



The curse of the sequel?

10 March 2009

Is it always the case that the sequel is a disappointment when compared with the successful original? That's the question that players in Hampshire's Test Valley Brass are asking themselves, as the band enters their first senior contest for 4 years, at the weekend.

"Jaws was a classic, but somehow Jaws 2 didn't match up. Star Trek was primetime viewing, but Star Trek: Next Generation wasn't quite the same hit," said Steve Large, who will conduct the band, in the South West regional contest in Torquay.

In the late 1990's Test Valley Brass were a force to be reckoned with, rising through the sections with podium finishes at Regional and National championships. Although a few members of that successful group are still involved, many of the new grouping are drawn from the band's enthusiastic youth contingent.

"This is something of a new beginning," says Steve. "A sort of Test Valley Brass: Next Generation. And in entering this weekend's 4th Section contest; we are boldly going where some of us have never gone before!"

What are the band's chances?

Steve Large again:

"This time it's mainly about the experience. We'll find out whether contesting is something we've the appetite for, with a younger group of players.

"It's a tough testpiece (The Talisman) and we initially struggled to play it through. But we've persevered. As long as everybody gives it their best shot, I'll be more than content."

Contest - West of England Regional Championships

Venue: Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5LZ

Championship Section – Sunday 15 March

The Forum

Draw: 1.30pm Commences: 3.30pm

Section 1 – Saturday 14 March

The Forum

Draw: 1.00pm. Commences: 3.00pm

Section 2 – Saturday 14 March

The Forum

Draw: 8.45am. Commences: 10.00am

Section 3 – Saturday 14 March

The Arena

Draw: 10.45am. Commences: 12 noon

Section 4 – Sunday 15 March

The Forum

Draw: 8.45am. Commences: 10.00am