

TORPHINS GALA

History

Up until 2006 the Gala was self financing.

All profits were ploughed into the next years Gala with some surplus funds being donated to local groups, school & individuals.

Examples of groups who received donations ranging from £100-£500, since 2004.

Torphins Primary School.
Torphins Primary School PTA.

has received more than one donation, Mrs Reid singled out the Gala for special thanks in her retirement speech.

Torphins Youth Club
Torphins Play group
Torphins Swimming club
Torphins Bridge Club

Comic Relief
Anchor Unit
Children's Hospice Appeal for Scotland.

Save Aboyne Maternity Hospital
Jan Kochalski - Olympic skier
Hymns in the Park - now known as Praise in the Park.

The 2006 marquee dance was particularly troublesome which led to the police imposing severe restrictions and conditions on the next years Gala.

Conditions such as riot police with dogs, an ambulance stationed at the park, buses to all over Aberdeenshire, fencing and lighting the whole park, etc.

These conditions were prohibitively expensive and unpractical to carry out and made the Gala unviable and it was therefore decided to have a cooling off period and to cancel 2007.

The committee thought these conditions an over reaction, nobody had ever been arrested at Torphins Gala, however, it was conceded that the Gala committee would not be able to win a fight with Grampian Police.

The Gala was resurrected in 2008 with the usual daytime events but with an evening family disco. This all went very well but the attendance at the disco was a lot less than expected and thus the ticket sales and bar takings were very low and the 2008 Gala made a loss of £5,000.00.

Partially to blame for this was the police still insisting on some severe conditions such as 10no stewards, 4no first aiders and lighting to the park.

No single people young or older appeared, put off by the family disco tag, these are the people who spend at the bar!

The 2006 Gala was particularly expensive with the It's a Knockout inflatable's, therefore funds were lower than normal in 2008.

The 2009 Gala was revised taking into account the lessons from 2008. The usual during the day events were there although some new events such as the road race were introduced.

No expensive inflatable's other than the bouncy castles which are profitable, prices were tweaked up, even even toilet costs were cut back by using the pavilion.

The evening event was renamed the 'Village Disco' as we tried to attract people other than the families who turned up in 2008 unfortunately this was not a success and the same number and type of people turned up as in 2008.

All went very well but a loss of £500.00 was still made.

The committee now has approx £2,000.00 in the bank.

Benefits to local community

Good day and/or evening out for the whole community.

The Gala is a source of funds for many local groups.

The non profit making groups that benefitted from this year Gala are as follows.

Groups	Amount raised	
Torphins Playgroup	£263.00	
Torphins Senior Citizens Club	£247.00	
Torphins Tennis Club	£160.00	4 new members cash equivalent.
Torphins PTA	£700.00	
Torphins Flower Show	£350.00	
Mid Deeside Guild	£180.00	
Torphins Bridge Club	£100.00	
Torphins Beavers	£100.00	estimate only.
Torphins Cubs	£100.00	estimate only.
Torphins Scouts	£100.00	estimate only.
Torphins Toddlers	£100.00	estimate only.
Torphins Junior Football Club	£500.00	have donated back to Gala!
Total made by local groups	£2,900.00	

This is the sole fund raising time for some of these groups and it would be difficult for them to raise funds in other ways.

All alcoholic drinks were purchased from the local Scotmid shop, butcher & baker possibly benefitted from the football club barbecue?

Non benefits to local community

Attracted youths who wouldn't come into the disco but stayed around to cause trouble during the night.

Future

The committee will continue to look at ways of reducing costs and maximising income but it is evident that the cost of the marquee tent is going to be a constant problem.

The cost of the marquee tent has been circa £2,500.00. The income from the stallholders and the evening disco has no chance of covering this cost.

The current committee is unanimous in the opinion that the marquee tent must be retained.

The Gala wouldn't be the same without the tent and would seriously affect the day events as well as evening

There would also be no tent for the Praise in the Park on the Sunday morning.

The size of the tent could possibly be scaled back.

Finale

Practically every social/age group in the village gets something out of the Gala, an investment in the Gala is an investment in the community.

Can the CC help by way of providing the marquee or some other way of assisting financially?

To support the Gala would be a popular move for the CC.

Neil Stanton
Chairman Torphins Gala Committee.
5 Nov 2009.