THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN HOSPITALITY RIDER

Disclaimer: Our rider may be wordy, but all of it is important, informative & insightful

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 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 at the stage for a minimum of one car is essential, but ideally up to five cars would be beneficial - or at least within a reasonable distance from the stage (we've got a kick drum to carry for a start!). For venues, five reserved car-parking spaces close to the building/stage door are specifically required. We *do* carry and are *happy to* carry all 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 so the nearer we can get to the stage/stage door, the better.

BACKSTAGE

A dressing room with a mirror would be nice, but not essential. It certainly helps… 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. Dave 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 bass. In a tank top. He isn't even called Dave.

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

GUEST LIST

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 to have the same 'stage/AAA' wristbands as ourselves. They *don't* need to be charged money or be expected to give a 'donation to charity' as we raise and do absolutely loads for a bunch of charities of our own choosing every year (without us getting all Bob Geldof about it!). They are very much our 'crew' rather than guests and as such need to be issued with the same wristbands as us. And all of our merry crew *must* be treated as equals… that's really important for *any* band to keep a nice and harmonious camp. Thank you for understanding.

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. We appreciate well designed advertising, whether it's professional or just made from the heart, but Scott Doonican is pretty nifty on Photoshop if you get stuck, and quite keen to ensure it looks good. **Please do *NOT* use generative AI to create the posters.** If you normally do, don't! Either pay a real human being to do it, because AI posters always look shite, or just ask Scott for a poster, because if you use AI, he WILL tell you to take it down!! He is more than happy to make them for you to promote the show, and will help to promote it because

without an audience it's nothing! You can download photos and logos here: www.thebarstewardsons.com/photos

The next bit is **really** important…

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 Bastards of Val Doonigun, The Bard Seaward Suns of Van Hooligan, or any of the other things we have been accidentally monikered by various venues, festivals and graphic designers in the past. If it *isn't* right on your poster, don't be upset when we tell you. 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'.
ULTIMATE TOP TIP: If you can cut & paste, you'll most likely get it right.

Finally, if the whole band are playing the show then ***all*** of us need to be in any advertising or programme photos! It sounds obvious but some people in the past have forgotten and it just looks a bit naff. If it's a smaller flexible line-up that has been booked, we will happily send photos of *that* line-up - don't just Google us on the internet or there is a chance you will get an older incarnation of the band! Scott is *always* happy to help with this.

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 separate press or stage-pass is required for access to the photography pit and/or stage, one should be issued for her, please).

MERCHANDISE

A table (of approx. 1.5m length if possible) and a small light and additional plug socket (if the festival appearance is after sundown or if at an indoor venue) for our merchandising is required. If it's outdoor and it's raining, a roof would definitely be required and certainly appreciated! Ideally, if you have WiFi available we would like the access code to use this to be able to run our card reader if at all possible.

Like every touring band on the planet, merch tends to be our main income and costs money to produce (in fact we still make a lot 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. Like an *encyclopaedic* knowledge. We believe that first impressions are always the best, and we'd much sooner have someone who genuinely knows and cares about what we do selling our stuff, because if the first person a punter talks to about what they just witnessed is one of our crew, they are going to leave a good impression. That's *really* important to us.

This should also hopefully reduce any pressure on any of the festival's/ venue's regular merchandise crew, and also explain why we don't expect anyone else to take a percentage, if we are running it. If you really *must* insist on it, then we reserve the right to add £500 to our agreed fee to cover some of what we will lose. As the subject has been mentioned a lot in the media since the pandemic, we now like to be *very* transparent with our fanbase about venues/festivals that take percentages nowadays via social media ahead of or after the show, because we don't feel that it is fair to the fans to have to pay extra for that without telling them. In fact some of them now ask us before a show if a commission charge is being applied because we like to raise awareness of this factor that faces touring musicians. Ultimately, we're not a big name. We aren't shifting millions of units. I mean, if you are happy for us to take an equal percentage of your bar's wet sales we'll *happily* consider conceding this minor but important point. We're just trying to make a living from an already tough business, so I hope you understand we're not making unfair demands on this. There are some great festivals and venues that have started to drastically rethink their policies since the pandemic and together we can make the live music experience great again for everyone.

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 ten (if all our partners are in attendance).
We won't starve if you don't, but like mentioned earlier, 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! *(You'd be amazed that this has happened too many times so we thought we should mention it)*
We don't need fruit... we are Northern.
We probably are the most likely band on the bill to have scurvy.
Snacks or Haribo are fine but not essential!
We are all omnivores if that helps.
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 from Motorhead (God Rest His Soul). We like to do a good professional 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:
Some bottles/cans of still water (not plastic bottles if you can help it, as we love the planet) or a jug of water and something to pour it in.
5 x bottles of nice cold real ale for Scott (around 5% ABV is fine)
5 x bottles of nice cold real ale for Alan (around 5% ABV is fine)
5 x bottles of nice cold real ale for J.R. (around 5% ABV is fine)
5 x bottles of nice cold lager for Mo-Jo (around 5% ABV is fine - not Fosters, San Miguel or Carlsberg please - Carlsberg Export is okay)
5 x bottles of water for Dave because he is teetotal. He likes Evian. We would never even notice the difference to be honest, but he claims he does. Weirdo.

And finally...

RIDER OPTIONAL EXTRAS

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

For Dave:

- 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)
- 4 x medium-sized badgers, preferably in waistcoats, with references
- A framed photograph of a horse looking slightly to the left
- 1 x enormous map of Belgium with the word "NO" written across it in permanent marker
- 6 x copies of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* or *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* all with different endings

For Mojo:

- 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)
- A fresh puppy or a llama called 'Dalai' (you choose)
- A PowerPoint presentation explaining why geese would make poor paramedics
- 1 x Victorian gentleman to stand silently in the corner and occasionally say "Quite"
- 1 x laminated photograph of the moon taken from inside somebody's kitchen

For J.R.

- Fresh spring water shipped in from Katmandu
- The severed head of Katie Hopkins concealed under a stainless silver cloche.
- A pair of knitted chaps or any cowboy related paraphernalia.
- A tuxedo for a horse, or a horse for the tuxedo. Either is acceptable.

- A freshly baked apology from the management of a reputable Swiss hotel
- One large hat containing a smaller hat containing an even smaller hat containing a receipt for the hats
- A bowl of complimentary soup which must be described and labelled as “the soup we discussed”

For Alan:
- A full-size waxwork of himself, but slightly more flattering
- A swimming pool filled with asses’ milk
- A Corby trouser press and oysters in a chiller
- An autographed photograph of any other famous Alan who has absolutely no idea why he has signed it (not Alan Carr or Alan Titchmarsh though, we have one of each of them now!)
- 1 x antique globe with Scotland moved approximately 200 miles to the left.

For Scott:
- 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.

OR
- 1 x bottle of wine to be donated to the person on the Hospitality Team who has had the worst day. How this is decided is up to you.

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 much more serious note, thank you...
we can’t wait to work with you all.

love,
Team Doonican