



FACT SHEET

ABOUT US

The Grotton Contest has been running since 1977. Like many contests in the area, it is organised by a dedicated committee of local volunteers who are passionate about keeping the fantastic tradition of brass band music alive and thriving in the community.

GUIDELINES

Our contest takes place entirely away from the main road, creating a safe, welcoming, and spectator-friendly environment for bands and audiences alike. To further enhance safety and improve traffic flow, a one-way coach system was introduced in 2024.

Coaches will enter the contest via Mildred Avenue, where they will be met by a steward, issued with a raffle ticket indicating the band's playing order and directed down Mildred Avenue to wait their turn. A band member will need to disembark and hand this ticket in at Booking-In, located at the end of Mildred Avenue.

March and deportment judging will take place on Station Road, before bands are led into the delightful Grotton Pavilion grounds and on to our permanent bandstand to perform their contest pieces. The adjudicator will be comfortably positioned in a campervan to the right-hand side of the bandstand.

Coaches will follow behind the marching band, accompanied by traffic management and guided past the entrance of the Pavilion to the designated coach waiting area, allowing for a smooth and easy exit once the band has finished playing.

FACILITIES

Grotton Pavilion offers excellent facilities for bands, supporters, and visitors.

Inside the Pavilion you'll find our popular café, serving our legendary Pie & Peas, alongside pizzas, jacket potatoes, and hot dogs. Vegetarian and vegan options are available, as well as a tempting selection of cakes, snacks, and hot and cold drinks. A priority serving station for bands is provided to ensure quick and convenient service.

Toilet facilities are located within the building and include a fully accessible disabled toilet with baby-changing amenities. Additional portaloo facilities are also available within the Pavilion grounds for your convenience.

Outside, within the Pavilion grounds, our well-stocked Real Ale Bar will be open throughout the afternoon and into the evening. It will feature a range of local hand-pumped real ales, alongside draught Grotton Gold lager and Appleshed cider. For those who prefer something different, red and white wines, prosecco, and pre-mixed spirits will also be available.

Both the café and bar accept card payments, and a cash machine is conveniently located at the Grotton Co-op at the top of Station Road, should you need it.

DISABLED ACCESS

The Pavilion grounds are fully accessible, being relatively flat throughout with no steps, stairs or lifts to navigate. The only stepped access is onto the bandstand itself, which has three steps. However, there is ample space directly in front of the bandstand to comfortably accommodate any bands with players using wheelchairs, ensuring everyone can take part fully.

MAP



WHAT WE OFFER

OPENING TIMES:

Registration opens at 4pm and closes at 10pm. Registration Fee £3.00

We offer prizes for all levels and categories, ensuring every band has a chance to be recognized.

PRIZES

First Prize £800

Second Prize £400

Third Prize £200

Fourth Prize £150

First, Second, Third & Fourth Section prizes

Best Local

Best Youth Band

Best Scratch Band

Best Cornet

Best Soprano Cornet

Department Prize

Junior Department Prize

ADJUDICATOR

Christopher Bond

LOCATION

The Grotton Pavilion Community Centre
Station Road
Grotton OL4 5SF

One-way route for Coaches.

Coach parking on Mildred Avenue.

For more information about the Grotton Contest please don't hesitate to contact us via email: grottonbbc@hotmail.com or take a look at our Facebook page Grotton Whit Friday Band Contest.