



Newcomer band goes straight to the top

THE Handcross Band has good reason to blow its own trumpet — it has won a major national championship in its first competition year.

The band beat 19 other finalists to win the fourth section of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain in the Albert Hall, London, last weekend. It was the first Sussex band to win in the finals.

“It’s absolutely fantastic,” said band member Mr Dave Oxley. “We guessed we might get into the last six, but we did not really think we would win.”

The band won six other trophies en route to the

Albert Hall — in the qualifying rounds of the national contest.

In the finals last Saturday Handcross gained 195 points out of 200 — one of the highest totals recorded and three points clear of the nearest challenger.

Now the band members are aiming for greater success. They have already been promoted to the third section in the competition circuit for their achievements this year.

All they need now is a sponsor — and new members will be welcome.

● Pictured front are vice-president Mr Roger Ray (left) and conductor Mr Ian Walsh, who plays principal cornet in the Coldstream Guards.