

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 286

March 2026

The Silver Prize: March 2026

Band Room News

Band's A.G.M.

The band's A.G.M. will be on Wednesday 22nd April at 7:30 p.m. (to be followed by a senior band rehearsal). Please be thinking of whom you would like to be representing you on the committee next year (the incumbents are listed at the back of this newsletter), or whether you would like to be on the committee yourself!

Please note that all members of the senior and training bands, and the beginners' groups, including juniors, are entitled to attend the A.G.M., to vote and to become a member of the committee.

Condolences

The band sends its condolences to our musical director, Sharon, vice-president, Carl, and their families following the recent loss of their father after a long illness.

Funeral

The funeral of Gloria Roebuck, widow of our late cornet player, Pete, will be at St. Laurence Church at noon on Thursday 12th March followed by an interment at Longmoor Road Cemetery. Gloria was a long-term support of the band. A few of us will be playing during the service.

Thank Yous

The band is most grateful to our band grandfather, "Uncle Roy", for his donation of a Strad flugel.

The band is also most grateful to have received a donation of an Imperial and a Jupiter euphonium from an anonymous benefactor.

Bandroom Cleaning

Thank you to Heather and Nikki for cleaning the bandroom.

Notes from the Musical Director



Firstly, I would like to thank Marieka for her very detailed remarks about our performance at NEMBBA. I also had a long chat with her afterwards and have relayed her additional comments to James. We have since spent the last week of rehearsals working through her comments in detail, and we have a further week to refine our performance before the area. There was a lot of good individual playing during our performance at NEMBBA, but our intonation as a band let us down.

We all need to think about our preparation before we go on stage. Both James and I tune everyone when our instruments are warm. If anyone of you go onto stage with a cold instrument, we will have intonation problems until everyone is warmed up, and poor intonation immediately puts us towards the bottom of the placings irrespective of how well we otherwise play. As we wait to go on, please keep your instruments

warm, prepare yourselves for 13½ minutes of total concentration, and let us deliver our best performance!

For those of you who have not played at the Civic Hall before, the acoustic is different from the bandroom and the NEMBBA contest hall: you can sound a little on your own at times. Don't be scared: just focus on how you played your part in the bandroom and it will be fine.

Thank you for all your hard work preparing for NEMBBA and the area. After the area, we have two rehearsals to work on our programme for our concert with Sing West Hallam on Sunday 22nd March, which includes a number of joint items, including our old favourite of Les Misérables. We can then relax over Easter!

Our training band is also working hard as we prepare for a concert in Chilwell Memorial Hall the following Saturday (28th). Parking is limited at the venue, so please share cards where possible, and if you have not entered your availability on Vento, please do so.

The Silver Prize: March 2026

Notes from the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton (North East Midlands Brass Band Association Contest)

Results: Third Section

1. Dronfield Band (Roland Spencer)
2. Wakefield Metropolitan Band (Michael Dodd)
3. Shirebrook Miners Welfare Band (Chris Banks)
6. Long Eaton Silver Prize Band (James Dennis)

Adjudicator's Comments

Mareika Gray

Good balance to start, but tuning is a problem in the basses - actually for all.

Bar **16** – good horn sound, but sounds nervous, less vibrato?

Bar **25** – good sound, but a little strident for me; it loses the misterioso.

Bar **36** – good build up; just intonation at **38**

Bar **48** – well done Basses – tuning was good (could be 5% better!)

Bar **52** – flow is good + accel is good.

Bar **65** – not balanced or organised enough; try playing non-accented notes less.

Bar **69** – careful not to overblow on ff (Basses – inton!)

Bar **87** – trying too hard + tuning is off

Bar **95** – much better

Bar **111** – maybe take more time over the pause

Bas **112** – just watch the intonation

Bar **124** – a little heavy – keep working on the pp.

2 – I like the space between the bells

Bar **4** – nice pulse – can feel the sway; sometimes the middle of the band gets heavy. But this is going better.

There are moments that aren't settled in the 'one in a bar', e.g. bar **84** – Back row feel uncomfortable.

Bar **126** – Good Euphs; I would like a lighter touch with the cornets to keep the dance feeling.

Bar **178** – Felt rushed on basses?

3 Tuning!

Bar **9** – Good pesante; but needs more definition. This is travelling on well.

Bar **30** – Troms + band not quite together.

Bar **51** – under control Troms, but I need to hear the accents versus non accents.

Bar **59** Some nice sounds, but tuning

Bar **78** – Solo cornet needs to flow a little more with phrasing. Actually MD – just guide the band a little to get phrasing together. A train needs to move along smoothly and it gets bumpy at times.

Thank you. I really heard you trying today. Maybe at times too much. Keep that misterioso feeling as long as possible. The waltz needs refinement. Get that one in a bar feeling. The last movement needs flow. BUT I do believe that band get get that! Some good control at the gear changes throughout, so well done MD.

Thanks + good luck at the contest.

The Silver Prize: March 2026

Five Years Ago

CD Update

An update from Alice who is currently working hard on editing our new CD:

Hi everyone. I've been slowly but surely working my way through the recordings we did nearly two (!) years ago. It's taken me longer than I anticipated but I've almost finished editing the recordings, chopping together the different takes we did of each song and making each one sound like a coherent recording. After that it's a case of mixing each song, balancing the recordings from different microphones and adding a little audio "sprinkle" on the top to make it sound great. I really look forward to sharing them with everyone, there's some fantastic performances in there from the soloists and the whole band and hopefully it will keep every motivated until we can be back in the band room together.

Alice

Ten Years Ago



Long Eaton Silver Prize Band Social Club

The club's 2015 accounts and the instrument of dissolution have been accepted by the FCA. The necessary notice advertising the dissolution of the club has been placed in The Gazette and payment of the remaining club's assets to its members (including the band) will be in mid-May.

Fifteen Years Ago

Emma's Birthday



As of today (2nd March), it is only 35 days to Emmarrrrrrgh's **BIRTHDAY** when, after years of practise, she will finally become an **ADULT**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Emma has admitted that she is lucky to have lived so long (but there is still time). This is also irrefutable evidence that reducing the age of majority from 21 to 18 was one of the biggest errors of judgement in the history of mankind.

Twenty Years Ago

Notes From the Musical Director



A **HUGE** well done for winning by three clear points from number one on Saturday! I am so proud of you all, and we have gained promotion too in our centenary year! I was fortunate to have a word with the adjudicators afterwards, and they were amazed to learn we had come up from the fourth section rather than having just been relegated from second. For Geoff Whitham to say that we could have won in Yorkshire is an amazing compliment and shows how special they thought our performance was. Well done!

Once again, a big thank you to our vice-president, Walter Ritchie, for his invaluable assistance in our preparations for the area. I am sure that you will all be delighted to learn that he has agreed to help us again in our rehearsals

The Silver Prize: March 2026

for the national finals, and that he and Marie will be coming with us to Harrogate.

Well done too to the training band last Thursday. A concert before the Lord Lieutenant, High Sherriff and Mayoralty of Derbyshire, not to mention a 700 strong audience, can be a daunting prospect, and you rose to the occasion magnificently. And a big thank you to Derbyshire Crimebeat for another donation of £250 to the training band.

Twenty Five Years Ago

Dianne Bonser

Thank you to Dianne, who discarded her euphonium for a baritone, and returned to the band to deputise for Rod on 2nd Trombone at the area.

Newstead Welfare Band

Many thanks to Duncan Beckley, Lyndon Cooper, Melanie Cooper, Miles Cooper, and Phil for assisting us in our preparation for the area.

The joint rehearsal was a great success: it was good to play to an appreciative audience, and in a different hall.

Newstead have expressed their thanks to us for taking an early draw to enable Sharon to deputise on cornet for them.

Duncan has promised to take us for another rehearsal in the next few weeks.

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 notifications from the Vento app 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.

2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	28 th March	7:00 p.m.	Chilwell Memorial Hall, 129 High Road, Chilwell	NG9 4AT
Saturday	25 th April	2:00 p.m.	Longmoor Lodge, 114 Longmoor Lane, Sandiacre	NG10 5JP
Saturday	20 th June	10:00 a.m.	West Park (park in field opposite Tesco)	
Saturday	19 th September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB

The Silver Prize: March 2026

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 notifications from the Vento app 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.

2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	7 th March	Morning	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth	CV12 8NF
Sunday	22 nd March	7:30 p.m.	Joint Concert with Sing West Hallam Morley Hayes Hotel, Main Road, Morely	DE6 6QA
Friday	29 th May	11:00 a.m.	Whit Friday marches (provisional) Bus from bandroom	
Saturday	26 th September	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Saturday	17 th October	7:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Saturday	24 th October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Saturday	31 st October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert Green Spire Church, Wharnccliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Thursday	10 th December	9:30 p.m.	41 Club Annual Dinner, Donington Manor Hotel, 1 High Street, Castle Donington	DE74 2PP
Friday	11 th December	8:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Sunday	20 th December	2:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF
Sunday	20 th December	7:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Evening) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF

The Silver Prize: March 2026

Personnel

Contacts

Sharon Stansfield	07887 907516	sharon@lespb.org.uk
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Nicola Fretwell		nikki.fretwell@gmail.com
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	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: March 2026

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
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
Roy Varney	A donation of a Strad. flugel.
Hucknall & Linby MC Band	A donation of music to our senior and training bands
Jo & Julie	For the donation of the Fred & Mavis Aram Memorial Shield
The Family of Keith Rigby	A donation of a cornet to the training band
The Family of Ted Bradley	A donation of £550 to band funds from the collection at Ted's funeral

