

B Band Annual Report - April 2008

Contest result: Area qualifiers Stevenage March 2008 22nd out of 22

Summer booking: 28 June 2008 Sanderstead Horticultural Society annual show

A year of progress: we did three jobs during the summer of 2007. We gave an indoor concert in December 2007. The first such concert for some considerable time.

There are encouraging signs of increased recruitment. Eight new players have come and one player has left. There are 28 players registered, including one or two who do not play regularly with us. Two of the regular players are registered with other bands. There are still one or two crucial gaps in the line up.

I would like to see more care of music being taken. Too many parts are still going missing.

Although the contest result was identical to last year's, the playing standard, and sound of the band have improved markedly over the year.

Between January and the National qualifying contest, rehearsals moved to Penge and were extended to run from 7 to 8.30. From my, B band, perspective, the extended rehearsal time was much better, in that I could do lot more than I can in the normal 60 minutes rehearsal. From comments made to me, the extended time was also liked by the players. The whole question of rehearsal day and time is ongoing and there is no simple answer. Any change has both advantages and disadvantages for both bands.

An informal meeting of the B band players has been arranged for Friday 25th April.

I would like to thank those members of the main band who have given encouragement, assistance and support to the B band over the year. In particular thanks are due to Adam for opening up the Museum each week and for conducting the band on those occasions when I have arrived late or been absent.

Ian Whittaker