



THE SLAITHWAITE BAND

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Founded in 1892 as the Upper Slaithwaite Brass and Reed Band, the band became an all-brass combination two years later and by 1905 had made such progress in the contest field that it won the Grand Shield at the Crystal Palace. This trophy was destined to return to Slaithwaite in 1933 and again as recently as 1962.

The 1930s saw a phenomenal rise in the status of the band under its professional conductor, Noel Thorpe. This rise culminated in the band's win at the Belle Vue September Contest in 1938. The outbreak of war in 1939 hit the Slaithwaite Band very hard, as many of its members were amongst the first to be called on to serve their country.

The two outstanding years since the war were 1958, when the band won the N.E. Area 2nd Section Contest, and went on to win the Finals in London, and 1962 when, under its present conductor, Roy Newsome, the band once again won the Area 2nd Section event (having seen both promotion

and relegation since 1958), and, following this, by the unique double-success of winning the Belle Vue Grand Shield and Holmfirth contests both on the same day.

Scanning the pages of Slaithwaite Band's history, one is constantly aware of links with some of the great names of the past. Besides Noel Thorpe, conductors connected with the band before the war include Angus Holden, John Gladney, William Halliwell, J. C. Dyson and J. Jennings, while since the war the band has been conducted by, amongst others, Alex Mortimer and Leonard Lamb.

Since its promotion to championship status in 1962, the band finds itself in the dilemma of many other bands—not sufficiently experienced to compete on equal terms with the ace bands, yet outlawed by many 2nd class contest promotions. What will be the result of Slaithwaite's 3rd bid to become a 1st class combination? Only time will tell. But one thing is certain—they enjoy their banding at 'Slawit'.