

Nigel Birch M.D. Lions Youth Brass Yearly Report 2008

Since last years, A.G.M. the band has continued to perform very well at both concerts and competitions. A lot is asked of the band in terms of the number of engagements they are asked to perform, and I am delighted with the commitment shown by the players. However, I would remind everyone that they should only contact me if they are not able to attend a rehearsal or a concert, not a committee member, and do not send a message through another player. My contact details are at the end of this report. In addition, if you can give me as much notice as possible, it does help with program planning, and if I need to ask someone to replace a missing player, I need as much time as possible. I would ask you to check your email system or the web site, on a regular basis so that you are up to date with the bands current commitments.

I feel as a concert band we are now going in the direction that we have been striving for, for some time, by being able to combine good musical content with visual entertainment and I hope to develop this even further within the coming months.

While the band has some exceptional soloists I have been trying to give more players an opportunity to be featured in various pieces and again this is something, which I see continuing over the coming months.

The recording we produced in November was of a very high standard and one that all should be very proud of.

On the contest platform, I feel that we have been hard done by over the last 12 months. We have performed consistently well without always getting our rewards. In April, we have The National Championships, and it would be nice if our luck could begin to change when we perform at this event. If the band rehearses as they did for the recent Gwent competition, I am sure we have every reason to be optimistic.

The tour to Spain was very successful and we are very much looking forward to this years return trip.

The Junior and beginner sections continue to improve and I am delighted that Tom Hancock has joined the team of musical directors, as I am sure he will be able to make a major contribution. Although these bands do not get as much publicity as the youth band it is vital we all give as much time and support to them as we can as they are the source of future players for the youth band.

This meeting is not a forum for parents to air views about individual players, but you can contact me at anytime to discuss any concerns you have.

You may not always like the answer you receive, but it will be an honest one and one that is made within the best interests of the band. If players have issues that they feel they cannot talk to me about, they can always speak to their band representatives, Alex Holsgrove and Danielle Unwin.

I would like to thank all parents for your continued support of the band and it was good to see so many of you at the performance run through before Gwent.

Finally, may I thank Jane and all the current Lions Youth Brass committee for their continued hard work and dedication to the band, without which would be unable to operate in the way in which do, and when it comes to the election of officers, providing they are willing, I propose they all reelected for a further 12 months.

Many thanks to everyone.

Nigel Birch
Musical Director
Lions Youth Brass
N-BIRCH1@SKY.COM
07734263194
01270509573