

# *Dalmellington Band*



## **BRASS IN THE PARK 2006**

The first contest after the summer season for us came on Saturday 2nd September when the Band returned to Newtongrange to compete in their annual Brass in the Park contest. This was the contest last year that we won, starting our successful run of contest wins.

An added bonus this year was the appearance of the Dalmellington Junior Band. Unfortunately due to the number of players they have – and more than the permitted number being over 18 – they couldn't compete for the prizes, but played for the experience and adjudication alone.

They took to the stage, fronted by a smartly dressed Ian Taylor in his white jacket and opened their programme with the hymn tune "Be Thou My Vision". This was followed by Principal Cornet Lindsay Roxburgh playing Philip Sparke's arrangement of "Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White". Their programme ended with Ray Woodfield's popular March "Walkabout". There was a good-sized audience in the arena to listen to them and they applauded enthusiastically and with good reason – the Band played very well. A number of the "Senior" band had travelled through early to hear them and they were all impressed with what they heard.

In the afternoon the senior Band, playing off draw no 16, began their performance with Philip Wilby's arrangement of "The Day Thou Gavest". This brilliant setting starts with a couple of bars played by just one Euphonium. Earlier in the week we learned the bad news that following an incident the previous Saturday, Principal Euphonium David McKellar had sustained injuries and would be unable to play for a while. Billy Whalen was promoted to Principal Euphonium and John Calderwood was given the 2<sup>nd</sup> Euphonium position for his first Contest with the Band. Billy got the Band off to a brilliant start with those two solo bars and the band responded by putting in a super performance.

Our chosen soloist this year was John Boax on Flugel Horn. John chose to play Chuck Mangione's fiendishly difficult "The Children of Sanchez" and received one of the biggest cheers of the day for his rendition at it's conclusion.

Julius Fucik's "Florentiner March" closed our programme and conductor Archie Hutchison made sure the Band stayed focused and concentrating right up to the very last note of the piece.

When it came to the results, the Junior Band were placed a very creditable 12<sup>th</sup> which had they been eligible for the prizes, would have seen them pick up a trophy for the best non-contesting band. As it was, they beat a couple of bands who are graded in sections 3 and 4. The senior Band were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize with what adjudicator Steve Sykes described as "A well chosen programme (well directed too!) the Band is on top form."

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As we will officially be a Championship Section band from November and this Contest is only for 1<sup>st</sup> Section and lower bands, this will be our last appearance at this fine contest – hopefully for ever! It was nice to sign off from Newtongrange as double winners, and hopefully the Juniors can go from strength to strength and build on their fantastic start to their introduction to the world of brass band competitions.

Placing	Band	Section	Draw	Points
1	Dalmellington	1	16	188
2	Newmilns & Galston	1	23	186
3	Jedforest Instrumental	2	15	185
4	Campbeltown Brass	3	20	185
5	Barrhead Burgh	2	17	183
6	Tullis Russell Mills	3	5	182
7	Selkirk	2	1	181
8	Penicuik Silver	4	6	180
9	Irvine & Dreghorn	3	8	179
10	MacTaggart Scott Loanhead	3	18	178
11	Abbey Brass (Jedforest)	4	9	177
12	Dalmellington Juniors	NC	10	176
13	Queensferry Community Brass	4	21	175
14	Peebles Burgh Silver	3	19	174
15	Sanquhar & District	NC	2	173