

Beginner Band AGM Report

It has been another busy year in 2009 as you are about to find out...

The reintroduction of 'schools' concerts has been a major plus for the band this year as it gives us regular chances to give the children concert experience. All the children come to band where they work and play hard, but nothing beats actually getting on stage and putting everything that Andrew, Hayley and myself have taught them.

These newfound skills were shown to good effect in concerts at the Weaver school in Nantwich, Elworth Hall Primary School and the Slow Melody concert to name just a few, but perhaps the biggest concerts of the year were the 'Trainer Band Spectacular' event and the Christmas Concert. The Trainer Band event was held at Macclesfield bandstand and we were delighted to be invited by Macclesfield Youth. Here the band put in a performance that belied its lack of age and experience and we hope to be invited back in 2010. The Christmas concert saw us carry on the tradition of doing something a little bit different, and with our very own cornet players/travel guides Emma and Alex we hope that we managed that again this year.

2009 was also memorable for the acquisition of Matthew Darlington. Matt is now too 'old' for the Youth band, starting with us in September as a tutor and has settled in well. Eager to do whatever you ask of him, and loved by all the children in the band it is like he's always been a part of the band, and the improvement of our back row cornet players is in no small way due to his talent in extracting the maximum out of the children he works with.

Therefore, 2009 was busy. I'm almost done now, but as usual I'd like to - on behalf of Andrew, Hayley, Matt and myself - thank the usual suspects; Jane and her excellent and supportive committee (who must dread the sight of me walking towards them during band, usually saying 'I've got a question...'); Nigel and the Youth band; Ian, Tom, Derek and the Juniors; and finally, all of the parents of our players. Without you bringing your children to rehearsals and concerts there would be no band. Your continued support is appreciated.

As for 2010... well the year is dominated by the National Finals. We are looking forward to joining forces with Ian, Tom, Derek and the Juniors, ready for our trip to Manchester in April.

Chris Thompson
Musical Director
Lions Beginner Brass