

Chairmans Report 2023

It is my pleasure to report on another successful year for Ballygowan Concert Flute Band. The band took part in a number of contests during the course of the year and I'm glad to report that we were successful in each contest.

Entertainment – The entertainment contest was held in Bangor academy and was well supported by a number of bands. Ballygowan placed 1st in the March section and 1st in performance. We also picked up the percussion prize and best new arrangement. Thanks and congratulations go to Martin Wall for his expert tuition in this contest.

NIBA – Armagh was once again the venue for the NIBA Championship of Ireland Bands contest. A small field saw Ballygowan pick up a clean sweep of prizes including 1st place, best percussion, best piccolo, best interpretation and best solo alto prize. Thanks again to Martin Wall for leading us through this contest.

Londonderry – A few short weeks later and it was on to Londonderry for Churchill's entertainment contest where the band placed 1st in Grade 1, collecting the percussion prize and best band overall. Thanks to Richard Douglas MBE for his expert tuition and guidance in this contest.

Own Choice – A return to Lisburn for the own choice contest resulted in wins again for the band, picking up 1st place in the championship section and the interpretation prize. The band also won overall performance. Thanks to Philip Ferguson for conducting the band at this contest.

Solo's and Quartets – lastly the solo's and quartets where we had many entrants competing, some for the first time. I'd like to congratulate Josh Gourley, Jessica Gibson, Rebecca Gourley, Harry Douglas, Matthew Gourley, The under 16 quartet of Scarlett Dowson, Jessica Gourley, George Craig and Rebecca Gourley, Harry and Mark in the duet section and the senior trio to octet. It is encouraging to see so many competitors in so many different sections doing so well and I must add that the last time we had an under 16 quartet, Victoria and I were in it. I must add a thanks to Philip Gaw for taking the learners class. It is now up to us to encourage these young musicians through to full members as this is where the future of our band lies.

The band also participated in a few community engagements and it was great to be out playing music around Ballygowan again.

The renovation of the hall has been largely completed after the funding was secured and I hope everyone here is impressed with the progress so far. Again thanks to the members of the committee for giving their time to complete the online course and thanks to Victoria for overseeing and completing the funding process. Thanks go to LOL 1181 and RPB 213 for their assistance in the renovation of downstairs. I'd also like to place on record my thanks to Graham McCaw and Joel Brown for any plumbing/electrical works, Bailie Thompson who completed a wonderful job of the outside of the bandroom and Colin Boyce. As most of you may know, Colin has been central to all renovation works over the years, he always makes time for us and completes the job to the highest spec.

A final thanks goes to the committee and members of the flute band. The committee here works tirelessly to maintain and improve the standards of the band, none more than Sarah and Victoria. A lot

of their work goes unseen but is essential to the running of the band and to them I am truly indebted. To Mark for his arrangements and to Andrew for guiding and preparing us before our guest conductors comes to prepare us for a contest. It makes my job easier when music is available and there is someone willing to conduct! To the members, we wouldn't have a band without you, I'd like to place on record my thanks to you for giving your time to the band, for rehearsing either here or at home and for being enthusiastic members of the band. We are approaching our 150th anniversary only because of your dedication!

This ends the Chairmans report for 2022-23

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.