

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT NIGEL BIRCH LIONS YOUTH BRASS

2010 Was once again a very successful year for not only the Youth Band, but the organisation as a whole.

The Youth Band started the year very well at The Butlins Contest gaining a really good second place and followed that up with the band's first Gold Award at The National Championships in April.

As always the band performed some great concerts and was privileged to have performed with The Fodens and Black Dyke Bands.

We have continued to work on our partnerships within the local community and brass band movement and continue to have excellent relationships with both local senior schools and their heads of Music, John Barber and Paul Taylor. We have also undertaken workshops with The Fodens Band and The Leyland Band and also benefited from our Musical Associate David Thornton and guest conductor Mike Fowles. We also should not forget our excellent relationship with The Roberts Bakery Band where we currently have seven of our band as players.

The band once again had a highly successful trip to Spain and I would like to thank everyone involved in making it a great success.

On our return from Spain we spent three days producing our latest recordings and they have proved a great success and on which we can look back on with great pride.

Following the recording it was time to say goodbye to a group of players who gave exemplary service to our organisation. I would like to thank Jenny Hindle, Neil Raisbeck, Charles Gorse, Mark Baty, Alex Holsgrove, Sarah Edwards, Alistair Miles, Timothy Bartley and Mark Thomas.

In September the rebuilding process of the band had begun and I would like to congratulate all my players on the fantastic effort they have made in coping very well with this transitional period of the band. The Butlins 2nd place was just reward for their hard work.

We now turn our attention to the Nationals in April, which will be, like it always is, a major challenge for the band, but I am convinced that with the right preparation and hard work we can give a performance that we will all be proud of, which this year will be in The Advanced Section for the first time.

I would like to thank all those who have helped out at concerts over the last twelve months, in particular parents, Tim Ashbrook and Huw Williams.

We have plenty of really good events to look forward to in the next 12 months and we will continue to enhance our relationships within the local community, with key bands and professional musicians within the brass band movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Raisbeck and Chris Thompson who invited me to take part in the Junior Band and Beginner Band workshops. It really gave me a great insight as to the work that is currently being carried out by all the Musical Directors and tutors and how hard the players in both these bands are working. I am delighted that all three

bands will be performing at The Nationals in April, as it sends a very strong message to other Youth Organisations that we are without question the number one Youth Organisation in our area.

No organisation can function without a group of people that our dedicated to the running of the band and I would like to thank the committee, superbly led by Jane Stubbs, for their continued hard work and dedication to the running of Lions Youth Brass.

I would also like to thank all parents who continue support and taxi their children, sometimes three or four times a week to concerts, rehearsals or other events and without your dedication, we would not be able to function in the way that we do.

Finally, I think all connected with the organisation can look forward to another busy, but very rewarding year ahead with a lot of great opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

Thank You

Nigel Birch

Proud Musical Director of Lions Youth Brass