

Origin of Brass Bands in Scotland and a History of the Scottish Amateur Brass Band Association, founded 1895

1895

The emergence of amateur music making in the shape of town and village bands came with the Industrial Revolution of the Mid 1850's and the subsequent development of Heavy Industry, For many years there has been Military Bands in the Garrison towns throughout the country. With the demise of many of these bands, Burgh Councils and village committees were able to purchase Instruments from disbanding units and formed Bands of their own. These combinations were mostly of the flute variety or a mixture of woodwind and brass, which were known at the time as Brass and Reed Bands. By the mid 1860's and early 1870's many of these bands had changed to All Brass Combinations. With the upsurge of heavy industry, the mining of ironstone and coal and the expanding textile trades of lace making and wool, some small villages were able to support a Band. Employers, who in many cases owned the dwelling houses of their employees and at times acted heavy handedly with the workers, encouraged this form of banding activity as it kept the work force happy and gave communities a sense of purpose. This being so, what emerged was a cultural activity of Amateur Music Making, in the form of Brass Bands, often said to be the Orchestra of the Working Man

Over the first three years of the Association, membership had risen to 41 bands and the Championship returned to Edinburgh's Waverley Market in 1898. A troublesome law suit in the Court of Session at Linlithgow, between Bo'ness & Carriden and S.A.B.B.A. was protracted right through to the 1899 season causing great unease in the movement. The case arose when the Carriden Band won an open contest at Kinniel. The procedure at the time, dictated that Bands had to declare the names of the players to be played at a respective contest, the names of the players were printed on the Official Programme. Under Bo'ness and Carriden Band's name, was listed 23 names, on the day they played 24 players, their oldest and most regular player's name had been omitted. After the results had been declared, Kirkcaldy Trades Band raised objection, as did the S.A.B.B.A. delegate on stage duty. At a subsequent meeting of S.A.B.B.A. the Kinniel Secretary and the Carriden Secretary both apportioned blame on each other. The executive committee ruled that, Alloa Band, should be awarded the 1st prize of £20 and the Cup, the Carriden Committee refused to comply and were deemed to be in temporary suspension of the Association until they did. Carriden Band Committee, convinced their survival was in jeopardy, engaged the services of the advocate J.J. Cook and Mr Wm. Ure, Kings Counsel, to handle the court litigation. After long months of bitter wrangling the S.A.B.B.A. Executive demanded that the Carriden Band withdraw their court action or total expulsion from the movement would be the penalty. Many member bands concerned about this harsh directive by the Executive, began questioning the wisdom of pursuing the case. After one and a half years a conclusion was reached, the rich financial rewards gained at the 1897 Championships in Glasgow were sorely drained in settlement, which to all intents nearly brought about the demise of the organisation.

After the assiduous litigation of the past year which caused the 1899 Championships to be delayed, the Association in dire financial straits, set about retrieving the Movement to a more stable foundation. Cash restraint had determined a decision by the executive to engage only one judge to officiate. This move found favour with the bands who had never been happy with the wide discretion's of the three judge system. Finally, the Fifth

Annual Championships got underway with the 2nd Section on the 11th November and the Championship Section on 16th December, with Alexander Owen adjudicating. The turmoil of the previous year had not yet subsided, many bands having supported Bo'ness & Carriden's stand, vented their feelings, resulting in 21 Bands withdrawing membership from S.A.B.B.A.

Evolution and Progress

As time evolved, the progress and quality of bands improved, so much so, they became a focal function of town and village life. Parades, Fetes and Local Concerts were all part and parcel of the yearly calendar and dancing to the band on the village green was a Summer past-time. Soon the competitive edge reared its head, with one band testing its strength against another. This led to the formation of Area Associations with an intent to promote Regional Contests. These Associations were set up mainly where heavy industry had taken root. Fife, the Lothians, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and The Border Shires had predominant Contest Venues.

Early Contesting

The first recorded Brass Band Contest in Scotland took place at Wemyss Castle Estate near Kirkcaldy, Fife in July 1885. A first prize of £40 and a travel grant of £10 was enough to lure none other than the champion band of England, Besses Of The Barn from Lancashire to compete. Besses Band emerged as the winners of the main Contest and the £40 prize, also winning the subsidiary event, a March Contest. March Contests at that time were known as Quick Step Contests, for this they received another £2. Alloa Burgh Band were placed a lowly second and Kirkcaldy Trades Band third. A music critic of the day described the enthusiasm of the assembled audience as ecstatic of the Besses Band, playing heavenly music of a quality fashioned like pure silk.

"Besses had Brought Rossini to Scotland"

Besses Of the Band in the ensuing years were frequent visitors to Scotland, taking part in the renowned Raith Festival Contests held annually in the Raith Estate under the patronage of the Dowager Viscountess Novar Of Raith. With the impact of this new banding activity it became necessary for a parent body to be formed to co-ordinate the Contesting field in Scotland. July 1895, saw the formation of The Scottish Amateur Brass Band Association. The Committee was headed by **Mr Peter Black**, Town Chamberlain Of Alloa Burgh and Chairman of Alloa Burgh Band as *President*, **Mr Robert Baillie**, Carron Iron Works as *Treasurer*, and **Mr James Bryce** of Cambusbarron as *Secretary*. Assisted by five delegates from East based Bands and five from the West to oversee the affairs of the Association.

Rules for Contesting

At the inaugural meeting of the Association rules for Contesting were set out as follows:

- The maximum number of players allowed at a Contest would be 24, the minimum number would be 12. (No Percussion allowed). Players' names had to be submitted 28 days prior to a contest and listed under the Band's name on the official programme.
- No Band would be allowed to rehearse the test piece after the starting time of the contest.

- The maximum retaining fee any Band could pay its resident Bandmaster was 31 Guineas annually. Professional Conductors fees were at the behest of individual Bands.
- The well being of Adjudicators at the Championships would be the responsibility of the S.A.B.B.A. Executive. Regional Associations running a Contest would be responsible for their chosen Adjudicator and his safe departure from the Contest venue.
- No Band could add the status "Burgh" to its name unless approved by its own Burgh Council. The legal disposition of this had to be submitted in writing and ratified by S.A.B.B.A. No Band could add the status prize to its name until it had won a first prize at a Championship Contest or a first at any affiliated Contest approved by S.A.B.B.A.
- At the end of a Contest the Adjudicators decision must be displayed on a black board and clearly defined in white chalk.
- Member Bands would pay an annual fee of One Half Guinea and affiliated Association One Full Guinea to retain membership.
- Objections to Contest results must be lodged to the Association Secretary within seven days with a cash security of One Guinea.

The First Scottish Championships were held on Saturday 19th October in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh. Twenty-two bands opted to enter the first Championships, segregated by virtue of their performance results at Regional Contests into two sections, 10 bands in Section One and 12 in Section Two. The Instrument making firm, Messrs Besson & Coy of London, presented two Challenge Cups for Annual competition, one valued at 30 Guineas for the first section, the other valued at 20 Guineas for the Second Section. President Mr Peter Black Superintended the draw for the Order of Play, with the 2nd Section which commenced at 1.30 pm. The result of this section being announced at 5 o'clock. Kelty & Blairadam were declared the Winners.

The Draw for the Championship Section took place at 5.30 pm, amid a throng of great excitement, Clydebank Burgh having drawn No. 1 took to the stage at 6 pm, to set the Premier Section under way. At 9.30 pm the results were announced. Bo'ness & Carriden were awarded top place with a 3 point win over Clydebank Burgh. The Test Pieces "Lucrezia Borgia" for 2nd Section and "Eureka" for 1st Section were arranged by Henry Round and published by Wright and Round, Erskine Street, Liverpool. Three Officiating Judges, all from England, Alexander Owen, Edwin Swift and John Bailey, occupied separate boxes, they had 100 points each from which to allocate their awards. The prizes would be decided on an aggregate of the Adjudicators' marks. Over 8,000 followers of the Bands had converged on Edinburgh for the event, where keen competition prevailed and was regarded as an auspicious opening to what was intended to be an Annual Event. Facilities in the Market were primitive, there was no seating, Bands performed their Test Pieces standing in the bull ring, with spectators viewing from the stepped terrace, its prime adage was, it had accessible rail links from all major centres of banding. With the expanding railway network spread throughout the country, railway companies realised there was a trade in the Brass Band Championships and other such national events. Special trains starting at extreme parts of the country, picked up bands and their followers en route to Edinburgh for the Contests. The "Baun Specials" as they were known remained the Mode of Travel until the start of World War II in 1939. "The Railway Special's" to the Scottish Brass Band Championships were the first organised Railway Excursions to any event in Scotland.

First Scottish Brass Band Championships 19th October 1895, Waverley Market, Edinburgh

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION MARKS FROM 100						
Award	Band	Conductor	Owen	Judges Swift	Bailley	Total
1st	Bo'ness & Carriden	J. Gladney	91	80	92	263
2nd	Clydebank	R. Marsden	85	85	90	260
3rd	Cambusbarron	J. Robinson	93	79	86	258
4th	Portobello	T. Moore	82	73	95	250
5th	Alloa	J. Robinson	90	78	80	248
Unsuccessful - Galashiels, Kirkcaldy, Hawick, Coatbridge, Bonnybridge. Test Piece - Eureka - Henry Round.						
SECOND SECTION MARKS FROM 100						
Award	Band	Conductor	Owen	Judges Swift	Bailley	Total
1st	Kelty & Blairadam	J. Carmichael	66	54	79	199
2nd	Alva V.F.	F. Mellor	56	52	73	181
3rd	Clelland	R. Marsden	58	50	70	178
4th	Crossgates	F. Marsden	60	46	69	165
5th	Broxburn	J. Robinson	59	42	58	159
Unsuccessful - Carron, Kilsyth, Lassodie, Lautieston, Musselburgh R.V., Mussleburgh Town, Wright Memorial. Test Piece - Lucrezia Borgia - Henry Round						

1896

Saturday 17th October the Championships again in the Waverley Market, three adjudicators officiating with 110 points this year from which to allocate their decision. A clear 11 points win by Clydebank Burgh over Kirkcaldy with Bo'ness and Carriden 3rd and Kelty and Blairadam 4th. The 2nd Section was won by Crossgates, Dunfermline having been awarded 2nd Place, were disqualified for rehearsing the test piece after the contest had commenced. This was a rule agreed by all bands at the Inaugural Meeting that set the Agenda for the Association. No band would be permitted to rehearse the test piece after the start of the Contest. Ever ready to get profitably in touch with the public, the Association Executive were not slow to take up the offer by Glasgow Corporation to hold the 1897 Championships in The Winder Gardens, Glasgow Green. The Corporation had sponsored events of all ranges throughout the year as their contribution to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. All overhead expenses would be covered, including fees for the three adjudicators, the venue would be free of charge, £40 would be put up for 1st Section Prizes and £30 for 2nd Section Prizes. William Beardmore, a City Entrepreneur, underwrote the cost of Gold Medals for 1st Section Soloists and Silver Medals for 2nd Section soloists. Alloa Band took top honours with a 5 point win over Bo'ness and Carriden, also picking up the Gold Medals for Cornet, Horn, Trombone and Euphonium, the Soprano Medal going to Alva. Brechin City took the honours in Section Two, Cornet and Soprano, Silver Medals to Broxburn Public, Horn and Trombone to Brechin City and Euphonium to Carron. The three adjudicators for the Diamond Jubilee

Championships were, Edwin Swift, William Rimmer and J.O. Shepherd. Awarding of the Solo Medals was in the hands of Edwin Swift.

1896 Championship Section, Waverley Market, Edinburgh, Saturday, 17th October

MARKS FROM 330						
Award	Band	Conductor	Suckley	Judges Swift	Stead	Total
1st	Clydebank	R. Marsden	95	100	100	295
2nd	Kirkcaldy Trades	R. Marsden	90	96	98	284
3rd	Bo'ness & Carriden	R. Marsden	100	84	93	277
4th	Kelty & Blairadam	J. Carmichael	85	82	90	257
5th	Hawick Saxhorn	W. Aitkinson	70	86	95	251
6th	Alva	F. Mellor	75	88	86	249

SECOND SECTION						
Award	Band	Conductor	Suckley	Judges Swift	Stead	Total
1st	Crossgates	R. Marsden	90	96	95	284
2nd	Lassodie Public	J. Robinson	85	91	86	262
3rd	Brechin City	R. Marsden	65	92	100	257
4th	Carron Iron Works	F. McDonald	95	84	69	248
5th	Broxburn Public	J. Robinson	70	100	78	248
6th	Townhill	J. Carmichael	75	88	67	230

1897 Championship Section, Winter Gardens, Glasgow Green, Saturday, 9th October

MARKS FROM 330						
Award	Band	Conductor	Judges Swift	Shepherd	Wm. Rimmer	Total
1st	Alloa Burgh	J. Robinson	100	97	100	297
2nd	Bo'ness & Carriden	J. Gladney	99	95	98	292
3rd	Hawick Saxhorn	W. Aitkinson	90	95	96	281
4th	Kirkcaldy Trades	J. Gadney	86	100	90	276
5th	Bonnybridge	R. Marsden	84	92	95	271
6th	Portobello	T. Moore	82	89	87	258

SECOND SECTION - Glasgow Green, Saturday 16th October						
Award	Band	Conductor	Judges Swift	Shepherd	Wm. Runner	Total
1st	Brechin City	R. Marsden	90	100	100	299
2nd	Broxburn Public	J. Robinson	99	87	95	283
3rd	Musselburgh & Fisherow	T. Moore	95	92	95	282
4th	Carron Iron Works	F. McDonald	100	88	91	279
5th	Laurieston Zetland	J. Gladney	96	85	93	274
6th	Bathgate	E. Sutton	93	84	89	266

1898

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Break Away

On the 23 December 1899 representatives of the bands that had withdrawn from S.A.B.B.A. convened a meeting in Glasgow. The outcome of this meeting decreed that a new organisation was formed to run the affairs of Banding and would be known as The Scottish Central Brass Band Association. This new body held their first contest in the Old Barracks of the Carnival Grounds, Gallowgate, Glasgow on 17 February 1900. 19 Bands had joined this Association, only 11 however took part in the first Contest. The test piece was a selection from Goring Thomas's Grand Opera "Esmeralda" arranged by the Adjudicator, Jimmy Ord Hume.

Contest Result

- 1st Milnwood Colliery (J. McCubbrey)
- 2nd Quarter (Alex Bell)
- 3rd Newmilns (J.E. Robinson)
- 4th Coltness Works (E. Sutton)

Unsuccessful - Bathgate, Crofthead, Kirkintilloch, Larkhall, Newton, Whitburn, Skinflats.

There were no money prizes, Mr Green, proprietor of the Carnival Grounds, donated a Silver Cup for the winning Band. Medals were donated by John Henry Isles, Boosey & Co, Besson & Co, and the Scottish Instrument Makers - Douglas & Sons of the Trongate, Glasgow. 2,500 attended the event and all receipts were held to get the new Association under way. All the top people in the movement were there to view the outcome. The London entrepreneur John Henry Isles invited the winning Band, Milnwood Colliery to take part in the National Brass Band Festival in London's Crystal Palace, the mecca of English Banding, later in the year. Milnwood Colliery took up the offer and became the first Scottish Band to compete at a national contest.

A New Beginning

In April 1900 an emergency meeting of S.A.B.B.A. was convened and a new Committee formed. President Peter Black deemed to be the agitating perpetuator of the assiduous court case against Bo'ness & Carriden was deposed from office. **Mr Alex Murrie of Broxburn** was appointed President. **Mr William Binnie of Carron Iron Works** as Treasurer. **Mr James Alexander of Mussleburgh** as Secretary. With the membership now reduced to 20 Bands, President Murrie and Secretary Alexander convinced quality of performance had improved with the format of S.A.B.B.A. embarked on a mission to persuade Bands who had left the fold that their interests would be better serviced renewing their membership of the parent body. On the 27 October the 1900 Scottish Championships were held with only seven Bands in the Championship Section which was won by Clydebank Burgh. The 2nd Section with 13 Bands was won by Jamestown Temperence. The winners of both Sections were conducted by Edward Sutton. Sutton who had been a distinguished cornetist with the Southport Rifles Band and a pupil of Henry Round (Co-founder of Wright & Round Music Publishers). The town of Broxburn in the Lothians, noted for the mining of shale and the production of the residue extract paraffin oil. In 1901 the public Band held a very successful three day sale which realised the staggering sum of £823. With this new found wealth, the Band engaged Alexander Owen for private tuition and under the baton of Bandmaster Chris Smith won the 1901 Scottish Championship. Repeating the exercise with private tuition from the renowned William Rimmer, under the baton of Albert Wade they again emerged as Championship winners in 1902. Bo'ness & Carriden with all the furore of 1899 behind them took the Championship Honours in 1903.

Enterprise and Anticipation

Through the years 1901 to 1903 S.A.B.B.A. secretary James Alexander used his influence to take the heat out of Scottish Banding. Organising mini contests and massed Band Concerts between S.A.B.B.A. Bands and their fellow Bands in the Central Band Association, gradually the tension between the two Associations became less acute. 1904 was the beginning of an era of enterprise and great anticipation. The rising stars of Scottish Banding, Polton Mills from the Lothians took the Championship title with a handsome win on Shipley Douglas' arrangement of the classic epic "Ivanhoe". Polton Mills had been coached to outright Champions in four years by resident Bandmaster John Brown and professional Conductor Friend Farrand. With the contesting scene gathering momentum the S.A.B.B.A. Executive decided that a third Section would be in place by 1905 with 36 Bands eligible for contesting. The S.A.B.B.A. foresight and enterprise had not abated with their recent success. The newly opened London North

East Railway (LNER) which ran from London up the East Coast via Newcastle to Edinburgh. An idea was conceived to organise contests between Scottish and North of England Bands. A meeting was convened at Newcastle with Presidents: **George Buchanan** (Scotland), **Jack H Wood** (England), Secretaries: **James Alexander** (Scotland) and **Abe Kirtley** (England) agreeing a format. The contests would be held with each Association hosting the event in turn, by invitation, four First Section and Four Second Section Bands from each body would take part. With the paying public in mind, own choice test pieces would be the order for the first year. If the venture proved successful it was decided to repeat the exercise until 1908. The first of these inter contests took place in the City Hall, Newcastle on the 28 May, the second in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh on the 29 October. Musical attainment of the contest held no boundary, the financial rewards justified the wisdom of the concept and a new dimension had been explored.

First Inter Contest, Newcastle City Hall, 28th May 1904

FIRST CLASS	
Test Piece - "Own Choice"	Judge - J.W. Beswick
1st - Spensers Steeworks (Eng)	2nd - Heworth Colliery (Eng)
3rd - Hepburn Colliery (Eng)	4th - Broxburn Public
Unsuccessful - Bo'ness & Carriden, Portobello, Larkhall (Scot), Backworth (Eng).	
SECOND CLASS	
Test Piece - "Own Choice"	Judge - J.W. Beswick
1st - Musselburgh & Fisherow	2nd - Birtley Old (Eng)
3rd - Felling Colliery (Eng)	4th - Broxburn Public
Unsuccessful - Polton Mills, Towhill (Scot), Jarrow Borough, Hebburn Colliery (Eng),	

Second Inter Contest Waverley Market, Edinburgh, 29th October 1904

FIRST CLASS	
Test Piece - "Own Choice"	Judge - J.O. Shepherd
1st - Polton Mills	2nd - Bo'ness & Carriden
3rd - Broxburn Public	4th - Heworth Colliery (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Spensers Steelworks, Consett Works, Cockerton (Eng), Larkhall	
SECOND CLASS	
Test Piece - "Own Choice"	Judge - J.O. Shepherd
1st - Musselburgh & Fisherow	2nd - Birtley Old (Eng)
3rd - Browburn R.C.	4th - Felling Colliery (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Jarrow Borough, Hebburn Colliery (Eng), Shotts Foundry, Wright Memorial (Scot).	

Third Inter Contest Chester Le Street, Durham, 20th May 1905

FIRST CLASS	
Test Piece - "L'Arlesienne"	Judge - Shirley Douglas
1st - Backworth (Eng)	2nd - Polton Mills
3rd - Spensers Steelworks (Eng)	4th - Heworth Colliery (Eng)
Unsuccessful - South Moor (Eng), Alloa, Bo'ness & Carriden, Broxburn Public	

SECOND CLASS	
Test Piece - "Haddon Hall"	Judge - Shirley Douglas
1st - Lochgelly Public	2nd - Birtley Old (Eng)
3rd - Jarrow Borough (Eng)	4th - Musselburgh & Fisherow
Unsuccessful - Chester Le Street, Wingate (Eng), Methiltown, Shotts Foundry (Scot).	

Fourth Inter Contest Waverley Market, Edinburgh, 2nd December 1905

FIRST CLASS	
Test Piece - "Lily of Killarney"	Judge - Mr W. Smith
1st - Polton Mills	2nd - Broxburn Public
3rd - Spensers Steelworks (Eng)	4th - Cockerton (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Alloa, Kelty & Blairadam (Scot), South Moor, Blackworth (Eng).	
SECOND CLASS	
Test Piece - "Le Toille Du Mord"	Judge - Mr W. Smith
1st - Palmers Works (Eng)	2nd - Birtley Old (Eng)
3rd - Chester Le Street	4th - Shotts Foundry
Unsuccessful - Musselburgh & Fisherton, Lochgelly Public, Methil Town, Wingate (Eng).	

Fifth Inter Contest City Hall, Newcastle, 15th December 1906

FIRST CLASS	
Test Piece - "Tannhauser"	Judge - Mr Alf Gray
1st - Spensers Steelworks (Eng)	2nd - Clydebank Burgh
3rd - Polton Mills	4th - Palmers Works (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Heworth Colliery (Eng), Kelty & Blairadam, Bathgate Public (Scot).	
SECOND CLASS	
Test Piece - "Echoes of the Ocean"	Judge - Mr Alf Gray
1st - Hetton Colliery (Eng)	2nd - New Brancepeth (Eng)
3rd - Willington (Eng)	4th - Birtley Old (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Broxburn RC, Aitkenhead, Wright Memorial, Newhaven (Scot).	

Sixth Inter Contest Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh, 30th May 1908

FIRST CLASS	
Test Piece - "Own Choice"	Judge - Mr Alex Owen
1st - Broxburn Public	2nd - Coltness Works
3rd - Clydebank Burgh	4th - Birtley Old (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Kelty & Blairadam, Heworth, Cockerton, South Moor	
SECOND CLASS	
Test Piece - "Own Choice"	Judge - Mr Alex Owen
1st - Falkirk Trades	2nd - Brandon Colliery

3rd - Forfar Instrumental	4th - St. Hilda Colliery (Eng)
Unsuccessful - Townhill, Shotts Foundry (Scot), Hetton Colliery, Sunderland (Eng).	

Repercussions and Organised Mayhem

Repercussions to the 1920 Championship which was won by Douglas Colliery, conducted by Robert Rimmer resulted in the Executive Committee disqualifying both Parkhead Forge who had been placed 2nd and Dunfermline who had been placed 4th for rule infringement of playing unregistered players. The Executive directed the Secretaries of both Bands, Chris Varley of Parkhead Forge, and J. McNally of Dunfermline, would be disqualified from holding Secretarial Office of their respective Bands for one year. Section Three of the 1920 Championships was held in St Margaret's Hall, Dunfermline on the 27 November. When the Executive Committee arrived to set the Hall out for the day's event they found the place in a state of complete renovation and refurbishment. A wooden shed very much to the rear of the building had been allocated to the Committee to conduct the business of the draw etc. At the end of the Contest the Committee having to deal with an emergency matter in their wooden shed were unaware that the adjudicator Mr Walter Halstead had emerged from his box and proceeded to give an adjudication of the event competing bands but allocated no points. His awards were - 1st Lassodie Public, 2nd Balgonie Colliery, 3rd Shotts R.C., 4th Dysart Colliery. The Executive decided not to accept this decision and by agreement with the Bands, replayed the Contest in the Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy on Christmas Day. Herbert Bennet of Darvel was the Judge. The amended result was 1st Bowhill Colliery, 2nd Shotts R.C., 3rd Balgonie Colliery, 4th Lassodie. Section Two was held on 11 December in the Bridgeton Drill Hall, Glasgow, with Arthur O. Pearce of Black Dyke Mills and Herbert Bennet of Darvel adjudicating. The Contest was won by Stonehouse, conducted by John Faulds from a strong field of 27 Bands.

1921 – 1926

1921 saw the completion of the extensive renovation to the Waverly Market. A gigantic spacious arena now prevailed, the old primitive set up of Bands performing in the Auctioneers Bull Ring had gone and the place had taken on a more luxurious setting. Glasgow Loco Works won the Championship title and the Executive retained their regional policy with the 2nd Section in the Winter Gardens, Glasgow Green and the 3rd Section in Falkirk Town Hall. A new conducting name arrived on the scene when George Hawkins, a native of Cleveland, Middlesborough, came north to steer Clydebank to their 11th Championship win in 1922. The 1923 Championship was marred once again by rule infringement. **Larkhall Town Band**, Conducted by John Faulds, were disqualified for playing an unregistered player after being awarded 1st place, the title going once again to Clydebank Burgh. For their trouble the Executive suspended Larkhall Secretary C.S. Sutcliffe for one year from holding Secretarial Office. In 1924 the S.C.W.S. Band from Glasgow having been formed in 1919 broke through in a hard fought contest to win their first Championship. With the 3rd Section now oversubscribed a decision was taken to implement a 4th Section by 1925. To put this in place, Qualifying contests were arranged for 2nd & 3rd Section Bands based in the East in the **Corn Exchange, Dalkeith** and for 2nd & 3rd Section Bands based in the West in the **Agricultural Hall, Kilmarnock**. 60 Bands in total competed at the 1925 Championships, with the 4th Section held in Dalkeith's Corn Exchange, 3rd Section at Kirkcaldy and the 2nd Section Bands based in the West in the **Agricultural Hall, Kilmarnock**. 60 Bands in total competed at the 1925 Championships, with the 4th Section held in Dalkeith's Corn

Exchange, 3rd Section at Kirkcaldy and the 2nd Section at Motherwell and Clydebank took the Championship Title at the Mecca of Scottish Banding, the Waverly Market. In 1926 65 Bands competed, the 4th Section at Portobello, 3rd Section at Motherwell, 2nd Section at Dalkeith and S.C.W.S. won the premier section with another close win over Clydebank. This was the first year that **26 Bronze Medals** were awarded by the Executive Committee to the winning bands in each section.

A Change of Times

From the beginning of the Scottish Band Movement the strength of Banding lay in the Regions, especially where mining and heavy industry was predominant. By the end of the 1920's a dramatic change was under way, the mining industry was in dire recession with colliery closures and for those pits still in production, a two day working week was the norm. Strong emphasis now existed in the Glasgow Area, except for a win in 1930 by City of Edinburgh Band, the Championship Title was confined to three Bands: Govan Burgh 1929 and 1932, Clydebank Burgh 1933 and 1936, SCWS 1931, 1934, 1935, 1937 and 1938. After an unsuccessful entry in 1918 into the contest field the SCWS Band did take the supreme title in 1924, 1926 and 1927. After with the success of 1927 the Directors of the SCWS adopted a policy of strengthening the Band by offering jobs to qualified players from the Regions who were prepared to move and work in the Central Wholesale Departments in Glasgow. Work being at a premium and high unemployment a scourge of the times the bait of a steady job and housing for one with the talent to hold down a position in the SCWS Band was an opportunity to be grasped. By 1929, all the players in the band were employed by the Firm, full rehearsals were the order of the day. Principal players were granted one hour extra in their lunch break for individual practice. A new concept in Scottish Banding had emerged. Throughout the decade of the 1930's the real strength of opposition to the Glasgow Bands came from the lace making towns of Darvel and Newmilns, Ayrshire. Darvel's Lace factories, there were 21 in the Town, were in full employment and the employers held dogmatic sway over their workers. Newmilns Burgh Council surcharged the Townspeople through the rates to fund their Band and remunerate a professional conductor a weekly wage to handle the Band. Darvel Band on the other hand was funded by mandatory deductions from the lace workers wages, which was a condition of employment, irrespective whether the worker came from any of the other valley towns, Newmilns, Galston or Hurlford. If you worked in Darvel your subscription was for Darvel Band, if you were a talented Brass player and a position arose, you played for the Darvel Band or your job was no more, such was the power of the bosses. Participation at the National Festival Contest held at the Crystal Palace, London until 1939 was by Invitation Only. In 1924 Darvel Burgh Band gained a creditable 5th place.

Furore at the SABBA AGM - Near Glory at London - International Conflict Looming in Europe

At the 1931 S.A.B.B.A. Annual General Meeting, Mr Robert Wardlaw, Secretary of the Fife Amateur Band Association had asked to be allowed to address the meeting. Mr Wardlaw's address began by congratulating S.A.B.B.A. on their work, then his oration developed into a verbal tirade against his fellow Fife Bands. The feature that disturbed him was the fact that there were 26 Bands in Fife, only 11 were members of their own Fifeshire Association. The Fife Association Committee, he said, had done much to acquire prestige of Bands in the Kingdom and had improved their interests both in education and municipal recognition. He was of the opinion to put it bluntly that this was sheer ingratitude towards himself and his Committee. What resulted was a barrage of insults across the floor of the meeting which in the end had to be drawn to a hasty

close. In lieu of this, future requests to address the A.G.M. would have to be put in writing to the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting and the subject for debate disclosed. In 1933 the S.C.W.S. Band on their second venture to the London national decided to drop a 3rd Cornet and play two Sopranos i.e. William Brown and Bobby Andrews. From a No. 9 draw they gave a splendid performance of Granville Bantock's Overture, "Prometheus Unbound" only to be pipped into 2nd place by the English Champions Fodens Motor Works drawn No. 20. In 1938 the German war machine had rampaged through the Bohemian Forests of Czechoslovakia and in the West the Benelux countries and France were under threat. By 1939 once again because of international conflict the Scottish Brass Band Championships were put in limbo until 1945.

A New Age

Jubilation throughout the country in 1945 with the cessation of hostilities at the end of a cruel and tiresome six year war. The S.A.B.B.A. Executive reformed and set about arranging the Championship contests, their first decision was to abandon the noisy bustling throng of the Waverly Market as a contest venue, contracting to use the more plush setting of the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Yesteryears crusades to the Waverley Market were a thing of the past, the Baun "Railway Specials" were no more, the Motor Coach had taken over, we were now in a New Age. Coltness Works took the 1945 Championship Title, although only six bands competed in the Top Section, the quality of performance was high, Wellesley Colliery were 2nd, Barry Ostlere and Shepherd 3rd and Parkhead Forge 4th. Six bands in Section Two, four in Section Three, and five in Section Four, making a total of only 21 Bands in this year's Championships, a situation not entirely due to sluggish recovery of Bands after the austerity of war. Confusion abounded through the movement, with the introduction of qualifying contests organised by the national newspaper "The Daily Herald". They had been taken on board, to run area contests nationwide, Scotland as Area 1, Wales as Area 2, with England divided into six Areas. The first two Bands in each area would qualify for the National Finals, Section 2, 3 and 4 would be held in Belle Vue, Manchester and the Championship Final held in the Royal Albert Hall, London. These arrangements cut right across the SABBA Schedule, uncertain or lack of proper communication caused band indecision about which contests to support. Since the foundation of the Band Movement there was no proper registration of players with their respective bands. Through this lax situation was not unknown for Top Section players to sell their talent to lower grade Bands for a fee. Jerome Chester, Director of Marketing with the Daily Herald set about sealing this often abused practice, by introducing a player's individual registration card. These registration cards introduced in 1945, were the forerunner of what is in use today. Until now the maximum number of players permitted in the Contesting Bands was 24. Eric Ball, the eminent Composer, Conductor, using his influence tried to have the number increased to 26, he wanted another Front Row cornet and another Tenor Horn, even at the expense of excluding a Baritone he was strong on the 4 Tenor Horn idea. After extensive discussions with the top administrators in the Movement and the Music Publishing Houses he failed to convince them to change. A compromise was met with agreement to allow the extra Cornet, from 1946 the Contest playing number would be 25 from a pool of 33. Percussion had not yet come into the equation of modern banding.

1946 – 1958

In the post-war years 1946, 47 and 48, a treble was achieved by the SCWS Band, conducted by Fred Mortimer. Fred was the Guru who had led the renowned Fodens Motor Works Band in the 1930's. Bands now had recovered from the War years, many of

the Old Brigade of Players of Pre 1939 had lost interest and a new breed of eager young bandsmen had taken over. Over 60 Bands at the 1949 Championships where the Top Title was taken by Coltness Works, Conducted by R.S. Dow. Parkhead Forge took the title in 1950 with Charles Telfer in charge, so emerged the talent of two young men on the conducting scene. Govan Burgh won through in 1951, with Tullis Russell successful in 1952. Govan Burgh and their genial mentor, Gregor Grant, took the title again in 1953. This gave Govan Burgh their 4th Championship title having been so successful in 1929 and 1932, in each case being conducted by Gregor Grant. Edward Elgars, Severn Suite was the chosen test for the 1954 Championships, Forfar Instrumental conducted by Elgar Clayton winning through in a close contest from Larkhall. A double by Clydebank Burgh was achieved in 1995 and 1956 with the SCWS successful in 1957, 1959 and 1960, conducted by Alex Mortimer, son of the famous Fred. With the introduction of the Daily Herald Contests in 1945, there had been constant acrimonious unease between SABBA and the Daily Herald because of conflicting dates with Scottish Contests. In 1958 SABBA held no Championship Contest and altered arrangements to fall in line with The Daily Herald.

1958 – 1964

After a year in limbo, Scottish President Alex Cunningham and Secretary James Abbot had met with the officials of the National Contests in London and arrangements for securing the Scottish Championships to fall in line with qualifying contests for the Nationals had been brought to a more harmonious relationship. The Scottish Executive with the good offices of Honorary President William Hanniford had taken an option on the Scottish Championships taking place in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh and the adjacent halls at Tollcross for the foreseeable future. The 1959 Championships got under way with a win by SCWS band conducted by Alex Mortimer, Kinneil Colliery had won the 2nd Section, Armadale Public the 3rd Section and Winchburgh Public the 4th Section. Kinneil Colliery Band who only in 1954 had changed from a brass and reed outfit to all brass, had come up through the sections in successive years with their dynamic conductor John Kirkwood, went on to win the 2nd Section National Title in London. In 1960 another win in the Championship Section for SCWS, Broxburn Public took the 2nd Section, Aberdeen City 3rd Section and Leslie and District the 4th Section. 1961 was a year of nostalgic remembrance with four of the oldest member bands in the Association taking top honours in the respective sections. Hawick Saxhorn with the redoubtable Jimmy Amos in charge won the Championship Title, Croy Parish 2nd Section, Peeblesburgh, 3rd Section and Arbroath Instrumental the 4th Section. In 1962 Kinneil Colliery Band now Championship status and carrying all before them won the top title with a blistering performance of Gilbert Vinters "Salute to Youth", Aberdeen City won Section 2, Gartsherrie Section 3 and Cowdenbeath Section 4. In 1963 the Dynamic Jock Kirkwood took 1st and 2nd Place in the Championship Section with Argyll and Sutherland Highlands TA, Bonnybridge and Kinneil Colliery, Whitburn Burgh won Section 2, Arbroath Instrumental Section 3 and Alva Town Section 4. 1963 President Alex Cunningham, in poor health, relinquished his position as Chairman of the Association, the prestigious challenge to head the movement fell on the capable hands of James P. Abbott with a solid back up team of James Hills, Treasurer, and Duncan McGregor of Denny as Secretary. The 1964 Championship resulted in a close fought contest, SCWS taking a one point win over Kinneil, Arbroath 2nd Section winners, Cupar Town 3rd Section and Barrhead Burgh 4th Section.

1965 – 1969

In 1965 an invitation was received from Forfar Instrumental Band for SABBA to hold the Championships in Forfar to mark the Band's Centenary. With the necessary arrangements made and suitable halls in place, the executive were satisfied the contests could go ahead. The top title went to SCWS with a fine performance of "Le Roi D'ys", Lochgelly won 2nd Section, Gartsherrie 3rd Section and RN HMS Condor the 4th Section.

Kinneil Colliery, with a brilliant performance conducted by Robert Oughton, won the 1966 Championship in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, Airdrie Old Union took the 2nd Section, Alva Town 3rd Section and Shotts St Patrick's Parish 4th Section. In 1967 Kinneil Colliery, with John Kirkwood again in charge, gave a masterly performance of the Eric Ball Classic "Festival Music" to take the Championship for the second year running. Dalmellington took the 2nd Section Title, Barrhead Burgh 3rd Section and Galston Burgh Section 4. The SABBA Executive were now inundated with invitations from Regional Council Authorities to take the Championships from Edinburgh into the Regions where popular support was increasing by the year. For the next six years the championships would be held in Bo'ness 1968, Dunfermline 1969, Arbroath 1970, Ayr 1971, Falkirk 1972 and Aberdeen 1973. President James Abbot and his executive had done a secure job in nurturing good relations with these councils that augured well for the future. The 1968 Championship held at Bo'ness and won by Whitburn Burgh, with Cowdenbeath 2nd Section, Bon Accord 3rd Section and Jed Forrest Instrumental 4th Section. The 1969 Championships were held in the hall at Pittencrief Park, Dunfermline, a venue although in miniature was reminiscent of the busy noisy throng of the old Waverley Market. The Championship Section was won with a well controlled performance of Berlioz Fine Overture "Le Carnaval Romaine" by Dalmellington, with Alloa Burgh, Stoneywood Works, and McTaggart Scott Works taking the 1st place in each of the lower sections.

1969

During the summer of 1969, the British Brass Instrument-making Company owned by Boosey & Hawkes, London, informed all Bands that the present high pitched instruments in use would not be available for purchase from the 1st January 1970. The line would be discontinued and a change to low pitch instruments would only be available from that date. This, they intimated, was necessary because of the expanding market for their product in Scandinavia and the increasing interest for British Style Banding on the Continent. This sudden announcement caused great concern in the movement as the cost of a complete set of instruments would be £4500. Well heeled bands took the change in their stride, village bands with shoe string budgets viewed the prospects with apprehension - their desire to keep abreast of the times would test their resilience to the challenge. One other financial burden was shortly to be confronted by the movement, for the first time percussion was to be allowed in contesting, this at the insistence of composers who for many years had complained their work was demeaned by the exclusion of percussion. In respect of this the SABBA Executive, aware that lower grade bands were not adept at training percussionists, took the wise move to phase this new directive in over a period of three years. Starting in 1971, percussion for the top section would be mandatory, by 1973 the system would be in place for all sections.

1970 – 1973

In 1970 the Championships held in Arbroath with Whitburn Burgh, in the capable hands of Alex Fleming, took the top title, with the first prizes in the lower sections going

to Fleet Air Arm Volunteer 2nd Section, Buckhaven Miners 3rd Section and Newtongrange 4th Section. In 1971 the Championships moved to the town of Ayr on the West Coast and when the SABBA committee visited the venue to look over the facilities on offer, they were aghast at the ugly big barn of a building to be used. Mr David Roy, head of Ayr Leisure Services assured the Committee a complete transformation would be in place for the Contest Day. Committee members, arriving to take up their duties for the day, could not believe the change that had taken place, a specially built stage had been erected, seating capacity for 1,400 and a decorated auditorium to delight the most critical eye, adjacent coach parking in plenty, record attendance, success was assured. SCWS, with Geoffrey Whitham conducting, took the top honours with Cowdenbeath Public, Newtongrange Lothian, Cumbernauld Silver, taking the First Prizes in the Lower Sections. In 1972 the Championships, this year in Falkirk, with the 1st and 2nd Sections in the Town Hall and the 3rd and 4th Sections at Callender College of Education. Whitburn emerged as Championship winners and the first places in the lower sections were won by Bo'ness and Carriden, West Calder and St John's Port Glasgow. In 1973 a long journey North to Aberdeen, where in well appointed halls, which attracted large crowds, the success of the Executives option to reach the regions, vindicated their decision. Lochgelly Public, with Enoch Jackson in charge, took the top title playing Edward Gregson's test piece "The Plantagenets", the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Section first prizes going to Arbroath Instrumental, Greenock and District and Coalburn Silver. In October 1973 at the London National at the Albert Hall, Dalmellington gave a sparkling performance on Hubert Bath's Test Piece "Freedom" to take 4th place, one point separating the first four bands.

1974 – 1978

The 1974 Championships returned to Falkirk, executive negotiations with Mr David Cunningham, Head of Leisure Services, agreed that for every alternate year facilities were on offer at Falkirk to host the Championships. Falkirk being easily accessible in the Central Region and the generous contribution of the Association by the District Council was a gesture to benefit all. Whitburn took the top title and were now a strong force in Scottish Banding, Kirkintilloch won the 2nd Section, Alva Town won the 3rd Section and the winners of Section 4 were Kilmarnock Youth. The 1975 Championships had moved to Motherwell and this would be the alternative venue to Falkirk for the foreseeable future. Whitburn, with J. Harrison conducting, took top honours with first prizes in the lower grades going to Shotts St Patrick's, Kilmarnock Youth and Pennicuik Silver. A new dimension was emerging throughout the band movement with the introduction of Brass Tuition now bearing fruit in Schools, new young bands were springing up from various quarters where this tuition was strong. Many of the young bands had numerous female members, many of whom were holding down prominent positions and executing their parts with a taste and style that was pleasing to hear. In the past, Brass Bands had been a male chauvinist domain, the young ladies of the modern band were now treading a path few of their sisters of yesteryear had dared to cross. The 1976 Championships were held in Falkirk with Gilbert Vinter's "Spectrum", the chosen test, a powerful performance by Dalmellington, with Hugh H. Johnstone in charge, emerged as winners in a close contest from Whitburn in 2nd place, Kilmarnock Youth won Section 2, Benwhat were winners in Section 3 and the 4th Section was won by Johnstone Silver. Motherwell hosted the 1977 Championships where Bo'ness and Carriden won with a fine performance of Herbert Howell's Classic Test "Pageantry" conducted by David Richardson. Bon Accord Silver won the 2nd Section, East Kilbride Burgh the 3rd Section and the 4th Section went to Loudon Youth. In 1978 at Falkirk Town Hall, a superb performance by Dalmellington won the title playing Sir Arthur Bliss' difficult piece "Belmont Variations". CWS Glasgow took the 2nd Section title,

Loudon Youth won Section 3 and Whitburn Juniors were winners in the 4th Section.

1979 – 1984

In 1979 at Motherwell saw the emergence of two young bands take the honours - Kilmarnock Concert, Brass having come quickly up through the sections to capture the championship title and Loudon Youth victorious in Section 2, two of the old established bands won through in the lower sections, Armadale Burgh winning Section 3 and Galashiels Section 4. In 1980 at Falkirk Town Hall, Whitburn Burgh took top honours with major Peter Parks conducting, Newtongrange Bilston Colliery won Section 2, Fauldhouse Miners Youth Sections 3 and Bathgate were winners of Section 4. In 1981, at Motherwell Town Hall, Whitburn won a close contest from Dalmellington playing the chosen test "Variations on the Shining River" Fauldhouse Miners Youth, conducted by Tom Martin, having moved up through the Sections, took the 2nd Section title, Alva Section 3 and Pennicuik Section 4. In 1982, at Motherwell Civic Centre, Whitburn Burgh again were winners with a fine performance of John McCabe's difficult test "Imiges", Clydebank took top honours in Section 2, Ayr Benwhat won Section 3 and another young band, Paisley Youth, were victorious in Section 4. The four Championship wins by Whitburn Burgh Band in 1980-1983 had only been superseded by Clydebank Burgh's five consecutive wins in 1909, 1910-1913. Their prestige now realised a lucrative sponsorship from Murray International Metals and the band was renamed Murray International (Whitburn). The 1984 Championship was won by Kirkintilloch Silver, conducted by Walter B. Hargreaves, Stoneywood works took the 2nd Section and Alloa were winners of Section 3 with Dalkeith Burgh winner of Section 4. The Scottish Brass Band Association were now well placed with a strong executive team established, James Abbott as President, H.P. Walker, Secretary, James Hillis, Treasurer and a solid back-up from the other members. 1984 proved to be a highlight year when they were invited to host the European Championships in the capital city, Edinburgh. Great emphasis was put on President James Abbott as controller and the experience of the executive to execute this highly acclaimed festival which lasted three days.

1985 – 1990

In 1985, at Motherwell Civic Centre, Kirkintilloch completed a double with W.B. Hargreaves again in charge in the Top Section, Section 2 was won by Shotts St Patrick's Parish, Tullos Russell winners of Section 3 and Section 4 won by Irvine Youth. In 1986, at Falkirk Town Hall, Murray International (Whitburn) won the Championship Section, Lochgelly Public was winner of Section 2, Dunaskin Doon won Section 3 and the 4th Section was won by South Side Brass. In 1987, at Motherwell Civic Centre, a back to back win for Murray International (Whitburn) with Newmilns Burgh winners of Section 2, Paisley Youth Silver was victorious in Section 3 with the 4th Section won by Monklands Youth. In 1988, at Falkirk Town Hall, CWS (Glasgow) conducted by Howard Snell, playing the test piece - Horowitz - "Ballet for the Band" took the Championship Title. Bon Accord won Section 2, Monkland Youth Section 3 and Breadlands Concert Brass (Paisley) Section 4. In 1989, at Motherwell Civic Centre - CWS (Glasgow), conductor Howard Snell, won with a secure performance of Peter Graham's test piece "Prisms". This piece, only moderate in difficulty, was strongly overloaded with percussion. Bathgate Band took the 2nd Section title, Johnstone Silver Section 3 and the 4th Section was won by Greenhall Youth. The Bathgate Band, although young in years, were rich in talent, at the 1989 Nationals in London under the masterly hand of Alex Fleming took on a strong field of 24 English Bands to emerge victorious in the 2nd

Section. Percussion now being an integral insert of modern test pieces, the Scottish Executive, aware of the high cost of equipment to kit bands to perform these pieces, took the decision that in future they would hire suitable percussion for all bands to use on Contest Day. This decision was not taken lightly and was in no way designed to rancour percussionists in any of the Bands. They firmly believed the abuse valuable equipment suffered in transit from Band Halls to contest venues and returning to Band Halls was a justifiable reason for the move. Furthermore they were of the opinion the time waste between Band performances at the present day contests was at saturation point of dissolution to the general public. In 1990 at Falkirk Town Hall a fine win by Kirkintilloch was recorded, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Renton playing Ray Steadman Allen's classic test "The Beacons". UDI (Aberdeen) were the winners of Section 2, South Side Brass won Section 3 and Kelty and Blairadam Section 4.

1990 – 1993

At the National Final in London's Albert Hall, CWS (Glasgow), gave a splendid performance to capture the supreme trophy, the Champion Band of Great Britain. From the outset of CWS' history they had 2nd prizes at the National in the years 1929, 1933, 1934, 1958. In this year 1990, they had made it good. The spin offs from this success was exultant, new doors opened in all directions and Scottish Banding was at an all time high. The elation of 1990 had not yet ended, in the Queen's Honours List, Scottish President James P. Abbot was awarded the MBE for his contribution to music. James Abbot had served on the SABBA Executive for forty years, first as Secretary and then as President. He was well known throughout Great Britain as Contest Controller of the London National Finals and bandsmen everywhere were aware of the strong Executive team he headed in Scotland, "1990 was certainly Scotland's Glory year". In 1991, at Motherwell Civic Centre, Scottish Brewers (Newtongrange) took the Championship title with a near perfect performance of Eric Ball's "Journey Into Freedom". South Side Brass won Section 2, Kelty and Blairadam won Section 3 and Broxburn Silver won Section 4. After the 1991 Championships Boosey & Hawkes, Instrument Makers and International Music Publishers intimated they had bought the rights to the National Contests and had acquired the British Bandsmen registry. From 1992 they proposed to reshape the four existing sections of band grades and would implement a fifth section. Consternation arose from this directive, Regional Committees had to re-classify all their grades to have the measures in place for the next year's contests. Dissatisfaction was felt by many bands as the regrading emerged, some had been demoted against their will but the decision was made, there was no appeal. At Falkirk Town Hall the new 1992 Five Section Championships got under way with a win in the top section for Murray International (Whitburn), Riverside Brass won the 1st Section, Kelty & Blairadam won the 2nd Section, Shotts St Patrick's won the 3rd Section and McTaggart Scott Silver won the 4th Section. In 1993 at Motherwell Civic Centre, another back to back win in the Championship Section for Murray International (Whitburn) playing a very difficult test, Edward Gregson's "Of Men and Mountains". So acute was this work that four good percussionists were required by every band to execute the music which demanded £15,000 worth of percussion on stage. Dalmellington gave a stirring performance of their test "The Forest of Dean", to win the 1st Section, UDI (Aberdeen) won Section 2, Perthshire Brass won Section 3 and Forfar Instrumental won Section 4.

1993 – 1994

The success of 1993 was in the form of a four week tour by CWS (Glasgow) Band to Australia and New Zealand. The Band, in the capable hands of Bandmaster Archie

Hutchison and Geoffrey Brand, accompanied on behalf of SABBA by President James Abbott MBE and registrar Ian Gordon, performed to capacity audiences throughout the entire trip. 1994, the Centenary year of the Scottish Amateur Brass Band Association, with great plans in place to mark the occasion in due course of the year. The test pieces for contesting had been carefully chosen and Falkirk Town Hall was the venue on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th February. The Championship Section was won by CWS (Glasgow) conducted by Howard Snell playing Phillip Sparke's "Partita" Dunaskin Doon won Section One, Broxburn Public won Section 2, Croy Parish won Section 3 and North Ayrshire Youth won Section 4. This climax to one hundred years of contesting had overcome vast changes. The quality, style and tone production of the instruments in use today had improved immensely. Musical attainment of test pieces from the early days of light operatic selections, National Rhapsodies of well known airs, Grand Opera, and Original Works with a range and dynamics that now know no limit. The scene has changed in many ways, long gone are good bands from very small communities that tried to compete with a near neighbour only to submerge into oblivion when work went into decline and the labour force moved elsewhere. In 1894, the agenda was set, the conclusion of a hundred years had been reached, we can look forward with anticipation and record success as it happens.

Current Affiliated Associations

After the hostilities of World War One, in 1918 the Scottish Central Brass Band Association went into liquidation and the void was filled when the **Glasgow Charities Brass Band Association** was formed in 1919. The principal object of this new Charity Association was to raise funds for Glasgow hospitals, through the medium of Band contests. Glasgow Corporation - well aware of the public good ventures such as this created - offered facilities free of charge to stage the events. William Beardmore, a Glasgow city entrepreneur, gifted a magnificent shield as the premier award and James Alexander, Secretary of S.A.B.B.A. agreed to act as Secretary. With the reorganisation of Local Government, the name was changed to **Strathclyde Charities Band Association** in 1974.

In 1924 **The Fife Brass Band Association** took a similar step by setting up Charity Contests with "The Cup" - a gigantic trophy - as their Premier Award and Mr Robert Wardlaw from Coaltown of Markinch as Secretary. The local authorities in Fife also adopted the same policy as their Glasgow counterparts by providing the well-appointed Hall and Bandstand in Pittencrief Park, Dunfermline as a venue for annual contests. In 1938 the Fife Association went into limbo for nine years, resuming contests in 1947.

The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust began promoting contests in 1969. Entry is by invitation and these contests embrace all Grades of Bands and are held annually in the Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline.

In 1947 **The Edinburgh International Festival Committee** began contests. Again by invitation, five top English Bands and the top five Bands in the Scottish Championship competed on the formula of a March and a Test-Piece. These contests were a great success until 1990 when the Festival Committee withdrew financial support and the event folded.

Edinburgh Charities Association

With the decline of the **Lothian and Borders Brass Band League** in 1930, S.A.B.B.A. Secretary, James Alexander, made an approach to Edinburgh Corporation for

them to grant free use of the Waverley Market, with the concept of Contests similar to Glasgow. However, the City Fathers of Edinburgh were found to be not as magnanimous as their Glasgow counterparts by demanding the full fee of £50 for the proposed venue. Secretary Alexander then enlisted the support of Mr David Sharpe, Mr James Beattie - both S.A.B.B.A. executives - and Mr William Hanniford, an influential Edinburgh Councillor. After some adverse publicity, through the media of the Daily Herald Newspaper, the Edinburgh rulers were finally convinced that the Charity cause was genuine.

The first **Edinburgh Charities Contest** was held on Saturday 18 April 1931 when twenty two Bands - each paying one half Guinea entry fee - played an own choice National Airs test-piece and were adjudicated by Mr George Mercer from Sheffield. It was decided that only £21 would be paid out in prize money. Subscriptions to aid the event were encouraged, with West Calder Band donating £2, Mr William Hanniford £1 and Mr David Sharpe incurred the expense of £8, the cost of joiners fees to prepare the stage. At the end of the Contest, the 22 competing Bands - 500 players massed together - played the March "Alexander", dedicated by its composer George Hawkins as a tribute to Secretary James Alexander. At the end of the day, Jimmy Alexander had won over the City Fathers and was able to donate handsomely to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Following the change in local government, the name was changed to the **Forth Valley Brass Band Association** in 1974.