



Torquay in the Springtime, Harrogate in the Fall

17 March 2009

Brass wins Bronze - and go through to the national finals

Test Valley Brass, by finishing third in their first senior contest for nearly five years, have qualified for the National Brass Band championship.

In last weekend's West of England regional championship, Test Valley Brass fielded a mixture of senior and youth players against nineteen bands in the 4th section, from as far afield as Cornwall and Gloucestershire. Drawn to play first, Test Valley put on a good performance which many of the following bands struggled to match.

Paul Norley, adjudicator for the contest said afterwards:

"The band (Test Valley Brass) coped well with being first on. They produced a lyrical and well structured performance which set a benchmark for the other bands."

Getting a podium finish was an unexpected result for Test Valley Brass and wins them a place in the national finals, which take place in Harrogate in September.

Conductor for the contest, Steve Large said:

"This was an outstanding result for everyone associated with Test Valley Brass, from the youngest players and their supportive parents to the most accomplished musicians. We have had a great team spirit.

"We brought together some of the best players from our senior and youth bands and have worked hard on the difficult test piece (The Talisman by Frank Hughes) since the beginning of January. The early draw meant we had an unexpected warm-up in playing the national anthem before the contest-proper. But despite still rubbing the sleep from our eyes, we gave a good performance. Now it's roll on Harrogate!"

Before their chance to shine in the national championships, the band will be performing at the Lights in Andover on Saturday 23 May, in a joint concert with a music group from French twin-town, Redon. More details can be found on the Youth Band webpage or contact: Steve Large youthband@testvalleybrass.co.uk