

SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION
65th ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Saturday 5th November 2011

6 BANDS

Section 3 Band Drawn No 4

Test Piece *Spade: Saint-Saens Variations*

A neat + tidy opening but some minor intonation problem around 31. $\downarrow = 160$ is a fast enough marking - sometimes it was considerably faster, which meant that detail + ensemble were less than perfect bars 93 103 for example. The band sounded impressive in loud 'tutti's', less so in sparser orchestrated passages. This was particularly noticeable in the 'Transformation' + 'Meditation' where, the solo passages, although lyrically played, had less than perfectly controlled fragments. Intonation issues throughout the slow section were apparent. The Apotheosis started with considerable energy + excitement but at times there was a tendency to allow the sound quality to become rather bland. The band has some excellent qualities, solo players + individual sections. On this showing it didn't feel as though the band quite had the measure of the piece musically - if one deviates too much from a composer's metronome mark it has to be a very compelling performance to justify it.

Order of Merit: 3

Adjudicator *Dr Bassano*

There were moments when the band sounded wonderful.