

DRONES & STICKS CLUB PIPE BAND

WEARING HIGHLAND DRESS

These rules relating to uniform have been prepared by the Band Committee and are based on the Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association rules for the wearing of highland dress. April 2011.

Dress Uniform Footwear:

SHOES: black brogues, or if ghillie brogues or suitable dress brogues are not worn, a plain black shoe may be substituted. Shoes are member's property and must be clean when on parade.

LACES: laces are tied uniformly about one third of the way up the sock with the two longer ends hanging to the side below the centre of the flashes at about the top of the shoe (see more complete description at end of this document). Note only one loop around the leg.

TASSELS: Both ends of each lace have decorative tassel sewn. Members purchase laces and tassels.

HOSE: the correct height of white socks is at least four fingers below the front bone of the knee. Pattern must be vertical, not twisted, and hose must not be loose. Members purchase own hose. Recommended hose is cream piper socks, see www.pattersonbagpipes/footwear.

FLASHES: uniformity is critical. The inside of the front strand of the flash is to be in the centre of the leg (to the front). Always store in a flat position so they are not creased. Flashes are supplied by the band.

Full Uniform or Summer Footwear:

SHOES: Black plain shoes (not brogues). Shoes are member's property and must be clean when on parade.

HOSE TOPS: the tartan hose tops are worn over plain short socks. The white diamond must be in the front centre of the leg (generally this will mean the seam is at the back).

SPATS: are worn over the shoe and hose top, with buttons on the outside of the leg. Must be clean.

FLASHES: again uniformity is critical. The inside of the front strand of the flash is to be in the centre of the leg (to the front) in line with the white cross on the hose tops.

KILT : the kilt, which is supplied by the band, should hang with the bottom of the kilt level with or splitting the knee-cap. When kneeling the bottom of the kilt should just reach the ground. The red line of the tartan weave should be in the centre front. Sporrans and belt align with this centre position. Care should be taken that the kilt hangs evenly all round.

Always hang when not in use, and if not able to use a suit cover when travelling, roll the kilt (vertically) with pleats out. Kilt pins are not permitted.

SPORRAN : The position of the sporran is defined by the height of the wearer. The sporran straps should fit snugly into the groin. Sporrans are supplied by the band.

DRESS (leather) SPORRAN : is worn with the dress uniform.

HAIR SPORRAN: is worn with the full or summer uniform. When stored make sure hairs are not bent.

WAIST BELT : black waist belts (supplied by the band) must be in clean condition. They are put on with buckle in right hand (there is a correct way up for buckles) with the top of the belt at the top of the kilt.

SHIRT : white business style shirt (to be purchased by the member) will have short sleeves, no epaulettes, stiff collar. Shirts must be clean and pressed.

POLO SHIRTS – from time to time (when instructed) band members may wear the uniform style polo shirt for informal parades.

TIE : as provided by the band.

HEADWEAR : Glengarries are worn on parade, although it is noted that they are never worn in RSAs and other clubs, or churches and not normally on night parades. The Drum Major will advise when glengarries are not to be worn. The correct position of the glengarry is right fore and aft. The fall is all to the right side, close to the right ear with the front peak just one inch (two fingers) above the right eyebrow. Ensure glengarry ribbons are not creased by storage. Only hat badges provided by the band are to be worn on hats. Badges must be polished. D&S caps can be worn when not on parade.

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JACKETS : Argyle jackets are worn when required with the dress uniform. The wearing of any other style of jacket on parade is not permitted.

PIPES: Bag Covers will be blue as provided by the band, with white pipe cords purchased by members.

Full Uniform or Military Style “Summer” Uniform

The band has purchased some full uniforms and when issued members will be given instruction as to the correct wearing of them. Members have been issued with hose tops, spats and hair sporrans which are worn as part of the full uniform. These items must not be mixed with equivalent the dress uniform items.

It is important to remember that the wearing of highland dress is a privilege and any abuse reflects badly on the wearer and the band. You are either in band uniform or in civvies - not a mixture.

Tying ghillie brogues



Ghillie brogues originated as a simple flat piece of leather with holes poked along the edges then laced at the top of the foot. Today they come in a number of styles, but all should be laced uniformly.

Pull the laces reasonably tight making sure there is no slack through the eyelets. Twist the laces around each other between three and six times (half rotations).



At the rear of your leg, pull the laces tight then again twist them around each other, between 2 and 4 turns, making sure that you have less turns in the back than the front.

Bring the laces to the outside below the centre point of the flashes and tie the bow (pipers in the Scottish regiments tie the knot directly under the flash) doing a typical half-hitch prior to tying the bow as you would when tying a regular shoe.



Don't tie the laces too high up the leg, they should wrap no more than a couple of inches above the ankle bone (better too low than too high).

If you end up with lots of extra lace, you will need to cut the laces shorter then re-secure the tassels on the ends – trial and error is important here to get them just right as we do not want to see loads of surplus lace tied around the leg!.