

Dalmellington Band



SCOTTISH SHIELD

On Sunday 27th November the band competed at the Scottish Shield contest in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow.

This was our first appearance at the Royal Concert Hall as a Band taking part in a Contest although we did play here a number of years ago accompanying a massed Male Voice Choir of 400 voices conducted on that occasion by James Hunter of the BBC.



The Scottish Shield is new to the Scottish Contesting schedule, the trophy being discovered in someone's shed and having last been competed for in the early 1900's. We were invited to compete as a result of us being awarded 3rd place at this year's Scottish Championships in March.

Pleased as we were to accept the invitation, we were not terribly pleased to discover our section commenced at 9.00am, which meant the bus leaving the band hall in Dalmellington at 6.30am. As most of our Band only see this time on a Sunday morning as they are making their way home from their Saturday partying, it required a fair amount of self restraint and professionalism from all the members-and no one let the side down.

We knew in advance that we were drawn to play No.2 and would be on stage at 9.20am.

The performance of Philip Sparke's "Partita" (the same piece we played at the Fife Charities) was one of top quality from start to finish and the capacity crowd of 20 (no kidding!) responded enthusiastically at the end. Adjudicators Nigel Boddice and Bryan Allen were equally enthused and gave us first place with 189 points, one clear of Granite City Brass who played before us.

So that's another piece of silverware for our trophy cabinet and rounds off one of the most successful periods in the Band's recent history. Is it any coincidence that this good fortune has happened since we moved into our new Hall?