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HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSICAL RIDE: SHOW REQUIREMENTS

General

1. The Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment is an equine display team that has been performing both in Britain and abroad since 1882. It serves a number of functions, which include allowing the public proximity to the military in a positive environment; demonstrating to the country the skills and discipline that can be acquired by its young men in the Army; and giving the participating soldiers an opportunity to display themselves with pride, in a public forum, as being British soldiers.
2. The Ride requires a lot of support, in terms of kit and personnel, to maintain its appearance while combining both roles of being functional and ceremonial. Further to this the men involved often work through weekends and leave periods to produce a show, without any recompense to their leave balance or pay. To this end as much must be done as possible to ensure that the men see the Ride as enjoyable and worthwhile.

Aim

3. This document provides a generic list of requirements that can be used as a starting point in determining what a show will need to provide the Ride. It is not final and will in every case need refinement according to the specifics of a show's demands, but it will give show organisers a broad picture of what to expect as they begin the budgeting process.

Requirements

4. **Financial.** Once the possibility of a show has been considered, the show producers must talk with London District about the costs element of the contract. There is a cost per day that the Ride is performing at a show. Further to this there is the Ride specific insurance, which is worked out by the insurance brokers individually for each show. This will vary but is normally in the region of a few thousand pounds, all detail of which will be included in the contract. Furthermore the show will require Client Public Liability Insurance of a minimum £5M per claim, unlimited in the number of claims in order to allow the Ride to perform.
5. **Transport.** Normally this will be arranged by a show itself on the advice of the Ride Officer. It can however be booked through LONDIST where the show is unwilling to do so itself. It may be that a show considers it preferable to keep the drivers at the show in which case feeding, accommodation and clearance passes will need to be provided to them.
 - a. **Men.** All the men involved on the Ride will need to be transported to and from the event. While at the event, they will need at the very least a form of transport that allows them to move equipment, run errands, and where necessary to travel between the stables and accommodation. It is preferable if a car can also be provided for transport of the Ride Officer or other Ride personalities to meetings or use in other eventualities.

- b. **Horses.** 28 horses will need to be transported from Knightsbridge to the show and back. So far a single company has always been used, as they know the particularities of working with the military and the Household Cavalry specifically. Bissett International can be contacted on **07831 826 720**.
6. **Accommodation.** This will have to be provided by the show itself, potentially through direct use of third parties. Rooms or tented accommodation will have to be found for 36 men; two of these will be officers who need separate accommodation from the men, and one will be the Ride Corporal of Horse, who can inhabit the same type of accommodation as the men but needs to be separate from them. In the case of there being a female soldier in the band the Ride Officer will notify the show in order to ensure appropriate provisions are made. Accommodation should be as close as possible to the show and certainly not more than 20 minutes away from the stables, to ensure that quick responses can be made to any contingencies in the stables. If tented accommodation is chosen, it is requested that power sockets are made available for the men.
7. **Stabling.** All the horses will need stabling at the show, and this stabling should be bedded down before the initial arrival of the horses. The show will need to provide bedding for the duration of the stay. There are 28 horses which need individual loose-boxes, and of that number the drum-horse requires a double stall to himself. A further two double stalls are required for the storage of kit and of feed. Space is required for the men to clean their kit, which is a laborious process, and usually what works best is the provision of a large room or marquee for kit and cleaning. Tables and chairs will need to be provided for kit cleaning.
8. **Feeding.** Exact quantities will need to be worked out for each show depending on arrival and departure times.
- a. **Men.** The 36 men will each require 3 meals per day for the duration of their time at the show. This can take the form of meal vouchers, cash in advance or access to a canteen or cookhouse. The physical nature of the Ride means that a fridge permanently stocked with drinking water will be needed around the stabling. Where possible a hot tea/coffee machine for the men would be greatly appreciated. Early departures from shows after completion will usually require some form of early breakfast and a packed lunch for the road.
- b. **Horses.** The Ride will provide its own hard feed. However the show is asked to provide horsage, quantities of which can be worked out with the Ride Officer – usually approximately 12kg per horse, per day.
9. **Veterinary Cover.** The show will need to provide 24-hour veterinary cover for the duration of the Ride's stay. Where this is not possible the Ride Officer will need to be informed to find out whether a Military Vet is available.
10. **Farrier Cover.** The Ride will provide its own farrier. Sufficient propane in 13kg gas bottle form will need to be provided by the client for the duration (approximately 1 bottle per 4 days).
11. **Medical Cover.** The show will need to provide medical cover for the men throughout their stay. Any injuries or problems which arise during the stay will need to be treated or treatment paid for by the show.
12. **Clearance Passes.** All members of the Ride will need to be given clearance passes to enable their free movement around the grounds.

Considerations

13. **Manpower.** The usual manpower breakdown for a show is as follows:

| RANK | NUMBER |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| MAJOR | 2 |
| CAPTAIN | 1 |
| CORPORAL OF HORSE | 2 |
| LANCE CORPORAL OF HORSE | 4 |
| LANCE CORPORAL | 4 |
| TROOPER | 23 |
| TOTAL | 36 |

However the rank structure may change slightly depending on personalities available for any given show. In some instances the total number of people needed may change as extra officers are required for larger and international shows, or the absence of a show vet necessitates further internal manpower.

14. **Arena.** The Ride will need to warm up the horses before each performance (c. 15 mins) and will require a separate arena in which to achieve this. The Ride will train to perform in an arena 30m x 60m. Should the show main arena be larger than this, there will need to be a smaller area cordoned off or markers placed before the performance. This will add time and should be factored into the scheduling.

The conclusion of the performance is a gallop out and so a suitable run-out area is also required.

15. **Night Guard.** It should be remembered that as a military body the Ride must observe military security procedures. A guard of 3-4 men will remain at the stables throughout the night, and will need access to water and lavatories.

16. **Tickets.** The Ride Officer will liaise with the show as to how many tickets it is willing to provide the Ride with for distribution to families of the soldiers and friends of the Regiment. Where possible some form of hospitality should be offered to the Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, and possibly more offered in larger shows.

17. **Music.** The Ride performs to a musical background. This can be a live orchestra rehearsed to play the required songs, or preferably an electronic sound system. The Ride provides the 'soundtrack' on both CDs and a USB stick. This will need to be rehearsed to ensure no problems occur during the show. If an electronic sound system is to be used, it must be provided by the show.

18. **Scheduling.** Consideration needs to be had to the slot given to the Ride. While the soldiers are able to work late into the night if required, putting the Ride on late in an evening's performance will tire the horses. After other displays finish they simply undress; for the Ride there is untacking, grooming, watering and feeding and so men and horses will usually be working for an extra hour and a half after riding off. Also, previous displays can leave debris on the arena, such as spent cases from firing of weapons or loose horse-shoes. These pose a risk to the horses, and either an arena party will need to clear such items or the Ride be put on before the relevant displays. Should the Ride be performing twice in a given day, it is preferable to have a gap of 3 hours. This allows the kit to be turned around whilst giving enough time for both the horses and men to be fed and rested.

Media

19. **Public Relations.** The Ride Officer will need to be informed of other displays and events occurring at the show, and of any advertising that is to be associated with the Ride during the build-up and performance of the show. This is to prevent associations or misunderstandings which might be detrimental to the Ride, which holds a prestigious position of being the display team of Her Majesty's bodyguard, the Household Cavalry.

20. **Imagery.** A show is asked to provide the Ride Officer with copies of any footage or still photographs taken of the Ride, for the Ride's own future use and documentation.

Summary

21. Every time the Musical Ride performs the country enjoys a net benefit. Public support for the Army and its charities is increased; the Army has an opportunity to engage with members of society away from London who are not placed to enjoy standing ceremonial commitments; the serving soldiers are given an opportunity to take pride in their work and receive some public recognition; and the nation's world-famous ceremonial soldiers gain an opportunity to train for large ceremonial events which reflect upon the country. Every opportunity to perform must therefore be considered, and considered beneficial. The more economically the Ride can be displayed, the wider and more frequent an audience it can display to and the greater its benefits will be. At the same time certain costs do need to be met to ensure the quality of the Ride and the morale of its riders is maintained.

22. Finally, once LONDIS have a copy of both the Client Proposal form and the Business Case (as supplied by the Ride Officer), it can take up to two months for a contract to be produced in draft. During this time, it is advisable to begin preparations for all the above. However, it should be noted that the Ride cannot guarantee attendance until the contract has been signed.

{Signed electronically}

JE Pile LG
Capt
OC Musical Ride