

Crystal Palace Band Musical Director's Report to AGM, 2015

Well done everyone on the encouraging efforts at the Stevenage contest - keep it up!

I judge the year since the last AGM to have been one of the best years for improvement during my 28 years with the band. I am very pleased with the way the sound has developed and the way in which we have *started* to really listen. Naturally there is always room to get better!

A few things occasionally niggle:

1. Players forgetting what has been said during rehearsal or not hearing it because of talking and/or not marking parts. There has been *some* improvement.
2. Some members not keeping the gig list up to date and/or not texting apologies when prevented from attending rehearsals.

The reasons for 1. above is obvious; 2. (i) Gigs: very important as it helps programming and the booking of deputies; (ii) Rehearsals: my time before rehearsals is often at a premium, so two main points: (a) courtesy to your section and the band and (b) to help to quickly re-deploy players or place visiting players in 'known' gaps.

I commend Tom Whittaker's excellent (and up-coming) document which, among other things, outlines Band Member Expectations and which embodies the spirit of the above.

I am impressed with the *esprit de corps* of the Progress Band and with its members' continuing energy and wish to improve under David's excellent leadership. There is also very good rapport between the CPPB and the CPB. I look forward to future collaborative efforts and to conducting the CPPB at two engagements during the coming season. Thank you Dave for inviting me.

I would like to thank the members of both bands for a very enjoyable year and to thank the Committee for their continued help and advice.

Mike Gray
MD CPB
Tuesday, 07 April 2015