

# KETTERING RIFLE BAND.

The above band was established as a Volunteer Brass Band in 1868, under the bandmastership of Mr. Jas. Mobbs, having previously existed for a long time under the name of "Mobbs' Band."

In 1872, under the direction of Mr. George Mobbs, reeds were added, and existed as such when Mr. L. W. Foster, the fine cornet player of the band, took the baton in 1877.

From that time the band had a desire for contesting, and attended several local contests with fair results.

The eventful period in the band's career began in 1883, by their promoting a brass band contest, open to all England.

This was so successful and so highly appreciated by the public, that the committee resolved to turn the band into brass once again, and purchased from Messrs. Besson & Co. a set of their 1st class instruments.

The contests were continued for four years and were the means of stimulating the bands of the Midlands (more especially Northamptonshire) to a higher standard of efficiency, with what result is well known to the brass band world.

Great credit is due to the committee and band at this time for being the pioneers of this advancement, and they were much indebted to the ready ability and energy of Mr. Allen Bamford, their well-known and respected secretary at this period, for his hard-working endeavours in bringing them success.



up his abode at Kettering, as conductor of the Rifle Band.

The band now made good progress, in spite of great difficulties, many players leaving at this time.

However, Mr. W. Seddon buckled to and in a short time raised the band to a high musical state of efficiency. He was a model bandmaster, and endeared himself to all he came in contact with, and many were the regrets on his leaving the town in 1886, though the band were justly proud of being connected with one who was selected to fill the important office of Editor of the *Brass Band News*.

Having found the Seddon family so satisfactory, the committee used all endeavour to induce Mr. T. Seddon (the brother of the above), who had succeeded him in Lancashire, to also come to Kettering in the same capacity. In this they were successful and have cause for congratulation that their choice was so well made.

The band, being composed chiefly of young players, kept steadily at work, and, to keep pace with the times arranged for professional tuition from the famous teacher of Brass Bands, Mr. A. Owen.

As a programme playing band, few amateur brass bands have achieved more success. Their repertoire of music is very extensive, so much so that they have been known to play two programmes each day for a whole week, giving an entirely fresh programme at each performance.

Their engagements have been and are, very numerous, and are chiefly of a high order, including one week at the Agricultural Hall, London; several series of weeks at the People's Palace, East London, including the occasion of the Coopers' Exhibition, and before the Lord Mayor and Princess Frederica of Hanover.

They have also been engaged for a week each at Liverpool, Leicester and York Exhibitions.

Besides their weekly engagements they have attended at a large number of places for 1, 2 and 3 days, including Reading, Ipswich, Peterboro', Luton, and Hull; the latter place having been visited by the band annually for the last four years. Their reputation is so well established here that wherever they go, crowded audiences are invariably present.

Their indoor programme consists of solos, duets, trios, quartettes and septets, which, test their individual capacity and prove the all round abilities of the bandmen.

The band in 1892 were successful in winning at contests, — three firsts, one second, one third, and one fourth prizes, besides the County Champion Cup (Stanion Contest) and 24 Silver Medals, making a total value of £100.

We now come to 1893, which has been a year of extraordinary success and one that will ever be remembered with pride and satisfaction by the band, its committee and its numerous well-wishers.

During the season they attended eight contests, winning 10 first prizes and 1 second, besides the Championship of the County and 25 gold medals (Stanion contest.) A detailed list of prizes won in 1893 appears below, which forms a splendid record, a record worthy of any band, and which indisputably justifies the adoption of the proud title "Champion Band of the Midlands."

The band consider themselves very fortunate in having had the assistance of Mr. A. Owen, to whom they are grateful for his able tuition and for the care and interest he has taken to bring the band to its present state of efficiency. We must not close our remarks without a word about the working committee of the band.

They have always the welfare of the band



In 1884 Mr. L. W. Foster resigned, and as a result of the connection from the 1883 contest, in which Irwell Band took first prize, Mr. W. Seddon, the Irwell Band's bandmaster, was induced to leave Lancashire and to take

at heart and are determined that all shall be done in the future to make 1893 the standard for further successes.

The business officials are — Mr. W. H. Parker, chairman of the Committee; secretary, Mr. H. G. Martin; collector, Mr. H. Bailey; treasurer and financial secretary, Mr. Allen Bamford.

The following is a list of the members of the band:—

Solo Cornet and Bandmaster, Mr. T. Seddon.			
Soprano.....	M. E. Foster	1st Baritone.....	A. York
olo Cornet.....	F. Tingle	2nd ".....	W. Martin
".....	K. Mayes	Euphonium.....	G. York
Replano.....	H. Martin	Bass ".....	D. Burditt
".....	L. Smith	Solo Trombone.....	W. G. Hoare
Flugel Horn.....	W. Ferriss	2nd ".....	E. Miller
Cornet.....	S. Davis	Bass ".....	A. Berwick
".....	H. Munns	Eb Bass.....	F. W. Tingle
Flugel Horn.....	W. Hill	Eb ".....	B. Pearson
Solo Horn.....	F. York	Bb ".....	F. Martin
1st ".....	B. Pearson	BBb ".....	W. Morris
2nd ".....	W. Machneas	Drummers.....	Messrs.
			Bailey and Smith

## MR. T. SEDDON,

### BANDMASTER, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. T. Seddon, as his portrait shows, is by no means an old man—though he is old in experience. He was born on the 29th September 1862, and commenced his career as a musician in 1870, in the Ringley Church School Band, a little village six miles from Manchester. With this band he commenced as third cornet and ultimately worked his way up until, at the age of seventeen, he was engaged as conductor of the band. From thence his contesting career dates.—He had also in hand at this time St. Steven's Band, Kearsley, Radcliffe Old, and Irwell Bank. Playing with these bands, he was constantly under the baton of Messrs. Owen, Gladney and Swift and from their able tuition gained a thorough knowledge of brass band training.

In 1886, after playing in a solo cornet competition under the adjudication of Mr. Charles Godfrey, Mr. Seddon was offered the position of solo cornet in the Royal Horse Guards (Blue) and after passing all necessary examinations and settling down to a soldier's life, he was induced to take up the Kettering Rifles, as successor to his elder brother. Mr. Seddon, as a soloist, has won several prizes, and as an oratorial trumpeter he is widely known in the Midland Counties. For his rendering of trumpet solos he has been the recipient of several handsome gifts from his numerous admirers, including a beautiful slide trumpet from H. Surturis, Esq. Mr. Seddon has had a vast orchestral experience and is the conductor of the Kettering Orchestral Band. As a composer and arranger of brass and string band music he is well known, as his compositions have been published in several Brass Band Journals.

## MR. W. E. FOSTER,

### SOPRANO, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. W. E. Foster commenced his playing career in the Rifles Band, some 3 years ago, on the cornet. Last season he was asked to take the soprano, and he has largely contributed to the band's success by his rendering of the soprano solos in the various test-pieces and other selections of last season. He is 18 years of age and began playing the cornet at the age of seven, under his father's supervision. His father, Mr. William Foster, was at that time a prominent player in the band, and is now a very active member of the band committee, and justly proud of his son's success as a soprano player.

## MR. FRED TINGLE,

### SOLO CORNET, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. Fred Tingle is a very promising player, possessing a beautiful rich full tone, and true artistic expression. He began his career as a boy, under Mr. Seddon. As yet he has only achieved a success common to the band, but possesses the qualifications for the making up a very fine cornet player. He has, moreover, youth on his side, being only 24 years of age. Mr. Tingle is also solo cornet to the Victoria Theatre orchestra, and, if spared, has without doubt a most successful future before him.

## MR. FRANK YORK,

### SOLO HORN, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. Frank York possesses a good taste for music, and is a very fine performer on his instrument. He is 19 years of age, and has been three years a member of the Rifle Band. Being quite a young man, great hopes are entertained for Frank's future as a horn soloist. He also inherits the good qualities of the York family in general, as being a good bandsman and a true lover of brass band music.

## MR. ARTHUR YORK,

### SOLO BARITONE, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. Arthur York completes the trio of York Brothers at present in the band. He is no less clever than his elder brethren. He has only been playing Solo Baritone for twelve months, but he has proved himself a splendid performer, and has in him the making of an exceptional musician. The closing remarks respecting his elder brothers are also applicable to Arthur. They are altogether a splendid band of brothers.

## MR. GEORGE YORK.

### SOLO EUPHONIUM, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. George York commenced his musical career with the Rifle Band in 1883, as third horn player. On Mr. Seddon taking up the band, he quickly saw in Mr. York a soloist of rare quality, and did not hesitate to put him at once on solo euphonium, in which capacity he has held his own in competition against all comers in the Midlands. As a bandsman we cannot speak too highly of him. He is a constant and punctual attendant at all rehearsals, always to the front in band work and using every earnest endeavour to further the Band's interests, musically and financially. He is 27 years of age, and a worthy member of one of the most musical families in Kettering.

## MR. W. G. HOARE,

### SOLO TROMBONE, KETTERING RIFLES.

Mr. W. G. Hoare was born at Runcorn Gap, Cheshire, on the 20th June, 1855, being now 38 years of age. As a musician, Mr. Hoare has had a most brilliant career, having as a boy been engaged as solo treble in the Roman Catholic Church at Stockport. Ultimately he took up the cornet, and after spending some little time under the skilful cornetist, Mr. George Dodd, he joined the Stockport R.V. Band as assistant solo cornet

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player. From thence he made his way into Yorkshire, joining Oates Ingham's Military Band. From this band he went to the famous Black Dike, as a member of the Junior Band, and was also drummer to the first-named (Mr. Hoare is a splendid drummer.) From thence Mr. Hoare journeyed to Saltaire and played 1st flugel with that, their most famous band. Leaving Saltaire he decided to go abroad, and after spending many years at the Cape he returned to England in 1884, and took up his quarters at Farnworth, Lancashire, joining Barnes Band as soprano player, and later on went to Rochdale Borough Band as solo horn. At this time he secured the appointment of conductor and solo cornet to the Heywood Borough and Heptonstall Bands, and with these he soon made headway and gained the good will of all the members and numerous friends in Heptonstall and district. He, however, returned again to Heywood and joined the Rifle Band as solo trombone player.

From that time commences Mr. Hoare's career as a trombone soloist, and one that will compare favourably with any other trombone player we know of: he has rightly been named the "Trombone Virtuoso." From first taking up the trombone he was eagerly sought after by most prominent contesting bands. He left Heywood for Glossop, and from there went to the once famous Leeds Forge Band, with which band he played during their remarkably successful but short career, and to Mr. Hoare's ability as a soloist, a large portion of their success was due. On this band being broken up, Mr. Hoare was induced to take up his quarters in Kettering

and from that time—with the exception of a few months' engagement with Mr. Amers' Royal Exhibition Band at Newcastle—he has remained as solo trombone. As a concert soloist he is a grand feature, and is in constant demand for concerts, oratorios, &c. Mr. Hoare possesses all the good qualities essential to a good player and teacher of brass bands, and is a master hand with the pen—both as arranger and scorer—for any combination of instruments.

## THE BAND IN GENERAL.

In singling out the soloists of this band for special notice, it is not intended to show that they constitute the whole band.—In looking over a few judges' remarks we find one notable judge—in commenting on the band's performances, says "Not only good soloists, but an allround band of artistes."—This is in a great measure true, for from solo cornet to third cornet, each is capable of playing solo parts. The horns, baritones, trombones, &c., may be reversed in position, and each man would creditably play his part. The execution powers of the basses are a rare feature of the band and always call for special comment from contest judges. As a body of men, we have seldom met with their equals in a brass band. Their gentlemanly bearing, discipline and general conduct when in the executive of duty or private engagements, is truly an example of what an amateur brass band should be; and they are constant recipients of testimonials from their musical patrons, bearing out the above statements.

## LIST OF PRIZES FOR 1893.

DATE.	PLACE.	PRIZE.	JUDGE.	£. s. d.
May 13	Burton	First	J. Barker	19 19 0
" 27	Rothwell	First	T. Wheelwright	15 10 0
		Second (Quickstep)		
June 10	Rushden	First	J. Alnsworth	22 1 0
July 3	Kettering	First	R. Stead	20 19 0
		First		
" 4	Stanion	First } 25 Gold Medals	H. Lees	44 15 0
		First }		
" 6	Aylesbury	First	H. Lees	22 10 0
Sept. 4	Belle Vue	Nil		
" 11	Wednesbury	First	T. Wheelwright	16 0 0
		First		
Total ...				£161 14 0