

Portrait: Pipe Major David Johnston



An Irishman through and through, David was born in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and started to play the bagpipes at the young age of thirteen. In his quest to develop and improve his talent, he joined the Irish Guards as a Piper/Soldier. David regularly performed at such events as State Banquets and the Annual Trooping of the Colour at Horse Guards, in London, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen and accompanied Prince Andrew during his visit to the "Americas Cup Challenge" Newport, Rhode Island. David has also performed at the famous Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo, The Berlin Tattoo, The Royal Tournament London, Polo Club in Manila and for President George W. Bush and various other engagements throughout Europe.

After immense success in numerous solo piping competitions, David was promptly posted to the Guards Depot Piping School as a Piping Instructor for the Irish and Scots Guards. There he was responsible for training pipers up to the specified high standards required before joining their respective Regimental Pipe Bands. During his 7 years teaching at the Piping School, David won the World Championships and also the London Society Solo Piping Competition in both the "Piobaireachd" and "March, Strathspey and Reel" disciplines. David attended various military piping courses at the Army School of Piping (Edinburgh Castle) under the watchful eye of the late Pipe/Major Angus Macdonald. Following a glowing recommendation from the school, David was selected to attend the 9-month Pipe Majors course, which was also held at the Piping School in Edinburgh Castle and achieved a Grade (A) pass. This course is considered the most challenging and complete Bag Piping course globally and on average only six candidates per year are awarded this qualification. David also holds The Graduate Certificate and the Senior Teachers Certificate in Piping.

David saw active service during several combat tours, which included Iraq, Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

David was then appointed Pipe/Major for the British Army and during his spare time he took on the challenge of Pipe/Major of the award winning Leapoughs Pipe Band from Northern Ireland. David led the band to numerous successes in the competition scene with one memorable achievement being that of receiving the second place award at the European Pipe Band Championships in Scotland.

David still finds time in his busy schedule to compete successfully on the Solo Piping Competition scene. His latest achievement at Xanten this year (2011) was winning first place in the Senior Piobaireachd and Senior MSR category, which shows real evidences of

his endurance and talent in this area. He still teaches throughout Europe at various workshops and is often called upon to judge Pipe Band and Solo Competitions. David is currently the Senior Pipe Major and Musical Director of the Crossed Swords Pipe Band, which is probably one of the biggest Pipe Bands in the world. Through his leadership and experience he has successfully led the band at 2 of the most biggest and prestigious Military Tattoos in the World: Moscow Military Tattoo on Red Square 2011 and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Edinburgh Castle) in Scotland 2011. David managed to break down all the barriers that have until now prevented European Pipe Bands from taking part in events that are traditionally only available for active Military Bands. The Crossed Swords performed under David to such high standards that they are now the only Pipe Band outside the British Military with open invitations to both these prominent events.

David has built his own business on quality, service and reliability. This is evidenced by his close relationship with the Bagpipe Makers of Destination, David Naill & Co, for the past 20 years. The Piper's Corner also trade in reasonably priced, high quality pipe band drums and uniforms. The shop doses give a **special** discount for band and bulk orders.

Please contact the Piper's Corner team for further professional advice and information.