Quickstep	3rd
Wednesbury	“Torquato Tasso”	2nd
Wednesbury	Quickstep	2nd
Long Eaton	“Lohengrin”	1st

Not a bad record for one season for a bona-fide amateur band composed entirely of working men, mostly miners, and not a paid man amongst them.

The band have not confined themselves to local contests as so few are held in Nottinghamshire, but their prizes have been won in the counties of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Rutland, Stafford, Shropshire, Yorkshire, and Lancashire.

Of course the band think most of winning the 2nd prize at Belle Vue last July, at their first

appearance there, and the last remark of the judge on their performance was “But for a slip by Cornet in Andante this band would have been placed higher,” showing how near they came to being first.

For the last 3 or 4 years Mr. Gladney has been their professional instructor, and very great benefit they have derived from his teaching. They use a set of Boosey's Compensating instruments, and are about having them electro-plated. They have a very good uniform which cost over £100. Everything is paid for and they have a balance at the bank of 40 or 50 pounds to their credit.

This is undoubtedly a critical time for the band, because having made such a good name the men are offered inducements to go to other bands by unscrupulous persons who can not make a band of their own. However, the spirit of loyalty and unity is so strong in the Hucknall band that before another year is out the band and their bandmaster will be better known in the musical world than they have ever been before and will have added many more prizes and much more honour to their already famous name.

The present members are as follows:—

Soprano, S. Kerry	1st Baritone, A. Wardall
Solo Cornet, S. Bamford	2nd Baritone, T. Holden
Solo Cornet, J. Butler	1st Trombone, J. Salt
Solo Cornet, J. Stevenson	2nd Trombone, A. Edwards
Flapiano, T. White	Bass Trombone, E. Tye
Flugel Horn, H. Brown	Solo Euphonium, E. Kerry
2nd Cornet, R. Briggs	2nd Euphonium, T. Twine
2nd Cornet, J. Ward	Eb Bass, T. Allsop
3rd Cornet, C. White	Eb Bass, W. Russell
3rd Cornet, W. Wright	Bb Bass, W. Hardstaff
Solo Horn, J. Wardall	Bbb Bass, W. Holland
2nd Horn, R. Butler	Drum, R. Humphreys
3rd Horn, W. Wilmott	

MR. S. TAYLOR,

BANDMASTER, HUCKNALL TEMPERANCE.

Mr. S. Taylor was born at Hucknall Torkard in the county of Nottingham, in 1854, and early in life showed a liking for music. His experience and judgment have no doubt had very much to do with the splendid success of the Hucknall band. He has always opposed paid members, and all the men in his band are exactly on equal terms. He holds that it is better to spend money in teaching the men you have than to spend it in hiring players. He believes in real bona-fide amateur contests and probably no other bandmaster working on similar lines has ever had so much success.

Mr. Taylor is an earnest musician and an ardent contestor. He is probably the least excitable of any bandmaster in the contesting movement, and he is never seen to be either unduly elated or depressed at the decision of the judges. He always holds that it would be better to go to a contest and fail than not to go at all. He does not look on band contests as simply a means of showing which band can play best, but thinks the primary object is in making all the bands play better. He is a great advocate of association, and thinks judges should be registered and selected from men who have proved their worth.

He is a strict disciplinarian and very independent spirited, but outside the band stand as free as any of the men. Probably no other band and their bandmaster are more thoroughly devoted to each other, and certainly no other bandmaster has had more success with men of their own training than has Mr. Taylor.