



BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

Friary 'Silver' Band!



Friary trophy winners at the SCABA solo, quartet & ensemble contest

As Friary return to the Championship section, they continue their success at a variety of competition formats ranging from the annual SCABA solo, quartet and ensemble contest held in Ringmer to the area qualifying contest which saw the band qualify for the 1st section National Finals last year. Read on to find out how they did and about the upcoming busy summer concert schedule!

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Top Ranking!

Friary Guildford Band are flying high – it's official! Following their crowning as First Section Champions of Great Britain at the National Championships at Harrogate in September, and a further two contests in October, the band has risen a staggering 68 places to 52nd in the World Rankings, as published in The British Bandsman magazine and leading brass band website, 4barsrest.

Of bands in the London & Southern Counties region, only Redbridge Brass and Zone One are now placed higher than Friary Guildford. Band chairman, Tim Gregory, commented: *"This is a fantastic achievement, the highest Friary Guildford have ever been ranked in their history. But whilst rankings are important, they are only part of the story. We are busy consolidating our position in the world's top flight Championship Section, where competition is be even fiercer."* Friary's press officer, Tim Straker, added: *"It's great to see the band members' hard work and commitment reflected in the world rankings, which show the public that there are top brass bands to be heard in the South of England as well as in their traditional territory further North".*

For more information and a full list of the top 200 ranked bands, log onto www.4barsrest.com/rankings

Friary Strengthen Ranks

Friary welcomes Matt Gilbert to the cornet section and Kevin Webb into the trombone section. Matt transfers from the Fairy Band and will play on the solo cornet bench. His first contest was Yeovil in February. Kevin joins after a long spell playing with Chichester. Kevin's first contest with the Band was Hove on 17th April. MD Chris King commented *"Both these new additions to the band strengthen their respective sections and Friary are glad to welcome in such talented players".*

Over the Moon!

The Bugle is delighted to report that E-flat bass player Dave Moon has a new addition to his family. Dave's wife Gwyneth gave birth to a baby girl named Alice Emilia weighing in at 8lbs. Congratulations Dave and Gwyneth!

Masters Invitation

Friary Guildford Band have been invited to play in the prestigious All England International Masters contest, to be held on Sunday 29th May at the Kettering Conference Centre and Lighthouse Theatre.

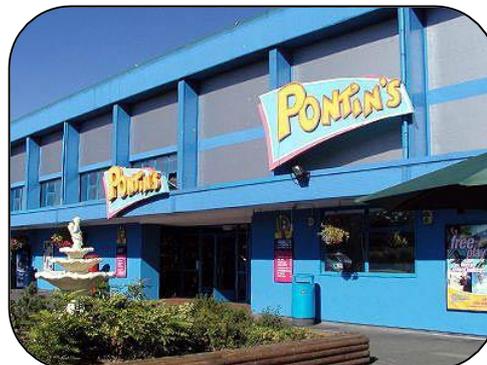
The test piece for the contest is a new commission by Darrol Barry, entitled 'Gemini'. The work is dedicated to doyen of the brass band world, Roy Newsome, with the central episode being a personal tribute by the composer to the former principal trumpeter of the London Symphony Orchestra, Maurice Murphy, who died last October. A much-respected player in the orchestral world, Maurice Murphy played on the soundtrack of numerous major films, including Star Wars, Batman and Gladiator, was also one time principal cornet of the Black Dyke Mills band and a professor at The Royal Northern College of Music.

"At this stage we don't know the full line-up of bands taking part," said musical director, Chris King. *"But we know that we'll be up against strong opposition from both British and European bands and it's a real privilege to be asked to compete. It'll be another good test for everyone. The contest will be hot on the heels of the British Open Spring Festival two weeks earlier, where we'll be competing for the Senior Cup. May will be a busy month for us,"* he added.

Folkestone

Contest: SCABA Autumn contest
Location: Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Date: 16th October 2010
Section: Championship
Test Piece
(Own Choice): Les Preludes
 F. Liszt arr. B. Gay
Adjudicator: Peter Roberts
Position: 3/4

Friary travelled to Folkestone on the back of two consecutive victories in the Championship section in the previous two years. This year, as Pontin's contest was so close, Musical Director Chris King decided that the Band would play the set test piece that had been chosen for that competition. This was a recently published new arrangement of the Franz Liszt masterpiece 'Les Preludes'. Having competed at the National Finals just a few weeks before, some intense rehearsals were crammed in to work up this Championship section standard piece which has a particularly tough soprano cornet part. On the day, Friary gave a good account of themselves but could only come away with third place and the conductor's award for Chris' excellent interpretation of the piece. Adjudicator Peter Roberts remarked *"There were some very notable individual contributions to this performance which had a lot of character"*. Thanks go to Michael Straker (Trombone) and Rob Domingue (Soprano) for helping the Band out for this contest.



Contest: Pontin's
Location: Pontin's Holiday Camp, Prestatyn
Date: 24th October 2010
Section: Championship
Test Piece: Les Preludes
(Set) F. Liszt arr. B. Gay
Adjudicators: Roy Newsome,
 Major Peter Parkes
Position: 10/15

The band returned to the Championship section in Prestatyn with the hope that they may emulate the result they gained three years earlier (4th) playing Philip Sparke's 'Partita'. The challenging test piece 'Les Preludes' was this year's selection and after giving it a run-out at Folkestone the week before (result: 3rd), Friary knew what would be expected of them from a strong field of 15 bands from all over the country. After another committed performance of a number 10 draw, Friary were placed 10th. Adjudicators Roy Newsome and Peter Parkes commented *"Much to commend but more work needed"* which was a fair summary of a performance of this tough test piece. Thanks must go to Rob Domingue (Soprano) Paul Thomas (E Flat Bass), Gwyn Press (B Flat Bass) and Jane Stewart (Percussion) for helping Friary out for this contest.

Solo Success!



Friary players were given an incentive to compete at the annual SCABA solo, quartet and ensemble contest in Ringmer with the Band offering to cover the fee of all entries. This encouraged many players to come forward and take part for the first time, both in the solo and ensemble classes. Adjudicator Melvin White, who was confined to his box for a long time after a record number of entries, commented on the high standard of the competition and what a pleasure it had been to listen to the performances throughout the day. In the adult slow melody section, Richard Straker (cornet) came out on top with his rendition of 'Rusulka's Song to the Moon' with Rhys Cave of Aveley & Newham coming second playing 'Before the Cross'. Friary's Lauren Cave (Rhys' sister) claimed the final podium position switching her cornet for a flugel and playing the lyrical solo 'Reflections'. Other members of the Friary contingent including Chris Straker (Euphonium), Ian Stewart & Roland Knight (both trombones) all played exceptionally well and were placed just outside the top three. In the adult Air Varie competition, Friary's principal cornet Richard was placed first with a tour de force performance of 'Slavische Fantasy'. Second was fellow cornet player Lauren who showed her flexibility, switching back to cornet to play a technically

assured version of 'O Lovely Night'. Chris Straker took third, wowing the audience with a superb performance of 'Fantasie Brillante'. Again other Friary competitors Ian Stewart, Roland Knight and Steph Westwood produced very creditable performances. Thanks goes to David Howell who accompanied many of the Friary performances in the solo class. Friary entered three quartets in the Open Quartet class with Richard Straker, Lauren Cave, Nigel Stevens (Horn) and Chris Straker playing Dennis Wright's 'Romantica' and coming first ahead of the bass quartet of Alan Westwood, Nigel Simmons, Dave Moon and Phil German playing Suite in Blue. The trombone foursome of Ian Stewart, Roland Knight, Dave Moon and Adam Gregory came in fourth playing an arrangement of Wagner excerpts. In the Open Ensemble, Friary were the only competitors with a eight-piece made up of Richard Straker, Chris King, Lauren Cave, Nigel Stevens, Chris Straker, Ian Stewart, Adam Gregory, Dave Moon, played a Nigel Simmons composition 'Prelude, Elegy & Scherzo' which adjudicator Melvin White said "*rounded off the day nicely*". Friary ended the day with a good haul of trophies and titles to take back to Surrey.



Top: Richard Straker Bottom: Chris Straker, Lauren Cave, Richard Straker & Nigel Stevens with adjudicator Melvin White.
Photos courtesy of Matthew Ruel (SCABA)

Yeovil

Contest:	Yeovil Entertainment
Location:	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
Date:	5th February 2011
Section:	Championship
Test Piece:	Entertainment
(Own Choice)	See below
Adjudicator:	Colin Hardy
Position:	8/12



Friary were invited back to Yeovil after missing out last year due to their 1st section status. Musical director Chris King chose an entertaining programme for the band's first contest of the year which was; Chris' arrangement of Malaguena, Song & Dance (Cornet solo; Richard Straker), The Pat Metheny jazz classic 'Letter from Home', Mr Sandman (complete with hand bell soloists Matt Tallamy, Alex Stevens, Steph Westwood and Nigel Simmons!) and Chris' arrangement of Armenian Dances. Adjudicator Colin Hardy wrote "*Overall some good playing but also some blemishes*". After a closely fought contest, Friary were placed 8th from a field of 12 bands. which should be enough to see their return to this popular contest next year. Thanks for this contest go to Ralph Wyld and Geoff Clarke (both percussion).

Area Qualifiers



Contest:	Area Qualifiers
Location:	Stevenage
Date:	20th March 2011
Section:	Championship
Test Piece:	Paganini Variations (P. Wilby)
Adjudicator:	Dennis Wilby
Position:	5/12

Friary took to the Championship section stage in Stevenage for the first time since 2007 having gained promotion from the first section last year. The test piece was the Phillip Wilby classic 'Paganini Variations' which is a taxing test of both ensemble and solo playing for the band. After weeks of extra practices, sectionals and rehearsals, Friary produced an exciting performance from a number 8 draw which Dennis Wilby (no relation to composer) described as "*A performance of much merit. You overcame all the technical problems which this marvellous work demands from both players and conductor*". The performance was placed fifth which saw the band cement its place in the highest tier of the banding world for another year. Special thanks go to Graham Bushill (soprano), Ian Crispin-Shepherd (E flat bass) and Ralph Wyld (percussion), who joined the band for this contest.

SCABA Spring Contest

Contest: SCABA Spring Contest
Location: Windmill Theatre, Hove
Date: 17th April 2011
Section: Championship
Test Piece: (Own Choice March/Test)
Knight Templar/Prisms
(Graham)
Adjudicator: Gareth Pritchard
Position: 1/1



Friary Guildford Band added more silverware to their already impressive collection at the Southern Counties Amateur Bands' Association Annual Spring Contest in Hove.

Playing their own choices of march, Knight Templar (George Allen), and test piece, Prisms (Peter Graham), they won the Championship Section, March Prize and Best Bass Section (although they were the only entrants!), whilst solo euphonium player, Chris Straker, won the Best Instrumentalist award. Adjudicator Gareth Pritchard commented that the band's playing of the march would see them well placed in the Oldham and Saddleworth Whit Friday Marches contest, where Friary will be competing in mid June.

Band Chairman, Tim Gregory, was delighted with the result. *"We chose Prisms as our test piece as this is the set work for the Spring Festival Senior Cup contest in Blackpool next month. We know there is still some final work to do on it, but it was a good first formal run, and the adjudicator's comments were great encouragement for the Whit Friday Marches."*

AGM Review...

The annual general meeting of the Friary Guildford band was held on the 20th April 2011 where the Management Team (MT) was elected to serve in the forthcoming year. There was a very pleasing review of the year with contesting highlights of winning the First Section National Finals and also a noticeable increase in the number of quality concerts that Friary have been involved with. MD Chris King commented that the band was moving up in the banding world and that he would continue to try and forward the musical direction of the band. Incumbent Chairman, Tim Gregory, announced that he would no longer be standing for the Chairman post but takes on the Band Manager role which has been vacant for the last year (although Tim

has been fulfilling some of these responsibilities). Alan Westwood takes over the Chair role with other changes seeing Alex Stevens resuming the Contest Secretary role from Janatha Yarham and Nick Krebs take one of the general MT slots. Joan Barker becomes the Minutes Secretary after 15 years service from Duncan Ford. Thanks go to the outgoing MT members after a good year and good luck for the year ahead for the incoming MT who are:

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



Twit-who?

All the latest movements from Friary can now be followed via the social network site 'Twitter'. To follow the latest tweets, go to:

<https://twitter.com/FriaryGuildford>

Cornet A-Go-Go

Unfortunately Friary have had to say good-bye to front row cornet player Wayne Filer. Wayne has been a member of the band for the last year but departed before this year's area contest due to increased work commitments. The Band would like to thank Wayne for all he's brought to the band – especially his large chocolate cakes!

Concert preview...

Friary will be taking part in a joint concert with the Nidaros band who are touring the UK during June. Nidaros, who were formed in 2003 as a concert band, come from Trondheim (Nidaros is the original name for the city) and will be touring all over the UK with concerts in Kettering, Bourton-on-the-Water and West Byfleet. The concert with Friary will take place on Friday 3rd June in the Methodist Church in Guildford starting at 8pm. It will feature programmes from each band as well as a grand finale of a short programme of joint items. Tickets are priced £6 (£5 concessions) and are available on the door for what should be a very entertaining concert!

FRIARY DIARY

14th May

Spring Festival Contest

Winter Gardens, Blackpool

29th May

All England Masters Contest

Kettering

3rd June

Joint concert – Nidaros Band

20:00

Methodist Church, Guildford

17th June

Whit Friday Marches

Saddleworth/Tameside, Yorkshire

25/26th June

RHS Wisley Gardens Concert

14:30-16:30 (Sat.)
11:30-13:30 (Sun.)

Wisley, Surrey

9th July

St. James's Park Bandstand Concert

15:00-18:30

St. James's Park, London

16th July

Guildford Beer Festival

13:00-15:00

Guildford Cricket Club, Surrey

7th August

Music in the Meadows Concert

15:00-17:00

Farnham, Surrey

17th August

Westminster Abbey Concert

12:30-14:00

College Garden, Westminster

More details on all events on our website:

www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk

Or contact our secretary:

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Bugle Call!

Please submit any news you would like published in the Bugle to:
supporters@friaryguildfordband.co.uk.
All contributions are gratefully received!

