



Formal Bid for
**The Scottish Pipe Band Championships
2010 – 2012**

Submitted on behalf of
West Dunbartonshire Council



Following invitation from Mr. Ian Embelton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, West Dunbartonshire Council hereby submits the following bid for the opportunity to stage the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in years two thousand and ten (2010), two thousand and eleven (2011) and two thousand and twelve (2012).

This bid is based on;

- a) The Council's response to the "Promoter's Role" as outlined in the letter of invite dated July 31st 2008 from Mr. Ian Embelton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.
- b) The terms of the existing 2008 Agreement between The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and West Dunbartonshire Council (as attached as Appendix A) being the basis of agreement for the championship events in 2010, 2011 and 2012; this agreement subject to development and/or improvement through mutual agreement by both parties.
- c) The date of the event remaining broadly the same in forthcoming years i.e. the second or third Saturday in May.

The value of the bid for each year of the event is as follows;

- **2010:** For the 2010 Scottish Pipe Band Championship, West Dunbartonshire Council submits a bid of **forty six thousand pounds sterling (£46,000)**, payable no earlier than 01 January 2010 and no later than 01 April 2010
- **2011:** For the 2011 Scottish Pipe Band Championship, West Dunbartonshire Council submits a bid of **forty eight thousand pounds sterling (£48,000)**, payable no earlier than 01 January 2011 and no later than 01 April 2011
- **2012:** For the 2012 Scottish Pipe Band Championship, West Dunbartonshire Council submits a bid of **fifty thousand pounds sterling (£50,000)**, payable no earlier than 01 January 2012 and no later than 01 April 2012

Background

West Dunbartonshire lies to the northwest of Glasgow, between Loch Lomond and the River Clyde and has much to offer as a place to live, visit or locate for business. The area has some of the most outstanding and breathtaking countryside in lowland Scotland and adjoins Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the first National Park in Scotland. The area is easily accessible by road and has excellent public transport links.

West Dunbartonshire Council first played host to the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in 1999 at Balloch Castle Country Park. Since 2001, the Council has hosted the event continuously at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton and during this time officers and officials of the RSPBA and Elected Members and officers of West Dunbartonshire Council have formed a highly efficient working partnership.

The Scottish Pipe Band Championship is the single most important event in the Council's annual calendar of events, which includes local community gala days, highland games events and major music festivals. The current agreement between the Council and the RSPBA expires following the staging of the 2009 Scottish Pipe Band Championship however the Council is fully committed to its desire to continue to stage the event in future years. **This bid therefore refers to West Dunbartonshire Council hosting the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in years 2010, 2011 and 2012.**

Whilst the Council notes and appreciates the RSPBA's acquiescence to the promoter retaining any such admission charges as may be levied, the Council has always taken the position that entry to this event should be free, recognising the financial pressures faced by the local and wider population and in order to maximise the numbers attending the event. It is the Council's intention that entry to the 2010, 2011 and 2012 events would continue to be on a non-paying basis, should they be successful in the bidding process.

The event is staged in compliance with the Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Music and Similar Events (Purple Book) as issued by the Health and Safety Executive 1999, The Disability Discrimination Act 2005, The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and other specific legislation as applies to public health and safety, as well as applicable local bye-laws of West Dunbartonshire Council.

The event is planned and staged by officers of West Dunbartonshire Council in consultation with Members, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and officers of the RSPBA.

Event Site

The proposed event site is Levensgrove Park in Dumbarton, Ancient Capital of Strathclyde. The site sits on an isthmus, between the River Leven and the River Clyde, in the lee of Dumbarton Rock. The site is eminently capable of hosting five competition rinks, as it has done in the past. The experience gained over the years of staging this event has taken us to the point where we can confidently mark out and prepare the event area by the use of pedestrian barriers. The event site is a highly maintained turf area with no ruts or divots. The site is well draining so that, even on the wettest of days, underfoot conditions remain suitable.

Public Address System

The public address system we have used over many years for the Scottish Pipe Band Championships has been to the standard and specification requested by the RSPBA. It is our intention that this will continue to be the case.

Public Toilets

We have, at all past events, provided sufficient numbers of public toilets not only at the event site but also at the coach parking and car parking areas. Such toilets are accessible for all visitors including elderly, infirm and disabled visitors. We also utilise staff to ensure that the toilets are maintained in a clean, well stocked and operational condition throughout the duration of the event.

First Aid

The Council has in the past and will continue in the future to employ the services of St. Andrews Ambulance first aid staff at all of our events, regardless of size. St. Andrews provide their own ambulance/treatment centre as well as deploying trained and equipped para-medical staff around the site. The first aid centre is centrally located and clearly identified by a flag, and is also shown on the event site plan within the programme.

Insurance

The Council carries sufficient public liability insurance to service this and other events staged by the Council.

Security

The Council works closely with Strathclyde Police and the chosen security company to ensure that the event security staff are sufficient in number, standard and training and that communication systems utilised are fit for purpose. All security staff employed at the event require to be SIA licensed.

Vendors

As promoters of the event, the Council engages a broad range of food vendors to provide as wide and healthy a variety of options as is possible. These vendors are subject to the scrutiny of the Council's Environmental Health staff to ensure food hygiene and safety regulations are met.

Alcohol Sales

Bar providers are inspected by both Environmental Health and Trading Standards staff to ensure full compliance with licensing requirements. The Council's bye-laws prohibit the drinking of alcohol in public places and this is rigidly enforced at the event by both Strathclyde Police and security staff. The sale and use of alcohol will only be from specific and designated licensed locations, overseen by SIA licensed security staff.

Public Entertainment

Any Fairground operators engaged for the event are fully inspected with regards to the standard and suitability of equipment brought on site. The Council's Risk Management (Health & Safety) staff undertake these duties as well as inspecting the site as a whole to ensure that risk is minimised where possible. A risk assessment has been developed especially for this event and this is reviewed each year in advance of the event.

Coach and Car Parking

Coach and minibus parking is accommodated within the Levensgrove Park site therefore the distance from the coach or minibus parking to the events area is no greater than 400 metres. Public car parking is also adjacent to the event site, with special provision being made for disabled drivers to bring them as close to the event site as possible. Whilst a charge is made for coach and car parking, the cost of this is in line with similar piping events. Additionally, there is no parking charge for disabled drivers. Over the years we have been running this event, we have evolved a highly efficient traffic management plan which minimises the time taken for visitors and participants to access and depart from the event site.

Highland Dancing

A Highland Dancing marquee, complete with stage and seating, will be provided to meet the needs of participants and officials. A secure changing area for officials and contestants will also be provided.

RSPBA On-Site Accommodation

We have provided, and will continue to provide, temporary office accommodation of a high standard, equipped with tables and chairs and supplied with power for heating and lighting.

Vendors and Display Stalls

Over many years of running the event we have developed a wide range of suitable and appropriate vendors and display stalls for the public to enjoy. Additionally we provide, and will continue to do so, free children's entertainers and entertainment within a dedicated marquee. With regard to RSPBA officials catering at the event, we provide meals prepared to a high standard by the Council's Catering Service, within the Council's training suite. We also provide staff who drive golf buggies around the site for the purpose of transporting people with walking difficulties around the site. This also applies to transporting RSPBA officials to and from the training suite as and when required.

Advertising, Marketing and Publicity

The Council will work closely with the RSPBA to ensure the fullest possible positive exposure of the event. The Council has and will continue to give maximum credit and recognition of the RSPBA and its officers. The Council's marketing plan for 2008 included marketing the event on its own and tourist associated websites (e.g. Event Scotland, Visit Scotland) local and national newspaper advertising, advertising on local radio and, for the first time, a television advertising campaign on Scottish Television in the week leading up to the event.

If successful in securing the 2010, 2011 and 2012 championships it is proposed that television advertising would again be considered.

Sponsorship

The Council will, as in previous years, seek to secure a primary sponsor for the event in order to maximise available funding for the event. Any such sponsorship will be by mutual agreement between the Council and RSPBA.

VIP Hospitality

The Council provides a high quality VIP hospitality marquee, admission to which is by invitation only. Entry to this facility is tightly controlled by door staff. Dedicated high quality toilet facilities are available at the VIP marquee and guest catering, tea, coffee and bar facilities are provided for the enjoyment of guests. As with previous events, invited RSPBA officials and officers will be most welcome to enjoy these facilities at the specific invitation of the Provost of West Dunbartonshire or his appointed deputy.

This bid is submitted and endorsed by:

**Elaine Melrose
Executive Director
West Dunbartonshire Council**

Wednesday 08 October 2008