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The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

SCABA Champions!



Friary scoop more prizes at the SCABA Spring contest at The Hawth, Crawley

As we move out of the depths of winter, Friary embark on its busiest contest run of the year, kicking off with the Area contest in March through to the Whit Friday Marches in June with trips to Crawley and Blackpool in between. The Band also held its AGM in April, taking stock of the previous year's achievements and planning for the year ahead. There is an exciting line-up of concerts for the summer season too, so read on to find out more!

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- Latest contest results
- AGM report
- Bandroom news

Torch Relay OLYMPIC

Friary are lucky enough to have been invited to play as part of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay which will be touring the country in the coming weeks. The Relay passes through Guildford on the 20th July and the Band will play along the route as it makes its way to the evening celebration at Stoke Park. We hope to see some of you there!

Farewell...

The Band is sad to announce the departure of long serving members Nigel and Tania Winter. Nigel is one of the Band's longest serving members and frequently held positions on the management team, including the chairman post for many years. Friary would like to thank both Nigel and Tania for their commitment to the Band over the years and wish them both well for the future and hope to see them in the Banding community soon!

Matt Gilbert also departs after just over a year to rejoin his 'home' band, Aldbourne in time for their trip to Blackpool in May. Matt played on both the solo cornet bench and more recently held the Repiano cornet seat. Friary would like to wish Matt well with his future banding.

Don't forget!

Don't forget that Friary can benefit from everything you buy from the online marketplace, Amazon. Please remember when ordering to navigate to Amazon's website via the link on the Friary website. The Band will then receive a commission from Amazon on everything you purchase.



Hitting the right notes!



A new xylophone has recently been purchased with the help of money from the Supporters' Club. Generous donations coupled with Band funds have enabled the purchase of a piece of percussion which appears in almost every test piece and many of our concert programs now, meaning that our percussion team get to properly practise their parts during rehearsal. Friary would like to thank the members of the Supporters' Club who generously donated towards the purchase of this instrument.

Ranking check

Currently, Friary is number

71 (down 6)

in the 4barsrest/British Bandsman world rankings.

For a full list of the top 200 bands visit

www.4barsrest.com/rankings/

AGM

Friary Guildford Band held their AGM at the Chobham Club in April. Nigel Stevens, Lauren Cave and Jane Challis were re-elected as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, with Nick Krebs taking over as Band Manager from Chris Powell who remains on the Management Team. Contest- and Supporters Club Secretaries Alex Stevens and Richard Straker were also re-elected, along with the Band's Public Relations Officer, Tim Straker.

Nigel Stevens reviewed the previous 12 months. This had been marked with some excellent contest results in the Band's first full year back in the Championship Section, and some notable outside engagements, in particular the events at Wembley Stadium and Ascot Racecourse. He also paid tribute to some long-serving bandsmen who had decided to move on during the year. Jane Challis reported that the Band's finances remained sound.

The many engagements listed by Lauren Cave showed the increasing profile of the Band, with further new venues and events already booked for the year ahead.

Overall, 2011/12 was a good year for Friary Guildford Band, and a strong platform to build on for the future.

Friary MT 2012\13

Chairman:	Nigel Stevens
Treasurer:	Jane Challiss
Secretary:	Lauren Cave
Band Manager:	Nick Krebs
Contest Secretary:	Alex Stevens
Public Relations Officer:	Tim Straker
Minutes Secretary:	Joan Barker
Librarian:	Phil German
Supporters' Club Secretary:	Richard Straker
General MT Position:	Chris Powell

Congratulations!



Pic: Ian with the Area Trophy

Congratulations goes to Friary Trombonist, Ian Stewart as he conducted the Sussex based LGB to third place in their Area qualifier in March. Having moved up from the fourth to the third section this year, they showed no signs of being overawed and came home in third place, just missing out on a trip to the National Finals in September. They have also racked up two first placings in the first two SCABA contests of the year - Spring and Entertainments to start what must be one of the most successful years in the Band's history. Congratulations Ian and LGB!

Area Qualifiers

Contest: Area Qualifiers
Location: Arts & Leisure Centre, Stevenage
Date: 18th March 2012
Section: Championship
Test Piece: The Devil & the Deep Blue Sea (D. Bourgeois)
Adjudicator: Frank Renton
Position: 3/13



Friary returned to Stevenage after their first year of promotion back into the championship section to try and consolidate their position in the top tier of banding. The chosen test piece for this year was Derek Bourgeois' notoriously difficult 'The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea'. The technically challenging piece was Bourgeois' favourite of his compositions for brass band and Friary knew that they would have to put in many hours of practise in order to master it come contest day. Drawn uncharacteristically late at number nine, it gave the Band a chance to impress adjudicator, Frank Renton towards the end of the contest with the favourites Redbridge and Zone One Brass playing off early draws. After a great performance including some superb solo playing from Alex Stevens (baritone), Nigel Stevens (Horn), Chris Straker (Euphonium) and Lauren Cave on her first contest after taking over the flugel seat, Friary were placed 3rd behind Staines and Zone One Brass. This was the best result Friary had ever recorded in the Area contest however the result was somewhat bittersweet as they missed out on a place at the National Finals at the Albert Hall by one place! Nevertheless, the Band go into 2013 with a secure footing in the championship section, lying third in the grading tables. Thanks goes to Simon Tong (Soprano), Dave Moon (E flat Bass) and Martin Beaumont (Baritone) for their help at this contest.

SCABA Spring Contest



Contest: SCABA Spring Contest
Location: The Hawth, Crawley
Date: 29th April 2012
Section: Championship
March: The President (W. German)
Test Piece: Elgar Variations (M. Ellerby) (Own Choice)
Adjudicator: Alan Morrison
Position: 1/2

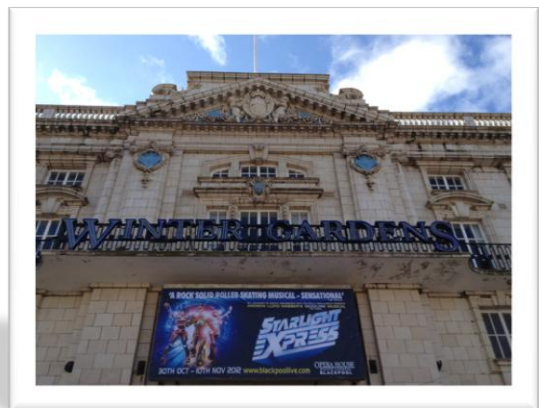
Having moved from Hove town hall, the SCABA Spring Contest moved to the familiar venue at The Hawth, Crawley, home of the SCABA entertainment contest in May. Since taking part in the British Open Spring Festival in Blackpool, Friary have used the SCABA spring Contest to test run the test piece, two weeks before playing it in anger. This year, Elgar Variations by Martin Ellerby was the chosen piece for the Senior Cup tier

of the Spring Festival. As one might expect, the piece is very musical and contains many motifs from Elgar works, was written back in 2006 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the English composer's birth.

In previous years, the top section of the SCABA contest has only been supported by Friary but this year, the Belgian band Brass a Musica provided some welcome opposition. Regular MD, Chris King was unavailable so Melvin White stood in. The competition requires both a March and a test piece to be played so Friary started their performance with The President (W. German) before continuing with Elgar Variations. After a slightly nervy performance, Friary were happy to hear that they were awarded first place in both the March and test piece by adjudicator, Alan Morrison. Chris Straker won best instrumentalist for his excellent solo and the bass section award was also given to Friary, which included last minute inclusion, Chris Bearman, who stood in for Nick Etheridge who unexpectedly had to pull out. Thanks goes to Chris Bearman (E flat Bass), Roger Burke (Baritone), Simon Tong (Soprano) and Ralph Wyld (Percussion) for their help at this contest.

Blackpool

Contest: British Open Spring Festival
Location: Winter Gardens, Blackpool
Date: 12th May 2012
Section: Senior Cup
Test Piece: Elgar Variations (M. Ellerby)
(Set)
Adjudicator: David Read, Paul Andrews
Position: 18/20



Having missed out on a place in the Grand shield by one position last year, Friary once again took part in the middle tier of the British Open Spring Festival, playing Martin Ellerby's Elgar Variations. M.D Chris King returned after his absence at the SCABA Spring Contest to mould the piece around his interpretation and rehearsals in the build up to the contest day went very well. Drawn thirteen, Band members were able to wander around the three contests at the Winter Gardens, taking in performances from other bands before getting ready to play in the early afternoon. The performance improved on the one given two weeks before and once again, the soloists played really well with adjudicators, David Read and Paul Andrews commenting 'nice style' and 'spirited playing'. Friary were therefore astonished to learn that their performance had only merited 18th place, and with it, relegation back to the Senior Trophy. The result seemed significantly out of place as the performance had gained many favourable comments from audience members and the pre-results predictions from Brass Band Website 4barsrest had Friary in 5th place. The Band will be aiming to bounce straight back into the Senior Cup next year!

FRIARY DIARY

Following on from their successful dates playing at Wembley and Royal Ascot, Friary have recently appeared at three more of the South's major sporting arenas.

On St Patrick's Day (17th March), 16 Friary members made up half the band that played on the pitch at Twickenham for the Six Nations match between England and Ireland. The Band played before the match and for both anthems in front of the 80,000 capacity crowd. The atmosphere was incredible and the Band well received.

The following week, and continuing the Irish theme, Friary performed at the London Irish RFC St Paddy's Day Party. The Band played a short programme on the pitch during the warm up and had to dodge some wayward rugby balls which came hurtling past every so often!



April saw a last minute request from Sandown Park Racecourse for Friary to perform at their 'Ultimate Event'. The Band played for Race goers towards the end of the day in the Grandstand opposite the parade ring (pic. above). There was even some audience participation in some of the music including a great rendition of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' with the on-looking crowd singing along!

27th May

All England Masters International

Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering

4th June

16:00-Late

Whit Friday Marches

Tameside villages, Lancashire

9th/10th June

11:00-15:50

'Best of British'

RHS Wisley Gardens

7th July

19:30

Summer Concert

Methodist Church, Woking

20th July

17:30 Onwards

Olympic Torch Relay

Guildford

22nd August

12:30-14:00

Westminster Abbey Lunchtime Concert

College Gardens, Westminster Abbey

1st September

Evening

Guides Proms Concert

Tilford

More details on all events on our website:

www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk

Or contact our secretary:

Lauren Cave 07974 804394

secretary@friaryguildfordband.co.uk

Bugle Call!

Don't forget that our first self promoted concert is coming up on **7th July**. Please come along and enjoy our evening of entertainment. If anyone would like to hear a certain piece, please feel free to send in your request to supporters@friaryguildfordband.co.uk. We'd also be interested to hear from anyone who would be prepared to volunteer their services, helping out by selling raffle tickets to serving refreshments. See you there!