



HARMONY

The Official Newsletter of the Oxfordshire and District Brass Band Association

Spring 2017

MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR ODBBA



Barbara Sudworth, who has stood down as ODBBA President after many years of service.

2016 proved to be a great year for the Oxfordshire and District Brass Band Association.

Firstly, the annual test piece workshop for 3rd and 4th section bands proved to be as popular as ever. Led by Mike Kilroy and Steve Pritchard-Jones, bands gained a useful insight into the area test pieces, which in many cases translated into success at the area contest.

Next, the Winter Contest saw its biggest ever entry.

33 bands competed in what proved to be a long day, and which has encouraged ODBBA to make the event a two-day contest in 2017.

The new format Entertainment Contest also proved to be very well supported this year, which was great to see after it had been cancelled in 2015.

Sadly, Barbara Sudworth decided to stand down as President, but we were delighted that Ken Membury has taken over the role. (See page 2 for more)

New Association President

The Association were sad to learn that Barbara Sudworth had, due to ill-health and time constraints, decided to stand down as President. Barbara had been President since the death of her husband and former ODBBA President Ron, and has loyally served the Association ever since. ODBBA wish her well in her retirement, and hope that she will keep in touch. We are delighted to award her with the title of *President Emeritus* – the first in the Association's long history.

Taking over the Presidential role is Ken Membury, who has been involved with the Association for very many years. He has served in many roles on the committee, and most recently has been Honorary Life Vice-President. Many will also know Ken for his work with the London and Southern Counties Regional Committee.

We are thrilled that Ken has taken over this role, and know that he is the ideal person to lead the Association towards its centenary celebrations in 2023.

New Membership Benefit

ODBBA are delighted to offer a new benefit to member bands who are based within 30 miles of central Oxford, and who have renewed their membership by the end of January.

If your band qualifies for the National Finals, ODBBA will make a donation towards the significant cost of taking your band to the contest.

The amount awarded to bands will be decided at the AGM each year, but in 2017 will be £100.

Bands based outside of the 30 mile radius will still be eligible to apply for Associate Membership. This entitles those bands to all of the other membership benefits available to full members, (for example 10% off the cost of entering ODBBA contests), but not to the new finals donation.

If you would like to know more, or if you wish to renew your membership in order to take advantage of this new benefit, please contact ODBBA Treasurer on brian.stovold072@btinternet.com

Association membership costs £30 per annum, and the membership year reflects the calendar year.

2017 Committee

The following people were elected at the 2016 AGM to serve on the Association Committee for 2017. We are delighted to welcome Dave Clack to the committee, and to not lose anybody from the previous year's committee!

President:	Ken Membury*
Chair:	Nikki Jones
Vice-Chair:	Nigel Hall
Treasurer:	Brian Stovold
Secretary:	David Roberts+
Property Master:	David Martin
General Committee:	Martin Taylor
	Lynne Whitley
	Dave Clack
	Jemma Evans
	John Underwood*

* ODBBA Representatives on the London and Southern Counties Regional Committee.

+ Association Webmaster

Association Workshop

The 2017 Test Piece workshop will be held on February 5th.

The 3rd section workshop starts at 11am, and will be led by Nigel Seaman. The 4th section workshop starts at 2pm, and will be led by Derek Broadbent. You are welcome to attend both workshops if you wish.

If you would like to perform at the workshop, or require further information, please contact Nikki Jones on brass.tutor@yahoo.co.uk. The cost of attending the working (as a non-player) is £5.

Hero of Cowley

ODBBA were pleased to learn that Ken Membury has been presented with a "Hero of Cowley" Award, in recognition of his work with brass bands in the area, and in particular Jubilee Brass which he founded in 1977.

He received a trophy and certificate, which was presented by Oxford City Councillor David Henwood at a ceremony in Venue@Cowley in June.

Congratulations Ken!

Winter Contest 2017

As a direct consequence of the unprecedented number of entries into the 2016 Winter Contest, ODBBA have decided that the 2017 contest will take place over an entire weekend.

The 3rd, Unregistered and 1st sections will take place on Saturday 25th February, with the 4th, 2nd and Championship sections taking place on Sunday 26th. We plan to rotate these sections each year so that no section competes on the same day in two consecutive years.

However, as a direct result of this, we are appealing for help to steward the event. At any given time we will need a minimum of 10 stewards, and the Committee is unable to staff the event without any assistance. So if you or your band are able to help on either day, (even if only for a short time), please contact david@aldbrickham-music.co.uk.

At the time of going to print, nearly 40 bands have entered this year's contest.

Jaguar LandRover Band Concert

ODBBA are hosting a concert given by the Jaguar Landrover Band, to be held in St Mary's Church, Banbury on June 3rd 2017.

Further details will be available nearer the time, but it is expected that ODBBA member bands will be given a discount on the face-value ticket price.

Dates for your Diary

Association Workshop	5 th February 2017
Winter Contest	25 th & 26 th February 2017
Brass Festival	23 rd April 2017
Banbury Concert	3 rd June 2017
Entertainment Contest	8 th October 2017
Annual General Meeting	TBC

Brass Festival 2016 Winners

Section A: Under 9 Slow Melody
Alec Banner – Shipston Town Band

Section B: 9-11 Slow Melody
Anna Hipkiss – Yarnton Band

Section C: 12-14 Slow Melody
Luke Barker – Shipston Town Band

Section D: 15-18 Slow Melody
Joseph Willis – Wantage Silver Band

Section E: Junior Championship
Luke Barker – Shipston Town Band

Section F: Under 11 Duet
Alec Banner / Talullah Matthews – Shipston Town

Section G: Under 14 Duet
Luke Barker / Grace Coates – Shipston Town Band

Section H: Under 19 Duet
Megan Barker / Grace Coates – Shipston Town Band

Section I: Under 14 Quartet
Yarnton A

Section J: Under 19 Quartet
Shipston Town Band

Section K: Under 19 Ensemble
Yarnton Band

Section L: Adult Improvers
Louise Moore – Pillowell Silver Band

Section M: Adult Slow Melody
Robert Marsh – Flowers

Section N: Adult Championship
Robert Marsh – Flowers

Section O: Adult Duet
Sheldon Barwick / Mik Barwick – Bletchington Silver

Section P: Under 19 Percussion
No competitor

Section Q: Adult Quartet
Shipston Town Band

Section R: Adult Ensemble
Chalgrove Band

Section S: Open Solo Championship
John Jemmett – Filton Concert Brass

Section T: Under 19 Quintet
Yarnton A

Brass Festival (cont.)

Section U: Adult Quintet
Shipston Town Band

Youngest Competitor:
Rowena Findlay-Ashfield – Witney Town Band

Best Cornet 9-11:
Rupert Morris – Pillowell Silver Band

Best Boy Under 15:
Luke Barker – Shipston Town Band

Best Girl Under 15:
Fiona Methley – Yarnton

Band with most Under 19 Entries:
Yarnton

Winter Contest Winners 2016

Unregistered section:
Watership Brass
Best Instrumentalist: Flugel, Watership Brass

4th section:
Syston Band
Best Instrumentalist: Cornet, Syston Band

3rd section:
Cold Ash Brass
Best Instrumentalist: Cornet, Cold Ash Brass

2nd section:
St Sebastian (Wokingham) Band
Best Instrumentalist: Soprano, St Sebastian (Wokingham) Band

1st section:
Kidlington Concert Brass
Best Instrumentalist: Cornet, Kidlington Concert Brass

Championship section:
East London Brass
Best Instrumentalist: Soprano, Wantage Silver Band

Best Bass Section of the Day: Wantage Silver Band

Best Cornet of the Day: Wantage Silver Band

Band with most U19 players: Yarnton

Youngest player of the Day: Anna Hipkiss (Yarnton)

ODBBA Awards

The following people were presented with Long Service Awards in 2016:

- David Birch (Shipston Town Band)
- Bill Webb (East Woodhay Silver Band)
- Shirley Webb (East Woodhay Silver Band)
- David Powell (East Woodhay Silver Band)
- John Noall

David Roberts was presented with the ODBBA President's Award at the Entertainment Contest.

Martin Taylor has been made an Honorary Life Vice-President in recognition of his long service to the ODBBA Committee in various roles.

Congratulations to all.

Entertainment Contest Format

In October 2016, ODBBA trialled a new format for the Entertainment Contest where, instead of every band performing in sections with other bands of the same section, all bands played in a completely random order.

This format proved to be successful and popular, with the audience and other competitors enjoying being able to listen to the higher section bands throughout the course of the day. It also helped to ensure that all bands had a good audience.

Although there were a few teething problems, we believe that these have been overcome and the same format will be used at the 2017 Entertainment Contest.

Don't Forget.....

.....that your band can advertise your concerts and events for free on the Association website. To add your event, click on Add Your Event, and fill in the form. Once submitted, your event will be added to the calendar by the ODBBA Webmaster.

The ODBBA website receives an average of 50 hits per day (the most ever was over 1600!) so this site is rapidly becoming a very prominent website on which to advertise your concerts.

The ODBBA website is available to view at <http://www.odbba.org>.

Bandroom Gossip

Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band recently raised nearly £1000 for Sobell House, in memory of their former bass player John Solesbury, by performing a concert at Yarnton Village Hall to a capacity crowd. A trophy was also presented in John's memory to ODBBA.

Blewbury Youth Brass are busy preparing for a musical tour of Boppard in Germany later this summer.

Congratulations to Witney Town Band, Chinnor Silver Band, Brunel Brass, Aldbourne and Wantage Silver Band for qualifying for the 2016 National Finals. Honourable mentions also go to Northfleet Brass, St Sebastian (Wokingham) Band, Crystal Palace Band and Syston who had all competed at the 2016 Winter Contest and who also qualified for the Finals.

Congratulations to Ben Abbott of Kidlington Concert Brass, who has been appointed Principal Euphonium of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

Pangbourne and District Silver Band have managed to fit in two foreign tours last year, one to Michigan, and the other to northern Europe.

Wantage Silver Band gained an excellent 3rd place at the hotly-contested Bugle Band Contest in Cornwall.

Marsh Gibbon Band have recently appointed Chris Johnston as Musical Director. He brings a wealth of experience to the role.

Shipston Town Band were saddened to learn that Sid Peachey, one of their biggest and most enthusiastic supporters, had passed away. They were proud to play at his memorial concert.

Bletchington Silver Band held its inaugural Brass Festival on September 11th. 16 players (mainly juniors, but with some more experienced players) took part.

West Wycombe Brass Band are currently on the look out for a new Musical Director.

Aldbourn Band were delighted to welcome former Musical Director David Johnson back to the helm after a year's break.

2016 saw Hook Norton Brass Band celebrate 130 years of music making. Happy anniversary!

Entertainment Contest Results

Music Results:

Championship Section: No competitors

1st Section: Michelmersh Silver Band

Best Instrumentalist: Ben Abbott (Kidlington Concert Brass)

2nd Section: Rushden Town Band

Best Instrumentalist: Micah Parsons (City of Coventry)

3rd Section: Oxford Cherwell Brass

Best Instrumentalist: Stephen Clapton (Oxford Cherwell Brass)

4th Section: Marsh Gibbon Silver Band

Best Instrumentalist: Alan Jones (Wantage Academy)

Unregistered section: Yarnton Band

Best Instrumentalist: Fiona Methley (Yarnton Band)

Entertainment Results:

Championship Section: No competitors

1st Section: Kidlington Concert Brass

2nd Section: Rushden Town Band

3rd Section: Oxford Cherwell Brass

4th Section: Wantage Academy

Unregistered section: Yarnton Band

Best of the Day:

Best Percussion: Rushden Town Band

Best Conductor: Adele Hudson (Rushden Town Band)

Best Horn: Kidlington Concert Brass

Best Soprano: Michelmersh Silver Band

Band with the most U19 players: Yarnton Band