

# Coveted Trophy Secured in Crystal Palace Contest

(By "ROBIN ADAIR")



**P**ROBABLY for the first time in the history of Hull brass band music a local band has succeeded in bringing back to Hull a trophy from the Crystal Palace Band Contests, which took place in London on Saturday.

Some years ago, I remember, the St. Andrew's Band were successful in a contest open to boys' bands, and before this the Hull Waterloo Band would have been successful had not the conductor—I believe it was Mr C. Norman—committed a technical error by playing the cornet solo in addition to conducting.

However, the old Waterloo were moral victors on this occasion, and in lieu of the Cup they were awarded a certificate.

## CIVIC CELEBRATION?

On Saturday, however, the West Hull Excelsior Band actually succeeded in carrying off the Championship Journal Challenge Cup, together with money prize, as the "Mail" anticipated they might do in a special article last Thursday.

The competition in this particular class was keen, the thirty competing bands including entries from Wales (Brynmawr), Longwith Colliery, Eurslem, Doncaster, Harrogate, Carlisle, Manchester, etc., the furthest north against the furthest south.

As might naturally be expected, the President of the band, Mr S. Scarborough, together with the enthusiastic secretary, Mr W. H. Dukes, and the conductor, Mr S. Walmsley, are delighted with the band's success, and hopes are being entertained that the Lord Mayor (Councillor R. Richardson) will accede to the request for a civic celebration when the handsome trophy is formally presented.

## TIRED BUT HAPPY.

They were twenty-four tired but happy bandsmen who arrived at Paragon about 4.30 a.m. on Sunday morning, the "Mail" being among the first to be acquainted with the West Hull Band's success.

Seen later in the day, the honorary secretary, Mr W. H. Duke, told the "Mail" that the band had thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which he hoped might provide the stepping stone to still further successes.

Recounting the day's experiences, he said that the bandsmen reached London about 6.15 a.m. on Saturday morning. Breakfast was taken at Lyon's Corner House, after

which they embraced the opportunity of rehearsing at Boosey's in Regent-street.

Upon arrival at the Palace, the draw for the order of playing was made, and our Hull men found that 18 bands had to play after them.

After playing the test piece, "In Old Vienna," West Hull's effort was greeted with loud applause, so much so that a veteran bandsman, a flugel horn player of 30 years' experience, remarked that it would require an extraordinary band to beat this effort—a prophecy that proved true.

In congratulating the Hull band upon its success, it is worth noting that all the talented instrumentalists are hard-working men, the band being entirely self-supporting.

## ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS AGO.

The band was established about 20 years ago, one of its greatest patrons being the late Mr Christopher Pickering. Even now the band's old benefactor is not forgotten, for the men annually give their services for the benefit of the Pickering Homes.

Apart from their capable conductor, the band numbered 24 instrumentalists, but undoubtedly the proudest man of the party on Saturday was the conductor.

Mr Walmsley, who must be one of the youngest championship conductors in Great Britain, is now only barely 25 years of age. Little more than ten years ago he himself was an inmate of the Newland Orphan Homes, and as a member of the Orphanage band he learned the first rudiments of instrumental music.

In our brief interview on Sunday, the honorary secretary, Mr H. Dukes, acknowledged the band's indebtedness to the Hull "Daily Mail" for its helpful criticism.

## THE PLAYERS.

The following is the instrumentation of the band that has brought honour to the city:—

Soprano, G. Radge; principal cornet, H. Dukes, jun.; cornets, J. H. Bricklebank, A. E. Dukes, H. Millard, L. Shaw, H. Jackson, L. Fallowfield and R. Hakney; flugel horn, H. Finlayson; tenor horns, W. Pitcher, E. Robinson and E. Crabbe; baritones, G. Ferris and C. Blood; euphoniums, H. T'olloway and H. Dukes, sen.; tenor trombones, L. Ollett and A. Cameron; bass trombone, F. Bryant; B.B. flat basses, J. Ward and W. Cerlass; E. flat basses, A. Evans and T. Alliott.

## APPRECIATION.

In a letter to the Editor of the "Mail" to-day, Mr H. Dukes, hon. secretary of the West Hull Excelsior Band, says:—

"Allow me to offer you our best thanks for the splendid article that was published in last Thursday's "Mail" regarding our visit to the Crystal Palace Band Festival. I can assure you, sir, that my committee fully appreciate your interest in the band."