

# Austrians reluctant to gain promotion



**Hannes Buchegger and his brilliant Brass Band Oberosterreich will not be displaying their talents in the top section contest at the European.**

It would appear that Brass Band Oberosterreich, the brilliant winners of the B Section will not be playing in the Championship Section of the European Contest in the forthcoming future.

As Austria is yet to become a full member of EBBA the band is currently ineligible to compete in the top section contest, but even if they were, the conductor and leading members of the band have made it quite clear that they do not see their future participation at the Europeans competing against the likes of Willebroek, YBS and BAYV.

## Lose players

Their brilliant principal cornet player Hans Gansch told 4BR: "We have no appetite to compete as a contest band and to play contest test pieces. We enjoy what we do, and we believe that there would be no future for our band if we had to perform music we did not enjoy. We would lose players and enthusiasm."

## Little true musical purpose

The band's conductor Hannes Buchegger also felt that trying to motivate some of the very best brass players in Europe to play extended brass band test pieces was something he and his band did not wish to do. "At present we enjoy the way in which we are developing. We have many excellent players who enjoy the concert programmes we put together. We just do not feel we would enjoy playing long test pieces and having to prepare them for little true musical purpose."

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~ Hans Gansch

That would seem to cause EBBA a problem as the standard of Oberosterreich is such that they would easily challenge for honours in the Championship Section. The B Section has become something of a showcase for their special talents, and resembles a one band exhibition followed by something of a scramble for second place. This year the band won by 5 clear points, and for many observers, it could well have been 25.

## Potential problem

At the EBBA press conference, EBBA itself acknowledged the potential problem and stated that it would look at different ways in which the future of the B Section could in some way incorporate the brilliance of the Austrians. It is hoped they can, as the performances of Oberosterreich has been one of the truly memorable highlights of the past two European Championships.

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