Dear DERT 2019 teams,

**DERT 2019 - FINAL INSTRUCTIONS**

The Big DERT Weekend is nearly with us and we hope you are looking forward to visiting North East England – the traditional home of Rapper Dancing – as much as we’re looking forward to seeing you. These are just a few final notes before you set off but they do contain important information which your team members will need to know in advance.

**Bring ‘em back!** Please return any annual trophies to DERT HQ reception on Friday night, duly engraved.

**Silly Competition - 'Coals to Newcastle':**  A prize to the team with the best photo of coal in Newcastle. Provide your own coal. The photo needs to include the coal and at least one of your team members in kit.

Message it to the DERT 2019 Facebook page ([facebook.com/rappertournament](http://facebook.com/rappertournament)) over 5th-6th April (deadline 7pm Saturday). We’ll have a prize for what we think is the best piccie – it could include your team, be in an interesting or amusing place, or whatever you like. We’ll announce the winner at the Showcase. #coalstonewcastle
\*DERT 2019 takes no responsibility for any damages, poor behaviour or injuries sustained in the course of taking mad photos. No rude/nude photos. Judge's decision is final.

**Coach tour of Rapper Villages:** We still have a few tickets available for this tour on the Friday afternoon (more than 70 are coming!. See interesting places where rapper used to be, hear a fascinating commentary as you go, watch demonstrations of several local dances and maybe stop for a quick drink or two. It leaves central Newcastle at 12.30pm and returns to DERT HQ for 6pm. To book email dert2019newcastle@gmail.com

**Food:** On Friday, the volunteer-run café at the Star & Shadow Cinema – DERT HQ – will offer a basic menu of wholesome fayre including hot meals for around £5 per plate from 6pm until 10pm (most likely veggie chilli or curry with a baked potato or similar) and a selection of cakes, teas, coffees, etc. – so please don’t bring your own food into the venue.  Also bear in mind they can only make a guess about your catering needs so they may close earlier if you eat them out of supplies!

At other times, Morrison’s and takeaways are a few minutes’ walk away. Each DERT competition pub will offer food on the Saturday (the Cluny will only offer full meals, which are very popular with regular customers, but the Cluny2 Spotlight venue next door will offer quick snacks if you need a quick bite). There’s a huge variety of takeaway or eat-in food in the area around the Tyne Theatre – take your pick but please **DON’T BRING FOOD INTO THE THEATRE**. You may need to fend for yourselves on Sunday lunchtime but Morrison’s supermarket is close and offers eat-in or take-out food. It also has a cashpoint and petrol station.

**Late bars:** The bar at the Star & Shadow will be open until midnight on Friday and Saturday. On both nights, when this closes, we’ll all make our way over to the official late night drinking venue The Old Coal Yard (Northern Alchemy Brewery, a few minutes stagger away), which is **open for DERT attendees only** from 11pm-2am and will be the venue for this year’s AJ Awards on Saturday. **IMPORTANT: YOU WILL NEED YOUR TICKETS TO GAIN ENTRY** to the Old Coal Yard.

**Indoor Camping:**  Providing this has proved very difficult this year and we are immensely grateful to the Ouseburn Community Centre for allowing us to use their facilities. We must, however, adhere to some important conditions and we respectfully ask you to follow these closely.

Strictly **NO ALCOHOL** consumption will be allowed in the indoor camping.

**NO MOBILE PHONE RECHARGING** will be possible in the indoor camping. Our overnight stewards/fire wardens (aka ‘Total Heroes’!) will be on duty throughout both nights and will strictly enforce this. We suggest you bring a battery pack and we also hope to arrange mobile phone charging points at DERT HQ – please ask at DERT reception.

On arrival at DERT HQ, a steward will show you to the indoor camping nearby and allocate you a marked sleeping space. Please keep to this area as space is limited. A small number of “quiet area” spaces will be available on request for those not wishing to stay up late.

**Everyone MUST have vacated the indoor camping by 8.50am on the Saturday.** BEFORE you go for breakfast, you must stow all your luggage – stewards will show you where and assist you. An Autism Group use the Centre on Saturdays, so it is vital for us to leave everything exactly as they will expect it. You won’t be able to access your belongings after 8.50am until we arrive back from the evening showcase from 10.30pm. A team will already have retrieved your belongings from the storage area but you will need to reclaim it and return it to your pitch. Do NOT wait until 2am to do this – you’ll wake everyone else up!

We will provide indoor campers with breakfasts at 8.30am on Saturday at the Old Coal Yard, just round the corner from the community centre; stewards will show you where it is. Sunday breakfasts start at 9am and the indoor camping venue will close by 11am.

Indoor campers can park on the streets near the venue or we have arranged for parking spaces to be set aside for our use (at owner’s risk) at the nearby Morrison’s supermarket. Please don’t just go and park there - DERT HQ will direct you there and explain which spaces to use.

**DERTy:** This will take place at the Cumberland (upstairs) from 1-4.30pm.

**After the Main Competition:** make your way to the Tyne Theatre & Opera House for the Traditional and Veterans Competitions and Showcase. On Westgate Road in central Newcastle, it’s quite near Central Station but remember Newcastle United play at home that afternoon and the streets will be very busy. It takes about 20-30 minutes on foot, depending on how fast you walk, or you can catch a bus. If you’re at the Old Coal Yard, Cumberland or Cluny, any bus crossing Byker Bridge towards town will do (the stops are opposite Morrison’s, or at the top of the hill on your left if you’re at the CLuny). From the Free Trade or Brinkburn St Brewery, take any bus towards town from Walker Road (the stop is just east of the Free Trade).

**Tyne Theatre & Opera House:** Remember, you **MUST** have your ticket with you to get in and theatre staff will check it. The Traditional & Veterans Competitions begin at 6pm and the dancing will continue through the Showcase from about 7pm, finishing about 10pm with the DERT presentations and handover to the DERT 2020 organisers. Details of the Showcase running order will be available to team leaders and posted on the evening.

Two important Theatre rules:
- **No outside food or alcohol is allowed in the Theatre**, whose staff will check your bags on entry. If you have any alcohol, it will be removed and you may reclaim it on leaving.
- **NOBODY WILL BE ALLOWED ON STAGE WHO APPEARS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL.** Please conduct yourselves accordingly.

**Shuttle buses:** After the prize-giving, free buses will ferry you from opposite the Theatre back to DERT HQ – keep any eye out for the stewards in hi-viz jackets.  It’s a shuttle service, so you may have to wait 15 minutes or so for the next run.  Please be patient, the theatre bar will remain open if you haven’t cleaned it out (or there are pubs next door).  You can let your hair down after the stresses of competing when the party starts at DERT HQ, where the bar will be open until Midnight, before everything moves on to the Old Coal Yard which will again serve until 2am and be the venue of the DERT AJs Awards.  Please respect local residents when leaving these venues.

**Sunday timetable changes:**  the Winners Workshop will now take place upstairs at the Cumberland Arms from 10-11.15am and the DERT Open Meeting will start at 11.15am in the same venue, where you’ll be able to find all about DERT 2020 and learn the venue for 2021.

And that’s everything for another year! The Cumberland Arms will be open for some farewell drinks before we all head off homewards, then it’s over to the organisers of DERT 2020! In the meantime, we hope you have a great time in Newcastle and look forward to seeing you next Friday.

DERT 2019

Newcastle Kingsmen
Sallyport Sword Dancers
Star & Shadow