

THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN HOSPITALITY RIDER

Ah, riders... what a weird thing they are... a document that outlines how artists can seemingly scam free shit from hard-working promoters and organisers. Well, we would like to think that our hospitality rider would comply with Henry Rollins' idea of how to treat the backstage crew...

“Listen to the stage manager and get on stage when they tell you to. No one has time for your rock star bullshit. None of the techs backstage care if you're David Bowie or the milkman. When you act like a jerk, they are completely unimpressed with the infantile display that you might think comes with your dubious status. They were there hours before you building the stage, and they will be there hours after you leave tearing it down. They should get your salary, and you should get theirs.”

If you feel that there is anything unreasonable in this document, please contact us immediately.

PARKING/LOAD-IN

For festivals, driving access to load-in for a minimum of one car, but ideally up to three cars would be beneficial. For venues, three reserved car-parking spaces close to the building/stage door are required. We do carry our own gear, but none of us are Geoff Capes, so we really don't want to be lugging it for miles, if you can help to assist with that.

BACKSTAGE

A dressing room with a mirror would be nice, but not essential. We like to look splendid if possible.

Every day millions of towels are washed in hotels around the world; many unnecessarily. To be environmentally friendly, many hotels nowadays have signs suggesting procedures to save the planet. We have a similar policy for stage performances. We're not divas so we don't need towels. Björn really wanted a towel, just the once, to be able to say he had got one on his rider, but Scott won't let him, because he isn't Beyoncé. He is a young bloke in an ill-fitting wig, playing banjo. In a tank top. He isn't even Swedish.

We are far too nice for all this rock-star nonsense.

MERCHANDISE

A table (of approx. 1.5m length if possible) and a small light (if the festival appearance is after sundown or if at an indoor venue) for our merchandising is required. If it's raining a roof would be appreciated.

Like every touring band on the planet, merch tends to be our main income and costs money to produce (if fact we still make most of ours by hand – because we are more DIY than is probably sensible). As a totally independent band with no record label, management or agent, we don't really welcome venues or festivals requesting a percentage of this because they didn't spend three days burning the discs and packing it all up ready to try and sell. However in return, we do have our own crew to sell our merch, as we have lots of different albums, and they have an expert knowledge of these. This should hopefully reduce any pressure on any of the festival's/venue's regular merchandise crew, and also explain why we don't expect you to take a percentage, if our crew are running it. However, if you really do insist on it, it just means we have to put prices up, which is then rubbish for both the punters and us because we don't like ripping off the fans. Before you consider asking for a percentage of our merch, maybe think about whether you would be happy to oblige if we asked for a percentage of your bar sales. We really aren't savages. We're just trying to make a living out of our music, and I'm sure you will understand why we take such a strong view point on this one thing.

GUEST LIST

Like we just said, we aren't savages, as we know that guest-lists eat into a festival's capacity. A single +1 per band member will usually suffice, though a +2 per band member would always be seen as a very pleasant bonus. The +1's are always primarily for our partners, and very rarely do we need more than one each, anyway. All of our partners (who are also performers in their own right, outside of the band), do travel with us, run our merch, take photos, function pretty much as our instrument techs, roadies and emotional support too, so if it is a festival they need the same 'stage/AAA' wristbands as ourselves. They don't need to be charged money or a 'donation to charity' as we do absolutely loads for a bunch of charities of our choosing every year (without us getting all Bob Geldof about it!). They are our 'crew' rather than guests.

Occasionally, we do have Tom Large in attendance, who joins us on stage to play the part of 'The Devil' during The Devil Went Darn To Barnsley. On occasions where it is needed, a stage access pass for Tom

should be granted in order for him to make it to the stage. Please contact us ahead of our performance to find out if Tom will be in attendance. If he is, he would need a +1 too for his wife Alison.

Thank you for checking with us. We will know that you read this document if you ask about Tom.

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

Don't hesitate to write, if you need posters, flyers, promo templates, logos, band photographs or pictures in various file formats. Just get in contact with us. There's no corporate identity in our advertising, but a definite feeling for what the band is. We appreciate good design, whether it's professional or just made from the heart, and Scott is well versed in using Photoshop if you need him to sort it for you. You can download photos and logos here: www.thebarstewardsons.com/photos

For the benefit of advertising, websites etc. the name of the band is The Bar- Steward Sons of Val Doonican – it has a hyphen between Bar and Steward and a small 'o' in 'of'.

We aren't The Bastard Sons of Val Doonigan, The Barsteward Sons of Van Hooligan, or any of the other things we have been monikered by various venues and festivals in the past. You may be amazed to hear that we have been mis-billed so many times, that we considered forming our own tribute band 'That Bastard Van Morrison'.

TOP TIP: If you can cut & paste, you'll most likely get it right.

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY

In most festival photography pits there is a 'first three songs only' rule. Most of the fun stuff happens throughout the duration of our shows (particularly the end), so we really don't mind photographers snapping throughout the show. Please let them know this. An 'open pit' is fine by us. We want you to get the absolute best out of us being there!

If the organisers of an event have a film-crew, we are happy for footage to be used as long as we have chance to see it before it is uploaded to the internet. (The main reason for this is the comedy element: we try to avoid *too* many spoilers for future shows)

Amanda White, who usually runs our merch, often takes promotional photos during our set, so if possible, she should also be permitted to the stage (if a press or stage-pass is required for access to the photography pit and/or stage, one should be issued for her, please).

FOOD & DIETARY STUFF

We haven't forgotten where we have come from, so don't take anything for granted or expect anything above our station. We aren't Iggy & The Stooges and we aren't rock stars, even if we look flamboyant. However, if you actually do food/catering then it would be food/catering for either a party of six or a party of eight (if Tom and Alison are in attendance). We won't starve if you don't, but all of our partners do travel with us, run merch, take photos, function pretty much as our techs, roadies and emotional support too, and there's nowt worse than having to share three or four meals at festival catering because they aren't considered 'the band'. They very much are and we aren't going to wave at them from the catering tent whilst we eat... seeing as they drive too, it'd a long walk home!

We don't need fruit... we are Northern.

We probably are the most likely band on the bill to have scurvy.

Snacks are fine but not essential!

We are all omnivores.

Anyway, given the choice we'd sooner have a drink over food. Talking of which...

DRINKS

We do like a drink, it helps to loosen us up ready to do a good lairy show. We tend to have a couple before we go on, one for while we're out there, and then a couple to unwind at the end. We don't need enough booze to fell an elephant, because we aren't Lemmy, God Rest His Soul. We like to do a good job, and we don't hold with that thing that some bands do where they take the piss and request a billion things for their ridiculous entourage.

This'll do, if you can sort it:

A few cans of still water (not plastic bottles as we love the planet)

5 x bottles of nice real ale for Scott (around 5% ABV is fine)

5 x bottles of nice real ale for Alan (around 5% ABV is fine)

5 x cans of lager for Björn (not Special Brew – we need him to function!)

5 x bottles of nice real ale for Tom (around 5% ABV is fine)

If you *really* want to impress, we do actually quite like the Doonicans ale from www.nuttycombebrewery.co.uk/our-range but we aren't fussy when it comes to the real ale. We'll trust you to choose summat nice... possibly even local so you are supporting your local economy too.

And finally...

RIDER OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Brownie points will be awarded if you provide any of the following...

3 x Danish Dwarves (must be fluent in Arabic)

8 x large bouquets of assorted petunias (not red) preferably arranged in order of diameter

A list of 50 ways to leave your lover (the more original the better, and none from Paul Simon's song, because that isn't original at all, Paul's already done it)

2 x Droids (these must be the ones we are looking for)

1 x Betamax video player and a selection of Betamax documentaries on the history of tunnels in Victorian Britain between 1845 and 1876

3 x Andrew James Electric Hedge Trimmers all with 51cm blade and cover, and at least a 20.543m Cable (500-watt model only)

For Björn:

8 x Swedish Meatballs (Ikea brand preferably), heated to exactly 74 degrees Celsius (if provided, they will be thermometer tested).

1 x family-sized bottle of Um Bongo (not to be smaller than a small yak, but larger than a large fox)

Fresh spring water shipped in from Katmandu

The severed head of Katie Hopkins concealed under a stainless silver cloche.

For Scott:

A fresh puppy or a llama called 'Dalai' (you choose)

The donation of another much bigger-named act on the bill's food rider to a local food-bank – preferably the act that has really annoyed your lovely hospitality staff, by being a bunch of knobheads. There is always one. You probably are thinking about them right now as you are reading this, and wishing they had been more like us.

For Alan:

A life-size cut-out of himself

A swimming pool filled with asses' milk

A Corby trouser press and oysters in a chiller

An autographed photograph of any other famous Alan (not Alan Carr though, we have loads of them now!)

Oh, and a musical audio version of our requests can be found here... allegedly we are the first band in the history of Glastonbury to send them an audio rider. Enjoy!
www.radiodoonican.bandcamp.com/track/doonicans-rider

On a serious note, thank you... we can't wait to work with you all.