

**Crystal Place Progress Band  
MD's Report to the AGM Wednesday 15th April 2015**

The Progress Band continues to be vibrant enthusiastic group and membership numbers are stable. We have lost several members due to changes in jobs etc but have gained several new players. The band is fairly balanced (with a little help from MB members) for gigs except for a shortage of front row cornets. There are currently 19 paid up members, and 5 new ones.

Musically, as a group our standard continues to improve and we are now able to tackle more ambitious pieces and are beginning to include some solo items for more experienced players. We are also swapping the front and back row roles for some of the easier pieces to give younger/less experienced players a chance to develop their playing.

Gig wise we had another very successful Christmas gig at The Copleston including a bespoke arrangement by Mike Gray and an inspired vocal performance by our chairman. We did our usual round of summer gigs and had a summer 'social' where audience members were invited to 'have a go'.

The band also purchased 6 new John Packer cornets which seem to have been a good investment. They are a big improvement on the old ones and are holding up well to regular use. It now remains to decide what should be done with the old ones.

Another highlight this year was that we won a cup at the Beckenham Music Festival (but were the only entrant in our class and the adjudicator didn't know his euphonium from his tuba!).

Many thanks go to the committee who have worked hard on the new Child Protection Policy and especially to Alison Charlesworth for a major audit and sorting of the entire library. Thanks also go to the band's members and to those MB members who have helped us out in the past year. Special thanks go to Dianne Barker for always being available to open up and help out and to Mike Gray for his unstinting support and encouragement.

Dave Howell

PB MD