

# Irwell Springs Band



In 1905 Irwell Springs Band won the Belle Vue Competition and Championship of Great Britain and Colonies at Crystal Palace. When the band came home from Belle Vue the town celebrated with them but these celebrations were nothing compared to what was ahead when the band returned home from Crystal Palace. Arriving in Accrington at about 9 o'clock on a Monday night the band was met by decorated wagons full of supporters, and all along the route from Accrington to Bacup large groups of people turned out to congratulate and celebrate with them. When the band reached the borough boundary at the Thrutch the Mayor Alderman J.H Maden J.P and members of the Corporation were there to greet them and give them a civic welcome and accompany them on the rest of their journey into Bacup and to the home of Mr James Shepherd the band's President at his home, Holmes Villas.

Despite it being nearly midnight when the band arrived back in Bacup dense crowds lined the decorated streets. Walter Nuttall took over sole charge of the band in late 1909 following Mr Rimmer's retirement and led the band on to further successes winning the Championship Cup, two Gold Medals and £20 prize money on Easter Saturday in Barnoldswick. In 1912 the band once again engaged professional tuition in the form of Mr W Halliwell and again as in 1911 came in as runners up at Crystal Palace.

However 1913 saw the band win Gold Medals for the first time ever in the history of the competition when Springs won the Crystal Palace Championship first prize for the third time.

The news was relayed back to Bacup via telegram and when the band returned home on the Monday evening they found the pavements of Newchurch Road and Market Street lined with people waiting to celebrate and congratulate them on their spectacular win. The crowd which gathered on Bulls Bridge was said to be one of the biggest ever seen. The Royal Court Theatre November 1913 was the venue for the public presentation of the Crystal Palace Trophy.

