

# Drovers Day – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

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Shepherd Group Youth Band were looking smart as they passed the Garden of Rest at the end of Bank Street.

In Order to inform here is a summary of the essentials of Brass band Marching Contesting. –

There's a Street march - where the band is tested on 'Deportment' At Wetherby The wheel, or turning as a group through 90 degrees at the junction of Bank Street & High Street. Also the smartness of Dress, the spacing between players and how well that is maintained throughout and of course their synchronicity of step.





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The Stood Marching Tune Played on the bandstand - Each band is given a short time to set up. Lyres (or Music sheet clamps), used to fix a smaller version of the musical score to the instrument while marching can be dispensed with and a standard music stand used for the next two elements. A chair may be requested



The stood Hymn Like the Stood march these two elements are being judged, or more correctly termed 'adjudicated' on by a AoBBA qualified person, who at Wetherby is sat in an enclosed gazebo. They are ranking each band against those already adjudicated. The Air Training Corp Placard bearer is informing the public by means of his signage to show the Band name and draw number. This visual advise to the audience is to maintain the element of fairness so the adjudicator is judging only on the sound qualities, rather than reputational standing. The Contest Controller is welcoming Bands to the stage, announcing the hymn and march tune to be played by Band Number (whatever it may be). The awards at Wetherby in 2023 were given on each Section.



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Much like football leagues each national region, and in our case it was Yorkshire Region and North East Region, compete within their section. there was a first and a runner up in the following. Championship, First, Second & Third Section. there was also Training or Youth Section. A separate prize was awarded for Best 3rd Section or lower, best Department (awarded to a band) and best Instrumentalist (awarded to a player, usually a solo cornet player)



Reg Vardy Band Marching Off



Knaresborough Silver Band are greeted by cheers from the crowd as they March past the Angel Inn.

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Wetherby Bandstand with audience relaxing for the afternoon.



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Wetherby ATC did a cracking job as Placard Bearers to guide the bands where they were playing and informing the public with Band names and the bands draw number.

All-important info for the public - not forgetting that its carried out this way to help ensure that there's no disclosing of the name to the AoBBA adjudicator sat out of vision of each band. He's listening to every detail in order to judge expertly each against the other.

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Regimental Sergeant Major Robert Stewart was our department adjudicator – here inspects before the march off which was outside the New Inn in Bank Street.



The ATC volunteers were supporting as Car park Stewards and Placard Bearers. Here they get final instructions in Bank Street.



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The Champion Band on the day and Championship Section Winners were **Fishburn**.

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Thanks to Fanfare North for kindly sponsoring the Special Stand Banner to the winners and for such a super quick service too.

As Evening drew on and the crowds continued to grow at the Bandstand the energy & excitement of the occasion here was being sensed -

Was it only us ? As (Lion) Martin & I exchanged glances we both sensed each others thoughts, we were quietly becoming more assured of the events success. Our nerves had eased, the timings had worked out - The community were with us on this, folks were up for it. The town, the bands, it seemed to be smiles all round. It was louder & louder that the cheers rang out at the end of the 'on stage' formalities.

The Lions and the Bandstand team were bowled over.

It's a team effort and the offers of support had been overwhelming.

With the great support of local business's who had booked a place in our event programme, supporters such as Hart Law, Geneva Instruments, Robin Stride Accountant's & Fanfare North who had put faith in the event, digging deep to help us raise our game and increase the prize fund.

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When you've 'got time' all things can be done, but you're allotted time is fixed. There's just 24 hours in the day.

It was the unexpected energies coming at us that boosted our confidence - strangers, now firm friends, were so generous in giving their time to make a success - we couldn't be happier - you know who you are you MD's, Officials, composers and Scots, who travelled here - each and every one, you helped to boost the day.

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You army of volunteer stewards, wow, the town is blessed with such generous teams of helpers and my cap is dothed - so ready and willing. We are very grateful and will build from this great foundation now laid for our market town

Its now onto the planning for the next Drovers Marching & Hymn Concert -

Well done it was a great, great team effort

'The Drovers' is on the Map