

Edition 1 – 2019

# SCAA NEWS



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ISSUE

2ND HELICOPTER NEWS

CHARITY BALL

FUNDRAISING

2019 EVENTS

# WELCOME

It's been a very busy few months for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance – which have seen our charity team grow, one of our pilots recognised with a National Award and an exciting announcement made about our plans for a second helicopter air ambulance. We hope you enjoy reading more.

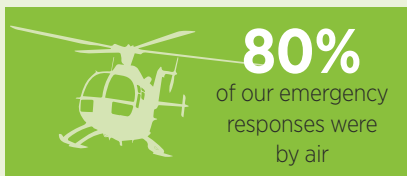
## Congratulations Darren

SCAA paramedic, Darren O'Brien, recently passed the 100 flying hours milestone. He entered triple figures on his flying card on route to an emergency in a remote location. Darren, who has over 16 years' experience, explained that he is "immensely proud to be part of a team that can deliver a vital lifeline – helping to make a real difference for patients".

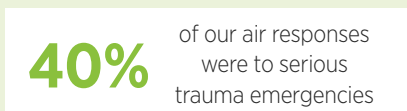


## 2018 IN NUMBERS

We responded to **325** emergency call outs



We flew patients to **17** hospitals across Scotland



We attended **68** road traffic collisions

We were in the air for **365** hours – flying help and hope to communities



## Thank You For Supporting Our Inaugural Charity Ball

SCAA held its inaugural Charity Ball at The Hub, Edinburgh, on 16th November, when around 250 guests enjoyed an evening of dining, dancing and fundraising.

Hosted by radio personality Ally Bally, the evening also showed the work the life-saving charity does with patients sharing their often-harrowing stories of the part the country's only charity funded air ambulance played in saving their lives when faced with critical injury or illness.

The event was supported by key sponsors Edinburgh Airport, Watermans Solicitors, Motorcycle Law Scotland, Clydesdale Bank, Heli Air Scotland, the Northwood Charitable Trust, Moor of Rannoch Hotel and many businesses and individuals who donated auction and raffle items.

We are delighted to let you know that the total income from the Ball was in excess of £51,000 – a fantastic amount and a testament to the generosity of supporters on the evening. Thank you.



# PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Since the last newsletter, we are thrilled to have been working with a broad range of new and existing partners – all helping to raise funds and awareness for SCAA.

## Home Bargains

We were delighted to learn that we'd been selected as Home Bargains Scottish Charity of the Year, following a staff vote.

So far 350 collecting cans have been placed across their 58 Scottish stores – from Dumfries to Tain – providing fantastic exposure for SCAA.



## Hutchesons' Grammar School

Another new partnership was announced after Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow named SCAA as their 2018/19 Charity of the Year.

Pupils are aiming to fund as many life-saving missions as possible during the partnership and started their fundraising drive with a sponsored run. Other fundraising initiatives planned by the Hutchesons' community include a lip sync competition.



## Standard Life Assurance: part of Phoenix Group

Earlier this year, Phoenix Group acquired Edinburgh based Standard Life Assurance. To mark the occasion and welcome the new employees on board, Phoenix pledged to make several charitable donations to support the communities where it is now operating, in Scotland. This was based on the outcome of an employee vote and SCAA was delighted to be presented with a cheque for £6,000 from Phoenix as a result.



If you are interested in becoming a partner of SCAA – please contact us on **0300 123 1111** or visit **[www.scaa.org.uk](http://www.scaa.org.uk)**

## Teeing off around the country for SCAA



The golfing community has come out in force this season with hugely successful Golf Days organised by our partners – Hadden Construction, ASCO and Bidwells – all in support of SCAA.

We were also delighted to receive donations from the culmination of two wonderful Charity of the Year partnerships – one with Royal Dornoch Golf Club raising £20,000 and a second with Royal Dornoch's Ladies who raised £2,700. Once again, the Dunhill Links Championships invited SCAA to host their putting activities. Many thanks for your sporting support.

## Rotary

Scotland's Rotary Clubs continue to go above and beyond with four big events organised in recent months all raising significant income for SCAA. Special thanks to Forfar Rotary, Blairgowrie Rotary, Perth Rotary and Aberfeldy and District Rotary for their hard work and commitment.



## Rob Roy Challenge



The Rob Roy Challenge 2018 saw over 400 participants take part in the annual event in scenic Kenmore – with SCAA being one of six benefitting charities. The Martin Currie Charitable Foundation, which organises the event, presented SCAA with a cheque for a fantastic £15,000 – thank you to our participants and volunteers who helped make the event a huge success.

## Friends of Pitlochry and SCAA

The Friends of Pitlochry Community Hospital presented SCAA with a cheque for £10,000 – marking a fundraising milestone which saw the group reach a fantastic running donation total of £60,000.

SCAA has received donations from the organisation every year since 2013, as they were one of the first groups to support us when we launched. SCAA Chairman, John Bullough, who was at the base when they visited, personally thanked them for all they had done for SCAA in the last five years.



# ABERDEEN EARMARKED FOR SCAA'S SECOND LIFE-SAVING HELICOPTER



SCAA founding Chairman John Bullough (right) and, Scottish Ambulance Service Chairman Tom Steele.

Aberdeen has been unveiled as the location for SCAA's promised second charity-funded helicopter air ambulance, with hopes of launching the service by late 2019.

The proposed Aberdeen-based aircraft – callsign Helimed 79 – will join its stablemate Helimed 76 already operating out of Perth Airport.

The strengthened SCAA fleet will effectively double the number of helicopter air ambulances operating in Scotland, working alongside the two Government funded helicopters based at Glasgow and Inverness.

This expansion of the airborne emergency pre-hospital care fleet will increase the response capability to time-critical medical and trauma emergencies, retrievals and urgent transfers across the whole of Scotland – also supported

by two Government-funded fixed-wing patient transfer aircraft.

The decision to locate its second helicopter at Aberdeen comes after lengthy talks between SCAA and the Scottish Ambulance Service, in consultation with other key stakeholders.

SCAA founding Chairman John Bullough explained that the board unanimously approved Aberdeen as the base for the new aircraft following a recommendation from the Scottish Ambulance Service.

"Aberdeen houses one of Scotland's four Major Trauma Centres in the Scottish Trauma Network and it makes sense for Helimed 79 to add its considerable capability to that growing hub of emergency medical resources," said Mr Bullough.

"SCAA is frequently tasked to emergencies in the north east and having an air ambulance based there will optimise the coverage and resilience of the country's entire emergency air response – helping to fulfil one of the Scottish Trauma Network's key objectives of transporting patients to a key trauma centre such as Aberdeen within 45 minutes of serious illness or injury.

"With a second helicopter air ambulance service, SCAA will further positively impact on the outcome for patients – ultimately saving and improving hundreds more lives every year.

"The fact that SCAA is looking to launch a second aircraft after only five years is a testament to the level of support and public engagement that we have received nationally," added Mr Bullough. "SCAA is entirely funded by charitable donations and the people of Scotland have funded each and every one of our nearly 2,000 emergency responses to every corner of the country."

Plans to expand to Aberdeen have also received Government backing with Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman saying a second SCAA helicopter will "make a huge difference".

"It is crucial that we ensure the most severely injured patients have the best chance of a speedy recovery from their injuries.

"Recently, I had the honour of opening Scotland's first Major Trauma Centre in Aberdeen which will treat the most seriously injured patients in the North of Scotland. This second air ambulance will build capacity

to support this, significantly contributing to our growing hub of resources in that area."

The Scottish Ambulance Service has also praised the proposal with Chairman Tom Steele describing it as wonderful news, not only for Grampian and the North-east, but for the whole of Scotland.

"SCAA has been a very important partner since 2013 when they provided their first helicopter air ambulance, based in Perth," he said.

"Since then it has flown almost 2000 emergency missions and undoubtedly has saved many lives across Scotland's rural and remote areas.

"The second SCAA helicopter will be based in Aberdeen and like the Perth helicopter, its deployment will be integrated with our own emergency response air ambulance fleet. This will add very significant capability bringing fast medical care to very unwell patients as well as quick life-saving transport to hospital if required.

"We are very grateful to SCAA for their massive fund-raising effort and to the Scottish public for their generous support."

SCAA Chief Executive David Craig explained that having unveiled where its second aircraft will be best located to complement the existing helicopter air ambulances, the charity will now focus attention on the infrastructure required to set up a new base.

"SCAA will work with its service partners to determine where exactly that operational airbase should be located in the city area, along with the process of recruiting crew, and begin to establish the station," he said.

"The charity is currently in talks with existing and potential major donors to help us secure the £6 million required to launch and sustain a second helicopter for its first three years," he said, "with a view to going operational as soon as financially viable – hopefully by late 2019."



# ADRIENNE'S STORY



**A walk in the hills took a dramatic turn for Adrienne when a simple slide rendered her completely immobile – and miles from anywhere.**

My foot slipped on the wet grass and I heard this horrendous crack," she recalled. "I crumpled to the ground in agony, knowing I had broken something."

What Adrienne didn't know was that her ankle had snapped and had turned through 180 degrees, leaving her lying helpless with a limb-threatening injury more than 1,500ft up the West Lomond Hills.

Luckily, hair stylist Adrienne from Larbert was walking with her partner Davie and two friends at the time and they immediately called 999.

The emergency services then activated a tracker on Davie's phone to locate the accident scene.

As they comforted Adrienne and tried to keep her warm, the group was relieved to learn a Mountain Rescue Team had been called in but knew they faced a hazardous stretcher carry down the rugged hillside.

"Then we heard an air ambulance had been called," said Adrienne. "By this stage I was cold and a little in shock but still calm and comforted by the fact that help was on its way.

"It didn't seem long before I heard the helicopter approach and I remember thinking – everything will be OK now."

Content there were now enough people on scene to move Adrienne, the emergency services stood down the Mountain Rescue Team as SCAA landed on a flat area above the group and paramedics immediately swung into action.

"One look told us we were dealing with a serious break," explained SCAA Lead Paramedic

John Pritchard. "One that could prove limb threatening if left untreated for too long."

SCAA then set up a temporary "bothy" shelter to protect Adrienne and the paramedics from the elements.

After administering strong painkiller, paramedics realigned Adrienne's foot to restore blood flow and splinted the joint before she was carried by crew, friends and passers-by to the waiting aircraft further up the hillside.

"The paramedics were amazing," said Adrienne. "So calm and professional. They explained everything they were doing to me in detail to keep me reassured and comforted.

"They told me it would hurt so I just kept breathing in the Entenox and I was fine while they worked on my ankle."

Adrienne was flown to Ninewells Hospital at Dundee within minutes where she spent two days undergoing an operation to reset her ankle.

She had no sooner recovered than she was striding out again – this time with some friends to raise funds for SCAA, securing nearly £4,000 on her sponsored canal walk.

Reflecting on the day of her accident, Adrienne is full of praise for the charity team that flew to her aid.

**"I honestly don't know what I would have done without SCAA that day," she said. "The charity provides a vital service in Scotland and I can't thank them enough for what they did for me."**



# CHALLENGE YOURSELF IN 2019

## New for 2019 – Great Wall of China Trek – Various Dates

Join us on a majestic 9-day trekking adventure and conquer the famous Great Wall. Climb the iconic Heavenly Ladder and help rebuild part of the wall, a unique privilege exclusive to this trip, whilst immersing yourself in Chinese culture when exploring Beijing – China's ancient and modern capital.

Registration fee £299 + Minimum sponsorship £2700 + Airport tax £250.



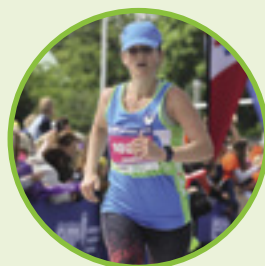
## New for 2019 – Vietnam to Cambodia Cycle – Various Dates

You could cycle up to 383km from the frenzy of Ho Chi Minh to the tranquility of Angkor Wat and explore two incredible Asian countries in one breathtaking challenge. Ride off the tourist trail, through the bustling coconut groves and thriving river communities at the heart of the Mekong Delta and the stilted villages and mysterious temples of Angkor, exploring the real Vietnam and Cambodia.

Registration fee £399 + Minimum sponsorship £3100 + Airport tax £250.

## Edinburgh Marathon Festival – 25-26 May

This course was voted the fastest marathon in the UK by Runners World and is ideal if it's your first marathon or you are looking for a PB. The Edinburgh Marathon has sold out every year since 2008 and is the second largest marathon in the UK, behind London. SCAA has FREE places in all the distances – 5k, 10k, Team Relay, Half & Full Marathon – and we offer lots of help to achieve a minimum sponsorship amount.



For further information and to register for these or other SCAA events, please contact Fiona on **0300 123 1111** or email **fundraising@scaa.org.uk**

# SCAA PILOT JOINS THE TOP FLIGHT IN NATIONAL AWARDS



## Pilot Of The Year

One of SCAA's regular pilots, Captain Gavin Rowley, has lifted the Pilot Of The Year Award at the recent national Association of Air Ambulances' Awards of Excellence 2018 which recognise and reward outstanding achievements within the UK's air ambulance community.

The prestigious award recognised a challenging mission Gavin flew through the treacherous cloud shrouded mountains and glens of Scotland earlier this year to reach a heart attack victim in remote Glen Kinglass.

Gavin's citation for the Awards read in summary:

"There is no doubt in Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance's mind that the exceptional skills, experience and knowledge displayed by

Captain Gavin Rowley played a crucial role in saving the life of the patient that day.

"Not only did he use his impressive flying skills to adapt and accord with each new changing and challenging situation, but he also refused to give up when the need was there to reach a seriously ill patient at one of Scotland's most remote and inaccessible locations and in such horrendous weather conditions.

"Never compromising aircraft or crew safety, Captain Rowley deployed his extensive knowledge of both the aircraft's technology and capability – and the challenging unique landscape – to quickly change the format of the operation as circumstances dictated.

"On a demanding flight that would have tested the mettle of most, Captain Rowley assessed each situation and took the safe, legal and effective option to fulfil the mission and successfully airlift the patient to critical hospital care, thereby saving his life."

Accepting his award from TV personalities Richard Madeley and Angelica Bell – and Nick Earl, CEO of category sponsor Safran UK – a delighted Gavin said:

"In the past few years Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance has continually secured the necessary equipment and people to deliver its first-class air ambulance service in Scotland.

"While being awarded the 'Pilot Of The Year 2018' is a very great honour, I could only achieve that recognition through my small part of the operation because of all the support and work from the whole team at SCAA – from paramedics to fundraisers (both staff and volunteers).

**"I was extremely proud to receive OUR award for everyone involved at SCAA."**

READ the full story of Gavin's life-saving flight by visiting [www.scaa.org.uk/news](http://www.scaa.org.uk/news)

# THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDRAISERS

SCAA is a charity and relies 100% on donations – we couldn't keep saving and improving lives in Scotland without our army of fundraisers behind us – thank you. Here are a few recent highlights.

Staff and customers of Pitlochry Co-operative Food Store, led by Meg Farron, have continued their support of SCAA with instore raffles, bucket collections and staff participation in events. Their fundraising total to date is a magnificent £22,408.



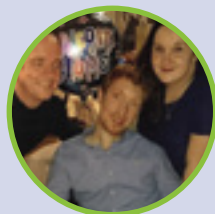
New Elgin Primary went yellow for SCAA in a recent fundraising day. Mascot Scotty and Trustee Mike Beale joined the 500 children for a super day raising awareness and funds.

Marks & Spencer, Inveralmond, chose SCAA as its Charity of The Year and raised a tremendous £3,660 in bucket collections at the tills. A big thank you to the staff and customers there for their generous support. We are delighted that the store has chosen to support SCAA again in 2019.



Set for a fine life as a flock sire on a sheep farm, this young ram also did his bit for SCAA, raising £840 when he was auctioned as a fleecy fundraiser by farmer Neil McGowan of Incheoch Farms.

MRH Retail staff took part in the first SCAA skydiving day. Eight brave souls jumped at 10,000 feet and were guided gently to the ground attached to an instructor, all for the sake of SCAA! The team raised an incredible £10,560 – almost the equivalent of the cost of 5 life-saving missions.



William Webster suffered a near fatal road traffic accident last year and decided he wanted to give something back to his local Air Ambulance. Despite all the odds, he recovered enough to train and complete this year's Simplyhealth Great Aberdeen 10k race, raising a tremendous £2,140 for SCAA. What an amazing achievement!

If you are interested in fundraising for SCAA, please visit [scaa.org.uk](http://scaa.org.uk) or call us on **0300 123 1111**.

Thanks to  
Clydesdale Bank  
for producing  
this newsletter  
for us.



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for continuing to support SCAA.  
Whether you donate, play our lottery or volunteer –  
we couldn't keep flying without you.

If you would like to help support SCAA, you could:

- Enter a fundraising event e.g. a run, walk or hike
- Organise a fundraising event e.g. a coffee morning or ceilidh
- Become a SCAA volunteer
- Make a one-off or regular donation
- Play our weekly life-saving lottery



## Online [scaa.org.uk](http://scaa.org.uk)

by direct debit and debit or credit card



## Phone 0300 123 1111

by direct debit and debit or credit card



## Post

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, The Control Tower,  
Perth Airport, Scone, Perthshire PH2 6PL  
Please make cheques payable to Scotland's Charity  
Air Ambulance.  
Charity Number SC041845



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