



Festival of Juvenile Solo Piping Competition
incorporating
The Colin McCallum Memorial Open Jig Competition
Auchenharvie Academy, Stevenston
Saturday, 17th October 2020

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Date : July 2020

COVID-19 CONSEQUENCES

Dear Friends,

As everyone knows – we are all in uncharted times & waters, and finding it difficult to steer an easy way out !! Nothing is immune to the rippling effects emanating from this terrible virus, and having debated long and hard about the decision - as to go ahead with the above Event, or not - we can see no way we can deliver a ‘*socially-distanced*’, safe environment to hold the above **Piping Event** !

We do however believe - **we can deliver** a socially-distanced, safe, Chanter Event. As you know – all competitors and supporters are contained within the one Arena and with a handful of other measures which we will put in place - we believe it is possible, to safely hold this Event. (We also realise we still need the Government to allow a gathering of between 60 & 100 people, and for the Local Council to grant permission to use the School !).

It is therefore our intention, (with all of the above proviso's), **to go ahead with the FofJSP Chanter Event**, (only) - which will take place on - **Saturday, 17th October 2020** in our usual venue of **Auchenharvie Academy, Stevenston**.

To mitigate any chances of either you, your children, or any of our volunteers, catching the virus - we will be following **ALL** Government Guidelines – which we hope will mean you will have no hesitation in supporting us. We realise all your children, and pupils, have still been practicing over the past months – just for this very eventuality - and we are offering this opportunity, to show that life still goes on, and is slowly returning to some sort of ‘*normality*’ !

Also as a thank you, for all the support we have received from you, your Band, or Pupils over the past 18 years,

- we propose to make entry to the various age group competitions, (for this year only) – **free**;
- We also intend to make entry into the School, for parents and tutors - **free** as well – although, unfortunately, due to restriction on ‘*mass gatherings*’, we will only allow a maximum of **TWO** persons to accompanying **each** competitor;
- We will **NOT** be offering any sort of catering, in the venue, on the day, so if you feel you will need something to eat, or drink – you are advised to bring your own. Once in the Hall you will not be allowed to leave until after the final presentations. (Toilet facilities are just opposite the Main Hall);
- this will allow us to make the whole day cashless, thus eliminating a further opportunity for the virus to be passed on, (via money);
- the whole event will be limited to a maximum of THIRTY competitors - on a **first come, first serve** basis;

- entry into the Main Hall will be directly from the car park, via the fire exit at the rear of the hall. Sanitising solution will be available to all on entry;
- **Registration** will also be there, as you enter into the Hall. Doors will be closed and locked, as soon as the first competitor starts to play and no-one will be allowed access after this time. If you are late, for any reason - you will not be allowed entry into the hall, or competition. This means that regardless of your 'draw time' – you will have to be in the hall for the start of the whole competition;
- the usual age groups – **U-11; U-12; U-13 & U-15yrs** will still be offered and competitors will be allowed to enter both the March competition, (2 Parts, any time signature) **AND** the Slow Air competition, (any 2 Parts, repeated). Trophies will be offered for all major prize winners. (You may only enter your own age group in the March Competition);
- **Closing date** for this Event will be at **5pm, Friday, 18th September 2020**. Entries will only be accepted via email, on an official Festival entry form. With a very limited number of entrants, you are advised **NOT** to leave it to the last minute to enter;
- You will be advised, after the closing date, if you have been allowed entry to the competition. The draw will take place on Saturday, 3rd October 2020 and again, you will be notified of your draw, and the starting times of each of the FIVE different Events.

Along with existing, current Government guidelines, and the extra measures we have instigated ourselves, we hope you will see, that we have tried as much as we can - to make sure that our Event is as safe as we can make it. We want you, and your child, to feel that you are coming into a safe environment. We have built up a premier Event over the years - always with the competitor at the forefront of our minds, and in these difficult times - that is still our number one priority !

Please remember not to leave entering to the last minute – we would hate to see you disappointed.

Yours in piping

Gerard McClumpha
Event Co-Ordinator
Festival of Juvenile Solo Piping

PS I will be only to happy to answer any queries, or questions you may have before entering our Event.
Please use the email at the top of this letter.