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B Band Report March 2006

We managed our usual two jobs last Summer. One was only possible due to turning out a mixed band consisting of roughly 6 players from the B Band, 6 from the Main Band and 3 who normally play for both. Playing music from the B Band pads, the standard was excellent and based on this performance, I am sure that such a mixed group could successfully undertake almost any of the jobs the Main band do in the Summer. We have one new engagement this Summer. It is too soon for enquiries for either of the regular two. I would like to see the B Band do a few more jobs each year, but, as I reported last year, this still depends (as well as being asked) on help from the main band being available. In addition the B Band has entered the Croydon Music Festival. This is not a brass band contest, and not run under brass band rules, so the question of registration does not arise.

During the year we changed our recruitment advertising on the web site. In addition to looking for beginners and improvers (as before) we added those who might like to return to banding after a break. I am pleased to report that following the change we have attracted 4 new players, albeit one was very temporary, in addition to some who have mentioned the new criteria but gone straight to the main band. The B band is able to accommodate players who cannot attend rehearsals every week. I understand the problems of getting here for 7 p.m. and also the reasons why some cannot come every week, but, from the Band's point of view, it would help if more of the players could attend more regularly.

The big disappointment of the year was the change from the Autumn in the arrangements whereby the players could join in the Main Band rehearsals most weeks until 9 pm. It has recently been suggested that the B Band meets on a different evening to the Main Band. This would enable the B Band rehearsals to go on for longer than one hour, but preliminary indications from the band members are that any change would cause difficulties for some members, whatever different evening was chosen. Wednesday evening seems to be the only one when all the current players are available

Special thanks are due to:-

Adam for opening up

Margaret and Joe for all the work they do, including efforts to advertise

Claire for the advertising in which she has included the B Band

All those main band players who have come and sat in at the B Band rehearsals.

And last but by no means least, to those main band players who have played at jobs as part of the B Band.

Ian Whittaker