

Derwent Valley Wind Band – Chairman's report 2008

The past 18 months have seen the band continue the progress that we made during the past few years. There continues to be a number of new players joining the band and a number of players moving up from the training band. There have been players that we haven't seen as much of recently - Jenny Rawcliffe has moved onto University this year and Roy Hibbert has not been at the band that regularly but this has given opportunities to others and it is encouraging to see new players come forward to take responsibility for solos. Overall the attendance at rehearsals has been very good.

The training band under the leadership of Kath Hoblyn continues to flourish and they gave a confident display at the Christmas concert.

The committee have met regularly during the year. As a committee we continue to review our fire evacuation procedures and we have carried out practices as part of this. A notice board with a register of attendance is now kept in the cupboard and should be more readily available.

The committee have also fulfilled their requirements for annual reporting to the Charity Commission and generally reviewed our policies and procedures. The committee focus on the administrative and organisational aspects of keeping the band running whilst allowing David Curtiss as musical director to plan the repertoire.

The band has played at a number of venues during the last year and a half, and has had very good response from our audiences. The Buxton performance was a highlight of the concert year. The Christmas concert was very well attended and there was some very supportive and encouraging feedback. The inclusion of the a singer at this was well received. In 2007 we held the first of our summer concerts with wine at the interval outside – this was a new venture and proved to be a success. Due to the lack of availability of the Ecclesbourne hall this Summer for the concert we moved it to the Queens Hall in Derby and held a Last Night of the Proms concert which was well attended and enjoyed by both band and audience.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the band whether it be in turning up for rehearsals, setting up of equipment, transporting equipment to concerts, playing, conducting or being on the committee. We continue to be grateful for the work done by Peter Cowley in maintaining our website: www.dvwb.org.uk prior to its transition. I would like to give a special thank you to Mike Stanier for his continuing support carrying equipment around. Also to Tony Bowker for his work, again, in organising the refreshments for the Christmas and summer concerts.

I would also like to thank David Curtiss who has managed to get some tremendous performances from us over the year.

I would like to thank all of the committee for their work this year.

We want the committee to represent your ideas and wishes as to the direction that the band should take and welcome all contributions and comments. A few years ago as a committee we looked at ideas for the future – to prompt some discussion and thought I would like to share these again with you:

Vision – what we want the band to be:

- Grow the band
- Remain wind band
- Encourage all ages, needs, abilities

- Clear identity
- Wide selection of music
- Encourage instrumental variation
- Legal music pad
- Combine concerts – with choirs etc.
- Feature individual strengths at concerts
- Featured concerts
- Competitive festivals
- Education projects
- Course / workshop
- Foreign tour – any tour
- recording

How have we / how could we grow the band?

- Word of mouth
- Newspaper publicity
- Training band
- Local schools
- Peripatetic teachers
- Music shop awareness

What do we need to achieve the vision?

- Uniform options
 - Tie
 - Sweatshirt
 - T shirt
- Stand banners ✓
- Music pads ✓
- PA system with microphones ✓
- Conductor's stand
- Music stands ✓
- Storage cupboards ✓
- Additional music – (recent films, etc) ✓
- Instruments - options
 - Bass clarinet
 - Alto clarinet
 - Bassoon ✓
 - Drum kit ✓
 - Timpani
 - Auxiliary percussion
 - Keyboard
 - Bursary??
- Come and play session
- Open rehearsal / open evening
- Brochure
- Revamped leaflet ✓
- Subsidise tour
 - Foreign
 - UK
- Tutors / workshop / recording ✓

Tony Rawcliffe
Chairman
October 2008