



## BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

# National Champions!



Friary have been very busy since the last edition of the *Bugle* with the summer season of concerts and also the run-up to the autumn contests including the National Finals in Harrogate, Folkestone and Pontin's contests. Plenty has been going on 'off-stage' too so read on to find out more!

### In this issue:

- Bandroom news
- Summer round-up
- National Finals

## Charity begins in the bandroom!

Friary have recently been granted charity status. After a detailed application procedure which involved updating the Band's constitution, Friary are now registered charity no. 1137290. This means that the Band is able to claim gift aid on all donations (including supporters' club subscriptions) so please be sure to inform us if your donation is eligible. Special thanks go to Mark Yarham and Phil German for their hard work with the application.

## Trombonist hits the heights

Friary stalwart Roland Knight has recently trekked to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. Standing 5895 meters tall, it is Africa's highest point and the world's highest free standing mountain.



All twelve members of Roland's group made it to the summit. 'The toughest day was the final ascent day where we got up at midnight for an eight hour trek to the top with a further eight hours walking before we got to the next campsite' explained Roland.

Roland was raising funds for the Guildford Street Angels whose presence in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights helps to reduce street crime. A proportion of the funds raised in the challenge were shared with partner charities based in Tanzania. Roland spent the second week of his expedition with one of these partner charities – UNCODET helping to decorate classrooms in a primary school in Uru North, a village near Moshi

Roland raised over £2000 (including gift aid). For information about the expedition please visit [www.justgiving.com/RolandKilimanjaro](http://www.justgiving.com/RolandKilimanjaro).

## Membership news

The band is pleased to announce that cornet player Matt Jacobs has joined the band. Matt, who took a break from banding to spend time with his family, used to be Principal Cornet of the second section Cranbrook Town Band. Matt's first contests with the band were Folkestone and Pontin's.

Friary also welcomes back Dave Moon on E Flat Bass. Dave played with the band two years ago but left due to family commitments. Dave's first contest back as a member was the National Finals although he did help the Band out at the Area contest back in March as well as some of the summer concerts.

## Friary become Amazon Associate

Think of us when you next buy using [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Whenever you navigate to the popular site through Friary's own website, the band will receive commission on any purchase made. It's a great way of donating money to the band so please visit [www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk](http://www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk) now and click on any of the links on the home page.



# Summer concert season



Friary have been very busy during the summer season with numerous concerts given in the Guildford area. MD Chris King spent most of the summer months in Edinburgh rehearsing for the Military Tattoo in his role as bandmaster of the Grenadier Guards and so was unable to conduct for most of the outings. Replacement conductors were found from within the ranks of the band in the shape of Nigel Simmons and Jon Hammond both of which showed their experience in the middle both rehearsing and presenting the band. Friary would like to extend their thanks to Nigel and Jon for their work with the band during the summer.

## 18<sup>th</sup> July – Music in the Meadow

The Mayor of Farnham was in attendance as the band performed on a 'cosy' bandstand as part of the 'Music in the Meadow' series of concerts in Farnham. There was a good audience present and Nigel Simmons presented a light programme of music which was well received.



## 1<sup>st</sup> August – Godalming Bandstand

In the shadow of Godalming Parish Church, Friary took to the newly built bandstand to give a concert in aid of Surrey Air Ambulance. There was a re-shuffle on the cornet bench as Lauren Cave stepped up to the Principal seat with Richard Straker covering the Soprano part in the absence of Jon Hammond.

## 25<sup>th</sup> July – St. James's Park

Friary were invited to play again at St. James's Park after a successful trip out to the Royal Park last year. The weather threatened to overshadow the day but as the band prepared to play, the skies cleared to enable the audience to enjoy a performance directed by Jon Hammond featuring solos from Richard Straker on Cornet (A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square), Chris Straker on Euphonium (Slavische Fantasy), Nigel Stevens on Horn (A Time for Peace) and Ian Stewart on Trombone (Shout). There was also a Horn feature in the Buddy Holly classic 'True Love Ways' arranged by Nigel Simmons which was particularly popular (picture opposite). The band enjoyed a warm reaction from the audience relaxing in their deck chairs and hope to be back again next year!





# Pre-finals Concert



12<sup>th</sup> September –  
Connaught Leisure, Aldershot

An innovative approach to the pre-contest run-out saw Harrogate bound Friary, Fulham and LGB bands take part in the inaugural Pre-finals concert held in Connaught Leisure in Aldershot. Frank Renton compered the concert where all three bands gave a short 40 minute programme which included the respective finals test piece. At the conclusion of each band's performance, Frank gave his opinions and also handed over a written adjudication to the conductors, helping them with their preparation in

the run-up to the contest. LGB took to the stage first led by Friary trombonist Ian Stewart (pictured above) and provided an entertaining programme which started off with a rousing National Anthem followed by the March 'Army of the Nile'. After a bouncy 'Breezin' Down Broadway', the test piece for the fourth section 'A Royal Mile Suite' by Scottish composer Alan Fernie was played. The band impressed with their sound and gave a very commendable performance of a difficult piece which contains a lot of exposed solo work. LGB wrapped up their set with the reflective 'Songs of the Seashore' and the film inspired 'Pirates of the Caribbean'.

Fulham were next to take to the stage with resident MD Simon Jones and they started where LGB left off with film music, this time from 'Harry Potter'. The principal cornet Vickie Curran was then featured in the solo 'Share My Yoke' which was lyrically played and well received by the audience. The third section test piece 'Willow Pattern' written by Phillip Harper. The work inspired by the blue pattern on Chinese plates tells a vivid story throughout the multiple movements and Fulham certainly managed to capture the atmosphere of the piece with lots of detail to be heard. Fulham finished up with the Danish hymn 'Eternal Struggle' and the solo 'Misty' played by third cornet Hannah Cooper.

The interval followed with the audience entertained as they ate their cakes whilst listening to some of Fulham's youth band prospects playing in a small group. They put on a fantastic show and certainly have bright futures ahead of them.

Friary started the second half with 'Malaguena' arranged by MD Chris King followed by the hymn 'May the Lord bless you and keep you'. Virtuoso playing from solo trombone Ian Stewart followed before the rendition of 'Diversions on a Bass theme' commissioned by the Bass brewery and used as the British Open test piece in 1998. They finished off the concert with the Salvation Army classic 'Glorifico Aeternum'.

Read on to find out the final results!



*Fulham's back row get to grips with 'Willow Pattern'*

# History!

**Contest:** 1<sup>st</sup> Section National Finals  
**Location:** International Centre, Harrogate  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> October  
**Section:** 1<sup>st</sup> Section  
**Test Piece:** Diversions on a Bass Theme (George Lloyd)  
**Adjudicators:** David Lancaster, Kevin Wadsworth  
**Position:** 1/18

History was made at the International Conference Centre when the Friary Guildford Band were crowned First Section Champions in the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. In what is traditionally viewed as a Northern preserve, Friary became the first band from the London & Southern Counties region to win the First Section final since its inception in 1992.

Eighteen bands from across England, Scotland and Wales were set George Lloyd's 'Diversions on a Bass Theme', a work originally commissioned by the brewer Bass North Ltd for the 1986 National Mineworkers' contest.

Friary were judged to have a clear edge by adjudicators Kevin Wadsworth and David Lancaster who commented: 'Fine preparation, secure playing, excellent balances and vibrant colourful sounds throughout. Musical Director – congratulations – great job' and 'this has been an impressive performance, very well prepared and presented'.

'Maybe the brewing connection between the test piece and Friary's roots was a good



MD Chris King celebrates with his two biggest fans  
 Photo: Steve Jack (British Bandsman/4barsrest)

## Final Results (selected)

1	Friary Guildford	London & SC
2	Frekleton	North West
3	Wrexham	Wales
4	Bo'ness & Carriden	Scotland
↓	↓	↓
8	Regent Brass	London & SC
↓	↓	↓
15	Egham	London & SC
↓	↓	↓
18	Meltham & Meltham Mills	Yorkshire

omen for us' mused band Chairman Tim Gregory. 'But a band needs far more than a good omen to win at this level and our success is down to sheer hard work and dedication from all the players and our musical director, Chris King', he added.

As well as all the hours of practising, rehearsing and performing that went into the victory, there was no shortage of administrative and logistical aspects of taking the band to the finals. Special thanks go to Lauren Cave and Janatha Yarham for all their hard work that went on alongside their playing duties!

Fellow 'Pre-finals' concert bands put on a good showing for the region with both Fulham Brass and LGB putting on a credible performances rewarded with 8<sup>th</sup> place in the second and fourth sections respectively.

# Postscript.

We all know the phrase 'things come in threes' and it was never truer for Friary's trip to the Nationals in Harrogate.

**1.** Whilst travelling up to Harrogate, Musical Director, Chris King and his family were involved in a car accident with a bus. Unfortunately Chris' car came off second best meaning that he had to find alternative transport for the journey home. Thankfully no-one was hurt and Chris & family made it back home safely with the help of a hire car!

**2.** Shortly after arriving at the hotel on the Friday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> Baritone, Alex Stevens was making her way to the rehearsal when her case strap broke, catapulting a sharp metal clip into her lip. Luckily after a concoction of pills, ice and arnica, Alex was well enough to play on it the next day!

**3.** On the day of the contest in the warm-up rehearsal, a spring on Principal Cornet Richard Straker's cornet snapped off. All was fixed though using a borrowed hair band which did the job nicely!

Hopefully this drama won't unfold at every contest Friary goes to!

## FRIARY DIARY

**14<sup>th</sup> November**

**11:30**

**Remembrance Parade**

High Street, Guildford

**5<sup>th</sup> December**

**14:30**

**British Heart Foundation  
Concert**

Park Barn Day Centre, Guildford

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**19:30**

**Joint Concert with Vivaldi  
Singers**

St. Andrew's Church, Farnham

**12<sup>th</sup> December**

**16:00**

**Radio Lion Carol Concert**

Surrey County Hospital, Guildford

More details on all events on our website:

[www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk](http://www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk)

Or contact our secretary:

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## Next Issue...

- Folkestone & Pontin's contest retrospectives
- Christmas concert reviews
- 2011 preview

## Bugle Call!

Please submit any news you would like published in the Bugle to:  
supporters@friaryguildfordband.co.uk.  
All contributions are gratefully received!

