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### Outline of the Pre-contest Concert

Each year the Wychavon Festival of Brass Committee stage a popular one-day contest in Evesham to which bands from across the UK attend and we welcome the return of Johnstone Band from Scotland. We have hopes that Manger All Stars might also attend although they have expressed concerns about the still present Covid and the financial risk such a journey implies.

**Because our appeal to local audiences is relatively small due to the esoteric nature of brass competition, we felt that staging a free Gala concert (alongside our local bands) on the eve of the contest might attract a new and different audience from that which attends our contest.** The event is relatively simple: 2/3 bands, from 7.30 pm onwards, playing thirty minutes each with ten minutes between them and a longer interval break. A retiring collection will be made and a raffle run. All bands who are staying in the area for the contest will be invited and, more importantly, good local advertising and press releases will hopefully help to attract an Evesham audience.

We are optimistic that, as this pre-contest concert prove viable and popular in 2019, its return in 2022 will be a welcome start to our contesting weekend. Dressing the stage and making the performance hall as attractive as possible is a key element ensuring a good reception so that both musicians and listeners alike enjoy the experience.

### Outline of how the Wychavon Festival of Brass Contest day functions (2022)

The Wychavon Festival of Brass consists of (usually) **one day of brass band competition** in which five different levels (known as sections) compete for prizes against one another. **Each band is required to play a short programme of music of around twenty minutes** which is judged by an expert in the field who ranks the performances of each band to determine the result. The Adjudicator's decision is final.

The organisation of the day is fairly standard; however, its detailing cannot be decided until we know how many bands are entering. The nature of the venue and the availability of stewards are also factors in the construction of a suitable timetable. However, the usual format is to run two or three sections concurrently in different halls, followed by two more sections, ending with the Championship section toward the end of the day. To run the schedule on a single day now requires FOUR performance halls due to the increase in popularity of our event. I show a simplified proposed schedule below:

It takes band approximately 30 minutes to get on and off stage and to perform their twenty minute programme, therefore a section that has ten bands takes around six hours to complete plus another thirty minutes at the end to award prizes.

Thus a possible timetable for the Contest might look like this (assuming a full entry as we have had in recent years). Timings are adjusted to accommodate more or fewer bands):

Performance Hall	Section Start 9.30am		Section Start 2.00pm
1	Championship (ends 9.00pm)		
2	First (ends 6.00pm)		
3	Second (ends 4.00pm)		
4	Fourth (ends 2.00pm)		Third (ends 7.00pm)

In addition, all players and bands must be registered (to prevent cheating) and this takes place in an area away from the performance area immediately before each band goes on stage. It is a continuous process throughout the day.

**Setting up the halls and rooms has to be done the day before.** Onsite parking of coaches and cars is managed by the School Site Manager (with whom we have an excellent working relationship) and stewards, who also man the ticket booths and the access and egress of audiences and bandsmen.

The Fleece at Bretforton services the provision of refreshments.

**The De Montfort School is again the chosen venue this year** as it can provide us with all the accommodation we need. Dressing the halls with carpets and curtaining alleviates any acoustical shortcomings.

This is a very brief outline of what we do. Please contact me should you need further details.

Val Trim

Chair, Wychavon Festival of Brass