

# LINTHWAITE BRASS BAND.

The name of "Linthwaite" is a household one throughout brass band circles. For many years Linthwaite occupied a foremost place among the "crack" bands of the country, and when we say that it has won nearly £4,000 in prizes during its career, our readers will see that this combination has indisputably asserted its claims to be reckoned in the front rank.

But like many other bands Linthwaite, from various causes, eventually degenerated, as did its distinguished neighbour, Meltham. Evil days came, and the band sank low down on the ladder of fame, losing many prominent members, and suffering pecuniarily, until it (musically speaking) resembled only the ghost of its former glorious self.

However, during the past 4 or 5 years we are glad to say that the band has made wonderful advancement, and at the present time bids fair to ere long regain its former prestige and proficiency.

Up to 1891 the headquarters of the band had been at Linthwaite, but through lack of funds and other causes they called a public meeting in November, 1891, at which it was decided to remove the band to Milnsbridge. At this meeting an Independent Committee was elected, with Mr. Jas. W. Sykes as President, Mr. Sam Taylor Treasurer, and Mr. B. Holroyd Hon. Sec. These officials at once set to work to raise the band to its former position, and to their exertions must be ascribed to a great extent its increasing success. A word of praise must also be given to the bandmaster, Mr. Fred Swift, who has also done splendid work for the band.

## PRIZES WON BY LINTHWAITE BAND from 1890 to 1895.

### 1890.

Date.	Place and Prize.	£	s.	d.
May 10th	Elland 4th	3	0	0
May 10th	Batley, div. 2nd and 3rd	4	4	0
	Soprano	8	8	0
May 17th	Dewsbury 4th	4	0	0
May 27th	Huddersfield 2nd	10	0	0
May 30th	New Hey (Quickstep)	1	0	0
June 29th	Edinburgh 5th	10	0	0
July 5th	Leeds Forge 4th	6	0	0
July 21st	Kidsgrove 4th	5	0	0
	Quickstep 1st	3	0	0
Aug. 2nd	Wyke 4th	5	0	0
	Trombone	6	6	0
Sept.	Belle Vue 5th	10	0	0
	Gold Medal	3	3	0

### 1891

Sept.	Belle Vue 6th	5	0	0
	Gold Medal	3	0	0

### 1892.

June 7th	Huddersfield 3rd	5	0	0
June 28th	Lindley 3rd	6	0	0
July 30th	Morley 3rd	4	0	0

### 1893.

May 23rd	Huddersfield 4th	3	0	0
July 29th	Queensbury 5th	2	0	0
Aug. 19th	Luddenden Foot 1st	10	0	0
	Cornet	9	9	0
	1st Quickstep	1	0	0

### 1894.

May 5th	Wyke 1st	12	0	0
	3rd Quickstep	10	0	0
May 15th	Huddersfield 1st	15	0	0
June 9th	Denby Dale 1st	10	0	0
	2nd Quickstep	10	0	0
June 30th	Thurstone 1st	12	0	0
	2nd Quickstep	1	0	0
June 16th	Mossley 1st	12	0	0
	2nd Quickstep	1	0	0
July 14th	Queensbury 1st	15	0	0
	Cornet	11	11	0
	Medal for best Euphonium	1	1	0
	1st Quickstep	1	10	0
July 28th	Low Moor 1st	12	0	0
	1st Quickstep	1	0	0

Aug. 4th	Lindley 1st	12	0	0
	Tenor Horn	9	9	0
Aug. 4th	Dewsbury 1st	12	0	0
	1st Quickstep	2	0	0
Aug. 11th	Crompton 2nd	8	0	0

### 1895

April 13th	Colne 3rd	6	0	0
	Soprano	8	8	0
	1st Quickstep	2	0	0
April 15th	Carlisle, div. 2nd and 3rd	15	0	0
April 27th	Batley 1st	12	0	0
	Medals for best Cornet and Eup.	2	2	0
May 11th	Frosterley 1st	21	0	0
June 4th	Huddersfield 1st	15	0	0
June 15th	London 3rd	20	0	3
	Trombone	13	13	0
	Medal	3	3	0
June 27th	Boston 1st	25	0	0
June 29th	Murton Colliery 2nd	12	0	0
	2nd Quickstep	1	10	0
Aug. 3rd	Sadleworth, div. 1st and 2nd	10	0	0
	2nd Quickstep	15	0	0
Oct. 26th	Leeds 1st and 1st Quickstep	39	19	0

## MR. FRED SWIFT,

### BANDMASTER, LINTHWAITE BAND

Mr. Fred Swift was born in 1871, and is the eldest son of Mr. Edwin Swift. He commenced to play with Lindley Band in 1884, and joined Linthwaite in 1890, being appointed Bandmaster in 1891, on the retirement of Mr. John Beaumont. In 1893 he was also appointed Bandmaster of Wyke Temperance, winning 7 firsts, 5 seconds and 3 thirds with that band. He returned to Linthwaite in the following year (1894) and during the season they won 12 firsts, 4 seconds, and 1 third, including quicksteps. This year (1895) the band has won 7 firsts, 4 seconds, and 2 third prizes. Mr. F. Swift has two more bands under his charge besides Linthwaite. He was appointed judge at Rushden contest in 1894, giving entire satisfaction.

He is a thorough musician, and greatly respected by band and committee. Mr. F. Swift's abilities as a conductor are exceptional and he is a worthy son of his worthy father. Linthwaite Band recently gave a concert in the district and a local paper in reporting the event eulogised Mr. F. Swift in the following manner:—"Nothing could be said against the conducting of Mr. F. Swift, but, on the contrary, the one word 'admirable' only could be applied to his most painstaking work. He seems to have the band well in hand, and gives the beat in a clear and precise manner. The performers and himself understand each other, and work together with that harmony and confidence which ought to be felt between a band and their conductor to make the performance a success."

## MR. HENRY OLDHAM,

### SOLO HORN, LINTHWAITE BAND.

Mr. Henry Oldham was born at Crossland Moor, Lockwood, in 1851, and shortly after his birth his parents removed to Linthwaite. He commenced to learn the cornet in 1869, changing eventually to the tenor horn. Making rapid headway, he was soon promoted to the position of Solo Horn, which important post he has filled for over 20 years. He played for many years with Linthwaite when that band was in its hey-day of success, and materially assisting in winning their numerous prizes. Mr. Oldham is the oldest playing member of the band, and we may add that he has assisted Linthwaite to win over £3,000 in prizes, including 13 prizes at Belle Vue, and has played in all 25 times at Belle Vue contests, a record in itself. He is unquestionably one of the finest solo horn players now contesting, and he invariably acquits himself with distinction, giving complete satisfaction both to the band and its supporters.