

Enderby Jackson's Crystal Palace Contests (1860-63)

These contests were inaugurated shortly after the Crystal Palace moved from its original home (built for the Great Exhibition of 1851) in Hyde Park to its new home in Sydenham, south London. It was organised by Enderby Jackson, the self-proclaimed 'inventor' of the brass band contest.

Jackson's contests were carefully organised in collaboration with railway companies which transported the bands and their supporters to London. This was the first great incursion of amateur brass bands into the southern metropolitan area, and it was received with critical acclaim. Among the early winners was the Black Dyke Band from Yorkshire (which survives with distinction to modern times), the Cyfarthfa Band from south Wales (the private band of the iron magnate Robert Thompson Crawshay), and somewhat surprisingly the Blandford Band from the market town Blandford Forum in the southern county of Dorset.

The 'Great National Contest' was open to any 'Amateur, Yeomanry and Rifle Corps bands', but the Sydenham Amateur Contest was for all amateur bands that had not won a prize in excess of £20 in the previous year. The reference to military bands comes about because so many amateur brass bands had enlisted in the Volunteer force.

1860	National (10 July)	Sydenham (11 July)
	1 Black Dyke Mills	Cyfarthfa
	2 Saltaire	Dewsbury
	3 Cyfarthfa	Goldhill Saxhorn
1861	National (23 July)	Sydenham (25 July)
	1 Saltaire	Marriner's, Keighley
	2 Chesterfield	Victoria
	3 Keighley	Darlington
1862	National (9 Sept)	
	1 Chesterfield Rifle Corps	
	2 Black Dyke Mills	
	3 Keighley	
1863	National (28 July)	

- 1 Blandford
- 2 Dewsbury Old
- 3 Matlock Bath