

# **B Band Report**

It has been a very mixed year for the B Band.

We managed two jobs last summer, one more than in 2002. I was pleased with the standard of performance at both. Thanks are also due to those members of the main band who helped out. We have been asked back to both venues this year.

I would like to see the B Band do a few more jobs each year, but this still depends (as well as being asked) on help from the main band being available.

The standard of playing has generally improved. Pieces that were regarded as 'difficult' are not so regarded now.

Although some new players have come in, we still suffer from lack of middle/bottom end players. This has a big effect on the music that can be attempted

Lucy has got several pupils from her school learning to play, and five have now started to attend. This is a very welcome development that will hopefully bear fruit in the future.

We continue to try and get new players although the response to our efforts is not good.

On the other hand we have lost more than we have gained. Until the arrival of the pupils from St Anthony's school, the loss was particularly great amongst the younger players. Whilst I understand the reasons (unconnected with the band) for this, it is disappointing.

Attendance at rehearsals. While some attend every week, there are others we rarely see.

There are still instances of music being too readily lost.

There was disappointment at not being able (unlike in the past) to join in with the main band at the big concert this year.

One major potential problem continues to be in the area of providing teaching if required.

With Mike's agreement, I have been able to give a lesson between 8 and 8.25, but there is obviously a limit to what I can do. It would be far more preferable if there were someone available between 7 and 8 to give lessons.

Finally, special thanks are due to:

- Adam for opening up and teaching Jack
- Margaret for all the work she does, including efforts to advertise
- Claire for the advertising in which she has included the B Band
- Lucy for giving her free time to teaching her pupils
- All those main band players who have come and sat in at the B Band rehearsals, particularly to Steven, who is there most weeks for the whole hour

**Ian Whittaker**  
**B Band Musical Director**