

Fifth successive Belgian 'National' for Willebroek

CELEBRATIONS took place last Sunday evening (27 November) after the stunning performances of Derek Bourgeois' *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* and Peter Graham's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (the band's own-choice test-piece) gave Brass Band Willebroek, conducted by Frans Violet, the Belgian National Championship for the fifth year in succession, with 382 points out of a possible 400. Brassband Buizingen was placed second playing Philip Wilby's *Music for the Moving Image* in the own-choice section. Willebroek will represent Belgium at the European Brass Band Contest in Belfast next year. In the 1st Section, the title went to the Noord-Limburgse Brass Band

Continued on page 3

Belgian Championships

continued from page 1

conducted by Ivan Meylemans, with Young Brass Band Willebroek (also conducted by Frans Violet) in second place. There was a tough battle in the 2nd Section, with five bands participating, although one (Brassband Liège) was disqualified. The winner was Brass Band Campine, conducted by Willebroek soprano player, Bert Van Thienen, which gave a thrilling own-choice performance of Concerto for Band by John Golland.

In the 3rd Division the title went to Brass Band Heist, also conducted by Bert Van Thienen. This new band was highly appreciated by the adjudicators and had the highest points of the three lower sections.

The adjudicators John Berryman, Goff Richards, David Read and Fred Harles congratulated all participants on the high level of playing. David Read gave special mention to the excellent quality of the Belgian bands and remarked that some of the day's performances ranked amongst the finest performances he had ever heard.

Full Results:

Champions Division

Test-piece: The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea (Bourgeois)

1. Willebroek (F. Violet)
382 / 400;
2. Buizingen (L. Vertommen)
369;
3. Metropole (G. Audenaert)
358;
4. Festival (J. Briat) 349;
5. Kortrijk (L. Maertens) 340.

1st Division

Test-piece: Blackfriars (E. Cundell)

1. Noord Limburgse (Y. Meylemans) 348;
2. Young Willebroek (F. Violet) 345;

Adjudicators: Fred Harles and David Read.

2nd Division

Test-piece: Renaissance (P. Graham)

1. Campine (B. Van Thienen) 348
2. Zele (B. Van de Strieckt) 336;
3. De Grensbewoners (D. Aerden) 336.
4. Saint-Georges Mons (T. Descamps) 316;

3rd Division

Test-piece: The Call of the Righteous (L. Condon)

1. Heist (B. Van Thienen) 351

Adjudicators: John Berryman and Goff Richards

