

30/1/2010

### **Junior Band AGM Report**

The last 12 months have seen a number of big developments for Junior Band, the most obvious being the departure of Sarah and arrival of me as Musical Director. Fortunately, this transition was very smooth as we were able to work together in an overlap period last June.

Despite the change of leadership the Junior Band's primary objectives remain the same; to develop the players that the Beginner Band produce with the qualities that the Youth Band require and produce our own public performances that uphold and enhance the organisations reputation. Fortunately, for me this is greatly helped by the excellent work that the Beginner Band team do; proved by the latest batch of promotions that have all settled in and shown good potential in a short space of time.

During the last year the Junior Band has undertaken many more performances than in recent years; many of these concerts have meant sharing the stage with the Beginners and Youth Bands. For me this has been a great innovation as it has been clear to see the progression that members take and given all of the players more motivation to make the next step up. In addition to this we were able to raise a considerable amount for band funds over the Christmas period performing twice in Sandbach and twice in Congleton.

As usual many players have moved onwards and upwards to the Youth Band. Despite it making things difficult for us it is proof that the system is working well when players move up. Being able to sample the Youth Band for the second hour of rehearsals while remaining a Junior player has helped many make a smooth transition into the demands of the next level.

In the coming year the Junior Band will undertake their biggest challenge yet; in collaboration with the Beginners we will enter the Training Band section of the National Youth Brass Band Championships in April. This will be a momentous day for the whole organisation as, including the Youth Band; we will have over 100 members representing Lions in a national competition. I also hope that over the next 12 months we can continue to improve the standard of the Junior Band and take on more concerts and competitions in our own right.

As usual; the only request I have is that parents inform us when a member of the band cannot attend a rehearsal or concert as it does affect planning. The organisation has a comprehensive website and email system providing people with dates and times as well as contact details in case anybody is unsure.

All that is left to do is to thank Sarah Raisbeck for leaving the Junior Band in such a good state. Tom Hancock and Derek Gardener for their help as tutors, Katie Stubbs for her administrative skills, Jane Stubbs and all of the committee who do an excellent job, the Beginner Band team who produce an excellent foundation for me to work with and Nigel Birch for his brilliant musical leadership of the organisation. Finally thank you to all players, parents, supporters etc. for their hard work and support.

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