

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 281

October 2025

The Silver Prize: October 2025

Band Room News

The Fred & Mavis Aram Memorial Shield

This year we are retiring the Proactif Shield (donated by Kim and her ex-husband in 2002), which is awarded to the most improved senior band player of the year, but which is now full.

In its place, this year's most improved player will be awarded The Fred & Mavis Aram Memorial Shield, in memory of our former vice-president, chairman and cornet player, Fred Aram, and his wife Mavis, both of whom we lost last year.

Welcome

The senior band welcomes Grace, Deb and Tracey who have joined us on solo cornet, third cornet and tenor horn respectively.

Our beginners' groups welcome Ruth, Percy, Rebecca and Jasper, all of whom are learning cornet with us.

Band Changes

Congratulations to Thomas (baritone), Alfie (tenor horn), Ruth (cornet), Liz (tenor horn), and Geoff (cornet) who have all moved up to our training band (which now has 56 members, including 22 cornet players!). A special congratulations to Ruth, who has progressed from our beginner's group in less than two months. We now have 99 players within our organisation!

In other moves, Catherine is taking a break from band until after Christmas due to her new job. Elaine has moved from second cornet to cover flugel for the rest of the year, whilst Tracey has reclaimed her second cornet seat next to Roy.

New Music

The band is most grateful to both Hucknall & Linby MC Band and Brian Draper, who have both donated music to the band.

Corporation Tax

The band has made its corporation tax returns, which has involved reworking our accounts back to 2020 to recast them to the return periods required by HMRC and then delving into the mysteries of depreciation and capital allowances. Many thanks to Carl for all his assistance: the alternative would have been paying an accountant around £1,200 to prove we did not owe any tax. Sadly, a change in HMRC policy means that we must now purchase specialist software for our future returns: not paying corporation tax is an expensive business (pun intended)!

New Tenor Horn

The band has purchased a new £5,000 tenor horn for Karen: please be very careful in her vicinity – the smallest dint or scratch may prove fatal!

Christmas Band Jobs

Our Christmas band jobs are coming in fast; please update Vento so we know who is available for each of the jobs. Many of our Christmas Lights jobs are early evening and some of you will be still working, but please check with other players in your section to ensure that we have some players on each part. Please note that we have three band jobs on Saturday 29th November (Sawley 3 p.m., Sandiacre 4 p.m. and Draycott 6 p.m.) and we will need to put out two bands simultaneously: please update Vento to indicate which band jobs you can do (remembering that you cannot be in Sawley and Sandiacre at the same time!).

Ockbrook Big Band Christmas Dance

The Ockbrook Big Band are holding a Christmas dance at the Soldiers and Sailors on Saturday 20th December from 8 p.m. Our band provides the entire trumpet section: Sharon, Dave (our former Flugel player), Roy, and Elaine.

Please see Rob for tickets (£5 each) if you are interested in coming for a fun band night out (Sharon will be telling a new set of "family-friendly" jokes and the dancing is optional – maybe ☺).

The Silver Prize: October 2025

Facebook

Please follow our Facebook pages

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

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

for profiles of our senior and training band players, written by our social media manager, Kate.

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 Heather 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.

The Silver Prize: October 2025

Notes from the Musical Director



I was generally delighted with our performance at St. Chad's last Saturday: there was lots of good playing in all sections, and I had amazing feedback from our audience. There are one or two passages which need some more rehearsal, and we need to think more about coming off together at the end of phrases, especially in Mother of God, which we need to also carry forward into our test piece performances. Thank you to our deps, Alan, Catherine, Calvin and Emma for covering players at work, on holiday or who were ill, and to Andrew who moved from trombone to cover 2nd baritone for us, again due to band illness.

We now have a further five concerts before the Remembrance Sunday, a final week to prepare for the NEMBBA contest, and then we are into the Christmas season: a busy few months. Please remember to complete Vento, so I know who is available for each job (and if I need to find deps). You do have the "Maybe" option if you are not sure.

Please make every effort to come to the Remembrance Parade: I would like to have over 50 players on parade again. I know some of you can no longer march, but outside the beginners' classes, but we do have 80 players across our senior and training bands.

For the next few weeks, our training band will continue to practice the marches for the parade, together with their entertainment programme for NEMBBA. The senior band will continue to work on concert music with me for some of the rehearsal, before moving to our test piece with James conducting.

Five Years Ago

Notes from the Musical Director



The good news this month is that we are opening the band room to groups of up to six players from the senior band, who should have already received the risk assessment and guidelines for bandroom usage from Rob. The bandroom is still available on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings and Sunday all day and evening; please let Rob know if you want to use it. Sadly, we cannot yet include the training band or beginners in this; please try to continue outside (during the day) or in well ventilated garages/barns etc whilst the weather permits.

It does look as if most, if not all, of our Christmas band jobs will be cancelled (six of us will be playing at the war memorial for Remembrance which may be our only official band job this year), so it's up to us to ensure that we create our own band jobs. Lockdown rules permitting, I would like as many of you as possible to be playing Christmas carols in your street/local area, social distancing permitting of course, in December (may be the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve). By December, we will all be ready for some Christmas cheer this year and we have the means to provide it for our local

communities.

The Silver Prize: October 2025

Ten Years Ago

Notes from the Musical Director



Our preparations for Bolsover are going well, although we still have some work to do before Sunday. Thank you to Michael and David Allcock for helping out our bass section and to Spring for moving from cornet to tenor horn to let Rebecca celebrate her 25th wedding anniversary.

The main issues we need to resolve are the usual balance and intonation problems and these are something that we need concentrate on, not only in our remaining rehearsals before Bolsover on through our autumn and Christmas concerts and into next year's area contest and beyond.

Fifteen Years Ago

Sharon

Sharon is to be awarded an Excellence in the Community Award 2010 from Derbyshire County Council for her work with our training band. She will be collecting the award in Buxton next Tuesday.

Thank you to Hazel who nominated her.



Twenty Years Ago

Notes from the Music Director



I am delighted to announce that the training band has now reached 27 players, the size of a full brass band! All we need now are volunteers for soprano, flugel horn, bass trombone and three volunteers for bass (and the basses for them to play on!) and we can cover all the parts. The training band had only one member when I took it over in 2001: a fifth of the senior band (Melissa, Stuart, Zoe, Emma, George, Jacob and Joe) have now been promoted from the training band – and there are others on their way! The training band's signature march "Look to the Future" says its all.

On the senior band front, the concert in Beeston was very well received. Well done! We are not entering any contests this autumn – instead we will be recording a CD during the first weekend in December (the programme will largely be the same as at Beeston). This means not only intensive rehearsals (since we need to be note perfect when we record ourselves for posterity), but a hard weekend, since we also have jobs on the Friday and Monday. I realise that the timings are unfortunate, but we need to get the CD done this year in

time for our centenary next year, and McTuba's father is coming all the way down from Scotland to record us for expenses only. A couple of the band jobs in December are for small bands, so it should be possible for some of you to take turns and take a night off – but not all at once! It may also be possible for some of the training band to assist at the carol concerts.

The Silver Prize: October 2025

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	9 th November	9:30 a.m..	Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Senior Band) Meet Beaconsfield Street Car Park, Long Eaton	NG10 1AY
Sunday	16 th November	Morning	NEMBBA Entertainment Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Friday	21 st November	6:00 p.m.	Ockbrook Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Royal Oak, 55 Green Lane, Ockbrook Derby	DE72 3SE
Thursday	27 th November	5:30 p.m.	Long Eaton Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Friday	28 th November	6:00 p.m.	Borrowash Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Coop, Victoria Avenue, Borrowash	DE72 3HE
Saturday	29 th November	3:00 p.m.	Sawley Christmas Lights (small band, with the Senior Band) Memorial Hall, Draycott Road, Sawley	NG10 3FR
Saturday	29 th November	4:00 p.m.	Sandiacre Christmas Carols Opposite White Lion Pub, Derby Road, Sandiacre	NG10 5HW
Saturday	29 th November	6:00 p.m.	Draycott Christmas Carols (with the Senior Band) Outside Victoria Pub, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3NA
Sunday	6 th December	10:00 a.m.	St. Mary's Christmas Coffee Morning St Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3PS
Monday	15 th December	6:30 p.m.	Scouts & Guides Carol Service All Saints Church, Sawley	NG10 3AT

2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	17 th January	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
Saturday	20 th February	Morning	NEMBBA Entertainment Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ

The Silver Prize: October 2025

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
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
Saturday	1 st November	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert Green Spire Church, Wharncliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Thursday	6 th November	7:30 p.m.	Festival of Remembrance Winding Wheel Theatre, 13 Holywell St., Chesterfield	S41 7SA
Sunday	9 th November	9:30 a.m..	Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Training Band) Meet Beaconsfield Street Car Park, Long Eaton	NG10 1AY
Sunday	16 th November	All Day	NEMBBA Own-Choice Test Piece Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Friday	21 st November	6:00 p.m.	Ockbrook Christmas Lights (with the Training Band) Royal Oak, 55 Green Lane, Ockbrook Derby	DE72 3SE
Thursday	27 th November	5:30 p.m.	Long Eaton Christmas Lights (with the Training Band) Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Friday	28 th November	6:00 p.m.	Borrowash Christmas Lights (with the Training Band) Coop, Victoria Avenue, Borrowash	DE72 3HE
Saturday	29 th November	3:00 p.m.	Sawley Christmas Lights (small band, with the Training Band) Memorial Hall, Draycott Road, Sawley	NG10 3FR
Saturday	29 th November	6:00 p.m.	Draycott Christmas Carols (with the Training Band) Outside Victoria Pub, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3NA
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

The Silver Prize: October 2025

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
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

2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday or Sunday	20 th or ^t 21 ^s February	Morning	NEMBBA Area Test-piece Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	7 th March	All Day	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth	CV12 8NF
Friday	29 th May	11:00 a.m.	White Friday marches (provisional) Bus from bandroom	



The Silver Prize: October 2025

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 & Social Media	Kate Burrows	
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

The Silver Prize: October 2025

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

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
Brian Draper	A donation of some of his music arrangements
Hucknall & Linby MC Band	A donation of music to our senior and training bands