

# James Ollerton's Registration Card

a bandsman's contesting life in a few rubber stamps



*Preston Town Band, 1958 – which one is James Ollerton?*



*Lancashire Constabulary Band, 1979 – which one is James Ollerton?*

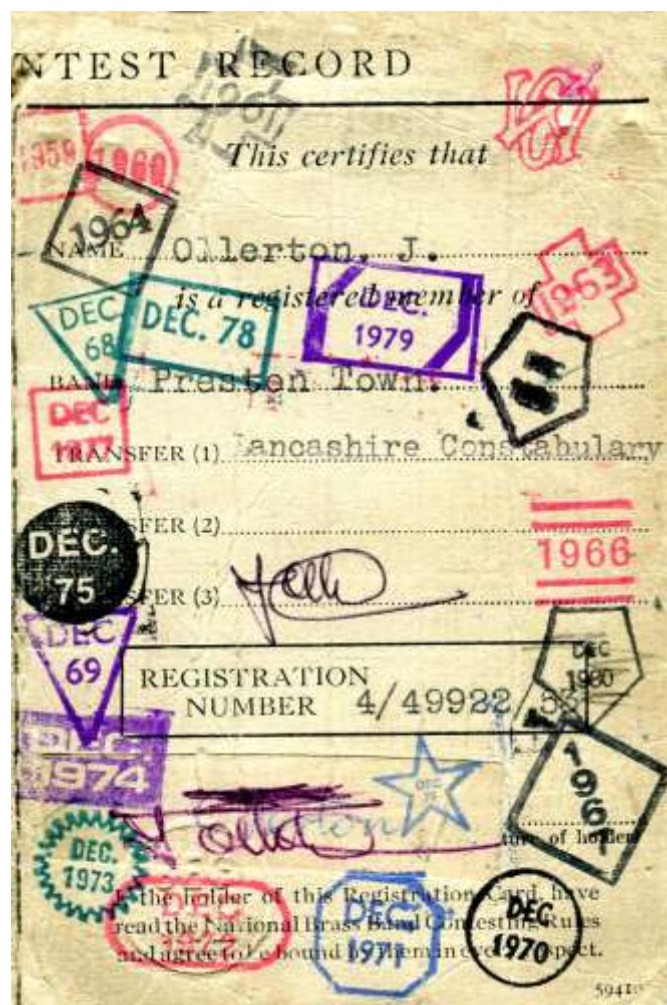
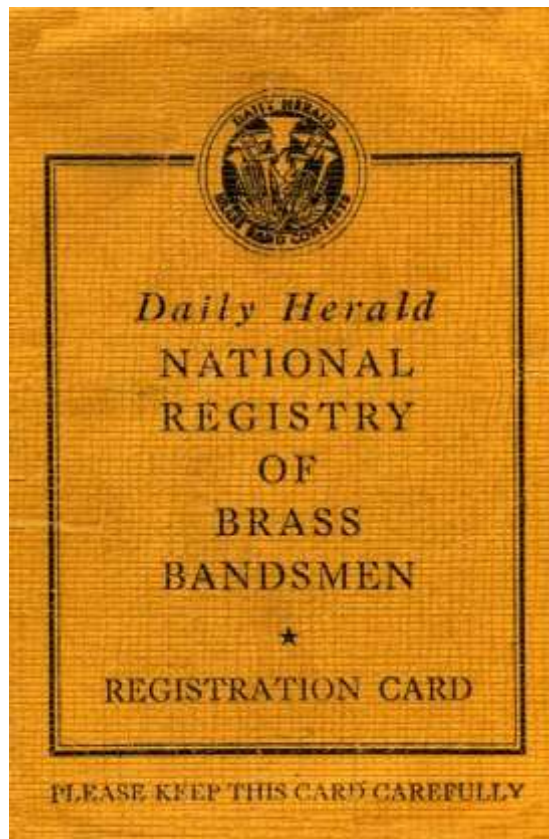
**compiled by Gavin Holman - May 2019**



All those who have played with brass bands in contests in the UK over the years will be familiar with Registration Cards. These were introduced after the Second World War to ensure that players did not compete with multiple bands, and also that the person was actually the correct player. When the Daily Herald dropped its sponsorship of the National Championships, the National Brass Band Contesting Council was established to run the contests and maintain the Registry which, by the early 1950s, had some 27,000 bandmen on its books.

Each bandsman had his own card which specified which band he/she was registered with. When a player transferred to another band the card was updated to reflect the effective date of transfer. Each year the card was re-validated with a year stamp, and each time the player competed, the card would have been checked by the officials at the contest and the appropriate stamp, date and initials added. In later years photos of players were added to the cards.

Separate registries were established for Welsh and Scottish bands.



The same general process is still in operation today, with similar rules as in the past. The Brass Band Registry is no more, having been replaced by Brass Band Players, an organisation established by Kapitool, the current operators of the National Brass Band Championships.

James Ollerton was a player with Preston Town Band and competed with that band from 1955 to 1963, transferring to the Lancashire Constabulary Band (based in Preston) in January 1965 where he remained until his last known contest in 1980. Registration number 4/49922/53, which implies he registered in 1953, but he did not contest with them until 1955.

Almost nothing is known of James Ollerton's life outside this registration card. I have found few clues elsewhere. The only possible link is the secretary of Preston Town Band, who was G. Ollerton in 1954-1955 (chairman in 1950) – his father? James' address is given as "Marbrick", Bye Pass Road, Garstang. Although that housename is no longer there, it was probably one of a row of houses just set back from the A6 as it looped round the west side of Garstang. A previous address is obscured – 17 Br? Ave, Sw? – possibly Swinton. He was a police constable,

playing tutti cornet (named as such on the Constabulary Band's recording in 1979).

Acknowledgements to [brassbandresults.co.uk](http://brassbandresults.co.uk) for details of the contests he attended.



TRANSFERS		
NEW BAND	EFFECTIVE DATE	OFFICIAL SEAL
Lancashire Constabulary	9.1.55	
NAME	"MAREKICK" JAMES OLBERTON BYEPIBS RD	
ADDRESS	17 Broadway, Salford, Lancashire	

The first contest attended was the North West Area 4<sup>th</sup> Section contest, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1955 at Belle Vue, Manchester, with Preston Town Band conducted by Tom Mitchell. Drawn number 4 of 9 bands, playing the test piece *Midsummer Eve* by Drake Rimmer, they were unplaced.

Preston Town competed in the Blackpool contest on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1955, but no entry appears on James' card, so we assume he did not play.

His next contest performance was at the Spring Festival Junior Cup at Belle Vue, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1955. Drawn number 14 of 14 bands, Preston Town took 4<sup>th</sup> place with their performance of *Midsummer Eve*.

Again, James appears to have missed out on Preston Town's appearance at the NWABBA Preston District Contest in September 1955, and he next competed at the North West Area 4<sup>th</sup> Section contest at the Victoria Hall, Bolton on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1956. The band were drawn number 11 and were unplaced.

Completing the first page of his registration card stamps were:

- 26<sup>th</sup> May 1956 - Spring Festival Junior Cup, at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Three Songs Without Words* by Eric Ball (unplaced)
- 9<sup>th</sup> December 1956 – North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Second Section), at Preston Public Hall, playing *A Garland of Classics*, by William Rimmer (unplaced)
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 1957 – North West Area 3<sup>rd</sup> Section contest, at Victoria Hall, Bolton, playing *Spirit of Progress* by Drake Rimmer (drawn no. 11, unplaced)
- 18<sup>th</sup> May 1957 - Spring Festival Junior Cup, at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Sailors' Songs* by Frank Wright (3<sup>rd</sup> place, with 167 points)
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 1957 – North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Second Section), at Preston Public Hall (details not known)

(1955) BANDS			
REGISTRATION	OFFICIAL	DATE	PLACE
N.W.A.	ES	16/4/55	4
Belle Vue	ES	22/5/55	4
Victoria Hall	ES	28/4/56	11
W.A.A.	ES	26/5/56	11
V.W.A.	ES	29/3/57	11
Belle Vue	ES	18/5/57	3
Preston Public Hall	ES	9/12/56	11

The second page of the card's stamps begins with the 1958 Area contest:

- 19<sup>th</sup> April 1958 - North West Area (Third Section) contest at Walkden Town Hall, playing *Devon Fantasy* by Eric Ball (drawn no. 10, 5<sup>th</sup> place with 174 points)
- 17<sup>th</sup> May 1958 - Spring Festival (Junior Shield) at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Devon Fantasy* by Eric Ball (drawn no. 13, unplaced)
- 28<sup>th</sup> September 1958 - Yorkshire v. Lancashire Contest (Class B) at Huddersfield Town Hall, playing *Devon Fantasy* by Eric Ball (drawn no. 11, unplaced)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 1958 - North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Second Section), at Preston Public Hall, playing *Snowdon Fantasy* by T.J. Powell (1<sup>st</sup> place, with 184 points)
- 9<sup>th</sup> May 1959 - Spring Festival Senior Trophy, at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Yorkshire Ridings Suite* by S.B. Wood (2<sup>nd</sup> place, with 184 points)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 1959 - North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Second Section), at Preston Queen's Hall, playing *Othello* by Drake Rimmer (1<sup>st</sup> place, with 364 points)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1960 - North West Area (Second Section) contest at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Gallions Reach* by Peter Yorke (drawn no. 2, unplaced)
- 28<sup>th</sup> May 1960 - Spring Festival Senior Trophy, at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Gallions Reach* by Peter Yorke (unplaced)
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 1960 - North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Second Section), at Preston Queen's Hall, with a new conductor – R. Hopkinson, playing *Homage to Pharoah* by Drake Rimmer (drawn no. 4, unplaced)



He did not compete in the 1959 Areas at Bolton Town Hall, where Preston Town Band played *English Folk Song Suite* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, but were unplaced

The third page of the card's stamps shows that James only competed twice more with Preston Town Band before transferring to Lancashire Constabulary. During this period Preston Town entered five contests. His first contest with the police band was at Golborne in September 1965.

- 13<sup>th</sup> May 1961 - Spring Festival Senior Trophy, at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Salzburg Suite* by Denis Wright (drawn no. 8, unplaced)
- 25<sup>th</sup> May 1963 - Spring Festival Senior Trophy, at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Four Preludes* by Eric Ball (drawn no. 32, unplaced)



Lancashire Constabulary Band

- 26<sup>th</sup> September 1965 - Golborne Contest (Section C), conductor Frank Hough, playing their own choice *From the New World* by Antonin Dvorák, arranged by Drake Rimmer (3<sup>rd</sup> place, drawn no. 1, with 180 points)
- 28<sup>th</sup> May 1966 - Spring Festival (Junior Shield) at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Thames Valley Suite* by Henry Geehl (4<sup>th</sup> place)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1966 - North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Third Section), at Dukinfield Town Hall, (3<sup>rd</sup> place, with 180 points)
- 5<sup>th</sup> February 1967 - Rochdale Contest (Section B) at Rochdale Town Hall, (own choice test piece, unplaced)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1967 - Blackpool Contest (C Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, (own choice test piece, drawn no. 5, unplaced)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1967 - Blackpool Contest (B Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, (own choice test piece, drawn no. 5, unplaced)
- 29<sup>th</sup> April 1967 - Spring Festival (Grand Shield) at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Scheherazade* by Rimsky-Korsakov, arranged by Drake Rimmer (drawn no. 25, unplaced)
- 1<sup>st</sup> October 1967 - Golborne Contest (Section C) at Lowton Civic Hall, playing their own choice test piece (drawn no. 11, unplaced)



During this period the Lancashire Constabulary Band competed in 12 other contests that James Ollerton did not take part in.



The fourth page of the card's stamps indicates that James missed the NWABBA Preston District Contest in December 1967, resuming his contesting in 1968.

- 4<sup>th</sup> February 1968 - Rochdale Contest (Section B) at Rochdale Town Hall, (own choice test piece, drawn no. 3, unplaced)
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 1968 - Darwen Contest (Section B) at Darwen Public Baths, playing *Themes from Symphony no. 5* by Beethoven, arranged by Denis Wright (2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 1968 - Darwen Contest (Section A) at Darwen Public Baths, playing *Themes from Symphony no. 5* by Beethoven, arranged by Denis Wright (3<sup>rd</sup> place)
- 20<sup>th</sup> April 1968 - North West Area (Third Section) contest, at Manchester Free Trade Hall, playing *Fowey River Suite* by Eric Ball (drawn no. 3, unplaced)
- 21<sup>st</sup> April 1968 - Blackpool Contest (B Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice test piece – *Scheherazade* (drawn no. 5, unknown placing, 176 points)
- 21<sup>st</sup> April 1968 - Blackpool Contest (A Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice test piece, (drawn no. 2, unknown placing)
- 21<sup>st</sup> April 1968 - Blackpool Contest (C Section) at South Pier, Blackpool playing own choice test piece *Themes from Symphony no. 5* (2<sup>nd</sup> place, drawn no. 5)
- 25<sup>th</sup> May 1968 – Spring Festival Senior Cup at Belle Vue, playing *Devon Fantasy* by Eric Ball (drawn no.16, unplaced)
- 20<sup>th</sup> October 1968 – unknown contest under the auspices of the North West Area Brass Band Association (possibly the Skelmersdale contest, but that was 27<sup>th</sup> October – and Lancashire Police Band did not take part, so he may have been borrowed by another band)
- Undated – unknown contest under the auspices of the North West Area Brass Band Association (possibly the Bury contest on 30<sup>th</sup> November - Lancashire Police Band did not take part, so he may have been borrowed by another band)
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 1968 - North West Area Brass Band Association contest (Third Section), at Pembroke Halls, Worsley, playing *Peter Schmoll* by Carl Maria von Weber, arranged by Drake Rimmer (drawn no.9, unplaced)

Rochdale Contr	4/2/68	AW
PUBLIC BATHS	11/2/68	AW
THE PEOPLE North Western Area	20/4/68	AW
	21/4/68	AW
BELLE VUE N.W.A.B.B.A.	25/5/68	AW
North Western Area Brass Bands Association	20/10/68	AW
N.W.A.B.B.A.	8/12/68	AW

The fifth page of the card's stamps starts the year 1969 in Blackburn.

- 9<sup>th</sup> March 1969 - Blackburn Contest (Section B) at King George's Hall, Blackburn (no details)
- 16<sup>th</sup> March 1969 - Darwen Contest (Section B) at Darwen Public Baths (own choice contest, no other details)
- 16<sup>th</sup> March 1969 - Darwen Contest (Section A) at Darwen Public Baths (own choice contest, no other details)
- 20<sup>th</sup> April 1969 - North West Area (Third Section) contest, at Worsley Civic Hall, playing *Chorale & Variations* by Leighton Lucas (1<sup>st</sup> prize, drawn no. 3, with 174 points)
- 27<sup>th</sup> April 1969 - Blackpool Contest (B Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice *Coriolanus* by Cyril Jenkins (3<sup>rd</sup> place, with 181 points)
- 27<sup>th</sup> April 1969 - Blackpool Contest (C Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice *Three Days* by William Rimmer (1<sup>st</sup> place, with 177 points)
- 17<sup>th</sup> May 1969 – Spring Festival Senior Cup at Belle Vue, playing *Coriolanus* by Cyril Jenkins (drawn no. 10, unplaced)
- 11<sup>th</sup> October 1969 - National Championship of Great Britain (Third Section Final) at Fulham Town Hall, playing *The Water Carrier* by Luigi Cherubini (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, with 188 points)
- 7<sup>th</sup> December 1969 - Wills Regional Championships Preston (Second Section) at Preston Public Hall, playing *Othello* by Drake Rimmer (drawn no. 13, unplaced)

N.W.A.B.B.A.			gB
N.W.A.B.B.A.	16/3/69		m.w
THE PEOPLE North Western Area	28/4/69		(u)
N.W.A.B.B.A.	20/4/69		gB
BELLE VUE	17/5/69		gB
THE PEOPLE 3rd. Section Finals	11/10/69		DM
W.D. & H.O. Wills Clubs/Chips	1969 179		A

He did not play with the band in the Morecambe Entertainment contest semi-final & final in June and September 1969, nor in the Preston District contest on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1969

The sixth page takes us to 1970, with ten contests.

- 8<sup>th</sup> February 1970 - NWABBA Contest (Second Section) at Pembroke Halls, Worsley, playing *Themes from Symphony no. 5* by Beethoven, arranged by Denis Wright (1<sup>st</sup> place, with 185 points)
- 12<sup>th</sup> April 1970 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Public Hall, playing *First Suite in Eb* by Gustav Holst (4<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 1, with 170 points)
- 26<sup>th</sup> April 1970 - Blackpool Contest (A Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice test piece (3<sup>rd</sup> place)
- 9<sup>th</sup> May 1970 - Spring Festival Senior Cup at Belle Vue, playing *Themes from Symphony no. 5* by Beethoven, arranged by Denis Wright (drawn no. 6, unplaced)
- 15<sup>th</sup> November 1970 - Saddleworth Contest (Section A) at Uppermill Civic Hall, playing own choice *Promenade* by Frank Bryce (drawn no. 4, unplaced)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 1970 - Wills Regional Championships - Preston (Second Section) at Preston Public Hall, playing *Promenade* by Frank Bryce (unplaced)
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 1971 - NWABBA Contest (Second Section) at Pembroke Halls, Worsley, playing *Lorenzo* by Thomas Keighley (drawn no. 6, unplaced)
- 7<sup>th</sup> March 1971 - Mossley Contest at George Lawton Hall, Mossley, playing own choice test piece (drawn no. 3, unplaced)
- 18<sup>th</sup> April 1971 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Public Hall, playing *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boelmann (2<sup>nd</sup> place, drawn no. 1, with 185 points)
- 25<sup>th</sup> April 1971 - Blackpool Contest (B Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boelmann (2<sup>nd</sup> place, drawn no. 1, with 187 points)
- 25<sup>th</sup> April 1971 - Blackpool Contest (A Section) at South Pier, Blackpool, playing own choice *Lorenzo* by Thomas Keighley (3<sup>rd</sup> place, drawn no. 4, with 182 points)

NWABBA	2/71	H	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	12/4/70	4 <sup>th</sup>	
North Western Area Brass Bands Association	26/4/70	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
BELLE VUE	9/5/70	6 <sup>th</sup>	
SADDLEWORTH	15/11/70	4 <sup>th</sup>	
W.D. & H.O. WILLS Champ/ships	6/12/70	unplaced	
Worsley	21/2/71	unplaced	
MOSSLEY	7 MAR 1971	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	18/4/71	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
North Western Area Brass Bands Association	25/4/71	2 <sup>nd</sup>	

He did not play with the band in the Radio Merseyside Entertainment contest on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1971.



James Ollerton started his seventh page on his card when he registered at Belle Vue for the Grand Shield contest.

- 8<sup>th</sup> May 1971 – Spring Festival Grand Shield at Belle Vue, playing *Lorenzo* by Thomas Keighley (drawn no. 7, unplaced)
- 15<sup>th</sup> May - Whitehaven Contest (Class A), playing *Lorenzo* by Thomas Keighley (1<sup>st</sup> prize, with 186 points)
- 9<sup>th</sup> October 1971 - National Championship of Great Britain (Second Section Final) at Imperial College, South Kensington, playing *Celebration* by Eric Ball (4<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 15, with 92 points)
- 5<sup>th</sup> December 1971 - Wills Regional Championships - Preston (Second Section) at Preston Public Hall, playing *Songs & Dances* by Allan Street (no details)
- 26<sup>th</sup> March 1972 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Public Hall, playing *Sinfonietta* by Joseph Horowitz (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, drawn no. 4, with 173 points)
- NWABBA Contest (Second Section) at Pembroke Halls, Worsley, playing *Four Corners of the World* by Ronald Hanmer (1<sup>st</sup> prize)
- 30<sup>th</sup> April 1972 - Blackpool Contest, 'B' Section at the Locarno Ballroom, Blackpool, playing own choice test piece (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, with 191 points)
- 30<sup>th</sup> April 1972 - Blackpool Contest, 'A' Section at the Locarno Ballroom, Blackpool, playing own choice test piece *Academic Festival Overture* by Johannes Brahms, arranged by Denis Wright (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, drawn no. 4, with 180 points)
- 6<sup>th</sup> May 1972 - Spring Festival Grand Shield at Belle Vue, playing *Academic Festival Overture* by Johannes Brahms, arranged by Denis Wright (drawn no. 1, placed 12<sup>th</sup>)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1972 - Skelmersdale Contest (Section A) at Brookfield School, Skelmersdale, playing own choice test piece (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, with 189 points)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1972 - Wills Regional Championships - Preston (Second Section) at the Public Hall, Preston, playing *Four Corners of the World* by Ronald Hanmer (1<sup>st</sup> prize, drawn no. 2)

BELLE VUE	8/5/71	EW	
Whitehaven Contest	15.5.71	JK	
THE CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND SECTION W.D. & H.O. WILLS Champ/ships	9/10/71	ELM	WJ
	6/12/71		
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	20/3/72	JW	
	9/4/72	M.W	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	30/4/72	JK	
BELLE VUE	6/5/72	EW	
SKELM CON	22/10/72	JK	
W.D. & H.O. WILLS Champ/ships	1972	JK	

He did not play with the band in Preston District Contest on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1972, nor the Radio Merseyside Entertainment contest on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1972, nor the Wigan contest on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1972.

The eighth page starts off the new year of 1973.

- 11<sup>th</sup> February 1973 - North West Association Contest (Second Section) at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Rhapsody in Brass* by Dean Goffin (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 6, with 88 points)
- 25<sup>th</sup> March 1973 - North West Area (Second Section) at Parr Hall, Warrington, playing *The White Company* by Norman Richardson (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 2, with 177 points)
- 1<sup>st</sup> April 1973 - Blackpool Contest (B Section) at Norbreck Hydro Hotel, Blackpool, playing own choice *Rhapsody in Brass* by Dean Goffin (1<sup>st</sup> prize, with 86 points)
- 14<sup>th</sup> April 1973 - Wills Championships Grand Finals (2nd Section) at Imperial College, South Kensington, playing *Doon Valley* by Allan Street (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, drawn no. 21, with 374 points)
- 5<sup>th</sup> May 1973 - Spring Festival Senior Cup at Belle Vue, playing *Main Street* by Eric Ball (drawn no. 8, unplaced)
- 6<sup>th</sup> October 1973 - National Championship of Great Britain (Second Section Final) at Imperial College, South Kensington, playing *Sinfonietta* by Thomas Wilson (drawn no. 15, unplaced)
- 10<sup>th</sup> February 1974 - North West Association Contest (Second Section) at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Blackfriars* by Edric Cundell, arranged by Frank Wright (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 2, with 362 points)
- 24<sup>th</sup> March 1974 - North West Area (Second Section) at Parr Hall, Warrington, playing *Song and Dances* by Allan Street (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, drawn no. 4, with 186 points)
- 28<sup>th</sup> April 1974 - Buxton Festival (Section A) at Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, playing *Othello* by Drake Rimmer (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 11, with 190 points)

N.W.A.B.B.A.	11/2/73	90	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	20/5/73		
BLACKPOOL	NE	A	173
AV. D. & H. O. Wills Championships	1973		
BELLE VUE	5/5/73		
THE CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND SECTION	6/10/73		
N.W.A.B.B.A.	10/2/74		
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	2+7+		
BUXTON	29/4/74		



The ninth page continues the run of contests in 1974.

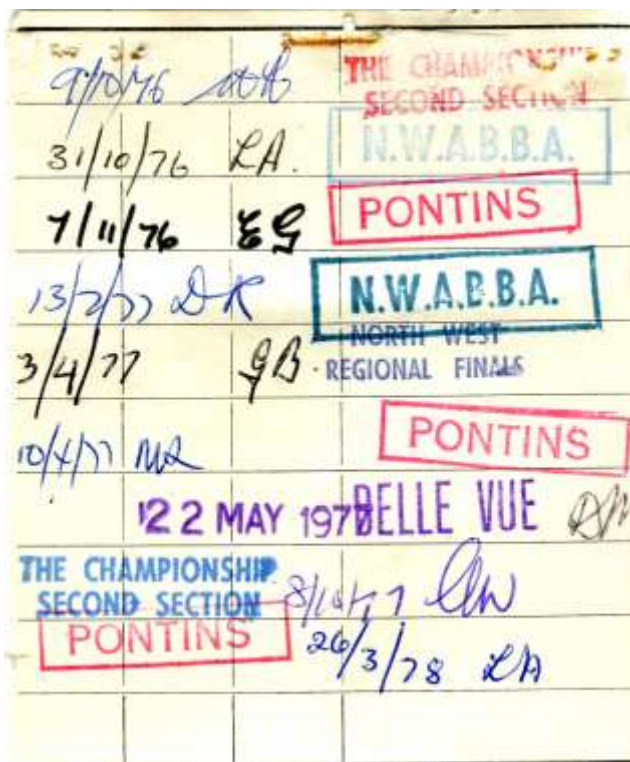
- 5<sup>th</sup> October 1974 - National Championship of Great Britain (Second Section Final) at Imperial College, South Kensington, playing *Entertainments* by Gilbert Vinter (drawn no. 15, unplaced)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1974 - NWABBA Preston District Contest (Section A) at Marine Hall, Fleetwood, playing *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boelmann (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 1, with 189 points)
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 1975 - NWABBA Contest (Second Section), playing *Scheherazade* by Rimsky-Korsakov, arranged by Drake Rimmer (3<sup>rd</sup> prize)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1975 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Guild Hall, playing *Rhapsody in Brass* by Dean Goffin (4<sup>th</sup> prize, drawn no. 11, with 184 points)
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 1975 - Pontins (Second Section) at Pontins Holiday Centre, Southport, playing *Overture to "The Sicilian Vespers"* Giuseppe Verdi arranged by Edrich Siebert (4<sup>th</sup> prize, drawn no. 12, with 175 points)
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 1975 - Pontins (Championship Section) at Pontins Holiday Centre, Southport, playing own choice test piece (drawn no. 20, unplaced)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1975 - NWABBA Preston District Contest (Section A) at Marine Hall, Fleetwood, playing *The Plantagenets* by Edward Gregson (2<sup>nd</sup> prize)
- 15<sup>th</sup> February 1976 - NWABBA Contest (Second Section) at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Sinfonietta for Brass Band* by Gordon Langford (3<sup>rd</sup> prize, drawn no. 4, with 368 points)
- 28<sup>th</sup> March 1976 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Guild Hall, playing *Tournament for Brass* by Eric Ball (3<sup>rd</sup> prize)
- 18<sup>th</sup> April 1976 - Pontins Southport (Second Section) at Pontins Holiday Centre, Southport, playing *Overture to "The Sicilian Vespers"* by Giuseppe Verdi arranged by Edrich Siebert (1<sup>st</sup> prize, with 193 points)
- 9<sup>th</sup> May 1976 - Spring Festival Senior Cup at Belle Vue, playing *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boelmann (1<sup>st</sup> prize, drawn no. 15, with 186 points) – the last contest with Frank Hough as conductor

THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2 <sup>ND</sup> SECTION	5/10/74	llw	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	3/11/74	CL	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	2/25	AM	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	23/3/75	BAOR	
PONTINS	30/3/75	WJ	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	2/1/75	C	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	15-2-76	llw	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	28/3/76	llw	
PONTINS	14/4/76	llw	
BELLE VUE	9/5/76	SK	

James did not compete with the band at the Buxton Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1975, nor the Spring Festival Senior Cup on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1975.

The tenth page mirrors the band's contesting, James not missing a single contest. Also the introduction of two new conductors – Harry Bentham and Billy Hill

- 9<sup>th</sup> October 1976 - National Championship of Great Britain (Second Section Final) at Imperial College, South Kensington, conducted by Harry Bentham, playing *Land of the Mountain and the Flood* by Hamish MacCunn (5<sup>th</sup> prize, drawn no. 22, with 184 points)
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 1976 - NWABBA Preston District Contest (Section A) at Marine Hall, Fleetwood, conductor Billy Hill, playing *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boelmann (1<sup>st</sup> prize, with 90 points)
- 7<sup>th</sup> November 1976 - Pontins (Second Section) at Pontins Holiday Camp, Prestatyn, playing *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boelmann (1<sup>st</sup> prize, drawn no. 7, with 182 points)
- 13<sup>th</sup> February 1977 - NWABBA Contest (Second Section) at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Morning Rhapsody* by Eric Ball (5<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 2, with 372 points)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1977 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Guild Hall, playing *Morning Rhapsody* by Eric Ball (1<sup>st</sup> prize, drawn no. 1, with 174 points)
- 10<sup>th</sup> April 1977 - Pontins Southport (Second Section) at Pontins Holiday Centre, Southport, playing *Promenade* by Frank Bryce (7<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 4, with 178 points)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1977 - Spring Festival Grand Shield at Belle Vue, playing *Land of the Mountain and the Flood* by Hamish MacCunn (12<sup>th</sup> place)
- 8<sup>th</sup> October 1977 - National Championship of Great Britain (Second Section Final) at Imperial College, Kensington, conducted by Harry Bentham, playing *Scena Sinfonica* by Henry Geehl (unplaced)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1978 - Pontins (Second Section) at Pontins Holiday Camp, Prestatyn, playing *Second Rhapsody on Negro Spirituals* by Eric Ball (7<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 19, with 183 points)





The eleventh sheet from the card showed James Ollerton with a busy time – 10 contests.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1978 - North West Area (Second Section) at Preston Guild Hall, playing *The Three Musketeers* by George Hespe (1<sup>st</sup> prize, drawn no. 9, with 193 points)
- 7<sup>th</sup> October 1978 - National Championship of Great Britain (Second Section Final) at Imperial College, Kensington, playing *Down Under* by Ronald Hanmer (drawn no. 2, unplaced)
- 29<sup>th</sup> October 1978 - NWABBA Preston District Contest (Section A) at Marine Hall, Fleetwood, playing unknown test piece (1<sup>st</sup> prize, with 191 points)
- 5<sup>th</sup> November 1978 - Pontins (Second Section) at Pontins Holiday Camp, Prestatyn, playing *Rococo Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky* by Allan Street (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 1, with 188 points)
- 28<sup>th</sup> January 1979 - Rochdale Contest (Championship Section) at Rochdale Town Hall, playing *Embassy Suite* by Allan Street (drawn no. 8, unplaced)
- 18<sup>th</sup> February 1979 - NWABBA Contest (Championship Section) at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Embassy Suite* by Allan Street (drawn no. 6, unplaced)
- 1<sup>st</sup> April 1979 - North West Area (Championship Section) at Preston Guild Hall, playing *Variations for Brass Band* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (9<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 2)
- 7<sup>th</sup> April 1979 - Radio Manchester Contest Final at BBC Studios, Manchester, playing an entertainments selection (2<sup>nd</sup> prize)
- 16<sup>th</sup> April 1979 - Pontins Southport (Championship Section) at Pontins Holiday Centre, Southport, playing *Tam O'Shanter's Ride* by Denis Wright (drawn no. 1, unplaced)
- 19<sup>th</sup> May 1979 - Spring Festival (Grand Shield) at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *Sinfonietta for Brass Band* by Gordon Langford (10<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 4)

THE CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND SECTION	7/10/78	193	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	29/10/78	RA.	
PONTINS	5/11/78	RA.	
ROCHDALE CONTEST	28/1/79		
N.W.A.B.B.A.	18/2/79	191	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS RADIO MANCHESTER - 7 APR 1979 FINAL	7/4/79		
PONTINS	6 APR 1979		
BELLE VUE	19/5/79	10 <sup>th</sup>	

He did not play when the band competed in the Radio Manchester contest heat on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1978.

The final page, the twelfth, chronicles his last contests with the police band. What happened to James Ollerton in life or in banding after 1980 has yet to be discovered.

- 25<sup>th</sup> August 1979 - Edinburgh International Contest at Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, playing march, hymn, and own choice test piece *Le Carnaval Romain* by Hector Berlioz, arranged by Frank Wright (4<sup>th</sup> place)
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 1979 - City of Leicester Brass Band Festival (Championship Section) at De Montfort Hall, Leicester, playing *Le Carnaval Romain* by Hector Berlioz, arranged by Frank Wright (unplaced)
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 1980 - NWABBA (Championship Section) at Bolton Town Hall, playing *Beatrice & Benedict* by Hector Berlioz, arranged by Keith Wilkinson (2<sup>nd</sup> prize, drawn no. 5, with 184 points)
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 1980 - North West Area (Championship Section) at Preston Guild Hall, playing *Beatrice & Benedict* by Hector Berlioz, arranged by Keith Wilkinson (drawn no. 1, unplaced)
- 7<sup>th</sup> April 1980 - Pontins Southport (Championship Section) at Pontins Holiday Centre, Southport, playing *Journey into Freedom* by Eric Ball (4<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 6, with 181 points)
- 17<sup>th</sup> May 1980 - Spring Festival (Grand Shield) at Belle Vue, Manchester, playing *The Crusaders* by Thomas Keighley (18<sup>th</sup> place, drawn no. 14, with 173 points)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1980 - Edinburgh International Contest at Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, playing march, hymn, and own choice test piece (unplaced)
- 30<sup>th</sup> November 1980 - City of Leicester Brass Band Festival (Championship Section) at De Montfort Hall, Leicester, playing *La Forza del Destino Overture* by Guiseppe Verdi, arranged by Frank Wright (drawn no. 5, unplaced)

E.F.C.	25/8/79	R.P.P.	
C.O.L.F.	25/11/79	FB	
N.W.A.B.B.A.	17/2/80	Bm.	
NORTH WEST REGIONAL FINALS	30/3/80	AT	
PONTINS	7 APR 1980		
BELLE VUE	17/5/80		
S.A.B.A. 23	AUG 1980	R.P.P.	
C.O.L.F.	30/11/80	FB	



During James Ollerton's time with the police band, they made three LP recordings:

- ***The Men in Blue play a selection of marches*** (Deroy Records, DEROY 564) – 1970 – Conductor Frank Hough, recorded at the Assembly Hall, Constabulary Training School, Hutton, Preston [*Great Little Army; The Contemptibles; National Emblem; The Thin Red Line; The Voice of the Guns; The Middy; General Salute; On the Quarter Deck; Officer of the Day; Death or Glory; La Rêve Passe; The New Colonial March; Blaze Away; Slow March – Scipio*]



- ***Brass in Blue*** (Deroy Records, DEROY 999) – 1974 – Conductor Frank Hough [*Old Comrades; The Arcadians; Snowbird; Bugler's Holiday; Eye Level; Castell Caerphilli; Amazing Grace; Cha Cha for Band; Adagio from Spartacus; The Wedding; Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines; Cavaleria Rusticana*]



- ***In Concert*** (Hollick & Taylor, HT/LPS1610) - 1979 - Conductor Harry Bentham – [*Concert Prelude; Overture to Lustspiel; Cornet Solo - Chiapanecas; Theme Music - Elvira Madigan; French Military March; La Reine de Saba; Cavatina; Hey, Mr. Music Man; Traditional Air - The Boy From Menaem; Theme Music - Superman; Aces High*]



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Coincidentally, my own first contest with Latchford Silver Band was the North West Area 4<sup>th</sup> Section, at Preston Public Hall in April 1971, and I distinctly recall listening to at least one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section performances – that of Lancashire Constabulary Band, playing *Suite Gothique*, by Leon Boelmann – the first time I'd heard that piece – it is still one of my favourites.

*Suite Gothique* is nearly the Lancashire Constabulary Band's contest theme tune – they competed with it six times, only surpassed by *Scheherazade* (7 contest performances).

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If you want to build up your own contesting history record, you can visit the Brass Band Results website (<https://brassbandresults.co.uk>), and register. Then, for each contest you played in, click the "I Played At This Contest" button to enter your details. Your performances will then appear in your Profile page.