

Playing requirements

updated August 2011



(This information is to help with functions, weddings, etc...)

1 - Space:

We need an area of at least 6 metres wide by 3 metres deep with a solid flat floor. Anything less than this, or an odd shape, or we are playing on a stone floor, etc ... please contact us. We do not play on grass.

If the stage is made of boards then please ensure they are flat and do not move when walked upon.

We need at least 2.5 metres height from the level of the stage at each side and front of the stage area to accommodate the two light stands. If this is a marquee or the roof is flammable then the height needs to allow for the heat that is generated by these lights.

2 - Access:

We have to carry some heavy gear so please arrange that there is easy access from the cars to the stage. Hopefully no stairs!

3 - Power:

There are two components to what we need to play.

1 - A single 13 amp supply for the band gear, amplifiers, etc...

2 - A single 13 amp supply for the band lighting. This is simply to light up the band, not for the dance floor.

The technical bit: We bring 4000watts of lighting. If all the lights were on it would run at 16amps ... too much for a single 13amp plug. Our lighting unit ensures that not all lights are on at the same time and keeps the total amps at all times below 13amps.

So the band gear needs to be on one 13amp circuit and the band lights need to be on another 13amp circuit.

It is no good supplying a single power lead with two or four sockets on the end of the lead or two leads that come off of the same double socket. There must be two separate supplies that are able to handle 13amps each.

Please contact the band if there are any questions or points you need clarifying.

Note: If the power is coming from a generator, (i.e. an outside venue) then by default we will say "No" to a generator.

We must discuss this before the event with the electricians.

4 - Arrival and setup time:

We usually take about 1.5 hours to unload the equipment, setup and run a sound check. Please allow this time before you expect the band to play their first set.

Also, please allow this time at the end of the night to clear down and load up, although this usually takes less than an hour.

5 - Travel:

We are based in the Exeter/Exmouth area in Devon so there is no charge for a 20-30 mile radius of that area if we are making the one trip.

If we need to travel out of that area, then this needs discussion. Sometimes it is more cost effective to hire a van for the night than to drive with three cars.

6 - Additional travel:

We are sometimes asked to setup the gear beforehand.

Typically this can be weddings or functions where the room or hall is being used for meals or speeches.

As this doubles our travel time and also splits our day, there must be an additional charge of at least 25% of the agreed figure for the evening's entertainment. This will need to be agreed beforehand which will include a check and confirmation that members of the band are available earlier in the day.

Regularly we will get back to the venue after setting up earlier in the day only to find there is a slot available between the speeches and the evening entertainment, when the band could have easily found time to setup the gear without too much disturbance.

7 - Interlude music:

We always travel with an MP3 player of mixed music.

This is not a disco, and if you want a disco we would advise hiring a disco to accompany the band.

There is a socket into our system for your MP3 player if you want to supply your own music.

This is a mini stereo jack socket that will connect straight into the headphone socket of your MP3 player, iPod, iPhone, etc...

8 - The tracks we play:

The full list of tracks we will select from during the evening is on our website.

If there are one or two tracks you really want us to play from that list then please tell us beforehand.

Otherwise we will use our experience to judge the mood of the crowd and select the right songs throughout the night.

If it is a track we do not list but we know or have played in the past it may not be a problem ... if it is a brand new track then we will have to rehearse one or two nights before the event.

This costs us time and money especially if we are never going to play the song again.

So please contact us well before the event date ... sometimes, it is easier for you and us that any personal track you want for the event, like a first dance at a wedding, is on an MP3 player and is certain to be played.

9 - Payment:

It makes it much easier for us if you provide cash on the night, and that it can be split easily four ways. Please try and help us with this request.

10 - Dress code:

Please tell us if you have a dress code for the event, otherwise we will dress accordingly. If we need to bring clothes then please supply a room where we can change.

11 - Parking:

We usually travel in three, maybe four cars. Please allow parking for all of our vehicles.

12 - Noise levels:

We do attempt to keep within any noise levels, but please tell us if there any restrictions.

13 - Using any of our gear:

If you want to use any of our gear for part of the entertainment during the evening please discuss before the event. You may have somebody who wants to sing, etc...

If you want to use a microphone for the speeches then please discuss beforehand.

Our sound system is designed NOT to support microphones that are located in front of the speakers, so this can be a problem if speeches are not made from the stage.

14 - Playing outside or in a marquee:

All the above points are especially required if we play outside or in a marquee or under cover. See Space, Access, Power, Parking, Noise Levels, etc...

Power will be run out to a marquee or external venue so it is absolutely crucial that the two separate supplies we need are grounded and safe.

Noise levels will travel more when playing outside so please check this event is approved locally with neighbours.

We still need a solid area on which to play, preferably wood or the drums will move. We cannot setup electrical equipment on grass for example.

The weather and power supply are the two most important points to cover when playing outside.

The equipment cannot get wet, either from rain or condensation. We cannot setup onto grass for example.

The rain must not be able to get anywhere near any of the cables or equipment, so whatever cover is provided must be substantial and weatherproof.

Simply supplying a 6 foot square gazebo and saying "it does not look like raining" will not suffice.

Remember, it takes nearly an hour to strip down the gear if it does start to rain.

Note: Please check through the section 3 Power which must be talked through before the event with the band and the electricians. Do not assume you know what we need.

Lastly, we hope this helps with answering a lot of the questions we are asked before the event, and also helps to alleviate any problems when we arrive. This document is trying to avoid problems and not create them.

All of the above items are there to make sure we can provide an excellent evening's entertainment. We want your event to run smoothly and without a hitch and for you all to enjoy the event.

We do however reserve the right to refuse to perform for reasons of safety if there is a problem with the power, weather, outside playing arrangements, so please let's agree everything before the date.

If in doubt then please contact the band.

Thanks for listening ... *The Unknowns*

To contact the band for local pub gigs, social events, weddings or birthdays, etc...

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