

# Sheffield Corporation Tramway Employees' Brass Band - some facts and figures, particularly its 1908 financial accounts

*Gavin Holman, 6 February 2023*

One of the joys of historical research is how a single document or photograph can open up a whole new avenue of discovery. In this particular case I acquired a copy of the Balance Sheet of the Sheffield Corporation Tramways Employees' Brass Band, for the year ending 31 August 1908.

In itself it is a small item, a single sheet of paper, with a few entries about the band's activities, but it spurred me on to add to the little I already knew about the band. This account merely scratches the surface of this band's history, and I leave it to others to dig deeper, but it is a collection of that which is readily available.

The band was founded in late 1901, with their initial conductor being Inspector H. Brook. Its first public appearance was on 21 June 1902 at the Tramway Employees Gathering in Sheffield. In 1903 its bandmaster was H. Brook, and the conductor, J.A. Dyson.



*Sheffield Corporation Tramway Employees' Brass Band, c. 1910*

Sheffield Corporation Grammar School Employees Brass Band  
Balance Sheet.  
Year ended 31st August 1908.

Income.		Expenditure.	
Balance in hand 1st September 1907	5 3 6 1/2	J. A. Dyson, Tuition for year ended 1st May '08	6 10 -
Received from Sports and Garden Fete, September 1907	10 0 2	Garden Fete Expenses	1 12 6
Contributions 1st Sept 1907 to 31st August '08	9 - -	Loss on Dinner and Social 15th Jan'y '08	1 10 -
Collection, Christmas playing	12 18 10	Wright & Rounds a/c Band Journal 2-11-0	
Collection, New Years playing	8 10 1	Less part paid by members 1-0-6	1 10 6
Collection, Football Match	3 3	H. Stand - cornet repairs	2 - -
Playing on Whit Monday in Parks	2 10 -	Two Straps for Basses	2 - -
Discount on 52 dozen programmes	25 10 -	Bass instrument repairs	8d
	13 -	J. Bamford for assistance rendered at football match	2 6
		H. Cartledge - Solo Cornet	4 - -
		J. Hursley - Extra cleaning Band Room	6 - -
		Hire of practice room	1 - -
		Distributed amongst Bandsmen	
		Christmas 12 11 9	
		New Year 8 9 3	
		Whit Monday 2 10 0	
		Playing in parks 25 10 0	49 1 -
		Christmas and New Year Expenses	9 4
		Apprenticeship for players	2 - -
		Second prize for attendance (pipe)	1 - -
		Bought Receipt books	6
		Stationery Petty Cash Expenses	9 5
		Band Masters Petty Cash Expenses	2 2
		Balance in hand 31st August 1908	12 11 3 1/2
	<u>£ 74 13 10 1/2</u>		<u>£ 74 13 10 1/2</u>

Balance sheet – year ending 31 August 1908

**Income:**

Balance in hand, 1st September 1907	£5 3s 6 1/2d
Received from Sports and Garden Fete, September 1907	£10 0s 2d
Contributions 1st Sept 1907 to 31st August 1908	£9 5s
Collection, Christmas playing	£12 18s 10d
Collection, New Years playing	£8 10s 1d
Collection, Football match	3s 3d
Playing on Whit Monday	£2 10s
Playing in parks	£25 10s
Discount on 52 dozen programmes	13s
	=====
	£74 13s 10 1/2d

**Expenditure:**

J.A. Dyson, Tuition for year ended 1st May '08	£6 10s
Garden Fete expenses	£1 12s 6d
Loss on Dinner and Social, 15th January '08	£1 10s
Wright & Rounds a/c Band Journal - £2 11s	
Less part paid by members – £1 0s 6d	£1 10s 6d
H. Stand – cornet repairs	2s
Two straps for basses	2s
Bass instrument repairs	8d
J. Bamford for assistance rendered at helping at football match	2s 6d
H. Cartledge – Solo cornet	4s
J. Hursley – Extra cleaning Band Room	6s
Hire of practice room	1s
Distributed amongst Bandsmen	

Christmas - £12 11s 9d	
New Year - £8 9s 3d	
Whitmonday - £2 10s	
Playing in parks – £25 10s	£49 1s
Christmas and New Year expenses	7s 4d
Advertisement for players	2s
Second prize for attendance (pipe)	1s
Cash receipt book	6d
Secretary's petty cash expenses	7s 5d
Bandmaster's petty cash expenses	2s 3d
Balance in hand – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 1908	£12 11s 2½d
	=====
	£74 13s 10½d

A further annotation gives details of a particular concert:

### Widows Benefit Concert, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1907

<b>Income:</b> 667 tickets @ 3d each - £8 6s 9d. Taken at doors – 3s 3d. W. Scothoper – 1s od. Total - £8 11s.	<b>Expenditure:</b> Printing etc. – 13s 0. Balance handed over as per receipts - £7 18s. Total - £8 11s.
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The band's conductor in 1912 was J. Lundy in 1912, and at some point it rehearsed at the power station at Kelham Island.

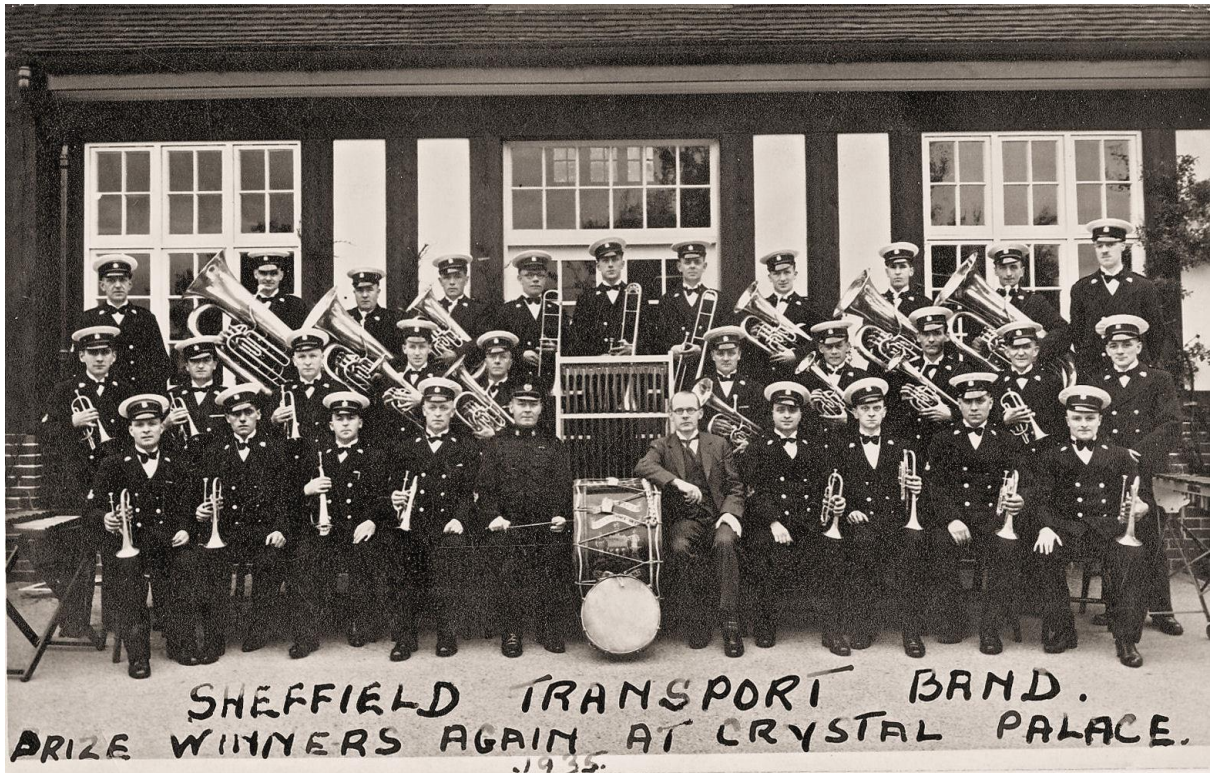
During its life it was also known as Sheffield Tramways Band, Sheffield Transport Brass Band, Sheffield Corporation Transport/Tramways Band.

During WWII it broadcast two concerts: on Monday 4 January 1943 it gave a half-hour concert on the Forces Radio station. On Sunday 7 February 1943, it gave a radio broadcast 3.45pm to 4.15pm, with conductor W. Foster, playing "*The W.R.N.S. March*" (Addinsell), "*Overture: The Black Domino*" (Auber), "*Selection: More Melodious Memories*" (Finck), and "*Waltz: Wine, Women and Song*" (Strauss).

The band competed throughout most of its time, though it is only known to have achieved one first place. A lists of its contest achievements is appended at the end of this paper.

During the mid-1950's the band went into decline and some players joined the Sheffield Recreation Brass Band (now named Unite the Union Brass Band). However, it recovered and continued to perform and contest until the late 1960's, before finally disbanding.

Here are a few photographs of the band in its later years:



The band in 1935, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Grand Shield at the National Championships, playing "Comedy Overture", conducted by George Hespe



*Sheffield Transport Band, 1954*



*Sheffield Transport Band, c. 1957*



*Sheffield Transport Band, playing for the last trams in Sheffield, 1960*



*Sheffield Transport Band, 1967*

### **Sheffield Tramways Band – contest record**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Contest</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Test piece</b>	<b>Conductor</b>
30th Sep 1911	Crystal Palace (Preliminary Cup)		Harvest Home	R. Lundy
28th Sep 1912	Crystal Palace (Preliminary Cup)		The Village Bride	R. Lundy
2nd Dec 1922	Sheffield Hospitals Contest Senior Cup	3	Il Giuramento [unknown arranger]	H. Curtis
24th Sep 1927	Crystal Palace (Junior Shield - B)		Così fan tutte [arr. Godfrey]	C. W. Hall
29th Sep 1928	Crystal Palace (Junior Cup - B)		Hanover [D. Wright]	C. W. Hall
28th Sep 1929	Crystal Palace (Junior Shield - B)		Romantique (Suite)	John Davison
27th Sep 1930	Crystal Palace (Junior Cup - B)		Concert Suite [Cui]	John Davison
26th Sep 1931	Crystal Palace (Junior Cup - B)	1	Gems of Melody	William Halliwell
1st Oct 1932	Crystal Palace (Junior Cup - A)	5	Maesgarmon	William Halliwell
30th Sep 1933	Crystal Palace (Junior Cup - A)		The Crusaders	William Halliwell
29th Sep 1934	Crystal Palace (Junior Cup - A)	4	Princess Nada	George Hespe
28th Sep 1935	Crystal Palace (Grand Shield)	2	Comedy Overture	George Hespe
12th Oct 1935	Sheffield (City Hall) Contest			George Hespe
18th Apr 1936	Southport Music Festival Contest		Tchaikovsky [arr. W. Rimmer]	George Hespe
9th May 1936	Belle Vue May Contest (Class B Group 2)		Echoes of the Opera	L. Latchford
27th Jun 1936	Leeds Contest (Section Two)	7		George Hespe

Date	Contest	Place	Test piece	Conductor
26th Sep 1936	National Championships (Crystal Palace)		Kenilworth	George Hawkins
25th Sep 1937	National Championships (Crystal Palace)		Pageantry	George Hespe
9th Jul 1938	Belle Vue March Contest			Unknown
9th Jul 1938	Belle Vue July Contest (Class A)	2	Pride of Race	George Hespe
5th Sep 1938	British Open		Owain Glyndwr	George Hespe
24th Sep 1938	National Championships (Crystal Palace)		An Epic Symphony	George Hespe
8th Jul 1939	Belle Vue July Contest (Class A)	2	Owain Glyndwr	George Hespe
23rd Aug 1942	Belle Vue Marching Contest (Class A)	2	March: B.B. & C.F.	Unknown
11th Jun 1944	Belle Vue Marching Contest (Class A)	4		Unknown
10th Jun 1945	Belle Vue Marching Contest (Class A)	3	March: Brilliant	Unknown
22nd Mar 1947	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)		Akhnaton	Ralph Williams
10th May 1947	Holme Valley Brass Band Contest (Section A)		Aroldo [unknown arranger]	Unknown
22nd Jun 1947	Belle Vue Marching Contest Class "A"		March: Punchinello	Ralph Williams
6th Sep 1947	British Open		Henry V [Maldwyn Price]	Ralph Williams
29th Mar 1948	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)	W	Fantasia in F	Unknown
23rd Apr 1949	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)	6	Morning Rhapsody	Ralph Williams
3rd Sep 1949	British Open		Rhapsody in Brass	Ralph Williams
15th Apr 1950	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)	5	Festival Overture [Geehl]	Ralph Williams
2nd Sep 1950	British Open		Resurgam	Ralph Williams
14th Apr 1951	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)		Atlantic [Wright]	Ralph Williams
18th Apr 1953	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)	W	Rhapsody in Brass	Unknown
14th Mar 1959	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)		Wuthering Heights	Ralph Williams
25th Mar 1961	North Eastern Area (Championship Section)		Les Preludes [arr. Rimmer]	Ralph Williams
6th Mar 1965	North Eastern Area (Second Section)		Old English Suite: Three Castles	Ralph Williams