



PRE-CONTRACTUAL NOTE FOR BOOKINGS AT THE RAM CLUB

1. At the Ram Club, we're always far more interested in promoting great music than in the language of dull contracts. That is one reason for never having drafted our own club contract. Experience over the past 30 years shows, however, that we're often invited to sign agency or musicians' contracts which may be, for instance, over-prescriptive or too exacting for the facilities typically on offer at a weekly folk club.
2. Ahead therefore of any contractual agreement, this note is intended with the lightest of touches to be helpful to musicians offered gigs at The Ram Club and/or to their agents. We're always happy, of course, to discuss in advance any particular requests or to look for solutions to potential or anticipated problems. In that event, the point of contact is:

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Surrey CR0 4PL

☎ 0208 686 9421

✉ ramclub@btinternet.com

Where, however, we're then sent contracts which are inconsistent with this note, we reserve the right (*without* going time-consumingly through individual contracts clause-by-clause), to regard *this* note as taking precedence.

3. The note covers the following main items:
 - a) artist fees - **para 4**
 - b) advance publicity for gigs at The Ram Club - **paras 5-7**
 - c) directions to venue and parking - **paras 8-9**
 - d) access to venue and sound-checking - **paras 10-11**
 - e) PA spec and availability - **paras 12-13**
 - f) other facilities at venue - **paras 14-20**
 - g) gig format and merchandising - **paras 21 - 23**
 - h) curfew - **para 24**

i) overnight accommodation, where requested - **para 25**

Artist fees

4. Our normal practice is either to:

- agree a fee of 80% of the door take – or
- settle a guaranteed minimum fee -v- 80% of the door take. Necessarily, however, where 80% is the greater amount, the calculation is made after our weekly rent is paid.

In either event, our track record attests to the fact that we pride ourselves on playing straight with money and of doing our best by guest musicians.

Advance publicity

5. Week in, week out - using the club website, print and electronic media, and local internet radio - we work hard on publicising gigs at the Ram. Please refer to the club website at <http://www.theramclub.co.uk/infoforbookedartists.php> for advice on how best to meet the club's publicity needs. (In these electronic times, we recognize that many musicians seek to assist venues by having posters available for download from their own websites. The Ram Club, however, does not have the capacity or budget to print high quality posters and flyers. We therefore look to musicians and/or to their agents to provide such materials).
6. As part of the overall effort, we also appreciate and look to guest musicians appearing at The Ram Club to self-publicise and to post the date on their own websites.
7. Where there are changes to band line-ups, we recognise that these things happen. We do expect to be notified of such events, however, at the earliest possible moment and, *in extremis*, reserve the right on whether to proceed with the gig.

Directions to venue and parking

8. The Ram Club is a Friday night venue at the Old Cranleigh Club, Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0HB. Full directions are available at the *About Us* page of the club's website at www.theramclub.co.uk.
9. The Old Cranleigh Club has its own very large car park.

Access to venue and sound-checking

10. The Old Cranleighan is a sports club and we're lucky enough on Friday nights to have the sole use of its fine premises. During the day, however, these are in other use; and our own access is, typically, around 6.00 p.m. There is then a certain amount of work on the club's part to lay out the stage and seating.
11. In the ordinary run of events, however, we are ready to start sound-checking around 7.15 pm. (Doors open to the audience at 8.15 pm for an 8.30 start).

PA spec and availability

12. Guest musicians are very welcome to the use of the club's PA system which we are also happy to man and operate. **In that event, please see the *Info for Artists* page of www.theramclub.co.uk for details and other conditions of our available kit.**
13. Guest musicians are welcome, of course, to use their own PA. **Either way, the Ram Club reserves the right to determine the overall volume of the performance to suit the venue and the preferences of our audience.**

Other facilities and conditions at venue (food/changing facilities/seating capacity/advance ticketing/ticket prices etc)

14. We are the sole users on Friday nights of the Old Cranleighan (OC) premises. As such, the bar area opens around 7.30 pm.
15. Meals are not provided on site. For musicians in search of sustenance before the gig, however, there are available options very nearby - such as The Marquis of Granby <http://www.thegoodpubguide.co.uk/pub/view/Marquis-of-Granby-KT10-9AL> or Cafe Rouge <http://www.caferouge.co.uk/french-restaurant/eshel>. But see also *Overnight accommodation* at para 25 below.
16. The OC is a hockey and rugby club. There are no available swanky "green room" type facilities. But there are ample spaces in which musicians may wish, undisturbed, to change clothes and the like.
17. On the busiest nights, the maximum seating capacity of the club room is around 120 with limited additional standing room.
18. Save on rare and isolated occasions, we do not ticket events in advance.
19. Admission prices vary week to week, according to the guaranteed minimum fee to be covered. A modest discount is always afforded to those who are club members. In these austere times, we believe we are best placed to gauge admission prices. As a guide, however, these typically and currently range between £8.00-£12.00.

20. We're happy to entertain (preferably in advance) reasonable requests for guest tickets and ask no more than that guest musicians in turn are sensitive to the fee which we have to cover.

Gig format and merchandising

21. **First half:** floor spots (usually two) between 8.30-9.00 pm. First guest spot from 9.00-9.45. - Interval from 9.45 -10.05 pm.
22. **Second half:** floor spot (usually one) - raffle - and second guest spot from around 10.25 -11.10 pm. This allows time for an encore.
23. Guest musicians are entirely at liberty, of course, to sell CDs and other merchandise. We're also happy to assist. No commission is charged by the club.

Curfew

24. We need to leave the room as we found it and to allow OC staff to lock up by midnight and to go home. We therefore ask guest musicians to help us by quickly gathering up their own gear. Many hands make light work and we're happy to help with lifting the gear.

Overnight accommodation

25. For those guests who wish or need to stay over after the gig, we're always very happy by prior arrangement to provide private accommodation and hospitality with club organisers. **Where such accommodation has been arranged but, as things turn out, will not be needed on the night, we'd greatly appreciate advance notice.** We regret we do not have a budget stretching to hotel or B&B accommodation - or not without the costs being defrayed from the fee.
26. As at the outset, however (see paras 1 and 2), we're happy to discuss in advance where these arrangements may pose any difficulty.

The Ram Club
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Surrey KT7 0HB