

Event Sponsor facilitation system

Proposed and accepted at June 2018 Council meeting

Preamble:

Within the results of the Event Pricing Survey conducted by the seneschal in 2017, a number of people indicated that they have difficulty paying for events and a number of people indicated that they would be willing to pay the event fees for those that are unable to afford to come themselves. While ideas in the past have included the group managing a fund that could be accessed by those that are finding it hard to afford to come to events, We believe there could considerable difficulty achieving consensus on the rules for how such a fund would operate (both how funds are raised and how they are allocated). While there are those that need assistance and those that are willing to provide assistance, putting these groups in contact with one another can be problematic, as many would have difficulty publicly announcing their need or intentions. Thus a more private mechanism for putting those groups together may be required.

Proposal:

That the Baron and Baroness act as confidential intermediaries for any who wish to look for sponsorship and any who wish to sponsor others to events. The role would not include making decisions about who funds are allocated to, that would be entirely up to those sponsoring. Those willing to sponsor others would be provided the names of those seeking sponsorship. They may choose to then act upon this or not at their own discretion. Should a sponsor wish to remain anonymous they may ask Us to communicate to the sponsoree(s) their intent. Should a sponsor not wish to know the names of the sponsorees in advance, then any funds they sponsor would be split evenly among the sponsorees on the list at the time. As soon as a sponsorship is offered this would be communicated to the sponsoree.

A fresh list would be started for each event. We would advertise for each event that should anyone require assistance or be willing to offer it that they get in touch with Us. We would request that Stewards add similar notes to their event announcements where practical.

If no sponsors are not forthcoming 1 week before bookings close, those seeking sponsorship would be advised at that time in case they want to book anyway. Offers for sponsorship would remain open until the day bookings close for the event. Sponsorships would always be paid to the group (paying for the event fees) never directly to the sponsoree.

While this proposal does not seek to actively raise funds to assist those members of the group who would benefit from assistance, it provides an avenue that may allow such assistance to occur without public visibility.

FAQs:

- What if no one offers sponsorship for an event?
 - Then no one gets sponsored
- What if the person offering to sponsor decides they don't like any of the people asking for help, and decides to withdraw their offer?
 - No one knows who the potential sponsors are except Us, so if they decide not to go ahead once they know who is asking for help that's up to them. It's their money. We would keep confidentiality.

- How would a sponsor decide if a couple or family asks together?
 - That's up to the sponsors.
- What happens if the people being sponsored don't attend the event, by cancelling before the event or by just not turning up?
 - If a refund is available it would go back to the sponsor not the sponsoree. We could facilitate that transaction as well if the sponsor wishes to remain anonymous.
- Could there be accusations of favouritism?
 - The only people making decisions about sponsorship are those offering the money. It's their money and they should decide how it is used.
- What if someone does not wish the B&B to know they are looking for assistance.
 - This is a concern. The proposal does not provide for the anonymity of sponsorees, only sponsors. We can only guarantee that we will make requests for sponsorship privately known to those offering sponsorship, and not public. As Baron and Baroness and Peers we regularly deal with privileged information and hope that the Populace will trust Us with this as well.
- Would the system continue when new B&Bs take office?
 - That would be up to them. They may continue it, or they might seek leave to alter the system in some way, possibly by delegating the role to another person. Equally, Council could choose to alter or discontinue the system at any time.
- What if the B&B wish to sponsor someone?
 - They are most welcome to.