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Unruly acts unwelcome at stately home ball

A ROW broke out yesterday over the intended appearance of the Archaos Circus at a charity ball to be held in the Hopetoun House stately home at South Queensferry tomorrow.

The circus was due to entertain the 200 ball guests, but an agreement on the routines to be performed could not be reached.

The ball, which is being held in aid of the Thistle Foundation and the Mental Health Foundation, will be attended by the Marquess and Marchioness of Linlithgow, who still live in the mansion.

The Hopetoun House Preservation Trust, which owns the building, will consent to the circus troupe's appearance only if members meet the trust to agree limits to their performance.

The Forth Bridge Centennial Trust, which is assisting with organisation for the ball, said that Archaos had been invited because it was a modern circus.

"But we received a phone call yesterday from the circus, saying that if they were going to be restricted, and we only wanted a team of jugglers to perform, then we should hire a team of jugglers," said a spokesman.

The circus told the centennial trust it was unable to offer any guarantees about its performance. By the nature of the act, it said, troupe members might get a bit excited and take their clothes off.