

Thousands to commemorate “the few” at Birmingham International Tattoo

Over 1,000 performers will line up in front of an expected audience of over 19,000 at Britain’s biggest indoor tattoo to honour “the few” and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. International marching bands, led by the Band of the Royal Air Force, will join together at this year’s Birmingham International Tattoo which returns to the Barclaycard Arena (formerly The NIA) at the end of November.

International marching bands from Sweden, France, Hungary, Italy, and from our own British forces, will join massed Scottish pipe bands, field gun teams, standard bearers, dog display teams and others for this year’s Birmingham International Tattoo on Saturday 28th November at 6pm and Sunday 29th November at 2pm at the Barclaycard Arena (formerly The NIA) in the centre of Birmingham.

Complementing the music of the massed bands will be the thrills of the exciting displays including the RMRNC Inter-Service Field Gun Competition, featuring the Royal Navy, Army and RAF, which will prove how both sheer strength and agility are needed to control the heavy guns as they race each other. Also taking part will be the popular dog display teams who will demonstrate canine agility as they also race other in the arena.

Over 120 standard bearers will represent the Royal British Legion, Royal Air Forces Association, The Federation of Birmingham Ex-Service Associations and other veterans associations. The youth of Britain will also be strongly represented as, for the first time, the Massed Bands of the Sea Cadet Corps will perform at the Tattoo, bringing together young musicians from as far apart as Scotland to the South West. They will be joined by the National Youth Marching Band as all the young musicians commemorate the tremendous achievements of “the few” some of whom were as young as 18 when they fly in the Battle of Britain.

The Birmingham International Tattoo would not be complete without the ever-popular Spectacular Grand Finale featuring over 1,000 performers who will be joined by the Royal Air Force Cosford Queen’s Colour and Escort plus guest vocalists to perform the traditional Land of Hope and Glory and closing ceremony.

Birmingham Tattoo Producer Norman Rogerson MBE said: “Over 1,000 performers will line up at the Birmingham International Tattoo to honour the 3,000 or so flyers from 15 nations who, undaunted by the odds, defended us during the Battle of Britain.” He added “Over the last few years, through the generosity of our audiences, we have raised over £65,000 for the Royal Star and Garter Homes, who have been caring for the nation’s military family since 1916, including some of “the few”. We hope to raise even more for this worthy cause at this year’s special event.”

The Birmingham International Tattoo will take place at the Barclaycard Arena (formerly The NIA) on Saturday 28th November 2015 at 6pm and Sunday 29th November 2015 at 2pm. Tickets are priced between £17.20 and £28.20 with reduced prices for children, senior citizens and groups of 10 or more. Visit www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk for more details or call the Box Office on 0844-338-8000 (individuals) or 0800-358-0058 (groups).

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Abbreviated information for What’s On columns

The Birmingham International Tattoo - Military Bands, Exciting Displays & Spectacular Grand Finale
Saturday 28th November at 6pm and Sunday 29th November at 2pm
Barclaycard Arena (formerly The NIA), Birmingham
Box Office 0844-338-8000
Website www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk

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High resolution images are available for download from www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk/press.html