



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
EDITION 3 - SPRING 2022



SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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DID YOU KNOW?

That SCOTS will rally in Edinburgh
Fri 24 – Sun 26 Mar 23

The inaugural SCOTS Rally will take place in Edinburgh over the weekend of Fri 24 – Sun 26 Mar 23. It is hoped that many SCOTS, both serving and veterans, will be able to rally over this weekend.

Fri 24 Mar 23 Dinner Night	Sat 25 Mar 23 Regimental History Day and Regimental Function	Sun 26 Mar 23 Muster, March and Remember
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Hackle Officer's Dinner Night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regtl History Day at Edinburgh Castle • Regtl All Ranks evening function (partners / guests invited) • Music from the Pipes and Drums and the Regimental Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muster at Edinburgh Castle Esplanade • Serving and veterans march down the Royal Mile to the Canongate Kirk • Regimental Church Service

- **Why the last weekend in March?** It is the weekend closest to our Formation Day and it is a date common to all, our serving soldiers, our veterans, our families and our future soldiers. It marks the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring and gives us all something to look forward to post Christmas and New Year celebrations.
- **Why Edinburgh?** It is the home of the Regiment and where we were formed. It has good communication links from the North and South and there are a wide range of accommodation options.
- **Why have the events been programmed as shown?** The Officer's Dinner Night has always taken place in March but moves to a Friday to enable more officers the opportunity to attend. Having the Regimental function on the Saturday evening will allow serving and veterans, with partners to travel to Edinburgh in the morning reducing the requirement to stay for two nights. It will also allow time for those attending to meet up with their colleagues and friends earlier in the day, should they wish to, prior to the function. A muster and a march (civilian attire), by serving and veterans, to the Regimental Kirk behind our Pipes and Drums for a short service to remember our former colleagues seems a very appropriate way to end the SCOTS Rally.

Additional information about the SCOTS Rally will be posted on our website and promulgated widely through our Battalions and our Association branches as soon as the detail is confirmed. If you have any questions in the interim, please contact SO2 Veterans at RHQ SCOTS, Lt Col (Retd) Kev Wood 0300 169 7153.

Remember, you become a lifelong member of the SCOTS Association on the first day of your service in the Regiment.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE SCOTS ASSOCIATION – MAJ GEN (RETD) R B BRUCE CBE DSO



Maj Gen Bob Bruce

The Chairman of the SCOTS Association is delighted to announce that Maj Gen (Retd) Bob Bruce CBE DSO has kindly accepted the invitation by the Colonel of the Regiment to be the first President of the SCOTS Association. He assumed the appointment in May 22.

Maj Gen Bob Bruce was commissioned into The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in August 1987. His early service was spent in Germany and Scotland and on operations in Northern Ireland and the Gulf. He assumed command of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots in Iraq in February 2006; subsequently leading the merger of The Royal Scots and King's Own Scottish Borderers to form The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, on 1st August 2006. He returned to Iraq with that new battalion in 2007.

He commanded 4th Mechanized Brigade from November 2011 to June 2013, including a tour in Afghanistan in command of Task Force Helmand. He was the Deputy Commander of the American-led multinational task force in the Gulf and Middle East, from November 2014 to September 2015. For his leadership on operations, he was awarded the DSO in 2013 and CBE in 2016.

He has completed tours in the MOD and Army Headquarters in the UK, and in the Pentagon in the USA. Towards the end of his career in the Army, he sat on the Executive Committee of the Army Board as Director Capability and for his final job in uniform he was double hatted as Military Secretary and General Officer Scotland.

Maj Gen Bruce was Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scotland from 2016 until his retirement from the Army in 2020.



DEPUTY COLONEL OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

Her Majesty The Queen has approved the appointment of Brigadier A P Reilly OBE as Deputy Colonel The Royal Regiment of Scotland in succession to Brigadier A W A Griffiths OBE. This appointment will take effect on 1 September 2022.



Brigadier A P Reilly OBE

CHANGE OF COMMAND

- 2 SCOTS – Lt Col John Dunn vice Lt Col Oli Dobson MBE
- 5 SCOTS BKA Coy – Maj Rob Weir vice Maj Cameron Law
- 7 SCOTS – Lt Col Doug Watson vice Lt Col Duncan Mackinnon



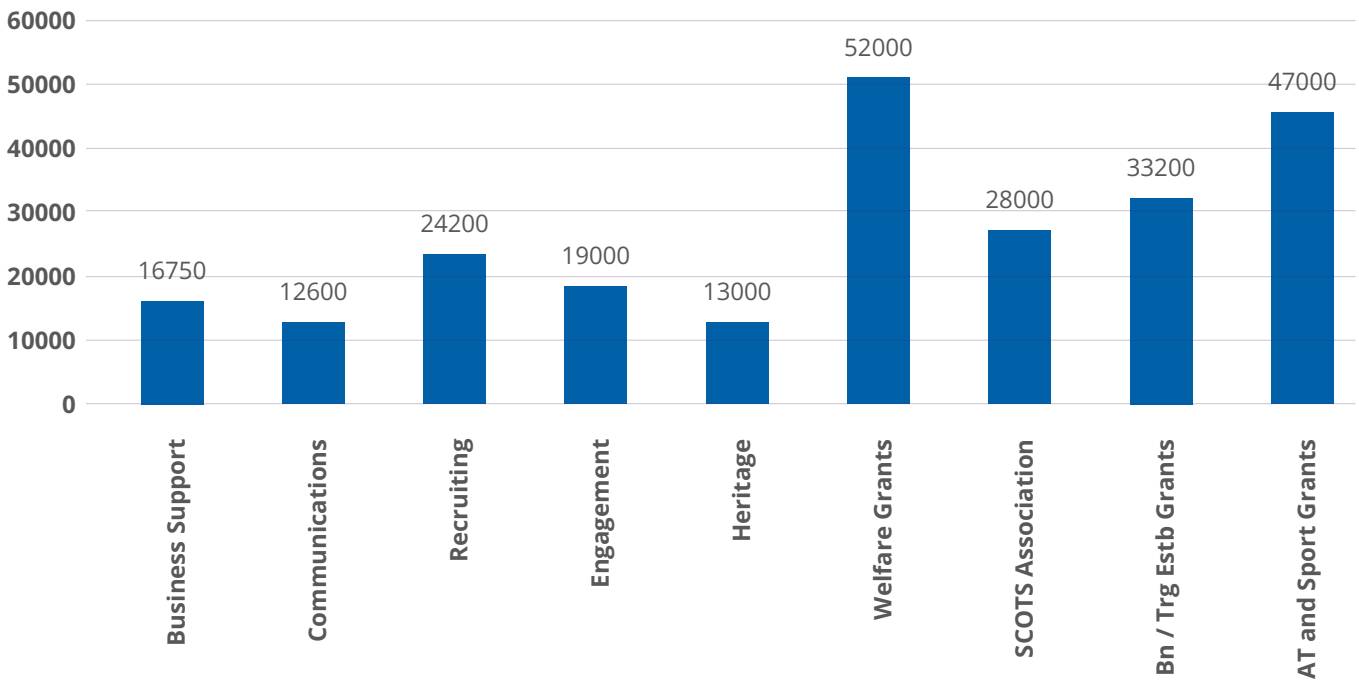
SERVICE DAY'S PAY GIVING SCHEME

The Regiment asks every serving Regular SCOTS soldier and officer, regardless of rank, to donate a single day's pay each year to the Regimental Trust through the Army wide Service Day's Pay Giving (SDPG) scheme. Serving Reserve SCOTS soldiers and officers are asked to donate 20% of a Day's Pay to the Trust. The Day's Pay donation is collected at source from soldiers pay over twelve equal monthly instalments.

The SDPG scheme is the main source of income for the Regtl Trust and with 72% of SCOTS donating it generates £170K per year. The annual budget to meet the demands of the Regiment and from its Battalions is £240K per year. If the remaining 26% signed up to donate a day's pay that would generate an additional £58K per year. If you do not currently donate but wish to, please contact your Unit Admin Office or RHQ.

How the SDPG scheme funds are spent is shown below. The key point is that 100% of the money donated by SCOTS soldiers and officers each year through the SDPG scheme is spent in that year on supporting the Regiment, its Battalions, its serving soldiers, its veterans and their dependents.

Regimental Trust Budget FY22/23 (£)





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SCOTS ASSOCIATION

The numbers of veterans registering with the Association continues to grow at a steady rate. If you were SCOTS but never served in a SCOTS Bn before retirement, please select SCOTS@ERE on our registration page. Since our past newsletter was published a number of SCOTS Association events have been arranged, these can be found on the SCOTS website. They are open to all SCOTS Association members and we hope antecedent association members and guests will join us.



ABERDEEN VETERANS BREAKFAST

Andy Christie, a former HLDR and SCOTS arranged a 'catch-up' breakfast for veterans. Veterans attending were a combination of SCOTS, HLDRS, GORDONS, and other local veterans.

Some familiar faces amongst those who attended



The breakfast after party in Aberdeen



The Cenotaph

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CENOTAPH PARADE – SUN 13 NOV 22

This year the SCOTS Association attendance has been expanded to a weekend in London between Fri 11 and Mon 14 Nov 22. Several social gatherings have been arranged to enable those serving and/or living South of the border to meet and for veterans to take part in the parade. A hotel on a favourable veteran's rate has been arranged and we have applied for 40 tickets for veterans to march. The opportunity to take part in this event is open to all SCOTS and HLDRS veterans. All details are on the Future Events tab on our website. If you would like any further information or to chat through the plan, please email SO2 Veterans Lt Col (Retd) Kev Wood kevin.wood398@mod.gov.uk. This is a great opportunity for serving and veterans to meet in London and for veterans to take part in the parade in the Platinum Jubilee year of our Colonel in Chief, HM The Queen.

"NO NAMES NO PACK DRILLS"

These are three recent examples in 2022 of SCOTS veterans benefiting from having access to the wider Regimental Family and support organisations through the Association.

SCOTS Veteran One, Employment Training

"I have now completed the interview for the training to commence. I am massively grateful for the help I have received. It's brilliant to see that once you leave there is continuous support available if required. I would love to be able to return the favour and help others into a career that they would like to do".

SCOTS Veteran Two, Housing and Employment

From an Assoc Branch Chairman – "A veteran asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to you all for your support. He has been blown away by the support which has been made available and he was unaware of the just how

much support is available. He did say he wished he had known about you all when he first became unemployed and was made homeless".

Antecedent Veteran, Housing Assistance

Through one of our branches, we were informed that a veteran was about to become homeless and within days he may have to sleep in his car. Several groupings of the wider Regimental family swiftly shared information between them and quickly managed a short-term fix. Immediately afterwards the Homeless Veterans Charity were contacted and several days later a permanent accommodation was obtained through their local council. Everyone involved agreed that the strength of being connected to the Association and a Regimental network significantly contributed to this positive outcome.



ASSOCIATION BRANCH STANDARDS

The Regimental Secretary and Bill Greathead of Ammo and Co discuss the design and materials at the head office of Ammo and Co for the branch standards and accoutrements.

The design and manufacturing of SCOTS Association branch standards, pin badges and membership cards are nearing completion. Each SCOTS Battalion is a branch of the association and along with the Regional Branches they will all receive a standard. Every SCOTS veteran who has registered as a veteran through the SCOTS website will be sent a SCOTS veterans pin badge and membership card.



Regtl Sec and Bill Greathead



Example of a Branch Standard



REGIMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

The Regimental Secretary receives a cheque for £9,500 to the SCOTS Regimental Trust from James Caddick, Director, Regiment Support Service. The company raises money for the Regiment by approaching small businesses in Scotland asking for a modest donation to support the welfare of our serving soldiers, our veterans and their dependents.



Donation to the Regimental Trust



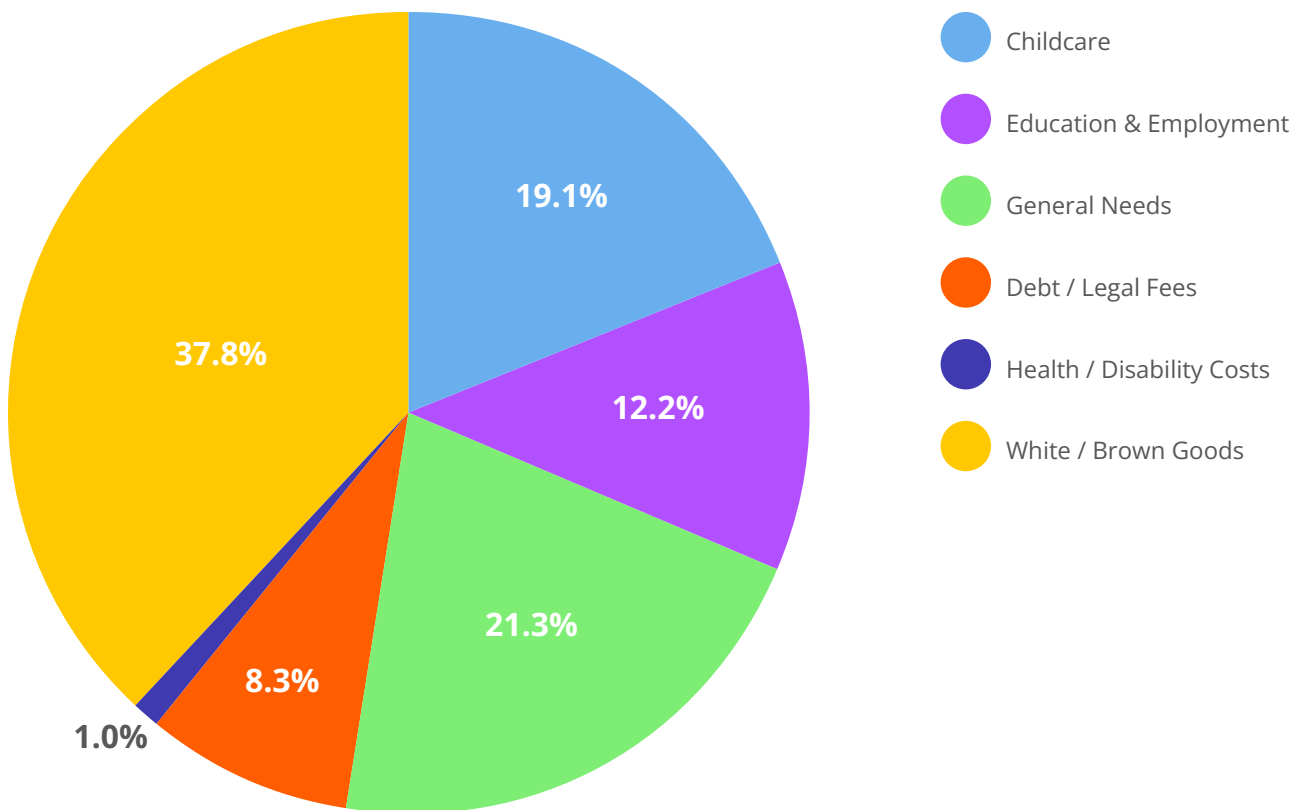
REGIMENTAL WELFARE AND BENEVOLENCE GRANTS – FY 21/22

Each year funds from the Regimental Trust are allocated to support the needs of serving, veterans and qualifying dependents. For FY 21/22 this was set at £52K.

The mechanism to request these funds is straightforward, for those serving it is through their Chain of Command or UWO. For the veteran community it is done by approaching either SSAFA, The Royal British Legion or PoppyScotland. A report is produced and sent to RHQ for consideration.

In order to meet all approved requests received by RHQ in the financial year, the Regimental Welfare Officer has the ability to tap into larger service charities to meet either part or in full the financial requirements. The pie chart below breaks down how the £52K was spent in FY 21/22 shown by specific areas that are commonly requested each year.

Benevolence Awards 2021-22





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Pte Gordon, 7 SCOTS

7 SCOTS WORKING WITH THE SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE

Over the last few months soldiers from 7 SCOTS deployed in support of the UK's response to COVID-19 and to assist the Scottish Ambulance Service. Pte Paul Gordon, from A Company in Aberdeen initially deployed as an operative in a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) in Motherwell. This saw him actively engage with members of the public, responsible for PCR testing and assisting with the day-to-day function of a MTU site.

Pte Gordon displayed high levels of competence in this role and was subsequently selected as an ambulance driver supporting the North of Scotland. In this role he worked 12 hour shifts 5 days a week where he was paired with paramedics, technicians and medical students delivering first aid and operating lifesaving emergency technical equipment. This support increased the regional operational effectiveness of the service allowing them to meet the increased demands caused by the pandemic.

Pte Gordon was mobilised for four months and upon his return to 7 SCOTS, due to his own diligence and the positive impression he made on his partnered colleagues, successfully secured a position with the Scottish Ambulance Service. Pte Gordon continues to remain an active member of the reserves and recently received a Brigade Commanders Commendation for his role on OP RESCRIPT.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2022

The Regiment congratulates the following officers who have been recognised for their outstanding service in The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2022.

Major Thomas Henry BLAIR MBE (formerly SCOTS now RANGER)

Major Gordon Macdonald ROWAN MBE



SCOTS OFFICERS' REGIMENTAL BLACK HACKLE DINNER NIGHT

The Regiment's officers gathered in Edinburgh on Thu 17 Mar 22 at the Royal Scots Club to attend the annual officers, 'Black Hackle' dinner. Although it was only four months since the last gathering, some 75 officers attended, and it was also great to see a smattering of retired officers at the dinner.

There was a genuine positive vibe with friendships rekindled and the opportunity to relax in a convivial atmosphere with brethren officers. The Colonel of the Regiment's address was particularly well received; in particular the thoughts to the people of the Ukraine and that the Regiment's officers and soldiers continue to take centre stage with their achievements and they very much are 'the standard for others to follow'.

The food, wine and service from the club was first class with the entertainment provided by the Regimental band and pipers from 3 SCOTS. Of note was the quite excellent Piobaireachd played by LCpl McCaskill.



As the night came to a fitting conclusion many went on to sample the delights of Edinburgh. The next dinner is planned for Friday 24 March 2023 and the details will be advertised on the Regimental website.





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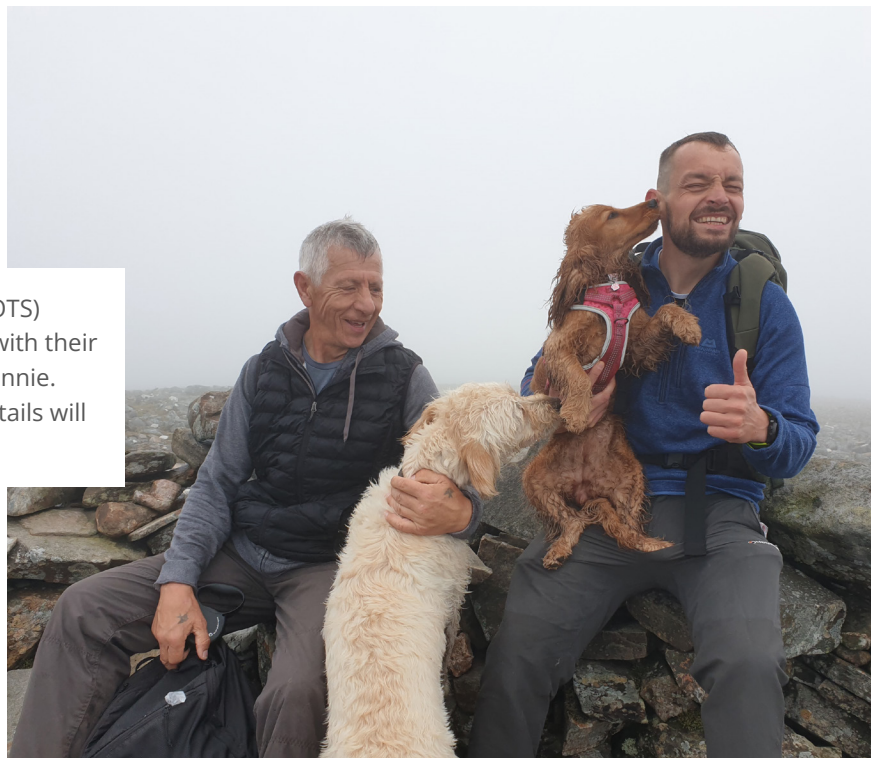
ARMY INFANTRY APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Fusiliers Cameron and Chadfield, both from 2 SCOTS but now working with the Infantry Engagement Team, used the Army's Infantry Apprenticeship Scheme to develop their literacy, numeracy and specialist trade skills. This resulted in them both gaining a Level 2 in Public Services certificate (equal to 5 GCSE passes), which is an outstanding achievement.

Army Infantry Apprenticeship Scheme

MUNRO BAGGING

Tam Wilkie (ex RHF) and Gavin Taylor (ex HLDERS / SCOTS) enjoy a SCOTS Association organised hillwalking day with their best friends bagging two munros just south of Dalwhinnie. The next hillwalking day will be in the Autumn, the details will be published on the website.



Munro Bagging



A STEP BACK IN TIME AT CULLODEN FOR MEMBERS OF 4 SCOTS

In March members of 4 SCOTS participated in a Battlefield Tour of Culloden. The group were fortunate to have Ian Deveney (an expert Battlefield tour guide) with them who took them through history, exploring and explaining aspects of Culloden, such as the Memorial Cairn, the use of a claymore and muskets – in particular the Jacobite tactic of swinging the Claymore in a figure of eight to maximise injury upon the enemy!

The group were guided through the route Bonnie Prince Charlie retreated over The Highlands and paid their respects at the Culloden Memorial cairn, toured the Glen Moray and Dalwhinnie Whisky distilleries in Elgin and Loch Ericht and experienced a memorable dining experience in the Hamilton room at the Gordon Highlanders Museum; dining using The Gordon Highlanders regimental silver under the Regimental Colours.



To complete the day, they visited Craigallachie Bridge. This location was where The Gordon Highlanders and The Queens Own Highlanders marched from their respective regimental areas either side of the river Spey in 1994; where both Commanding Officers met and toasted to their new Regiment by sharing a 'dram' of whisky.



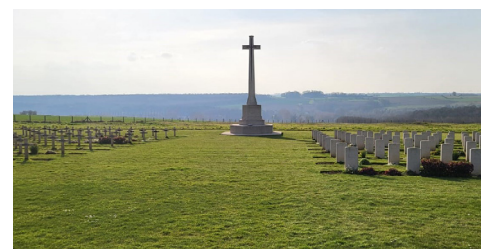
Battlefield Tour



REDEDICATION SERVICES - FRANCE

In late March a team from 4 SCOTS lead by 2Lt Josh Calder and Padre Andrew Grant provided the Regimental representation at a number of rededication services at Military cemeteries in France. Previously unknown WW1 victims buried in the cemeteries had their graves rededicated to now list their names as a result extensive investigation conducted through the Joint Compassionate and Casualty Cell (JCCC) which included family DNA analysis. From a SCOTS perspective the focus was to rededicate the grave of the previously unknown 2Lt David Bell who was killed whilst serving with the 13th (Scottish Horse) Battalion of the Black Watch; originally a Territorial Cavalry unit who were converted to infantry in 1916 and CQMS Charles John Niven who was killed in 1915 while serving with the Gordon Highlanders.

The rededication service for 2Lt Bell took place in Prospect Hill Military Cemetery Gouyand and for CQMS Niven, Pont du Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue. The Bugler, Cpl Minto and the Piper, Hldr Simmon, each played during the services and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Regiment and our antecedents. The 4 SCOTS team went on to support several other rededication services over the two days. Honouring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in conflict remains an important part of the Regiments commitment to remembering our heritage and the men who served in our antecedent Regiments.



Rededication Service



ASSAYE PIPE BANNER

2 SCOTS and The Royal Highland Fusiliers Association have been raising funds to replace the Assaye Colour; which 2 SCOTS has the honour of carrying, a tradition handed over from The Royal Highland Fusiliers. In 2020 Sgt Davies and Cpl Crawford, both instructors at The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, also raised money for a new Assaye Pipe Banner, to compliment the Colour. Sgt Davies and Cpl Crawford climbed to the peak Ben Nevis carrying 25kg including their respective instruments, Bagpipes and Bugle. When at the Peak, Cpl Crawford sounded Last Post and Sgt Davies played the "Slow March of the 74th" to honour the Officers and soldiers of the 74th Highlanders who fought at the Battle of Assaye on the 23rd September 1803. Due to many kind donations, the target of £700 was reached and the Assaye Pipe Banner went into production with Ammo and Company in Birmingham. The Banner was formally presented to Regimental Headquarters by Sgt Davies last month and it will be proudly carried for the first time on the 18th June when 2 SCOTS are presented with the new Assaye Colour.



Assaye Pipe Banner



YOUNG OFFICERS VISIT TO RHQ AND EDINBURGH CASTLE

A huge welcome to Young Officers 2Lts Clayden-Spence, Hamilton-Cox, Eaton, Lindsay and Bird who this month had a series of induction presentations at Regimental Headquarters. A special congratulations goes to 2Lt Hamilton-Cox who was awarded the Best Student on the Platoon Commanders Course – thus being the standard for others to follow!



The SCOTS St Andrew's Ball

THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND ST ANDREW'S BALL 2022

The inaugural Royal Regiment of Scotland St Andrew's Ball will be held on Sat 26 Nov 22 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh.

- **Attendance.** The ball will initially be open to all serving regular and reserve officers from 30 June 22 with remaining tickets available to retired officers from 31 Jul 22.
- **Format.** It will take the form of a traditional highland ball, the programme / dance card will be delivered with your booking confirmation and tickets.
- **Music.** Provided by the bands of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and featuring a Pipes and Drums display.
- **Dinner and Drinks.** A three course dinner and wine will be included with your ticket along with reception drinks.
- **Dress.** Mess Kit for serving officers and black tie / full length dresses (sashes encouraged) for guests.
- **Cost.** £90 per ticket. Serving officers who contribute to The Royal Regiment of Scotland Officers Fund will pay £70 per ticket.
- **Tickets.** Bookings will be made by an application form which will be found on The Royal Regiment of Scotland website from 30 June 22.



HIGHLAND AND LOWLAND BRIGADE CRICKET CLUB – 2022 SEASON



HLBCC

Major Nick Coles, currently at Defence Academy attending ICSC (L), has always been a cricketer and for the last couple of years has been running the HLBCC; organising fixtures, looking after finances and recruiting SCOTS officers to play. The HLBCC are always looking for new players and since the SCOTS do not have a formal cricket club yet (something Maj Coles hopes to fix) would welcome new players.

Below are three important dates for cricket diaries. The games are a wonderful opportunity for serving and retired officers to gather with everyone welcome, including families so please bring them along too. The HLBCC are making a real effort to increase the size of the club this year and encourage players from the serving battalions to take part so please help to spread the word.

Confirmed fixtures

The club has three confirmed fixtures for the summer of 2022.

- Monday 6th June: HLBCC vs The Honourable Artillery Company (HAC), 1800hrs start (Armoury House, City Rd , EC1Y 2BQ)
- Friday 5th August: HLBCC vs The Guards, 1200hrs start (Burton Court, Chelsea, SW3 4SR)
- Friday 12th August: HLBCC vs Army Staff London, 1500hrs start (Burton Court, Chelsea, SW3 4SR)

Unconfirmed fixtures

The following fixtures have been provisionally arranged, but no date has been confirmed yet.

- HLBCC vs The Defence Academy Cricket Club (Shrivenham, Swindon, SN6 8TX)
- HLBCC vs The Rifles Cricket Club (St Cross, Winchester, SO23 9RX)

If people are interested in playing for the side please contact Nick Coles.

Work Email: Nicholas.Coles626@mod.gov.uk
Civilian Email: nickcoles@hotmail.com



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SAVE THE DATES

- Thu 23 Jun 22 - SCOTS Association Annual Golf Day, Alyth, Perthshire
- Sun 13 Nov 22 - Remembrance Sunday, London and Edinburgh
- Sat 26 Nov 22 - The Royal Regiment of Scotland St Andrew's Ball, Edinburgh

THE SCOTS RALLY

- Fri 24 Mar 23 - Black Hackle Officer's Dinner Night, Edinburgh
- Sat 25 Mar 23 - Regimental History Day, Edinburgh Castle
- Sat 25 Mar 23 - Regimental All Ranks Evening Function, Edinburgh
- Sun 26 Mar 23 - Regimental Muster, March and Church Service, Edinburgh