

YWO NEWS

SPRING
2010

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE Y M C A W WIND ORCHESTRA
GLASGOW



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to trombonist Clare Quinn who recently married Stuart MacRae in Inverness. After the wedding, the couple jetted off to enjoy a wonderful honeymoon on safari in Uganda.

Unfortunately for us, the newly weds intend to set up home in Edinburgh, so we shall lose Clare's elegant presence from the band. We still wish the new Mr and Mrs MacRae much happiness in the years ahead.

Stuart is a composer of modern music, always a useful contact for any band, so we urge Clare to keep in touch with all her friends in the YWO.



Stuart and Claire MacRae

CURRY BOWL

The 2010 Curry Bowl took place on 15th May, held for the second time at the Showcase complex at Coatbridge. Two teams of 5 bitterly contested the title for overall champion, with significant style differences being seen across the two teams. Team One stormed ahead quickly getting strike after

strike. Team Two settled in for a more sedate affair with rather more interest in watching other bowlers than participating ourselves. Evidence of this can be found in the overall team scores – team one achieving 1017 points over the two games, and team two 655. Just as well we're not competitive! The first game was closely fought, with Michael having a (some might say) unexpected victory with a

massive score of 143. The second game was much tighter with Michael again triumphant at 136 points but special mention here must go to our very own Gayle (talent shines as always in the second clarinet section) (*Editor: the rest of us have not noticed this!*) with a score of 132. The mathematicians amongst you will have realised the effect that Gayle had on the Team 2's score being single

handedly responsible for 40% of the points. Our lackadaisical approach to bowling had made us a little late for dinner, but luckily some of our non-bowlers held the fort and we were all settled in the Ashoka only about 15 minutes late. Dinner was excellent and before we realised it we were the only table left in the restaurant. I'm already looking forward to next year's event. Glenda Johnston (clarinet).

BAND NEWS

WELCOME

We are always pleased to see new members joining our ranks and extend a warm welcome to Stephanie Dancer (bassoon), Ben Parsonage (trumpet), Susie Fokken (oboe), Laura Sands (flute), Judith Foster (horn), Mark Davis (tuba) and Tom Edie (percussion). We hope that they have an enjoyable stay with the band.

As we have so many talented players in the YWO, it is no surprise to learn that some of them have enjoyed success in other musical groups and so we say congratulations....

... to Audrey McCrone who as a member of Johnstone Band, came first in the first section at the Fife Brass Band Festival beating the current champions.

... to Douglas Suckle, whose band Coalburn Silver Band came

second in the second section in the Scottish championship and will represent Scotland at the national championships in Harrogate in September. We wish him good luck with that.

... to Karen Clayton who is making a name for herself as a solo player with the St. Vincent Baroque Players. At a recent concert her performance of Scarlatti's Flute Quartetto and Vivaldi's Flute Concerto No 5 received this accolade in the local newspaper: "The flute playing of Karen Clayton was particularly enjoyed." At the Milton of Campsie Mayfest Concert her performance of the Telemann Flute Suite and Vivaldi's Flute Concerto "Il Cardellino" was similarly appreciated. We wish Karen continuing success in her solo career.

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We have had some happy news about a former member of our band. Congratulations to bassoonist Jenni Washington on the birth of her first baby. Jenni and her husband Lawrence celebrated the arrival of their son Edward Gordon in February. We send best wishes to the whole family. Jenni tells us that she is learning Welsh so we're wondering if baby Edward is going to be bi-lingual! Just in case he is, we wish him "Dafawd, iechyd a dedwyddwch!"



Jenni Washington with son, Edward Gordon

CONCERT REPORT

On 5th March, we gave a Concert at Hamilton College in aid of a very special charitable cause. The Casa Abba Project was set up a few years ago to extend help from Scotland to Brazil: specifically to the very poor living in favelas in the city of Sao Paolo. In the various visits which have been made there, many Scottish young people have taken part - including our own clarinettist Shona Barcroft.

So our concert had a Scottish theme ('Loch Lomond'), a Brazilian theme ('Antonio Carlos Jobim Medley'), a world-vision

theme (Michael Jackson's 'Heal the World'), and the youth theme was provided by two talented young soloists. With her big jazz sound, trumpeter Vanessa McEwan wowed the audience, and impressed our own trumpet section, with 'A Night in Tunisia' and 'Joy Spring' and Gillian Ashwood sang two numbers with the band ('Someone to Watch over Me' and 'They Can't Take That Away From Me') and clearly enjoyed the experience as much as the rest of us: I have a feeling we'll work together again before long.

Big thanks go to the organisers - especially Kirsty Plummer,

who has since travelled out to Brazil again. Readers of our newsletter may be interested to have a look at Casa Abba's work at:

www.casaabbaproject.co.uk

Michael Philip (MD)

40 HAPPY YEARS

Congratulations to Anneke and Matt van Lijf who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding. Mr and Mrs van Lijf are the parents of Sabine Vos a former member of the YWO and were keen supporters of the band for many years. On our trip to their home town of Maastricht in 2000 they were our unofficial hosts and we remember some lovely evenings spent in their company. We wish them many more years of happiness together.

You can catch up on Sabine's new life in Switzerland later in this newsletter.



Matt and Anneke with their grandchildren Tim, Jonah, Lieve and Meike.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jean McDonald who was the winner of our last competition. We hope she enjoys spending her prize. A big thank you to everyone who took the trouble to enter.

MY MUSICAL DOUBLE LIFE



I began my musical life in 1978 when I began trombone lessons at Paisley Grammar School under the tutelage of Gus McIntyre. My early experiences were with the school and district orchestras and brass and wind bands which now occupy so much of my free time could not have been further from my mind. Then in 1982 I joined what was then called the Johnstone Silver Band (now Johnstone Band)

and a lifelong love of brass bands was born. In many ways British brass bands are unique. Your band is like an extended family with all of the issues (positive and negative) which that entails. I have even heard the day to day running of a brass band described as rivalling soap operas like Coronation Street or Eastenders!

The constant round of contests, concerts and fund raising events can be very time consuming and it is often difficult to juggle the demands of my life with the band and my other interests. This is especially true as I am now chairperson of the band (or chairman as my politically incorrect husband insists on calling me). But the rewards make it all worthwhile. I have made many good friends through the band and have had many performance opportunities

from playing on the back of a lorry at The Johnstone Festival to playing at the Royal Albert Hall. In my time with the band I have done everything from striking a piece of railway line as a percussionist to playing the tuba to playing the baritone horn at our next contest although the bulk of my playing career has been on bass trombone. The other half of my musical life is of course the Glasgow YMCA Wind Orchestra. The majority of my time with the band has been spent playing the euphonium which provides a pleasant change from the life of a brass band trombone player. Not only do I have the pleasure of playing in a more lyrical, soloistic role, I also get the chance to play a wider variety of repertoire and of course I get the chance to have an even wider circle of friends. One of the great aspects of the

Orchestra is the opportunity to play in a variety of situations from Barlinnie prison to the many interesting venues the Orchestra has performed in on its overseas tours. This musical double life is stimulating and enjoyable but it is not without its difficulties. It is impossible to be in two places at once and sometimes there are difficult choices to be made and I hope that members of both organisations realise that if I miss a rehearsal then it is because I have so many musical commitments. Despite the difficulties of this "juggling act" I would not have it any other way, I enjoy the variety and the friendships and long may it continue!

Recent success with Johnstone Band was at the Fife Brass Band Festival where we won the First Section competition and beat the current First Section Champion Band despite having to draft in a replacement conductor for the contest as our Conductor was stuck in Spain due to the volcanic ash crisis.

Audrey McCrone

OUR ARABIAN ADVENTURE

Easter Sunday saw Iain and I along with Lynn & Andrew Thomson set off to Dubai to join our cruise ship for 7 days in the Arabian Gulf.

We arrived in Dubai, checked in at the reception centre, then it was all aboard. Our 'monster' ship dwarfed the QE2 docked alongside, currently undergoing a fit out to become a 5 star floating hotel and rumoured to be off to South Africa for the world cup.

A tour of Dubai took us to see the Burj Al Arab hotel (the famous one that looks like a huge sail) and Jumeirah Beach, where we dipped our toes in the Gulf, after running across the burning sand. The architecture was amazing - tall shining buildings reaching to the sky, the Burj Khalifa (the world's tallest building), many opulent mosques, the old city houses with wind towers to provide natural ventilation and finally the old gold souk.

Sushi hour followed by champagne hour became a nightly routine on board before dinner and then it was Andrew's 'dessert-fest', sometimes four at once!

Next day we sailed into Muscat,

Oman, early in the morning to an already searing heat. Andrew had arranged to meet one of his colleagues and we spent a fantastic day in the mountains, at the coast and touring the best of Carillion built architecture - the Grand Mosque and the Sultan's Palace.

More sushi, more champagne, more desserts and through the Straits of Hormuz again and only 15 miles off the Iranian coast. Thankfully our Danish captain was a better navigator than the Royal Marines and we arrived safely in Bahrain. The highlight was a trip to the Formula One racetrack. No F1 racing unfortunately, only motorbikes but we did view it from the sniper's lounge of the VIP tower!

More sushi, more champagne, more desserts (OK, we did eat a lot of steak too!) and it was on to Abu Dhabi. The hottest weather we'd ever felt. At 46°C it felt like climbing inside your fan oven rather than

opening the door. Iain and I braved the heat and walked to the Emirates Palace hotel for afternoon tea. Built at a cost of £1.9 billion it is the most expensive hotel ever built. What opulence when we felt so hot and sticky.

Our last formal dinner, Andrew the centre of attention in his kilt, and we arrived back in Dubai for our final day. And then it was shopping and oh what shops! To hold a pair of \$2000 Manolos or Jimmy Choos but fortunately for the credit cards no shoes came home, only fabulous fresh dates.

Aiison Glen (clarinet)



NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

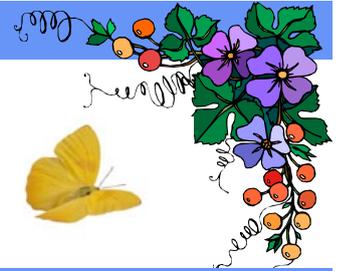
Dear music friends, I hope you are all doing well. I really enjoy hearing from you through the YWO news and thought I would send you a wee update on my experiences in Switzerland. As you know I play in the local band, which plays at local parties and does some annual occurring gigs. I am still trying to learn the local dialect, which is spoken by all band members, and in most cases I now do understand what they are talking about, which is very handy especially when somebody tries to explain where and when the next concert will be! In February we had our annual concert. This year's theme was "Vorwärts, Marsch!" and was therefore filled with march music. It went well and the audience enjoyed the evening. Our next big performance will be

the annual Kantonaler Musiktage where many bands from this region come together to play, march, drink, eat and party. For many attendees the order of importance will be the other way round. The whole event is organised in a Swiss way: strict and neat with an almost military precision. Every year another village organises the 3 day event and produces a nearly 100-page booklet of information about the event. We are playing in the 3rd division for a jury and therefore have to play 1 compulsory concert piece and 1 piece we choose ourselves. The compulsory piece is played by every 3rd division band and will therefore be played almost 30 times on Saturday between 8.30 and 19.00hrs at 2 locations. I'm glad I'm not the judge!

Apart from this concert every band has to march down a street and play 2 marches. All bands walk behind each other with a certain distance, which is 3 minutes exactly. We have to start marching at 11.24 (!!) hours in the morning. Last year I was amazed by the precision of the program, but it is necessary with over 30 bands present. And it didn't feel "over-organised" as the atmosphere was very friendly and relaxed. Band members from different bands were laughing and drinking together, which was a nice experience. Last year we were asked to play at an outside ceremony near the beer tent. That is when I found out why we have a uniformed band member (in our case the local gardener) carrying our

village flag: as soon as we started playing, he started waving this flag from right to left and back! He took his job very seriously as I could see on his facial expression. As soon as the music stopped, he held the flag and as soon as we started a new piece, the flag started moving again. I found this so amusing, that I missed at least 20 bars of the first few pieces we played. Obviously other band members didn't understand my reaction as they are used to this flag ritual. Anyway, we're currently practising very hard these 2 concert pieces as there will be a jury who will judge our performance.

Their judgement will decide if we stay in 3rd division or move.



Continuation from page 3

Talking about moving: Peter and I are hoping to move to another Swiss village, about 40 minutes drive from where we are now. We've bought a house as we are planning to stay in Switzerland for many more years.

This means the boys have to change schools and I might leave my current band, which is sad as I'm really enjoying myself. Our new home village is much smaller, but luckily has a local band as well.

So I'll keep you updated!
Wishing you all a musical, sunny summer.

Sabine Vos



WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.ywoglasgow.org.uk

COMPETITION

The Dingbats are making their third (and final!) appearance. Once again, each dingbat represents a song title. Please send your entry by the 13th August to L. McMillan 56 Lounsdale Drive, Paisley, PA2 9ED or by email to mcmillan2008@btinternet.com

1	VELVET	11	word word word
2	GAILS! HURRICANES! TYPHOONS!	12	Hello there Mr Law
3	BOO HOO THAMES	13	Body temperature 100 degrees F
4	Jim Morrison	14	A dime a rumba
5	H S U R B Othello Macbeth Hamlet	15	I T T H U H G O U
6	M c I a S n T d R I A e L	16	VmoEoRnMIOiNghT
7	Lord Lucan	17	Fields
8	EUROSTAR BRIGHTON BELLE QE2 ARGO CONCORDE SPITFIRE	18	REDNES OT
9	U-BOAT	19	DING DONG! DING DONG!
10	May Day! May Day!	20	S A L L Y

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