

B Band - Musical Director's Report - 2009/2010

Since taking over the MD's position just over 6 months ago, the band has grown, not only in size but more importantly, musically. I have made it a point to get the members to take ownership of the band and to become more involved in the committee workings and shaping the direction of the band.

The band is making progress as a whole and individuals are now seen to be enthused and working hard at moving the band on to the next level, several players are now having private lessons and this number is increasing, those who aren't are now practising more than previously so as not to be left behind. We are also exploring the feasibility of teaching in 'twos' during our rehearsal and we have had a member of the main band volunteer to take the lessons.

In the last month alone we have attracted 4 new players, 3 returning players of varying brass banding experience and 1 very talented youngster, this has been achieved by using the TV programme 'A Band for Britain' as a way of getting more publicity, but this is only the start. The band has the advantage of not being restricted by numbers so the recruitment drive will continue, also we are attractive for those players who do not have an interest or can't commit to contesting.

I have concerns over the age/condition/quality of certain instruments provided for the bands use and we are looking to have these replaced. I have been informed that the main committee have indicated that funds are available for this!

The band has a varied summer season ahead starting on the 7th May with the 'Croydon Music Festival'. We also have a number of bandstand type engagements as well as formal concerts in the planning stage and we have been asked to take part in a 'songs of praise' at a local church.

Our rehearsals now start at 6.30pm and we have an open door policy, so I would take this opportunity to extend an invitation to any members of the main band who would like to join us and use it as a warm up before the 8pm practice.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Band's Chairman, Secretary, Committee and all members of the Band for their friendship, enthusiasm and assistance since I took up the baton, and I look forward to an exciting and musically challenging year ahead.

CHRIS MACKEY April 2010