



BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band



Welcome...

To your new look Friary Bugle – your way of finding out the latest news from the Friary Guildford Band. Over the last ten years, Roland Knight has done a fantastic job of putting together this quarterly newsletter to keep the supporters' of Friary fully informed of the band's activities. I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Roland for the many hours of work he has put in as he decides to step down from his role as supporters' club secretary.

This issue brings results from three contests that Friary have taken part in as well as concert and bandroom news.

R.Straker

In This Issue:

- Bandroom news
- Contest results
- Concert review

Principal Trombone claims Bandsman of the Year award



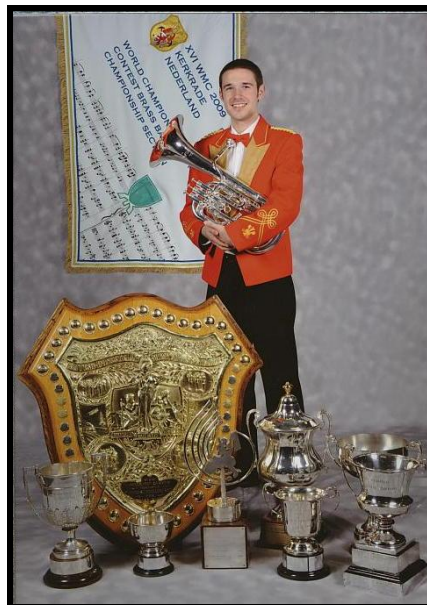
Principal trombone Ian Stewart has been voted Friary's bandsman of the year at this year's AGM.

The vote taken by band members was made in favour of the trombonist who has made a telling contribution to the band in the last twelve months having moved up from the second trombone seat. Highlights of the year have been a number of stand-up solos including a lyrical rendition of 'My Funny Valentine' at the Wychavon entertainment contest last September and the contrasting 'Shout' which wowed the audience at the Mayor's charity concert in April. These performances combined with Ian's strong leadership of his section made him a popular candidate for the award which he was delighted to receive.

Young talent makes Friary return

After a series of auditions held during June, the euphonium vacancy has been filled by Chris Straker. Chris, who has played with Friary on a temporary basis before joins the band following two and a half years playing baritone with reigning World, European and British Open champions, Cory Band. He studied music at Cardiff university, where he was tutored by euphonium virtuoso David Childs, and played for Mid Rhondda and BTM Bands before joining Cory. Prior to university, Chris was a member of the Hampshire County Youth Band and principal cornet of the North East Hampshire Area Schools Band, before switching to euphonium in 2004

Chris completes the brass line-up at Friary leaving only one vacancy for tuned percussion. His first Friary engagement was the lunchtime concert given at Westminster Abbey on the 7th July.



Chris with some of the trophies he won with Cory

News in brief...

▫ **Wateraid Charity Concert** – Earlier this year Friary played in a joint concert with Weybridge Male Voice Choir in aid of the charity which provides safe water and sanitation for the world's poorest countries. The concert in the Holy Trinity Church in Guildford was a success and raised £700. For more details visit www.wateraid.org.

▫ **AGM** – A new management team was voted in at the AGM in April. The posts are filled as follows:

Chairman:	Tim Gregory
Treasurer:	Jane Challiss
Secretary:	Lauren Cave
Contest Sec.:	Janatha Yarham
Supporters Sec.:	Richard Straker
Minutes Sec.:	Duncan Ford
P.R.O.:	Tim Straker
Librarian:	Phil German
Band Manager:	Vacant
M.T Members:	Joan Barker Chris Powell Alan Westwood

New chairman, Tim Gregory, thanked the outgoing M.T members for all their work and support during the last year.

▫ **Bandmaster** – The band has appointed a new bandmaster from within their ranks. Soprano cornet player Jon Hammond takes over from Andrew Porter who has recently departed Friary due to work commitments. Jon has been rehearsing the band for the National Finals covering for resident MD, Chris King, who is in Scotland with the Grenadier Guards preparing for the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Success!

Friary have been busy on the contesting scene since the last edition of the Bugle. Since winning the area contest in Stevenage back in March, the band has been on the road supporting the local SCABA contests in Hove and Crawley as well as taking part in the Spring Festival up in Blackpool against national opposition. After hours of work put in by both band members and MD Chris King, it was essential to translate this into strong performances on the contest stage. Keep reading to see how the band got on!



SCABA Spring Contest

Location: Hove
Date: 18th April
Section: Championship
March: The President
Test Piece: Le Roi D'ys
Adjudicator: Stan Lippeatt
Position: 1/1

The Band travelled to the SCABA Spring Contest with the knowledge that for the second year they would face no opposition as they were the only entrant in the top section. We therefore took the chance to give our Spring Festival test piece a run-out and get a critique from adjudicator Stan Lippeatt.

The contest requires both a march as well as an own choice test piece and our chosen march was 'The President' (German) which received great comments from the adjudicator (see opposite).

Le Roi D'ys (*Lalo*) followed and with a fantastic contribution from Pete May on Euphonium playing a notoriously difficult solo mid-way through the piece, the band put in a fine performance which drew some good remarks.



Pete May (Euphonium) receives the best instrumentalist award from adjudicator Stan Lippeatt

*Great build to Presto. Presto: Band & perc. not always in sync. but yes good technical playing. 8/9 bars from the end were quite untidy, then back on track.
 A good performance with lots to offer. Bravo Flug, Euph & MD!*

Final Results (selected)

1*	Beumaris	Wales
2*	Zone One Brass	London & SC
3*	Blackburn & Darwin	North West
4*	Friary Guildford	London & SC
↓	↓	↓
12	Wantage Silver	London & SC
↓	↓	↓
20	Knottingly Silver	Yorkshire

* Indicates promotion to Senior Cup



Adjudicator's Comments:

The President:

*Fine big sound. Good dynamic contrasts, all technical parts are fine. Good sop. work noted. Just the odd spot of overblowing.
 A well played march*

Le Roi D'ys

"Untidy first entry. Cornet plays well. Flugel soloist plays well with a good sound. Good build to Allegro, fine band sounds. Allegro: great tempo and all technical parts are well played. Good sop. work noted thus far.

Andantino: Euph. soloist plays well. Eb bass (yes pp) but a shade too soft for good balance. Bravo Euph.. Good ending to a fine playing of the Solo. Good build to P. just the odd blip.

Spring Festival

Location: Blackpool
Date: 15th May
Section: Senior Trophy
Test Piece: Le Roi D'ys (Set)
Adjudicators: Robert Childs/
 Richard Marshall
Position: 4/20

The successful run-out of the set test piece at the SCABA Spring contest a month earlier meant that Friary travelled up the M6 to Blackpool with cautious confidence that they could pull out their best result at this contest since they were invited four years ago. There were a couple of changes to the player ranks most notably the inclusion of former player Andrew Porter on principal euphonium replacing Pete May who was unable to play due to work commitments.

The draw for once was in Friary's favour, playing last in a strong field of championship and first section bands. Sure enough, Friary put in a great performance in the the highly decorative surroundings of the Spanish Hall within the Winter Gardens to round off the contesting day. All the soloists played exceptionally well and as the band congregated in the Ballroom to hear the results, there was nervous optimism. All the hard work was rewarded with a fantastic fourth place which means that next year, Friary will be competing in the next tier of the Festival, the Senior Cup alongside their fellow London & Southern counties band Zone One Brass who came second.

The comments from the adjudicator's were impressive with Robert Childs summing up with "Bravo, a super show" and Richard Marshall commenting "A strong performance from a strong band"

Special thanks must go to the players who helped the band out for this contest; Andrew Porter (euphonium), David Cooper (soprano), Steve Kowalenko (cornet), Gary Hopkins (E flat bass) and Matt Ruel (percussion).

SCABA Entertainment Contest



Location: Crawley
Date: 16th May
Section: 'A' Section
Programme: (see below)
Adjudicator: Roy Sparkes
Position: 1/8

After a long journey back from Blackpool, the band arrived at the SCABA entertainment contest in tired but determined mood to defend the title they won last year. There was a strong line-up of eight bands all of which played competitive and challenging programmes. Friary opened with a special arrangement from MD Chris

King of '76 trombones'. This was played as the band marched onto stage in their distinctive white jackets. Another of Chris' arrangements followed, this time a soprano cornet solo 'Lament' from Karl Jenkins' 'Stabat Matar' played beautifully by the band's talented soprano cornet player Jon Hammond. The Latin inspired 'Valero' followed complete with choreography. The programme finished off with the final hymn from 'The Firebird' (Stravinsky) and an encore of the last

movement of Phillip Sparke's 'Year of the Dragon'. Adjudicator Roy Sparkes commented 'I engaged with the programme very much - thank you'. With marks of 57/60 for music, 28/30 for content and 9/10 for deportment, Friary ended up clear winners by 5 points from the second placed band Regent Brass. Special thanks go to Geoff Clarke (percussion), Steve Kowalenko (cornet), Andrew Porter (euphonium) and Martin Whybrow (E flat bass) for helping the band out at this contest.

Harrogate here we come!

As a result of winning the London & Southern Counties Area First Section Regional Championships, held at Stevenage in March 2010, Friary Guildford Band will be taking part in the National Championship Finals, to be held at The Harrogate International Centre over the weekend of 25th & 26th September.

The Band will compete against other top First Section bands from across the UK, playing the test piece 'Diversions on a Bass Theme' by George Lloyd. This work was initially commissioned with funds provided by the Bass Brewers for the 1986 Mineworkers' National Brass Band contest. It has subsequently been used as a top section set work for the Regional Championships in 1987 and as the British Open set work in 1998.

The Band receives no external funding. Whilst the Band receives payment for most concerts and other events which help, as do subscriptions and donations from supporters, players fund the majority of running costs, such as rehearsal venue hire and conductor's fees. The cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence for the National Championship Finals has to be covered by the players.

Crawley full results as follows:

Position	Band	Points
1	Friary Guildford	94
2	Regent Brass	89
3	Chichester City	88
4	Tilbury	87
5	Sandhurst Silver	86
6	Soham Comrades	86*
7	East London Brass	83
8	Ocean Brass	78

Best Soloist: Kevin Barker (Flugel - Sandhurst)

Best March: Regent Brass

*In the event of a tie, the highest music mark counts as the tie-breaker

If you have enjoyed our playing, or would just like to help support our brass band heritage, the Band would greatly appreciate any financial assistance. And of course, if you would like to support the Band at the Championship Finals, why not enjoy a weekend away in the spa town of Harrogate and take in the music as well as the water!

Wey and Arun Canal Trust

On a sunny April day, Friary played at the opening of the 'Devil's Hole' lock on the Wey and Arun Canal upon completion of its restoration.

A small ensemble of 11 players taken from the band entertained the crowds who gathered to celebrate the reopening of the lock, originally built in the early 19th century near Loxwood in West Sussex. The junction suffered massive damage during the 1940's when the Canadian army who were stationed in the area used it to practice laying explosives in readiness for the Dieppe raid in 1942. A party from the Canadian High Commission were welcomed to perform the opening ceremony and as part of the proceedings, Friary played a specially composed fanfare from member Nigel Simmons.

Nigel, who plays B flat bass with the band has taken on the conductor's role for the small ensemble and arranges most of the music too.

Following the cutting of the red ribbon, Friary played a short concert to the sun-drenched crowd playing numbers from the Carpenter's and ABBA as well as the old favourites 'The Great Escape' and 'Dam Busters'!



Look out for further concerts down the canal as 'Devil's Hole' is just part of an extensive restoration project of the 23 mile stretch of water which links London and the south coast.

For more information on the Wey and Arun canal trust visit:
www.weyandarun.co.uk

FRIARY DIARY

- **22nd August** **Guildford Bandstand**
Castle Grounds, Guildford
- **30th August** **Woking Summer Festival**
Winston Churchill School, Woking
- **4th September** **Ruislip Lions Last Night of
the Proms Concert**
Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip
- **12th September** **Pre-Finals Concert**
The Connaught School, Aldershot
- **25th September** **1st Section National Finals**
International Centre, Harrogate
- **16th October** **SCABA Autumn Contest**
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
- **24th October** **Pontins Contest**
Prestatyn Sands, North Wales
- **14th November** **Remembrance Parade**
High Street, Guildford
- **5th December** **British Heart Foundation
Concert**
Park Barn Day Centre, Guildford
- **11th December** **Joint Concert with Vivaldi
Singers**
St. Andrew's Church, Farnham
- **12th December** **Radio Lion Carol Concert**
Surrey County Hospital, Guildford

More details on all events on our website:

www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk

Or contact our secretary:

Lauren Cave 07974 804394

Bugle Call!

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

