

## **B Band - Chairman's Report - 2009/2010**

Looking back over the year we can be pleased with the progress made. This time last year we were facing life without Ian Whittaker our Music Director of many years and who had been inspirational in building the band from a small group of players to one capable of performing in public and in contest. We also faced our first season with a proper gig programme. We faced a major period of change and uncertainty.

Membership has remained fairly static in overall numbers at over 20, but we have lost some players and gained others. We remain true to the principle of welcoming all who are committed to learning and enjoying brass music. Currently we are receiving an increase in interest, at least in part due to the 'A Band for Britain' programme on BBC and our publicity campaign to 'seize the opportunity' of that moment. The band is therefore growing in numbers, ability and enthusiasm.

We are no longer dependent on depts for most gigs but welcome Main Band players when they can join us and are grateful to Adam for providing percussion where we have a persistent vacant slot.

We celebrated the departure of Ian at the BBQ with a gift of baton, received considerable help from Dave Howells and Richard in the 'leaderless period' and with the help of Mike Gray appointed Chris Mackey as our new Music Director/Band Trainer.

Chris has proven a committed and dedicated Music Director and the quality of the bands playing has noticeable improved, so we look forward to the Croydon competition and the even more demanding gig season with great confidence. We are most grateful to Chris for all his hard work and leadership in support of the band.

As Chairman I'm most grateful for the time and effort the committee has put in to take over from the work that Ian used to do. In this regard I would particularly like to thank Margaret for all the tasks and chasing of Secretary and Maurice who has been superb and overworked with responsibility for publicity, instruments and the music library.

Into the future we want to expand the size of the committee to harness the enthusiasm of members and split the workload of building a dynamic and exciting band.

Apart from seeking to change our name to an externally more appealing 'Crystal Palace Progress Band' we want to build the band further in numbers with an 'Open membership Policy' and particular attention to attracting more youth participation. Our playing ability would also improve with master classes and section training sessions led by more experienced players. We welcome the steps being taken by the Main Band for some joint events – a feature sadly lacking in the recent past. We also need to face the challenges in acquiring better instruments, stand banners and smarter uniforms commensurate with our improving standards.

Above all our aim should remain to enjoy and progress our music making in an enthusiastic and friendly Band.

David Charlesworth – Chair of B Band

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