



The origins of the band go back to 1900 when the village of Elworth near Sandbach in Cheshire formed its own band having been let down in its attempt to secure the services of the nearby town band to feature in the celebrations marking the relief of Mafeking in the Boer War.

After a couple of years the village band was wound up, but from that base local industrialist Edwin Foden formed the Fodens Motor Works Band. For a few years the new band has modest ambitions, but in 1908 a fundamental reorganization took place and, by the following year, it had achieved Championship Section status, a prestigious position that has been maintained ever since.

Thirty-two times the band has been a prize winner at the coveted British Open Championships, winning nine times outright - including a hat-trick in 1926-'27-'28. Thirty-seven times a prize winner at the National Championships of Great Britain, twelve times as winner, including an unparalleled double hat-trick in 1932-'33-'34 and 1936-'37-'38.

Under its former title, the band was ordered to play by Royal Command on three occasions: in 1913 for King George V and Queen Mary, in 1938 at Windsor Castle for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and most recently in 1983 where the band had the honour of playing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In wartime the band toured Europe for ENSA and in peacetime it has toured Canada, South Africa and Israel.

In July 1986 the band accepted sponsorship from the Britannia Building Society.

The band has maintained its position as one of the countries leading bands, becoming BBC Band of the Year in 1990 and 1992 and European Champions in 1992, French Open Champions in 1998

Becoming All England Masters Champions in 1990, 1991, 1994 and 1995, the band emerged as the most consistent band in this field, and in 1993 it became

the first British band to win the Swiss Open Championships.

In 1997 the band accepted new sponsorship from the French Instrument manufacturer Antoine Courtois that also allowed the band to go back to its original name of Fodens. With this fresh impetus the band again experienced major Championship success, winning the coveted title Champion Band of Great Britain in October 1999.

Since 1999 Fodens became the North West Area Champions in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, as well as a double hattrick from 2006 - 2011. International Masters Champions in 2002, 2006 and 2008. USA Open Champions in 2003. English National Champions in 2006. British Open Champions in 2004 and 2008. Tameside Whit Friday Champions 2002 - 2009 and 2011. National Finals runners up in 2007, 2008, 2009 as well as Brass in Concert Champions 2009.

As well as being extremely successful on the contest field, Fodens are in great demand for concerts in the UK and abroad due to their diversity and entertaining choice of programmes.

Recent tours abroad have include Italy, Switzerland, America, Ireland, France , Norway and Israel.

Fodens regularly recorded cd's and are pleased to have won the 'British Bandsman cd of the year' in 2008, 2009 and 2010

More Information on the band can be found on www.fodensband.co.uk