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Closing our eyes to heart break

**Pat Bishop, musician,
conductor of WITCO Despera-
does, says:**

The standards have been high for quite a long time, but people do not care. Children do a magnificent job in the junior festival. And it breaks my heart to have to adjudicate to empty seats.

It also breaks my heart to see how poorly the preliminaries and semi-finals of the festivals are supported. I do not see how we can talk about a future when every festival that we have is plagued by uncertainties of weather, because we have to perform in what is, after all, a netball court.

Where we play there is an acoustic sound which has to be amplified. I do not really know about the future when the present is so dread.

It still takes too long to teach the music because we have no music school.



PAT BISHOP

Steelbandsmen still cannot read music and our best composers still have to rely on other composers to write down their music. So that, in the context of the future, I would reckon that some of these things will have to be put right in the present.

Together with all these problems, which really make the achievements all the more remarkable, we have, unfortunately, in a society like ours a situation where we are prepared to rejoice over the gloss and to close our eyes to the heartbreak.