

## **DERT 2020 Handover Statement**

As we are almost in a position to formally wind up the DERT 2020 Committee, we have decided to issue a statement given the unusual situation we found ourselves in.

Firstly, we would like to thank both the Rapper community and the DERT Steering Committee for your support and understanding throughout this process.

We would like to explain how we decided to run DERT, and how we are closing the committee down.

From the start, and in common with previous DERTs, we decided to support as many local businesses as possible. By doing this, we hoped we would help gain community support for the event in Lincoln. We worked with many local suppliers, building relationships over the two years preceding DERT 2020.

By the time it became clear that DERT could not go ahead, we had incurred almost all of the costs of running the event, whether they had already been paid, or were owing. Some of these ended up being more than we had originally budgeted for due to the main venue letting us down in October 2019, meaning that we had to pay for more separate venues than we expected. It wouldn't be DERT without a venue crisis, and we were hoping that that was going to be it! Well...

On that fateful Monday evening in late March, as we wrote the various cancellation announcements, our initial worst case scenario, based on very rough ball-park figures, would have seen a loss making situation. It was a scary thought, where would the money come from if, due to it being us who made the decision to cancel, we were still required to pay the full cost of venue hires etc? The comforting thoughts at that point were a) that the safety of us all is much more important than making a loss, and b) that a small loss would be better than cancelling either on the day, or a few days beforehand, which we estimated would have resulted in a much larger loss.

We made sure that the suppliers who had either physically produced something, or who had already carried out work for us, were paid for what they had done/were in the process of doing. We are very grateful to all our suppliers for the fantastic work they did for us and their enthusiasm for our tradition.

We were very fortunate that the timing of the cancellation meant that for several costs we either paid a reduced amount, or nothing at all.

We re-opened the merchandise shop to sell the merchandise at approximately cost (the cost of the items, plus the cost of postage) which covered a good portion of the initial outlay for this, so thank you to all who purchased merchandise. There are still almost a DERT-worth of cups left and some other bits and bobs which we will hand on to the next DERT to use if they so wish.

It has taken a long time to tie things up due to businesses mothballing over the course of the initial lockdown, and then dealing with the continuing Covid pandemic.

As we have neared the end of this process we have found ourselves with more cash than initially expected. This surplus is thanks to the discounts received, on top of the income from merchandise sales. Given how many people this affects, we have passed the matter to the Steering Committee, as a body of our peers representing you all, to decide how to proceed with matters in a fair and transparent manner.

It is still uncertain when things will begin to return to normal, and how this might affect DERT in the next few years, but we hope that it will not be long until we can safely meet again.

We hope you are all able to stay safe and well until this time.

DERT 2020 Committee