

Popular group is booked to 1990!

SUCCESS came to the Carlton Park trio in a very big and amusing way ... their following was so large when they went to receive a top award at a Sowerby Bridge club that a committee man complained to them that members could not get seats.

Probably the club members did not find this funny but the group was elated by their popularity and have gone on from strength to strength.

They have become so much sought after that they are booked up for

weekend appearances up until the year 1990.

It was at the Sowerby Bridge club that they received the award for the Top Trio of '85 for the South Yorkshire area.

The attractive feminine touch to the act is provided by singer Julie Cohen, 27, who lives at Sherburn-in-Elmet and works as a receptionist at the Arlington Business Centre in Leeds.

The other lead vocal is Michael Cartwright, 25, of Glass Houghton, while Paul Williamson, 27, guitar and vocals, completes the trio. He lives at Methley and works for Hickson and Welch of Castleford.

The trio was actually formed in 1985 follow-

ing a chance meeting in a menswear shop in Castleford and the members at that time consisted of Paul Williamson, Michael Cartwright and Mark Henderson, of Glass Houghton.

"Mark left our trio eighteen months ago and is now enjoying success with another band called 'Off the Wall' and they are at present on tour for four months in the United Arab Emirates," Mick Cartwright told me.

It was my "visual observer" — the up-market name my window cleaner prefers — who put me on the track of the Carlton Park.

He never misses their



□ Carlton Park, going from strength to strength

appearances and how right he is.

After the pop-pow in the menswear shop, an act was put together in a matter of weeks and they quickly developed a small following with their own brand of vocal harmonies, music and wit. And after only three months gigging they received their top trio award.

From then on they travelled the country. But as time went on they got fed up of performing the same type of numbers, week in and week out, and being limited to club organists and run of the mill drummers.

And the final straw came when they were backed by an 86-year-old club drummer when they were trying to perform a Queen number — bless him, he probably thought he was with it just like I do on the piano and organ!

"But rather than use tapes, we recruited our

own bass player and drummer and the band stayed together for six months.

"It was then that we felt a complete change was needed and in 1987 we split up and Mark Henderson and myself formed the Carlton Park Duo.

"We did start to use tapes at this stage and enjoyed being able to perform more up-to-date numbers and more complicated material than we had been able to do when only accompanied by normal club backing — like the organ and drums.

"But inevitably it wasn't to last and within twelve months Mark was offered a job with 'Off the Wall'."

Ambitious Mick went on: "Paul rejoined myself and it was decided to glam our things up with a girl singer. And after various auditions we found Julie. She was exactly what we wanted, an attractive but more important, a good singer.

"She quickly adapted to the act and eighteen months later we are enjoying our best-ever year,

booking wise."

They are presently working five nights a week looking forward to a well-earned holiday in September. But it looks like being a working holiday because in Germany, they will be entertaining at army bases followed by a possible tour of Dubai.

And the hardworking artists are still keen being their show a little more up-to-date but still performing the classics from Queen, Whitney Houston, The Hollies, Dire Straits etc.

And it looks as if 1988 will be the biggest and best year of their career.