



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Mr Gerry Copeland
Belfast City Council
Linen Hall Street
Belfast
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July 31st 2008

Dear Gerry

Pipe Band Championships Bid

I am writing to advise you that the National Council of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association will shortly be considering bids for the Scottish, British and European Pipe Band Championships for 2010 and beyond. The National Council will be pleased to receive offers for up to three years continuous hosting of these events. I have noted below some details on the bid procedure agreed by our National Council but I will be pleased to clarify any other points you may have on this letter.

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association is a charitable organisation, registered in Scotland with offices and headquarters in Glasgow at the above address. The RSPBA employs four full time staff in the Glasgow office and recruits temporary staff to assist in the busy periods throughout the year. It is governed by the, "National Council", which is a committee of representatives elected from its twelve branches in the British Isles.

Its objects are to promote and encourage the advancement of Pipe Band Music without discrimination and to provide a system of Pipe Band Contest Rules. It has many affiliated Pipe Band Associations throughout the World but mainly in North America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and mainland Europe. The organisation recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. It is a very much family orientated association with a substantial youth involvement.

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Registered Charity Number SCO 18153



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The RSPBA through its head office, organises and runs five Major Pipe Band Championships each year namely, the Scottish, the European, the British, the Cowal and The World Championships. These events are held mainly in the British Isles but some have been held outside that area in recent years. The RSPBA also runs around seventy Local Competitions through its twelve member Branches and these events are licensed by the National Council. The RSPBA maintains a panel of trained musical adjudicators and supplies adjudication panel members to competition organisers throughout the world.

The Championships

The Scottish, British and European Pipe Band Championships are annual events that regularly attract in the region of 140 Bands involving over 180 performances as many bands have to play a qualifying heat. There are eight grades of competition from novice juvenile to grade 1 performers. These 140 bands equate to around 3500 pipers and drummers with around 50 Drum Majors and some 30-50 highland dancers. The Championships require over 50 RSPBA support staff to manage the Band and Highland Dancing competitions.

Each of these events have regularly drawn annually 10,000 to 20,000 spectators in the last few years, and latterly through occasional recorded programmes of the BBC can reach an audience of several million. The RSPBA would retain all recording rights to these events with agreement on promotional recording for the event promoter.

RSPBA Role

The RSPBA will organise and run the Pipe Band Championships. This involves advertising the event to prospective competitors throughout the World, grading Bands according to standards and collecting entries. They will provide stewards to run the competition and assist the competitors and adjudicators from an international panel of approved, qualified people. They will provide and market a program of events for the competition, (subject to agreement of the promoter). The RSPBA will provide all prize funds and trophies. RSPBA staff will organise the compiling of results, distribution of competition information and provide experienced personnel to liaise with the promoter and the other involved security and safety organisations.

The RSPBA will provide information to the promoter prior to the event to assist with event planning and organisation and an officer would be appointed to attend, when possible, event planning meetings.

Promoter's Role

For these events there is a requirement to demonstrate the provision of a secure site capable of holding over 25,000 people with toilet, first aid, food stalls, public address system, insurance and all facilities and stewarding required for such an attendance. The PA system must be to an acceptable standard and minimum specification is available from RSPBA headquarters. It is essential that there is adjacent parking to the competition areas for competitors coaches, (estimated 120 coaches), and car parking for RSPBA support staff and guests. Provision for spectators parking and site access should also be provided.

The site should have a level grass covered area to site 5 competition rings of approximately 60m x 30m each with supply and erection of crowd control barriers, security and general public stewarding. Each event ring also requires an adjacent area of approximately twice the size of the ring as a tuning/preparation area for the competing bands.

Provision of a marquee suitable for the Highland dance events with dance platforms and a secure changing area adjacent for competitors and officials.

The provision of an agreed tented village area for vendors and display stalls. This has to incorporate a catering facility which can provide all event staff with suitable meals of a previously agreed quality.

On site office accommodation area for RSPBA officials, (portacabins suitable), with agreed accommodation for RSPBA President, Chairman, Chief Executive, Information Staff, Compiling Staff and Stewards/Adjudicators. Office furniture, separate toilet facilities and electrical supply are required in this area.

Provision of a shared hospitality unit for VIP's and guests, (of an agreed number), of both RSPBA and event promoter.

Provision of access and site for recording facility either with RSPBA agent or local broadcaster and provision of Press information point and facilities.

Provision of advertising, publicity and marketing for the event with agreed level of recognition for RSPBA.

The promoter may charge admission to the general public for this event and additional charges as desired for provision of any other facilities provided.

Process

Offers to host this event should document evidence of the above points referred to in the Promoters Role. It should contain details of the financial offer to the RSPBA.

A minimum of five copies of the offer supplied in a sealed package clearly marked "Pipe Band Championships 2010 Offer" should be directed to the, Chief Executive, The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, 45 Washington Street, Glasgow, G3 8AZ to arrive not later than 12 o'clock noon on Thursday 9th October 2008.

These offers will be opened at 10.00am on Friday 10th October at a meeting of the RSPBA finance committee and proposed sites may be visited during the week commencing Monday 13th October. The final decision based on the original offer, the recommendation of the finance committee and the report of the site visits, will be made by the National Council soon thereafter.

Successful applicants will be notified by post and Email when the decision is made.

Thanking you for your interest.

Yours sincerely



Ian Embelton
Chief Executive