

## Nigel Birch Musical Directors Report for A.G.M. September 2011

As I look back at the last term with great pride and satisfaction I would like to thank the Musical Directors and Tutors of the Beginner and Junior Bands for their continued hard work and also congratulate them on their continued successes which these bands are achieving under their guidance. I have said many times over the last few months that both of these bands are now not just musically better, but the structure in place for these bands is the best it has ever been and there is no reason why with the right support that these bands should not continue to flourish. Many congratulations to Ian Raisbeck, Tom Hancock, Derek Gardener, Chris Thompson, Hayley Scott, and also to our retiring tutors Matthew Darlington and Andrew Felton. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ashley Taylor to our team and I am sure he is already proving to be a great asset.

As for the Youth Band, this year has been another year of great achievement. Having to rebuild the band somewhat in the summer of 2010 was a major challenge for the band and I, but the band once again showed great character and are now seeing some great rewards for this hard work. Second place at Butlins and a fantastic Second at the Nationals in the Advanced Section was a great return for some really determined hard work for these events. We now have just as big a challenge to maintain these fantastic results and that will not be easy.

As usual we have been really busy with our program of concerts and I am very pleased at the consistent high standard the band achieving.

At this point I would like to thank all those that have helped the band over the last 12 months by stepping in to play at the last moment. In particular I would like to thank three parents, Tim Ashbrook, Huw Williams and Steve Barwick.

Our annual tour was as usual superbly organised by Jane, and supported with the usual commitment and hard work by all committee members. The tour was a great success as was the end of tour concert.

We have continued to work on our relationships with local bands, such as Fodens, who will once again be hosting all our workshops this year, and who we will be performing a third successive concert with in May of next year. We are also continuing our excellent working relationships with our two Musical Associates Mike Fowles and David Thornton.

I would like to thank Jane and all the committee for their continued dedication and hard work for the band and for giving all bands the opportunity to be involved in a very special organisation.

To all parents and supporters of the band, also many thanks as I know you put yourself out on many occasions to make sure your children are able to attend all of the bands functions.

As always the A.G.M. is not a forum to discuss individual players issues, but I'm sure I speak for all members of the Musical Direction team when I say that our door is always open to anyone who has any concerns over their child's development within the organisation. You might not always agree with our answers, but it will be an honest appraisal and one that is made in the best interests of the player and the band.

Finally, we have had over 20 years of great achievement, but if we wish to remain one of the premier youth organisations in country we cannot afford to relax, we must continue to strive for the highest standards possible in everything we undertake.

Many thanks

Nigel Birch.