



Musical Director — Mr. F. S. Monk
 Deputy Bandmaster — Mr. T. Cooper
 Band Chairman — Mr. G. Flett
 Band Secretary — Mr. E. W. Watts

The band was formed in 1948 by a Welsh ex-miner, the late Mr. J. Pugsley, as the Portsmouth Military Band. In 1952 the band changed its name and sound, to the Southsea Silver Band, with conventional brass instrumentation, under the direction of Mr. E. Johnson, B.E.M., a man of great enthusiasm who did a great deal to promote the brass band movement in the South of England.

The first contest win came at Weymouth in 1955, and provided the encouragement necessary to build a band of enthusiasts through the years into one of the premier bands of the South. The band's present Bandmaster was at that time principal cornet, but in 1957 he took over the baton, and handed his earlier task to his son Peter, who has more than fulfilled the confidence shown in him during the early days.

The band rallied round Fred and began the stiff climb up the contest ladder. October 1961, saw the band gain fourth place in the D/H Third Section National Finals. In April, 1963, they became Southern Area Second Section Champions and appeared later that year in the National Finals. April, 1964, brought a day that many of the older serving members had long awaited, the band made its debut in the Championship Section. For this event we were fortunate to be coached by the very talented Col. Albert Jakeway, a very loyal friend to all members of the Southsea Band, as it is now called. All members of the band feel that they can be justly satisfied by their performance on that day.

The band has given training to young bandsmen and now has three of its junior members in the National Youth Band of Great Britain.

Apart from the relationship of Fred and Peter Monk with nephew Alan on trombone, the band also boasts Les and Adrian Greenhalgh (father and son on solo euphonium and first baritone respectively), Arthur and Patrick Tracy (father and son, cornet and flugelhorn) with nephew Albert Tracy on second euphonium.

Mr. E. W. Watts the Band Secretary says: "I was asked to compile these notes, not only because I happen to be the secretary, but by virtue of being the oldest playing member left in the band. I must stress in service — not age, although it would not be at all surprising if all band secretaries at times look permanently aged. I began playing with them in 1948 so I can speak with pride of the way that the Southsea Band has fought many, many difficulties in their path to success. The band has much to thank all for, but in particular to Peter Monk, surely an inspiration to any young cornet player, Les Greenhalgh and Albert Tracy, his 'bumper up' would be a credit to any band, Wesley Garner, a multi instrumentalist who prefers the trombone, Alf Drage on EEB bass with a lifetime of brass-banding behind him, Lester Adams — a jovial character with tons of experience — a good BB and also a good voice, and Chairman George Flett, who also plays EE bass — what can I say — simply thanks George we would be in a sorry plight without your hands on the rudder.

"It is obvious that I cannot mention everyone by name, but I must not forget Mrs. May Carpenter (tenor horn — and yes—percussion). May has been with the band for close on 16 years, and must surely be the most elderly lady playing in a Championship Section band today.

"The Southsea Band are a true amateur band, everyone including the bandmaster pays a weekly subscription of two shillings and in many cases pay their own fare to and from contests and engagements.

"Behind the scenes we have an essential organisation — a Ladies Committee, who work very hard indeed on fund raising activities.

"On the breast pocket of the band's smart uniform of black and royal blue, is the band badge with the inscription of 'Ex Propius' this literally translated as 'from our own resources'. Surely an apt statement of achievement by this organisation.

"They may not have a long tradition as do many well known bands, but they have made their presence felt in the contesting world and have made many friends along the South coast through summer engagements and contest."