

Funfair Rides And Games For Corporate Entertainment



Jason A.R. Moody
Amusements

Phone 07973 429663 Email jarm@funfairgames.net



A Brief History Of The Travelling Funfair

Fairs in this country have a long and ancient history, deeply rooted in tradition. The word fair is derived from the Latin 'feria', meaning a holiday and at one time the Romans were credited with the introduction of fairs. It is generally accepted now that they have their origins in the pagan customs of the people who first settled this land, their seasonal gatherings held for the purposes of both trade and festivity, contained within them the essential elements of the fair.

The Romans did much to promote fairs by improving trade and communications throughout the country. During the centuries following the departure of the Romans, many fairs and other festivals were incorporated into the calendar of the growing Christian Church.

Charters granted by the sovereign gave the fair legal status and an increasing importance in the economic life of the nation. Merchants and traders from Europe, the middle east and beyond were drawn to the great chartered fairs of the Middle Ages bringing with them a wealth of goods. The sheer number of these fairs - no fewer than 4860 were chartered between the years 1200 and 1400 - drew not only merchant but entertainers as well: jugglers, musicians and tumblers - the ancestors of today's showmen.

The Black Death of 1348-49 brought about a new kind of fair. In order to stem the rise in wages caused by the shortage of workers, Edward III introduced the Statute of Labourers. This compelled all able bodied men to present themselves annually for hire at a stated wage. These gathering or hiring fairs were held mainly around Michealmas, the end of the agricultural year.

By the early eighteenth century the trading aspects of the charter fairs had waned and most fairs consisted almost entirely of amusements, acrobats, illusionists and theatrical companies all plied their trade on fairgrounds. Around this time the first fairground rides began to appear, small crudely constructed out of wood and propelled by gangs of boys.

In 1868, Frederick Savage, a successful agricultural engineer from Kings Lynn, devised a method of driving rides by steam. His invention, a steam engine mounted in the centre of the ride was to transform the fairground industry. Freed from the limitations of muscle power, rides could be made larger, more capacious and more heavily ornamented. The showman's demand for novelty was matched by the ingenuity of Savage and other engineers. In the wake of the steam revolution an amazing variety of new designs and rides appeared.

These rides were the forerunners of today's amazing thrill rides, over time innovations such as electric lighting, electric motors, hydraulics etc. allowed rides to evolve into the amazing devices that are seen today at any local fairground



About Our Services

Thank you for your interest in our products. For many years travelling funfairs have brought enjoyment to people of all ages. Traditionally you would see a fair in your town or village perhaps once a year, appearing briefly before moving on to the next venue. In time static theme parks appeared along the lines of travelling fairs but usually with larger rides that were impractical on a mobile venue, this increased the choice and availability of funfairs as a form of amusement which continues to grow in popularity.

The use of funfairs as a form of corporate entertainment is not a new phenomenon, but it is one which is gradually starting to increase in appeal, with the plethora of modern rides being trailer mounted, a comprehensive and exciting funfair can be erected, operated and dismantled in under a day, this opens up possibilities from college balls to company fun days.

As is common in other businesses you have a wide choice of operators and equipment to choose from, this ranges from the poorly presented through to the best, with a corresponding variety of prices. Whomever you deal with please ensure they are members of the Showmen's Guild Of Great Britain, this will ensure the rides are tested for safety and are insured in the event of an accident.

Modern high tech rides cost anything up to a million pounds sterling, so this calibre of equipment is never going to be peanuts to hire. We have a policy of only working with Showmen that supply the best in equipment, modern superbly presented rides and stalls operated to the highest standards of safety, we could make small savings by using lower standard equipment, but we simply prefer to walk away from a job if this is what the customer desires.

When comparing our prices with other funfair providers bear a couple of points in mind,

- We operate a complete service from providing the attractions, to cleaning up the litter to providing security staff if they are necessary.
- Close up photographs along with electrical and mechanical safety certificates of all the equipment we proposed to supply you with would be sent for your approval well before the event, you would not have second rate rides turning up on your doorstep the day of the event.

If you have need of our services at any point please feel free to contact us, we are quite happy to send a representative to meet you and discuss methods of meeting your requirements. Additionally viewing the site you have in mind would allow us to offer advice on what would be suitable, and also enable us to produce a site plan and risk assessment of the site, this would be filed in case it was required in the future.

There is no obligation on you part for any help or information we provide, feel free to take advantage of our experience.



F.A.Q.

Operating the Equipment

Whilst you are welcome to provide members of staff to help supervise the public, or to collect money if you are charging on the rides, only experienced operators are allowed to actually operate the rides. For this reason when you hire equipment from us it is provided with experienced members of staff to control the ride and to load and unload the passengers

Power Supply

All of our equipment comes with self contained power generators to provide the motive and electrical power required. Smaller children's rides are capable of being powered from standard household sockets but the larger rides require industrial power supplies.

Insurance

All of our equipment is covered by public liability insurance to the tune of £10,000,000 as required by the Showmen's Guild of Great Britains operating rules.

Health And Safety

All of our equipment has electrical and mechanical safety certificates issued by qualified engineers, additionally we undertake a risk assessment for the event covering things such as ride placement and access, egress points to the fair, copies of this document along with all safety and insurance certificates will be provided to you well before the event itself.

First Aid

All major rides and all catering units carry first aid kits, and we are currently ensuring key personnel all have first aid training with the ultimate aim that any equipment we supply would come with a trained first aider. However this should be viewed as a complement to your own arrangements, larger events should still have St Johns ambulance cover or something equivalent.

Set Up Times

Smaller attractions and modern thrill rides can be set up and the safety checks performed in around 4 hours (less for children's rides, around 1 hour), more traditional rides such as dodgems and waltzers require upto 8 hours. As the attractions are set up simultaneously, an entire funfair can be erected and tested for safety in less than a day.



F.A.Q.

Staff Presentation

All of the staff operating our attraction wear our corporate clothing, this is to prevent a clean smart appearance, but also to comply with health and safety guidelines requiring staff members operating rides to be identifiable to members of the public.

Spill Containment

Although we have never had an instance of oil or fuel leakage on site, we have a spill containment kit and trained personnel on hand to ensure prompt action in the unlikely event of hydrocarbon leakage.

Litter

We supply our own bins to keep the level of discarded litter down. Additionally after the event any litter remaining on the site we occupied is collected and removed by our staff.

Ride Segregation

We carry bunting and rope barriers to enable rides to be segregated from public areas and ensure safe operation.

Fire Fighting Equipment

All rides, inflatables, catering units and power supply vehicles carry fire extinguishers. All such equipment is supplied with test certificates.



Thrill Rides

This is a selection of thrill rides available, we have access to a much greater portfolio, but would need to discuss your requirements to gain a greater understanding of what would be suitable



Rhythm Master

This is one for the speed freaks, a high speed ride with tilting cars

Size Approx. 60 ft diameter

Transport 1 vehicle

Frogs

A high speed ride with a jumping motion, this ride dances with over a dozen programmed ride sequences.

Size Approx. 50 ft diameter

Transport 1 vehicle





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The Miami

A unique side to side motion, this is one of the most popular rides on current fairgrounds

Size Approx. 44 ft x 15 ft

Transport 1 vehicle

Cyclone Twist

Another enduring favourite, the twist spins at high speed, at the same time the cars mounted on the end of each arm also spin.

Size Approx. 52 ft diameter

Transport 1 vehicle





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The Rotor

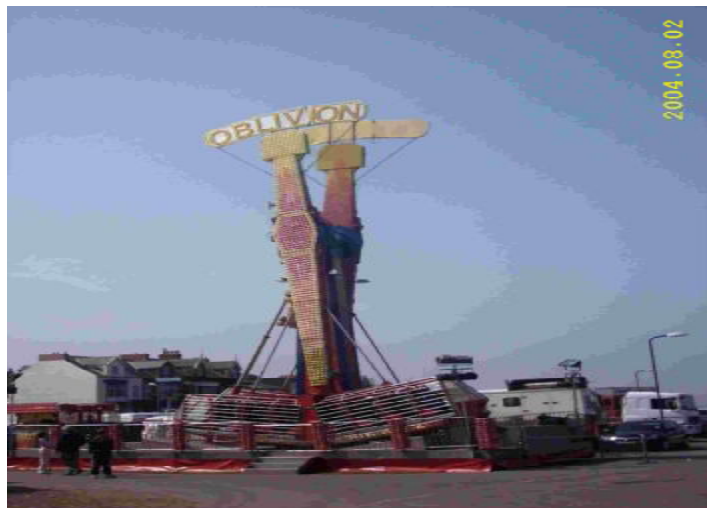
One for the science graduates. You enter the drum, which then revolves at high speed before the floor disappears, centrifugal force keeps you pinned to the wall, like a giant spin dryer.

Size Approx. 44 ft x 15 ft

Oblivion

Loop the loop in style as the oblivions twin arms swing back and forth to gather the speed to go over the top

Size Approx. 52 ft diameter





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The Dodgems

The most popular and enduring ride on the fairground today, available in a variety of sizes and forms from the traditional style through to the modern high tech versions.

Size 80 ft x 30 ft (an example only)

The Meteorite

A similar concept to the rotor, centrifugal force pin the riders to the sides, but this one then lifts high into the air.

Size 50 ft x 50 ft



The Chaos

Riders dangle from the seats which revolve at high speed as the whole assembly rocks high into the sky.

Size 60 ft x 60 ft



Thrill Rides

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The Equinox

This is one of only 2 examples of this type of ride travelling in Europe. Lifting high into the sky the ride proceeds to twist and spin on three different axis giving a ride not unlike a fighter pilot would experience during combat

Size 60 ft x 50 ft



Helter Skelter

Another traditional ride that should need no introduction, ride the slide from the top to the bottom

Size 25 ft x 25 ft





Fairground Stalls

This is a tiny fraction of the stalls which are available for your event. We can supply virtually any combination of games you may need.



Shooting Gallery

A hugely popular shooting gallery providing up to three different games, with a mixture of luck and skill and a selection of top quality prizes.

Size 44 ft x 13 ft

Transport 1 vehicle

Basketball

A large basketball games, again with a selection of superior quality prizes.

Size 32 ft x 12 ft or 16 ft x 12 ft

Transport 1 small trailer



The Kentucky Derby

The sport of kings, a competitive games for up to 12 players, roll the balls into the numbered holes to move your horse towards the winning post, first past the post wins.

Size 40 ft x 20 ft

Transport 1 vehicle





This is a tiny fraction of the children's rides that we are able to supply.



Toyset

One of the most popular types of children's ride, the toyset seats 35 children on a variety of different toys

Size 17 ft diameter

Train Ride

Another highly popular children's ride, the train can seat 33 children.

Size 16 ft diameter



Flying Chairs

Ideally suited to slightly older children, the flying chairs seats 20.

Size 24 ft diameter





Catering Units

This is a tiny sample of the various forms of catering unit that we have available for hire.



Caffe Bellissimo

A catering unit specialising in continental coffee. From an espresso to an americano with everything in between, also serves cookies and panini rolls.

Size 18 ft x aft

Transport 1 vehicle

Destination Doughnuts

As the name suggests, a doughnut specialist, all types and varieties to suit the sweet toothed.

Size 16 ft x aft

Transport 1 small trailer



Confection Perfection

Remember a favourite sweet from your childhood, chances are this stall will stock it, from candy floss to cinder toffee.

Size 14 ft x aft

Transport 1 vehicle





Sequence Of Events

If you find that you are interested in utilising our services, we would normally arrange a meeting with you to discuss your requirements and view the site.

After agreeing on the type and quantity of equipment you would require, we would then contact the operators we use and confirm the dates and venue was compatible with their existing arrangements. Once we had finalised the line up we would be supplying along with the final price, we would then prepare a document for you to view containing photographs and details of the equipment we proposed to supply, if this was acceptable to you then we would produce a risk assessment of the venue, and forward a copy to you along with any other safety certificates and documentation required.

Arrangements would be made to occupy the site and erect the rides ready for the event to take place. For an evening event it would probably be possible to pull on site on the morning and be ready for the evening, however some rides may need to be on site the day before.

During the event itself our representative would be present to iron out any last minute problems that may crop up.

Finally at the end of the event, the funfair would be dismantled, and the following morning a team would be present to clear up any litter left on the site, leaving your site in the same condition as when we started.



The Showmen's Guild Of Great Britain

The principal object of the Showmen's Guild is to protect the interests of its members - travelling showmen who gain their livelihoods by attending funfairs. It does this in two ways: by its code of rules for members and through the legal and constitutional processes of the land. The Guild's rule book ensures that all members have equal status within the Guild, regardless of the scope of their operations as individual businessmen. The rules, which are enforced by the Guild's own disciplinary tribunals, cover such matters as the orderly running of fairs and the conduct of members both on and off the fairgrounds.

The administration and operation of the Guild is democratically determined by its 4,700 members. (the actual total of persons involved in the business is considerably higher as the membership lists only heads of families.) Forming the base of the Guild's structure is a system of ten regional Sections covering the whole of Great Britain.

Each Section is run by a committee of members, elected annually by secret ballot. The ten Sections have their own offices, each managed by a paid staff of officials. Four members from each Section committee are appointed to serve on the Central Council, the national governing body of the Guild. In addition to the Section delegates, the Central Council includes the six Officials of the Guild and all Past Presidents.

The Guild requires all members owning rides to submit their equipment each year for thorough examination. This annual inspection scheme is carried out by engineering inspection bodies who are accredited and registered. The scope of the inspection is comprehensive and can involve, in the case of certain components, non-destructive testing. If the examination proves satisfactory, the inspecting engineer issues a pass certificate of inspection and a small circular sticker confirming the ride is safe to operate. Should a ride fail the test, the engineer issues a stop order with immediate effect. This bans the operation of the ride until it can pass a further inspection.

The provision of winter quarters and the loss of fairgrounds are of constant concern to the Guild. When the travelling season is over, the showman needs a permanent base where he and his family can spend the winter months. Ideally it should be within the reach of schools and shops, and be large enough to enable him to carry out the vital maintenance work on his equipment.

Equally important is the safeguarding of fairgrounds. Redevelopment schemes have taken their toll of sites, particularly in town centres where fairs have been held for centuries. Their loss, especially where no alternative is offered, is unfortunate in several respects: the town loses part of its heritage, local people are denied the continuing opportunity of an essentially popular form of entertainment and the showman loses part of his livelihood.

In environmental terms, fairgrounds merit the same attention as conservation areas or public amenities such as open spaces. They represent an important element in the history of towns throughout the land as well as providing a unique and valuable form of recreation.