

BRISLINGTON PLAYERS IN ROMANTIC OPERA.

Large Audience Sees Company in "Highwayman Love."

True to what has now become a tradition, the operatic section of the Brislington Players gave a successful presentation of the romantic light opera, "Highwayman Love," before a large audience in the Brislington Church Hall, last night, and added one more to a long list of previous successes.

The performance last night was notable for the chorus work, which reached an unusually high standard in the vocal, dancing and general ensembles, and provided the essential background to the clever work of the principals. Excellent scenic and lighting effects, and pretty costumes gave artistic distinction to the performance.

Mr John Froude (Sir Harry Love) and Miss Marion Bishop (Bess Mannering) were the outstanding characters in a good list of principals, and the success of the play was largely due to their work. Miss Gertrude Ketley (Lady Love) was particularly capable, and Miss Eveline Penny (Isabel) and Miss Alice Prosser (Peggy) were equally good. Miss Ethel Dibble (Sophy), Miss Nellie Rogers (Prue) and Miss Elsie Batt (an old woman) also made good contributions.

Mr Herbert Spikes (Denis O'Neill), the chivalrous highwayman, gave a splendid performance, speaking his lines and singing with confidence and ability. Mr Fred Clarke (General Mannering), Mr Roy Norcott (Obadiah Blunt), and Mr George Spikes (Sergeant Mustard) were also good and the comedy element was delightfully supplied by Mr Harry Beatt (Sir Jeffrey Digby), Mr Edward Butt (Gaffer Jarze), Mr Will Thomas (John Braddium) and Mr Harry Titcomb (Soloman Smug). Mr Reg Wood (Doctor Flute) and Mr A. Hawkes (Diggory) filled their rôles satisfactorily.

The whole performance reflected the greatest credit on Miss Marian Bishop (producer) and Mr H. F. Lewis (musical director), who had been ably assisted by Mr M. Bishop (stage manager), and Mr E. Butt (property manager).

The performance will be repeated to-night and to-morrow.

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