



Clans vs Counties Contest

Information Pack for Entering Bands 2026

Contest Date: Saturday 6th June 2026

Venue: Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3LS

Entries Open: Friday 2nd January 2026

Entry Deadline: Friday 30th January 2026 (Refunds will not be given after this date)

Entry Fee: £150

Entries:

- This contest is open to registered Championship, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th section brass bands based in Scotland and the North of England (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Cleveland, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, Cumbria, North Lincolnshire (formally Humberside))
- In the spirit of balance and opportunity, the first 6 entries per area (Scotland and North of England) will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis, not limited by section. Once these 12 entries are allocated, entries will be first-come first-serve for all bands, regardless of area or section.
- Dependant on uptake a waiting list will be created. Should there be a space for a band on the waiting list, this will go to any band, regardless of area and section.
- Bands will receive email confirmation that their entry is confirmed.
- Entry fee payment must be received within 3 days of confirmation that the band entry has been confirmed.
- Bands placed on the waiting list will receive an email confirmation to confirm the status of their entry.
- There will be a maximum of 16 contest performance slots.
- Bands will be able to request a late draw via the online form.
- Entry can be completed via the online form on the website also via link: <https://forms.gle/Cn8qhfngG2UZeweJ9>

Rules of the Contest

1. Performance

- 1.1 Each performance will comprise of a 20 minute own choice entertainment programme.
- 1.2 The 20 minutes is from the commencement of your performance (if you decide to make any announcements before starting to play then this time will form part of your performance) to last note and includes all announcements between pieces. It is not permitted for bands to undertake all their compering before the performance starts to avoid time penalties. Our organisational compere welcome of the band to the stage is not included in the 20 minutes.

The penalty for exceeding 20 minutes performance time is as follows:

1 point deducted for 0-60 seconds over the 20 minutes allowed

1 point deducted for 61-120 seconds over

1 point deducted for each subsequent 60 second period entered

- 1.3 All bands must 'compere' their programme – this can be the band's Musical Director, a nominated non-playing person or any other member of the band's stage party of instrumentalists.
- 1.4 Each performance will be adjudicated on the standard of performance and the quality of entertainment and programme content.
- 1.5 Any enhanced entertainment or choreography must be performed by the band's stage party of instrumentalists.
- 1.6 Bands will have access to two onstage stand mics, hall audio playback and onstage projection facilities should they wish to use them. For those wishing to use projections a folder link will be sent in advance. Final files must be shared by **Saturday 30th May 2026**.
- 1.7 All performances will be recorded and available to bands post-contest.

2. Adjudication

- 2.1 The contest will be open adjudication with one adjudicator – Mr John Doyle. Bands will be notified of any changes to this arrangement.
- 2.2 Bands will receive written remarks available to collect after the results.

3. Registration

- 3.1 Bands will not be allowed to compete with more than 25 or less than 16 brass players plus any number of percussionists.
- 3.2 All players taking part in the Contest must be registered with an accredited Registry.
- 3.3 All bands must submit a list of players expected to perform on the day, by the deadline of **Saturday 30th May 2026**.
- 3.4 Registration cards will be required on the day of the contest and individual cards must match the information provided by Brass Band Players Ltd and The Scottish Brass Band Registry.
- 3.5 Band delegates are responsible for their respective bands being available to register when required to do so by Officials.
- 3.6 Irregularities at the point of registration may result in a player being prohibited from performing on the day of the contest.
- 3.7 The decision by the Contest Controller regarding any irregularities with registered players is final.
- 3.8 As part of the list of expected players, bands will be asked to indicate players aged under 25 at the time of the contest, as part of eligibility for the prize of Outstanding Young Performer (under 25)
- 3.9 Please note registration deadline for this contest will be **Friday 29th May 2026**.

4. Guest Players

4.1 Four guest players are permitted per band, two may be from bands in any section but the other two must be from a band in the same section or a lower section (or, in the case of bands in the 4th Section, from a band in the same section or a band in the 3rd Section)

4.2 All players giving assistance as guest players must be registered members of bands in full membership of the Scottish Brass Band Association or another United Kingdom Registry. Each guest player must present their registration card to the registration officials at the contest and sign the registration form.

5. Emergency substitutes for sick players

5.1 If a player is unable to compete due to personal illness, injury or other mitigating circumstances, the band representative may apply to the contest controller for a substitute player and support the application by providing the appropriate documentary evidence (e.g. a medical certificate). Any such application must be made prior to the commencement of the contest.

5.2 If the Contest Controller is satisfied that the application is genuine, the application for the substitute player will be accepted.

5.3 The substitute player must play the same part as that of the sick player.

5.4 A substitute for a sick player is not the same as a guest player, and Guest Player rules will not apply.

5.5 The band submitting the application for a substitute player may use the services of any player registered with another band. Any such substitute player will be treated as an additional guest player, but the Guest Player Rules regarding the maximum number of guest players will be waived.

6. Draw

6.1 The draw will take place on **Friday 6th February 2026**.

6.2 Bands will be contacted via email to confirm the draw and order of performances, with timings of the day.

7. Percussion

7.1 Percussion will be provided by SN Percussion. All major items of percussion will be provided on stage by the organisers and, to assist in achieving swift changeovers between bands, all bands will be required to use the items of percussion provided.

7.2 Additional (smaller) items of percussion will be the responsibility of individual bands.

7.3 A full list of the percussion to be provided will be issued with confirmation of the draw.

7.4 Bands will be required to complete and submit a percussion plan by **Saturday 30th May 2026**.

7.5 The percussion plan must indicate which percussion equipment is required for the band's performance and clearly indicate the position of each instrument.

7.6 Bands will have support for their Percussionists on the day of the contest to assist with the set up and positioning of percussion equipment as indicated on the percussion plan prior to the band's performance.

7.7 Percussionists must provide their own beaters/sticks etc.

7.8 Percussion will be checked for damage between performances. The cost of any repairs required will be charged to the offending band.

8. Contest Stage

8.1 Bands will be provided with 34 music stands on stage and a Musical Director's stand. If more than this are required, then you should make your own provision.

8.2 Bands own stand banners are not permitted on the contest platform.

8.3 A seating and stage plan should be provided by **Saturday 30th May 2026** to assist the backstage team on the day.

9. Scores

9.1 Bands are requested to provide an unmarked copy of the scores of the chosen entertainment programme for the adjudicator in programme order by **Saturday 30th May 2026**. These need not be original scores. Scores should be sent to the contest controller (address at bottom of information pack)

9.2 All scores will be available to the band after the results. Uncollected copied scores will be destroyed.

10. Conductor

10.1 Any changes to the name of the conductor of your band at this contest must be supplied no later than **Saturday 2nd May 2026**, this information is required for the programme. If this information has not been provided, then your conductor's name is likely to be omitted from the programme and press releases.

10.2 Conductors are not permitted to play an instrument with the band they are conducting.

11. Prizes

11.1 The following Awards and Prizes will be presented:

Award	Prize
1 st Place	£300 (minimum)
2 nd Place	£200 (minimum)
3 rd Place	£100 (minimum)
Most Entertaining Band	£100 (minimum)
Best Instrumentalist	£50 (minimum)
Outstanding Young Performer (under 25) – supported by Lyrita Nimbus Arts	£100

11.2 Results will be announced and prizes awarded after all bands have performed. A live stream of the results ceremony will be provided on the contest Facebook page.

11.3 The delegate of any band winning a trophy will be asked to sign a receipt for same before leaving the Hall.

11.4 Only recognised and accepted brass band instruments will be allowed to win any individual or featured prize.

11.5 An overall area (either Scotland or North of England) winner will be announced. This will be calculated on the average placing of bands, with the area with the lower average doing better overall. There will be no specific prize for this.

Example:

Scotland: 2nd, 5th, 7th → $(2+5+7)/3 = 4.67$ (Overall Winner)

North of England: 1st, 6th, 9th → $(1+6+9)/3 = 5.33$

11.6 All Trophies are to be returned 21 days before the next contest unless stated otherwise. If you are planning to attend the contest, please return on the day. Please contact us post-results if there is any confusion in regard to this.

11.7 All monetary prizes are to be given through bank transfer.

11.8 Any sponsored vouchers/product prizes are to be organised through contact from the winning band and the sponsoring company. Contact details will be passed during the week after the event.

11.9 Bands are responsible for suitable engraving and any damage caused to the trophies. Bands will be expected to front any costs needed for replacements or recoveries.

12 Tickets

12.1 A maximum of 31 free performer wristbands will be provided for each competing band on the day. These will be available for collection from a contest representative at the Hexham Trinity Methodist Church, located next to the contest venue.

12.2 Wristbands must be kept with performers at all times

12.3 As per Northumberland County Council Education Welfare service "A Guide to Children in Entertainment" chaperones for children under 16 are not required to remain with the child when he / she is performing. Therefore those wishing to watch the performance must purchase a ticket if all the wristbands provided for performers are being used already.

12.4 Bands may wish to use non-playing persons to act as a compere and/or Audio-Visual operative. If the 31 wristbands per band are already allocated, then the compere/AV Operative will need to purchase an extra ticket.

12.5 Tickets/wristbands will be required to enter the results ceremony.

12.6 Tickets will be available to purchase in advance online through the Queen's Hall website and from the venue Box Office on the day – the Box Office will be open from 09.00-12.00, 13.00 -16.00. During the lunchbreak and after 16.00 tickets will be available to purchase from the bar in the White Room.

12.7 The Queen's Hall is a fully seated venue with a capacity of 350 people and seating for this event will be unallocated. Staff and volunteers will be able to assist entry and exit from the venue. Should capacity be reached you may be asked to wait until a seat becomes available.

13 Rehearsal

13.1 No band shall be allowed to rehearse in the contest hall on the day of the contest.

14. Facilities

14.1 Dressing Room facilities will be located at the Hexham Trinity Methodist Church located directly next to the Queen's Hall. Bands will use the dressing room space in order of the draw. Bands will be escorted to registration and the performance venue (and back) by a contest representative. All personal possessions and instruments must be removed immediately after your band has played due to the number of bands taking part in the contest.

14.2 Warm up – There will be no ensemble warm up area prior to performance however there will be an opportunity for individuals to warm up in the dressing room facilities at the Hexham Trinity Methodist Church before registration.

14.3 Food and Drink – The Queen's Hall Café will be open between 10am-4pm. A Bar will also be available located in the White Room. You are allowed to bring your own food to the Queen's Hall, however hot food is not allowed in the auditorium. Drinks are permitted in the auditorium however must be in a plastic cup.

14.5 Programmes and merchandise will be available to purchase on the day from venue Front of House staff.

14.6 Parking - There are several car parks located around the town, please note time limitations and whether a parking disc is required. For more information please visit:

<https://www.queenshall.co.uk/visit-us/getting-here>

<https://beta.northumberland.gov.uk/parking/parking-locations/hexham-car-parks>

15. Accessibility

15.1 Bands will be asked to provide relevant details for any player who has additional needs or accessibility requirements so that the level of reasonable adjustment required on the day of the contest can be assessed in advance.

15.2 There are 3 disabled parking bays located at the front of the venue.

15.3 The main entrance and ground floor level of the Queen's Hall are fully wheelchair accessible. The Foyer lift enables access to all public areas of our building including the Main Theatre (apart from the balcony), White Room and Gallery 2. The Studio Theatre is accessed via a small flight of stairs which transform into a platform lift.

15.4 In the Main Theatre, wheelchair users and those with mobility issues can be seated at the front of the Main Theatre stalls on Row A or on Row S at the back of the stalls.

15.5 Guide Dogs are welcome in all parts of the venue and in the Main Theatre, Audio Induction Loop equipment is available.

15.6 For more information about access at the Queen's Hall please visit:

<https://www.queenshall.co.uk/visit-us/access>

15.7 Hexham Trinity Methodist Church entrance can be accessed via 2 steps from street level.

16. Disqualification

16.1 Any band found to be using props or using inappropriate language or comments likely to cause offence or be deemed as discriminatory in any shape or form will be disqualified. Discrimination or behaviour likely to cause offence will not be tolerated.

16.2 Any behaviour likely to cause offence or be deemed as discriminatory by any individual will not be tolerated and may result in the disqualification of the band they represent.

16.3 The decision of the Contest Controller following due consideration of any complaint on or after the day of the contest is final.

16.4 Any disqualification following the event, will result in all trophies being returned within 2 weeks of being notified. If trophies are not returned by the due date, then a recharge will be made to the disqualified band.

16.4 Any disqualification may mean that a band is prevented from entering in subsequent contests.

17. Safeguarding

17.1 The Contest Controller will complete a BoPA for the contest, individual bands are not required to complete a BoPA.

17.2 Bands must confirm the number of under 16 players who will be performing on the day of the contest with the Contest Controller by **Saturday 11th April 2026**. The definition of under 16 is - children up until compulsory school leaving age (the last Friday in June in the school year when they turn 16)

17.3 Bands are responsible for ensuring that the contest controller is aware of all players who are under 16 and that a Parent/Carer permission form has been completed.

17.4 The Contest Controller as the BoPA licence holder is responsible for ensuring that all players who are under 16 on the day of the contest have a Licensed Chaperone/Parent/Carer who is responsible for them on the day of the contest.

17.5 The Parent/Carer or Licensed Chaperone is responsible for ensuring that all permission forms are available upon request on the day of the contest.

17.6 Bands must send copies of permission slips for players under 16 to the Contest Controller by **Saturday 30th May 2026**. These will be issued once the band's place has been confirmed.

17.7 For those children under 16 who's responsible adult on the contest day will not be their parent/carer the band secretary must inform the contest controller of their licenced chaperone.

17.8 To become a Licensed Chaperone with Northumberland County Council the individual must complete an application found on this website under the section child employment licence, chaperones for children in entertainment:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Business/Licences/Permits.aspx>

Please note that applications can take up to 8 weeks to be processed.

17.9 On the performance day Licensed Chaperones must have their licence with them at all times as well as relevant permission forms for children under 16 they are chaperoning. A licensed chaperone must not have more than 12 children under 16 in their care.

17.7 The Contest Controller and venue staff will take all necessary and reasonable measures to ensure the safeguarding of any individual under the age of 16 on the day of the contest in collaboration with staff at the Queen's Hall.

18. Changes and Updates

18.1 The Contest Controller reserves the right to change and update the rules of the contest and any additional information relating to the running of the contest as is necessary at any point prior to the contest.

18.2 The Contest Controller will ensure that any changes and updates will be provided to the Band Secretary of all competing bands at the earliest opportunity.

18.3 The Contest Controller will endeavour to ensure that any changes and updates do not cause any detriment to the running of the contest or to any competing bands or individual directly.

18.4 Any concerns following the communication of any changes and updates should be raised with the Contest Controller in the first instance.

Key Dates:

Entries Open: Friday 2nd January 2026

Entry Deadline: Friday 30th January 2026

Draw: Friday 6th February 2026

Confirmation of performers under 16: Saturday 11th April 2026

Conductor name provided: Saturday 2nd May 2026

Submission of player list, scores, percussion plan, seating plan, permission slips, any projection file: Saturday 30th May 2026.

Contact information:

Email – clansvscounties@gmail.com

Address – Mrs H Douthwaite-Teasdale

143a Main Street, Chryston, Glasgow, G69 9LA

Bank Transfer Details – Mrs Helen Douthwaite-Teasdale

Sort code 40-47-63

Acc No. 58703639

Reference: *The name of the entering band