

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 278

July 2025

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Band Room News

Roland Hosker

The band were saddened to learn of the death of our long serving vice-president and former president, Roland Hosker on the 7th June. Roland was our president for ten years from April 2002 and provided invaluable support as we sought to rebuild the band and training band in the early years of Sharon's music directorship. The highlight of his presidency was of course when he came with the band to Harrogate in 2006 and shared in our celebrations when we won the national finals. Roland retired as president in 2012 but remained a vice-president until his demise.

The band sends its condolences to his wife and family.

Tonfanau

Sadly, this weekend's racing for our acting (whilst Sharon is away) principal cornet, Sarah, was not as successful as last month. After two convincing class wins on her Greeves and Yamaha, a brake failure on the Greeves has left her with her arm in a sling: fortunately, it was not the collar bone she damaged a few years ago, so she still hopes to be at band on Wednesday (with her plastic cornet) and race again at the August meeting.

Congratulations to Ben who managed to race unscathed and to Beardy Stu and Elaine who paraded bikes also without injury.

Bandroom Tidy

Thank you to those who helped with the bandroom tidy: we have disposed of lots of broken equipment. Nikki will soon be artistically replacing the band photographs on the wall.

Long Eaton Carnival

35 of us braved the scorching temperatures to play on a float at the Long Eaton Carnival. Thank you to Nikki's team of float decorators for all their hard work: the float looked amazing. Sadly, we did not win a prize this year, but plans for next year are already being formulated!

Summer Holidays

Both band's rehearsals will continue as usual during the summer holidays.

Thank you to Elaine for coordinating the beginners' groups teachers: our beginners' groups also continue during the summer holidays. Please remember to let us know when you are not coming (we do expect that you all will be away on holiday for some of the six weeks), so our teachers can also have a night off if there is no-one to teach.

Scratch Cards

The band runs a scratch card (£1 a go) every Monday (for the training band and beginners' group) and Wednesday (for the senior band). Please see Kate (Mondays) or Kim (Wednesdays) after rehearsal. Whilst this is entirely voluntary; please consider having a go, if not every week, then perhaps once every month. We do have standing order forms available in the band room if you would rather contribute that way, or you could set up a standing order online if you wish (or pay by credit card or by PayPal to robert@lespb.org.uk). Some band members also pay for their after-band drinks by standing order. Please remember to let Rob know, so that you are still entered on the scratch card every week! And if you do not want to "gamble", please just donate!

The money we raise goes towards paying for the service charge and electricity bills for our rehearsal room.

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Notes from the Musical Director



We now have a break from concerts until September. The senior band will be rehearsing our test piece for the NEMBBA contest in November and music for our autumn concerts, whilst our training band will also be practicing new pieces for November.

Our concerts at St. Laurence and on West Park both went well, although the weather depressed the audience numbers on West Park: thank you to the 75 in the audience who braved the showers and to Pete Grainger who was even prepared to sit in the heavy rain to listen to us (we were not that macho, and the music was getting wet, so we finished early!). There was a lot of good playing from us during both concerts, but with odd sub-optimal moments when we lost concentration: we need everyone to play consistently throughout to achieve our full potential, and then we will be a really good band. Thank you to Steve, Catherine, Calvin on Saturday, and Steve, Liz, and Calvin (again) on Sunday for depping for us.

The highlight of the month for many of us was the carnival. Thank you to those senior band players who joined the training band on the float for the parade and to Nikki and her team for the float decoration.

I am on holiday now until the end of August. Thank you to James, who will be taking rehearsals whilst I am away. I will back on Wednesday 27th August for the senior band and Monday 1st September for training band. Have a good summer.

Five Years Ago

Notes from the Musical Director



Hello everyone, hope you are all still staying safe and well.

Although there is still no indication as to when we may all get back together again as a band, lockdown is now easing, and we may now start rehearsing outside in groups of up to six. I have already enjoyed some rehearsals in various back gardens (check with your neighbours first, they may not clap each piece like mine!).

Please try to arrange some rehearsals with other members of the band who live near you (it is more fun than practicing on your own). Fay is already organising a training band group near Derby. I have emailed everyone with some suitable ensemble music, and hymns and marches from your pads can usually be made to work with small numbers.

Thank you again to Yeti and Fay for continuing to organise the weekly Zoom meeting for the senior and training bands.

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Ten Years Ago

Sharon Stansfield

Congratulations to our musical director Sharon, who received her 25 years' service award (as a player and musical director) at our awards night.



James (Yeti) Mayell

Congratulations also to James, this year's winner of the ProActiv Shield for being the senior band's most improved player of the year.

Fifteen Years Ago



Pete Thomas

The band is most grateful to Pete Thomas who designed and commissioned a set of new badges for the training band's jackets. The training band wore them for the first time last weekend at St. Laurence's Garden Fete and then at the Battle of the Bands contest.

Notes from the Battles of the Bands

Result: Junior Battle of the Bands

1. Long Eaton Silver Prize Training Band

Mrs. S. Stansfield, F.V.C.M. (Hons)

Soloists Award: Robert Burrows (Long Eaton Silver Prize Training Band)

Twenty Years Ago

Our Training Band

Well done to our training band, who achieved the band's first win in 39 years, with an outstanding performance in the training band section at Kirkby.

This followed a splendid concert at St Michael's Flower Festival in Breaston the night before: the band received a donation of £35 and an invitation to return next year.



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Band Supporters

The band is most grateful to the following for their recent support of the band:

Peter Dawson	Our landlord, for our rent-free rehearsal facilities
John Irwin	A donation of £200 to band funds
Helen Lane	Donation of instruments, mouthpieces, and mutes
James Mayell	Hosting the band's website for free
Alison Slater	For the donation of the brass band music library of her late father, John Slater

Training Band Diary

Nicola will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once we have confirmed them. New additions are marked in green. Changes to the schedule are marked in red.

You should receive emails from Vento for these events, please respond to them with your availability to keep everything up to date, and let Nicola or Sharon know if you cannot make them so we can arrange dep players. If you are not on Vento, please ask Nicola to add you.

2025

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Sunday	16 th November	Morning	NEMBBA Entertainment Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Sunday	6 th December	10:00 a.m.	St. Mary's Christmas Coffee Morning St Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3PS



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Band Diary

Lisa will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once we have confirmed them. New additions are marked in green. Changes to the schedule are marked in red.

You should receive emails from Vento for these events, please respond to them with your availability to keep everything up to date, and let Lisa or Sharon know if you cannot make them so we can arrange dep players.

2025

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	27 th September	7:30 p.m.	St. Chad's Church, Wilne Rd, Church Wilne	DE72 3QH
Friday	10 th October	8:00 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Saturday	18 th October	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Saturday	25 th October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Thursday	6 th November	7:30 p.m.	Festival of Remembrance Winding Wheel Theatre, 13 Holywell St., Chesterfield	S41 7SA
Sunday	16 th November	All Day	NEMBBA Own-Choice Test Piece Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	6 th December	7:30 p.m.	St. Laurence Church Christmas Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Thursday	11 th December	9:30 p.m.	41 Club Annual Dinner, Donington Manor Hotel, 1 High Street, Castle Donington (small band)	DE74 2PP
Friday	12 th December	8:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Sunday	21 st December	2:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF
Sunday	21 st December	7:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Evening) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF

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Personnel

Contacts

Sharon Stansfield	07887 907516	sharon@lespb.org.uk
Lisa Balsom	01332 677863	lisa@lespb.org.uk
Deborah Redpath	0115 9195990	j.redpath2@ntlworld.com
Robert Stansfield	07722 118127	robert@lespb.org.uk

Website & Social Media

Our Website: <https://www.lespb.org.uk>.

Our Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lespb> (senior band)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lesptb> (training band)

NEMBBA Website: <https://www.nembba.org.uk>

NEMBBA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nembba>

Midlands Area Website: <https://mabbc.org>

Midlands Area Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/midlandsareabbc>

Band Officers and Committee

President	Councillor Kevin Miller	
Vice-Presidents	Fay Blackburn John Blackburn Val Custance	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A. Richard Walker PG Cert, DMS, CITP, MBSC, MAPM
Honorary Life Members	Lisa Balsom Sylvia Purnell Professor Pete Thomas	Ted Bradley Colin Millns Roy Varney
Musical Director (*)	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Assistant Musical Directors	James Dennis	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.
Chairman (*)	Rob Guest	
Vice-Chairman (*)	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.	
Secretary (*)	Lisa Balsom	
Contest Secretary	Lisa Balsom	
Treasurer (*)	Robert Stansfield	
Equipment Officer	Robert Stansfield	
Assistant Equipment Officer (*)	Elaine Nicolson	
Librarian (*)	Deborah Redpath	
Assistant Librarians	Cheryl Allen	Amy Redpath
Band Sergeants	James Dennis	Sarah Measures
Publicity Officer	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Training Band Rep (*)	Nicola Fretwell	
Junior Rep (*)	Daniel Nicolson	
Committee Members (*)	Andrew Beaumont James Dennis Sarah Measures Ian Peberday	Kate Burrows Heather Hoy Kim Larwood
Newsletter Editors	James Mayell	Robert Stansfield
Webmaster	James Mayell	
Auditors	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.	Ian Peberday

(*) indicates a committee member

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Training Band Officers

Musical Director	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)
Assistant Musical Director	James Dennis
Events Organiser / Secretary	Nicola Fretwell
Equipment Officers	Robert Stansfield & Elaine Nicolson
Librarian	Cheryl Allen
Stage Manager	Daniel Rigley
Beginners Group Teachers	Lisa Balsom, Stuart Measures, Elaine Nicolson & Robert Stansfield