

## **New Band Structure**

There appears currently to be a problem in that there is insufficient differentiation between groups of players of different abilities. This is leading to the weaker players being stretched way beyond their current capabilities (which is not beneficial to them), and the stronger players being held back.

In an attempt to rationalise the way the band is organised, it is proposed to try the following structure for a while to see if it produces any benefits. We aim to be much more consistent in assessing players' current capabilities and needs in deciding who plays in which band and at what level. Inevitably, some players will be disappointed to find themselves apparently 'demoted', whilst others may be pleasantly surprised. Unfortunately, there is a natural tendency for beginners (and their parents) to think they are better than they really are, but progressing on to harder music too soon is actually counterproductive. The most rapid progress occurs when players are significantly but not over stretched. Naturally, no progress occurs at all without a fair amount of diligent practice! A small number of players can either already play, or wish to learn, a second instrument. This versatility is of significant benefit to a small band and will be fostered where coaching is practicable and the extra workload is undertaken seriously and is not detrimental. Some may play different instruments in different bands. However, chopping and changing instruments on a whim is not to be encouraged!

The new structure will start in November, but it will take a while before it settles down and everyone is appropriately assessed - please be patient! In addition to beginners who have lessons but are not yet able to play well enough, three bands are proposed which will differ both in skill level and in type of repertoire. These are:-

### **Junior band**

Much the same as at present. The band will play simpler music with the primary aim of introducing players to the difficulties of performing as a group. This is concerned with keeping in tune and in time with others and the conductor, and with appreciating style and phrasing. This is a first port of call for players who have had sufficient lessons to be able to play their instruments well enough to cope with the additional challenge. It is intended that all members of the Junior band will continue to have lessons. More experienced players will also sit in with the band to provide coaching as needed. By playing along as well, they raise the standard of the band, thereby also improving the learning experience of the Juniors. We are very pleased that several parents have also started to learn to play instruments.

### **Senior Band**

This band will comprise only the more experienced players and will play much more taxing music, both for the satisfaction and improvement of the players. A strictly limited number of developing players may be invited to play on a probationary basis if they are prepared to put in the necessary effort to improve their ability. This band hopefully will give the weaker players something to strive for without being either a walkover or being unattainable.

### **Parade band**

This band will comprise all players who are able to march smartly and play on the move to at least a moderate standard. The music will be of intermediate difficulty and suitable for playing on the move. The aim is to re-establish our capability of leading parades and processions and of entering marching band competitions. Ideally, we should gradually develop a repertoire of marching displays that we can also showcase at carnivals and fêtes. The band may also play concert music of a standard between that of the Junior and Senior bands.

## New Band Structure

The proposed initial make-up of the three new bands is as follows. This will change as players' abilities become clearer and as they progress and improve.

### ***Senior Band***

Helena Davies	Cornet
Gareth Rogers	Cornet
Simon Johnson	Horn
Richard Sherriff	Euph
Jeff Johnson	Bass
Simon Armstrong	Clarinet
Jessica Bagguley	Clarinet
Beccy Edge	Clarinet
James Edge	Flute
Catherine Sherriff	Bells
Sue Sherriff	Bells
Natalie Smith	Drum Kit

### ***Junior Band***

Beccy Edge	Cornet
Vickie Edge	Cornet
Michael Petersen	Cornet
Ed Thornton	Cornet
Roger Burman	Horn
Richard Sherriff	Horn
Cai Maitland-Davies	Euph
Andrew Thornton	Euph
Jeff Johnson	Bass
Nathan Maitland-Davies	Clarinet
Amber Pearce	Clarinet
Bethany Roberts	Clarinet
Laura Williams	Clarinet
Tom Williams	Sax
Natasha Maitland-Davies	Flute
Robyn Pearce	Flute
Amy Williams	Flute
James Edge	Bells
Natalie Smith	Drum Kit
Jacob Ward-Pike	Drums
Jessica Williams	Cym

### ***Parade Band***

Helena Davies	Cornet
Vickie Edge	Cornet
Michael Petersen	Cornet
Gareth Rogers	Cornet
Ed Thornton	Cornet
Simon Johnson	Horn
Richard Sherriff	Horn
Cai Maitland-Davies	Euph
Andrew Thornton	Euph
Jeff Johnson	Bass
Simon Armstrong	Clarinet
Jessica Bagguley	Clarinet
Beccy Edge	Clarinet
Nathan Maitland-Davies	Clarinet
Amber Pearce	Clarinet
Bethany Roberts	Clarinet
Laura Williams	Clarinet
Tom Williams	Sax
James Edge	Flute
Natasha Maitland-Davies	Flute
Robyn Pearce	Flute
Amy Williams	Flute
Catherine Sherriff	Bells
Sue Sherriff	Bells
Natalie Smith	Drum Kit
Jacob Ward-Pike	Drums
Jessica Williams	Cymbal