

Durban Regiment Pipe Band



Information Brochure - Training



Durban Regiments Drum Major, 1983

Durban Regiment Pipe Band warmly invites **you** to consider joining the band. We can teach you to play the bagpipes, snare drum, tenor drum or bass drum, and we can fill your spare time with excitement, adventure and challenges. Come and share in the fun with us!

If you are interested to know more, then carry on reading. If not, then please send this brochure to anyone you know who may be interested.

Candidate Requirements

We offer free tuition to anyone between the ages of 14 and 40, who is genuinely interested, able, and enthusiastic to learn either the pipes or drums. You will be able to continue playing with the band long past the age of 40, but most of the dexterity needed to become a good piper or drummer is difficult to develop at a later stage. You do not need a Scottish background to start piping or drumming, and you do not need to become attested to Durban Regiment, or enter into any form of agreement with the SANDF. Playing with the band is a hobby, which the members do for enjoyment.

Getting Started

If you are undecided, then we can assist you to choose an instrument which you are best suited to. You will need to choose between the bagpipes, snare drum, tenor drum or bass drum. After deciding on an instrument, you can contact us to organise a place in one of our beginner's classes (our contact details are in the footer below). We will contact you to confirm the details once a place has been allocated.

Before you can start your classes, you will need to purchase either a practice chanter or a drum pad set. The band can supply you with these items at cost price, for about R300. You can also purchase these items directly from South African suppliers, or from overseas suppliers. However, we strongly advise you to consult with us regarding the suitability of different brands. Fortunately, these inexpensive items are all you will need to learn your instrument. Beginner's classes are held once a week. The band will provide you with all necessary learners' manuals and sheet music as you progress.

Durban Regiment Pipe Band (www.pipeband.co.za)

Pipe Major Ken Mustard (082 4575 541)
Pipe Sergeant Mike Munro
Contact Billy Ansell (083 6696 869)
email: drpb@mweb.co.za

Physical Address

Durban Regiment Pipe Band, Lords Ground
Military Base, Old Fort Rd, Durban

Postal Address

PO Box 4, Pinetown, 3610

Progressing

Once you have learned the basic skills required to move from the chanter or practice pad onto the pipes or drums, we will assist you to make the transition. Enthusiastic learners generally reach this point within a year. Drummers will be able to make use of the bands drums, and pipers may apply to use one of the bands spare sets of pipes (subject to availability). Pipers are however encouraged to purchase their own set of pipes whenever possible. Please note that we strongly advise you not purchase anything without speaking to the band first. Many pipes on the market do not work. Generally a new set of international quality local pipes will cost you about R9000. There are also often second hand pipes on the market for a fraction of this price.

Once you have built up a small repertoire of tunes, then you will be able to join the band at band practices. These are held once a week. At this stage, it should not be long before your confidence level has grown sufficiently to enable the pipe major of the band to invite you to start attending parades.

Belonging to a Band

When you are ready to play with the band, you will be issued with a uniform. There are no band membership fees, and all money generated by the band is put towards the bands operating expenses.

If you want to play with the band at national pipe band competitions, then you will have to make an effort to attend most of the band practices. Every year the band aims to compete at three national band competitions in order to maintain a competition grading with the Pipe Bands Association of South Africa (PBASA). In addition to these three competitions, the band tries to play regularly in parades, concerts and the military tattoo. If you are worried about time, then rest assured that all of the bands members hold full time jobs, or have full time studies. Band members play for enjoyment in their spare time, outside of work hours.

Dates and Times

Beginner's practices are generally held on a weekly basis at venues in Durban or Westville. Each venue has secure parking and easy access.

Specific practice dates are pre-arranged to suit both the tutors and the learners.

If you have a group of at least 5 people wanting to learn, then we may even be able to arrange for a tutor to give you special classes either at Durban Regiment, or at a venue of your choosing. If we cannot accommodate you, then we will do our best to find another band that can.



SEE YOU THERE!