



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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SCOTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

DID YOU KNOW?

On 28th March 2006, The Royal Regiment of Scotland held its formation parade on Crown Square, outside the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle.

At the parade, soldiers representing all the Battalions gathered to receive their new capbadge and hackle in the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen W.E.B Loudon CBE.



It was just the start to what has been a remarkable first 20 years of service by the Regiment. From warfighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, humanitarian support to disaster relief in Central America, United Nations Peace Support Operations and Military

Assistance to the Civil Authorities during the Covid pandemic the Regiment, has been, and continues to be, one of the most deployed Regiments in the British Army.



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CONGRATULATIONS MESSAGES



His Majesty The King has approved the appointments of Brigadier AD Watson and Lieutenant Colonel AJ Fitzpatrick as Deputy Colonels of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

SCOTS RALLY WEEKEND

This year's rally weekend held particular importance as it marked the Regiment's 20th anniversary, adding extra significance to an already valued occasion centred on heritage, fellowship and shared purpose.

The programme opened with the SCOTS Officers' 20th Anniversary Black Hackle Dinner, held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh. The evening recognised two decades of regimental service and tradition, with around 200 guests in attendance. The event featured an impressive Beating Retreat, followed by a high-quality dinner and outstanding performances from the Pipes and Drums alongside the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. It offered a fitting setting for officers to reconnect, share experiences and reflect on the Regiment's achievements since its formation.

During the evening, the Colonel of the Regiment gave the below speech to the room.



Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome.

20 years ago tomorrow, our Regiment was formed. And just quietly, what a Regiment we have become. We are a Regiment founded on the excellence of our forebears and the rich martial history of Scotland. But fundamentally, we are a Regiment forged in the hard yards and the hard graft of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan...a Regiment shaped by operations and the collective endeavour that is pursuit of operational excellence. That operational service defines us – it is embedded in our DNA. As is the example of selfless commitment set by those we as a Regiment have lost on our journey.

We, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, have been of service when the nation needed us and have set high standards; we should look back on that with a degree of modest pride. So tonight we close the first chapter in our collective history. But as a former Commanding Officer of the 6th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, a certain Lieutenant Colonel Winston Churchill, would phrase it 'this is merely the end of the beginning'. It is what comes next that really matters and what comes next that will define us in the future. And Ladies and Gentlemen, that sentiment is particularly important in these extraordinary times, in which we see war prosecuted in Ukraine, in the Middle East and continued instability in Africa. We must as a Regiment, as Battalions, and as individuals be ready to play our part in whatever comes next and do so with the same distinction as our predecessors in our Regiment, and of our forebears in our antecedent Regiments. And whatever we do in the future, it will come with the support of the Regimental family.

So it is a joy to be looking to the future with all 200 of you here tonight, a gathering including former Colonels of the Regiment, serving officers, veterans, antecedent Officers and friends. And it's a particular joy to have with us those who represent our alliances and bonds of friendship, representatives from: The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada; The Toronto Scottish Regiment; The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada; The 48th Highlanders; 5th/7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment; 27eme Battalion Chasseurs Alpin; HMS Victorious; HMS Stirling Castle; and the Royal Gurkha Rifles. And what of our 20th anniversary events. We've a packed programme starting this very evening.

The launch of our Regimental Pipe Book and our Regimental History Day take place tomorrow in the Castle from 1030 hours. On Sunday the annual Muster, March and Remember will take place, forming up on the Esplanade at 1100 hours; do come along – it's a great event. On 1st July, we will be exercising of the Freedom of Edinburgh and with bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and pipes playing we will march up the Royal Mile, with representatives of all our Battalions, a guard of veterans and all our sets of Colours.

Immediately thereafter we will unveil our first permanent Regimental artefact, a statue in Princes Street Gardens. Created by Kenny Hunter, one of Scotland's premier sculptors, the creator of the Citizen Firefighter in Glasgow and the winner of the prestigious Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture in 2023. The sculpture depicts the rampant lion of our capbadge but in repose... ..youthful, ready, alert, dynamic, an apt representation of our Regiment. The statue will be situated in the heart of Scotland's capital city, in West Princes Street Gardens in the lee of Edinburgh Castle, the manifestation of the relationship between Scotland's people and its martial tradition. And in the eye-line of the Scottish National War Memorial, the tribute of Scotland's population to the service personnel who have died as a result of conflict.

The purpose of the statue is simple – to be a Regimental rallying point. A place to commemorate, to celebrate, to gather or just reflect. A place for the Regiment in the heart of Scotland's capital city.

And I am ever grateful for all your support throughout our journey as a Regiment. As a trustee or a veteran you serve as a champion and a link to wider society. As a representative of our allied organisations, you are an example of unity in these extraordinary times. And lastly our serving officers – you are our future. It is you who will write the next chapter in our history – you who will strive to set the example for others to follow – you who will both serve and lead our most precious asset, the Jocks.

So please stand and join me in two toasts – to absent friends and to The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Saturday saw the hosting of Regimental History Day at Edinburgh Castle, designed to showcase the contemporary Army within the context of Scotland's extensive and distinguished military past. Highlights included guided tours, craft activities, musical performances by 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums and Band SCOTS, and appearances by Regimental Mascots Cpl Cruachan IV and Nightcap. Soldiers from 2 SCOTS and BKA Coy displayed current equipment and uniforms at The Museum

of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, complemented by the Scots at War re-enactment group's historic displays. Support for the day came from partners across the Edinburgh Castle site, including the Scottish National War Memorial and the National War Museum. Thanks to Historic Environment Scotland, many military families attended, with the event receiving positive feedback from all.





Concurrently, the Regiment's first ever Regimental Pipe Music Book Volume 1 was launched at RHQ, underscoring the enduring musical traditions central to the Regiment's identity. Each CO was presented with a copy of the book, which compiles a comprehensive collection of Regimental and Battalion pipe tunes, preserving over 300 years of Scottish military musical heritage. Those who contributed to its creation were also recognised for their efforts. Guests were then entertained outside by a selection of talented pipers performing a range of tunes from the book.



The weekend concluded on Sunday with the Muster, March and Remember. Members of the SCOTS Associations assembled on a very rainy Castle Esplanade for refreshments before forming up behind their Association Standard.

Accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of 3 and 4 SCOTS, alongside the SCOTS Highland and Lowland Band, the parade marched to Canongate Kirk for the annual Regimental Service.



The SCOTS Rally continues to serve as the key annual gathering for both serving personnel and veterans, providing an opportunity to renew connections, strengthen bonds, and celebrate belonging to The Royal Regiment of Scotland, an organisation regarded with pride and distinction.

Plus, we even turned the Castle blue for the occasion



On 24 March, 4 SCOTS marked the Regiment's 20th Anniversary with a memorable parade at Alexander Barracks. Inspected by Maj Gen Reilly, the parade was a spectacular event, led by the

Pipe Band. It was followed immediately by an inter-company sports competition. The day was filled with camaraderie and friendly rivalry, showcasing the spirit and unity of the Regiment.





Bn Photo whilst hosting the Colonel of the Regiment

3 SCOTS celebrated the Regiment's 20th Anniversary on Monday 30 March 2026 at Fort George, bringing together personnel to reflect, reminisce and, in true military fashion, slightly misjudge their own physical readiness.

The day began with a Kirk Service delivered by Padre Paul VanSittert, providing an opportunity to reflect on two decades of Regimental history. For some, the last 20 years appeared to have passed in the blink of an eye; for others, it felt like they had lived several lifetimes, usually between postings.



Listening intently to Padre Paul.



Capt McMahon delivering a unit brief.

This was followed by a series of presentations from Officers and SNCOs who spoke about their experiences serving in other Battalions of the Regiment during previous appointments. These were both informative and well received, particularly by those who have spent their entire careers firmly under the Red Hackle and were curious to learn what life is like beyond the Fort.

An all ranks lunch in the main dining facility followed, providing a welcome chance to relax and enjoy some lighthearted conversation. This also gave certain elders of the Regiment, notably the QM, the perfect opportunity to swing the lamp and regale the audience with tales of having served in all but one of the Regiment's Battalions, usually without allowing inconvenient facts to get in the way of a good story.



All ranks lunch



20th Anniversary WOD

Post lunch, and somewhat cruelly timed as many soon discovered, proceedings shifted to physical training. A specially designed 20th Anniversary WOD took place in the grounds of Fort George, testing teamwork, resolve and, in some cases, lunch related decision making. The events were completed with commendable effort, although several participants were left reconsidering both their portion sizes and life choices made earlier that day.

Overall, the Anniversary provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Regiment's past, celebrate its people, and reinforce the bonds that have defined 3 SCOTS for the last 20 years, proving that while times change, memories remain long and PT never gets scheduled at the right moment.



At the Inverness Army Reserve Centre, 7 SCOTS, together with the Highlands and Islands Branch of the SCOTS Association, brought serving soldiers, veterans, cadets, and members of the local community together for a Service marking the Regiment's 20th Anniversary.

Following the service, guests attended a reception where 7 SCOTS hosted interactive displays. These were well received by cadets and adult volunteers, helping to deepen understanding of the Army's role and strengthen links between the Regiment and the local community.

The service was attended by the families of Captain John McDermid and Sergeant Gus Miller, both killed in action while serving on operations. The Reverend Canon Dr John Cuthbert, Padre to the Inverness Branch of the Royal British Legion, led a moving and respectful Service of Remembrance that reflected the enduring bonds between the Regiment, its families, veterans, and the wider community.



Cadets from 1st Battalion The Highlanders, Army Cadet Force, participated, with Cadet Colour Sergeant Harrison of the Inverness Detachment delivering Binyon's Lines and the Kohima Epitaph with great maturity and dignity.



Honour Guard meeting the St Andrew's Society of the Upper South Carolina

2 SCOTS GREENVILLE GAMES

Each year, a select group from 2 SCOTS have the honour of representing the Battalion and its heritage overseas. In May, eight soldiers travelled to Greenville, South Carolina, to serve as the Honour Guard at the Greenville Scottish Highland Games, celebrating Scottish culture, tradition, and international camaraderie.

From arrival, the group was warmly welcomed by the St Andrew's Society of Upper South Carolina and the Greenville Scottish Games Committee, whose generosity made the visit both professionally rewarding and personally memorable.



Sgt Willy Crawford (Drum Major) standing with his BMW at the performance Centre

Early highlights included an invitation to the BMW Performance Driving School, where the soldiers experienced high-performance vehicles, navigating the track at speeds nearing 100 mph. It was a remarkable contrast to military training yet equally demanding in focus and discipline.

A visit to Upstate Warrior Solution, an organisation dedicated to supporting veterans and first responders, left a profound impression, showcasing the care and commitment extended to those who have served.

As the week progressed, formal engagements continued with the Ladies' Tea at the prestigious Poinsett Club, bringing together the wives and partners of St Andrew's Society members in an elegant setting that celebrated strong community bonds. The soldiers returned to the Poinsett Club on 21 May as honoured guests, reinforcing the deep ties between the society and the Regiment.



Honour Guard at the Ladies' Tea in the Poinsett Club

The visit culminated on Games Day, Saturday 23 May, when persistent rain threatened to disrupt proceedings. Despite cancellations of parachute displays and a planned flyover, the decision was made to proceed with the parade in a reduced format. Undeterred, the Honour Guard performed with professionalism and pride, their resilience embodying the spirit of both the Regiment and Scottish character.

Far from dampening spirits, the weather added authenticity to the occasion, highlighting the determination and morale of the 2 SCOTS Honour Guard.



Honour Guard On Parade at the Greenville Scottish Games



EX BLACK CYCLONE

In the depths of Kielder Forest, where towering conifers and dense woodblocks mirror the terrain of Eastern Europe, 2 SCOTS reached the culmination of weeks of hard-fought preparation. Live firing packages and demanding company-level training around Otterburn and the Pentlands all led to this moment, delivered in unmistakable style as the Battalion arrived into the forest by Chinook.

Once clear of the aircraft, the tempo was immediate. Harbours were established and defensive positions constructed with speed and discipline, carved into the thick forest floor. Every section understood the requirement: this was a peer-threat fight, and the ground demanded realism and grizz.

By day two, the enemy had begun to probe. Thanks to the sharp work of our friends in 14 Signals, early indicators gave warning that contact was imminent. Acting decisively, A Coy laid a clinical deliberate

ambush. With the mechanical workings of a Swiss watch, the enemy's forward reconnaissance was destroyed, denying them freedom of manoeuvre. It was a textbook action- well planned, well executed, and ruthlessly effective.

Seizing the initiative, C Coy exploited the intelligence recovered by their sister company. With no time wasted, they conducted a bold cross border raid against an enemy C2 node. The insertion was rapid under the shroud of darkness, the assault precise, and every moving part worked seamlessly together. The extraction, conducted under controlled cover of fire, capped off an outstanding operation and yielded vital intelligence.

That intelligence proved decisive. BGHQ were forewarned that the enemy vanguard was advancing, and their arrival was imminent.



By day four, the Jocks were ready. Defensive positions were dug even deeper, obstacles reinforced with hard work and Jock deviance, and soldiers prepared for a hard fight. When the vanguard finally arrived, patience and discipline paid off. Following a deliberate hold and ISR confirmation, A Coy and C Coy conducted a mechanically smooth withdrawal to alternate positions, drawing the enemy forward and shaping the battlefield on our terms.

The Battle Group was set. After a short but vital period to recock, realign, and rehearse across BGHQ, the order was given to go back on the front foot. What followed was a clear demonstration of combined-arms infantry fighting - a simultaneous attack to retake lost positions, with weighty and accurate support from the Machine Gun Platoon isolating the enemy and preventing reinforcement.

The result was decisive: objectives were reoccupied, ground secured, and the enemy defeated.

Kielder Forest proved an unforgiving but invaluable training environment. The exercise showcased the professionalism, adaptability, and fighting spirit of 2 SCOTS, from the Jocks in the woodblock to the commanders' coordinating effects across the battlefield. It was a demanding exercise, but one that reinforced a simple truth: the Battalion is ready to fight and win.



EX SPRING STORM

Ex SPRING STORM saw the 2 SCOTS Battle Group deploy to Estonia reinforcing the Battalion's commitment to FLF readiness. During the initial phase, the Battalion coordinated the movement of equipment, troops and weaponry into a Brigade Assembly Area before pushing out into their main defensive areas.

Phase One - Rehearsal for War: The Battalion prepared Main Defensive Areas (MDAs), applying lessons learned from last year's Ex HEDGEHOG and Ex WESSEX STORM. Alongside refining skills, the Bn trialled new equipment. ISR Coy employed Unmanned Ground Sensors (UGS) to enhance early warning and strengthening screen capabilities. The newly implemented VEGA drone helped compliment RPAS PI's reach, enabling real time intelligence from an increased distance.

A and C Coy experimented with land based robotic systems to determine optimal deployment. This included the ARX robotic system, a remote pilot tracked system which provided discreet observation, covering roads and tracks ahead of the MDAs. The integration of the Parrot Anafi drone gave rifle companies in-house aerial reconnaissance, improving mission command, situational awareness, and the efficiency of calling for fires, mortars, and logistical support.

Phase Two: The Battalion faced a simulated enemy force comprising the Kings Royal Hussars, the Royal Welsh, elements of the French Foreign Legion, and 3 RANGER. Emulating Russian armoured tactics, the opposition sought to dislodge the Bn from its defensive positions using Challenger 2 tanks, Warriors, and infantry dismounts. This formidable challenge provided realistic training akin to operational scenarios. During this phase, the Secretary of Defence visited and toured the defensive positions, span dits with the Jocks and was overwhelmingly impressed with the new tech.

Phase Three: Several of the Bn's SNCO and Officer cohort visited and studied real Estonian war positions and bunkers, before getting eyes on the area in which NATO's FLF could be tasked with defending. These were incredibly insightful visits and put all the lessons learnt into a stark and real perspective.

Ex SPRING STORM reaffirmed 2 SCOTS ability to perform its FLF task, strengthened relationships with our Estonian allies and explored new ways in which the Battalion can become even more lethal for its critical NATO role.



20TH ANNIVERSARY GUN SALUTE



As part of our 20th Anniversary celebrations, The Royal Regiment of Scotland hosted a 21-Gun Salute at Edinburgh Castle on 15 May to mark the arrival of the Lord High Commissioner at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The salute was presided over by Alyson Bell, Scottish record holder for the 200m sprint and Team GB representative at the 2023 World Athletics Championships. As a professional athlete, Alyson embodies the standards and values upheld by The Royal Regiment of Scotland.



Guests also had the opportunity to meet soldiers from 5 SCOTS and tour the Regimental Museum, gaining valuable insight into the Regiment's proud history and its vital role in society today.



AHLUWALIA CUP GOLF

The Ahluwalia Cup returned to the superb Golspie Golf Club, where a strong mix of serving soldiers and veterans gathered, brimming with optimism that steadily declined from the first tee. The day struck its usual balance of competitive golf, Regimental camaraderie and quiet personal anguish.

Golspie provided a classic links test: fast, true greens that were universally admired, usually moments after yet another threeputt. Firm fairways, immaculate surrounds and a fresh Moray Firth breeze ensured that strategy and restraint were required, much to the dismay of those hoping to simply swing harder and blame the wind later. As the round wore on, momentum shifted, rivalries resurfaced and the exposed back nine did its part to separate contenders from excuse makers.

After a composed round, the Cup was won by CSgt Major Mo Morrison by a single shot, sealed with an outstanding up and down on the 18th from 75 yards. Maj Paddy Marshall finished a gallant runner up, pushing the contest all the way. Best Scratch Score went to SSgt Matt Bruce Smith for his excellent ball striking, while the Wooden Spoon for "Most Golf Played" was awarded to CSgt Major Pete McTernan, recognising commendable endurance and a steadfast refusal to pick up.

Thanks were extended to CSgt Major Kenny Dagleish for faultless organisation and to Golspie Golf Club for their outstanding hospitality. More importantly, the Ahluwalia Cup once again reinforced friendships, Regimental spirit and the comforting truth that while scorecards fade, the 3 SCOTS spirit does not.



L-R, 2Lt Fascione, 2Lt Saunders, 2Lt Grant, 2Lt Jeffrey, 2Lt Johnston and Capt MacDonald

NEW SCOTS OFFICERS

April saw Edinburgh Castle play host to the latest Regimental Induction Course (Officers) (RIC(O)), as a new group of freshly commissioned Officers began their journey into The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Drawn from RMAS, Brecon, and including a transfer into the SCOTS, the cohort arrived at RHQ for a vital introduction ahead of their first Battalion appointments.

The RIC(O) plays a crucial role in developing SCOTS Officers, bridging the gap between initial training and Battalion life. Over the week, Officers immersed themselves in Regimental history, customs, and ethos, while receiving practical guidance to prepare them for leading soldiers from day one.

Set against the backdrop of a bright springtime Edinburgh, the Castle provided an ideal setting for learning and integration. Longer days and clear weather allowed the cohort to explore the city, build early bonds, and appreciate the Regiment's heritage at its spiritual home.

More than a briefing, the course aims to instil pride, identity, and a clear understanding of what it means to serve as a SCOTS Officer. By week's end, the group departed RHQ better prepared, well connected, and ready to lead their Battalions with the knowledge, confidence, and Regimental spirit expected to lead our Jocks from the outset.



The Clan

EX CLAN CYCLONE

From the perspective of Hldr Denton

I arrived with 4 SCOTS as the Bn was deploying to Cyprus in the summer of 2025. After my first deployment earlier this year with the Naval Support Facility Force Protection Platoon in Bahrain, I was eager to get stuck into my first Company exercise with the lads in D Coy (The Clan), whom I had come to know pretty well, and finally do a bit of proper soldiering.

Before I left ITC, my Section Commander gave me some advice: “When you go on Bn exercises, always volunteer to be the GPMG gunner”. I took him at his word and convinced myself “I love the gun”. I am yet to have the pleasure of an exercise in Brecon; however, I’ve heard tell of the hills. Nobody warned me about Cyprus... I left the Coy harbour (FOB SPARTAN) for our first insertion march with the confidence of ten men. Glancing over at the MFCs,

fully laden, I was relieved to see I wasn’t the only one carrying heavy kit. My confidence ebbed as we began a steep descent into the valley, before a long and slow climb, with switch-backs and scrambles, back up the hill. I was sure things wouldn’t get harder, until we circumnavigated the entire training area on a recce patrol that night. I don’t know the total distance we covered during the first week, however I am thankful for the vehicle extraction after the final night ambush – the OC’s death marches having done for the soles of my feet!

When told we’d be going on exercise in Cyprus, we all expected to battle the heat. In addition to the hills, nobody had warned us about the torrential rain and cold nights – an absolute shock to the system! Squalls of wind blew bashers apart, and much to his dismay, Hldr Miranda woke one morning to a poncho filled like a swimming pool.

Having finished training, I assumed I would never get lost again. Knowing the correct separation drill seemed like just a precaution and something to make the orders more long-winded than they already are (apologies Mr Donnachie). Cue the man in front on a night patrol turning to me as the last man: "Have you seen where they've gone?" A mix of thoughts, mainly "you're joking?" unfortunately not! To cut a long story short, a retrace of steps through the RVs, and our saving grace appeared: the OC, Cromach in hand, over the ridgeline, bringing us back to the patrol.

Rain, sun, wind, hills- Ex CLAN CYCLONE was certainly a test of our basic soldiering skills. Phase 2 took things to the next level, with a Company Aviation Assault as our final objective. 845 Naval Air Squadron lifted us in JUNGLY 1, 2 and 3 (Merlin

Mk4s) to raid an enemy Command and Control node. An absolute privilege not to be tabbing into the attack, and certainly something ticked off the bucket list!

I'd be doing a disservice to not mention the CQ and his small team who kept the Company in working order and provided the most morale on the exercise. CSgt Tora and the G4 team looked after us providing field showers and laundry, occasional fresh scoff, electricity, and the critical Tuck Shop - emptied by the Jocks at least three times a day.



Images (Left to Right): Capt Stephens (OC Anti Tank) and JUNGLY 1, WO2 Tavaga, Hldr Rohr

INFANTRY WAKEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A team of seven soldiers from 4 SCOTS delivered an outstanding performance at this year's Infantry Wakeboarding Championships at Box End Wake Park, firmly placing the Battalion among the sport's best.

Wakeboarding demands speed, balance, and technical skill, often taking years to master. Yet, just nine months into their Cyprus deployment, 4 SCOTS approached the competition with determination, despite five riders having never competed before. Over the week, they rapidly honed their skills, showing resilience and adaptability.

Individual successes included Hldr Alex Kaye winning the Novice category, Cpl Isaak Mario placing third, and LCpl Elliot Danfer securing second in the competitive Open category. These results propelled 4 SCOTS to second place overall—a remarkable achievement given the team's relative inexperience.

Beyond the scores, the event fostered teamwork, confidence, and resilience, reflecting the Battalion's ethos of physical excellence and fighting spirit. The 4 SCOTS performance at Box End sets a high standard for future competitions.



*(Left to Right): Hldr Kaye (1st Novice),
LCpl Danfer (2nd Open), Cpl Mario (3rd Novice),
Hldr Evans (11th Novice)*



LCpl Danfer with a front side grab

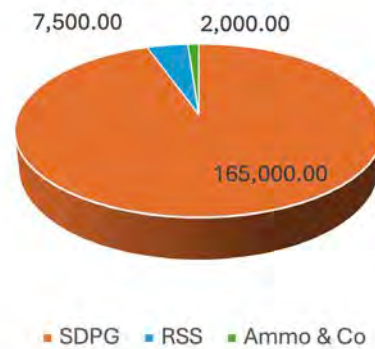
RHQ SCOTS BUDGET

The Trust's main source of income is the Service Day's Pay Giving Scheme (SDPG). While regular SCOTS participation has slightly decreased to 70%, it's encouraging that 30% of reserve SCOTS have signed up. This year, the SDPG is expected to raise £165K, matching last year's total. Additionally, in the 2025/26 financial year, the Trust received a generous £13K donation from the Regimental Support Service (RSS) and £3K from online shop profits.

The RSS is a not-for-profit social enterprise, certified by the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, Social Enterprise UK, and the Armed Forces Covenant. Since its incorporation in July 2010, RSS has raised funds through sponsorship and notebook sales, donating over £320K to various regimental charities. The SCOTS Trust alone has received £101K from their support.

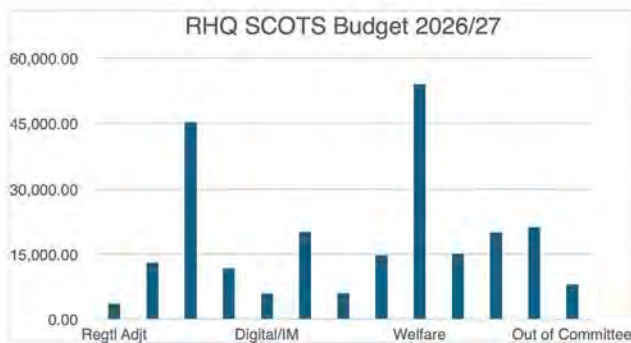
All funds are dedicated to supporting SCOTS Officers, Soldiers, Veterans, and their dependants. Once annual income is forecast, each department is allocated a budget. Welfare receives the largest

PREDICTED INCOME 2026/27



share, followed by Business Support, which this year covers the 20th Anniversary events, Regimental Sporting Events, Regimental Grants, and Adventure Training and Sports.

We encourage all SCOTS Officers and Soldiers, both regular and reserve, to join the Service Day's Pay Giving Scheme and benefit from the Trust's grants. Regular personnel donate one day's pay, collected monthly over twelve months, while reservists contribute 20% of a day's pay, deducted near the start of the training year.



(Left) Maj Cordiner receiving the generous £13K donation from James Caddick (Director of the Regimental Support Service)

BEHIND THE SEAMS



As BKA Coy prepared for Royal Guard duties in London in April, much attention naturally focused on the drill, precision, and spectacle of soldiers on parade. What is less visible is the work that happens long before the Company steps onto the forecourt. As the Company's Master Tailor, that responsibility sat squarely with me.

Working alone in the tailor shop, I was tasked with ensuring up to 100 soldiers were correctly fitted and presented to the highest ceremonial standard. Royal Guard duties demand absolute consistency, no shortcuts, no compromise. Every soldier represents not just BKA Coy, but the Regiment, and the Army, and their appearance must reflect that.

*(Left) Sgt Thomas Couper MBE
- Master Tailor, Balaklava Company, 5 SCOTS*



Preparation begins weeks in advance. Each soldier visits the shop individually, where uniforms are assessed and adjusted. Measurements are taken, Number 1 jackets, highland kilts and leg dress are tailored for balance and fit, and ceremonial items

checked down to the smallest detail. This detailed, methodical work is essential; poor fitting affects confidence, comfort, and ultimately performance, especially during long sentry duties and repetitive drill.

As a one-man team, time management is critical. Days often stretch late into the evening to keep pace with the workload. Some soldiers require minor alterations; others need more significant adjustments due to body shape, role, or previous wear. Needy LE officers add to the workload with requests of all sorts of new items! Every alteration is recorded and revisited to ensure consistency across the Company. The goal is simple, when the Company forms up, there must be no weak points - only a single, sharp standard.

For many soldiers, particularly those new to ceremonial duties, this process is educational. I take time to explain why standards matter and how correct fit contributes to bearing and professionalism. A soldier who understands and trusts their kit is better placed to focus on the task at hand.

By the time we deployed to London, the groundwork had been laid back in barracks. Soldiers stepped onto Royal Guard duties knowing their uniforms had been prepared with care and precision. While praise rightly goes to those delivering the duty, I take quiet satisfaction knowing the hours spent behind the scenes played their part.

The public rarely sees the tailor shop, and that is as it should be. My role is not about recognition; it is about ensuring the Company looks exactly as it should. Royal Guard duties are a shop window for the Army, and I am proud to contribute by maintaining standards that honour the history, discipline, and professionalism of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

When BKA Coy mounted guard in London, their appearance spoke for itself. That is the measure of success for me, work done quietly, thoroughly, and to a high standard.

5 SCOTS IN LONDON

In April, 5 SCOTS proudly undertook a series of prestigious ceremonial duties across London, showcasing the Regiment's professionalism, tradition, and commitment on some of the

country's most historic stages. BKA Coy had the unique privilege of serving as The King Guard, with detachments stationed at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, and the Tower of London.



BKA Coy at the Tower of London

The ceremonial season began with BKA Coy's duty at the Tower of London, one of the most iconic and historic settings in the country. A week of focused drill rehearsals ensured every soldier understood the importance of precision and consistency. The Guard was warmly welcomed by the Yeoman Warders, whose support helped the soldiers quickly adapt to the Tower's unique routines and responsibilities. Guided tours of the Tower and the Crown Jewels deepened the soldiers' appreciation of the history they protect. The detachment received widespread praise for their role in the Ceremony of the Keys, a tradition over 700 years old, with their professionalism commended by the public, London District, and the Yeoman Warders themselves. This experience set a high standard and built momentum for the months ahead.



Buckingham Palace Detachment

Serving at Buckingham Palace presented a uniquely demanding and prestigious challenge. The role required unwavering professionalism, discipline, and attention to detail under constant public scrutiny. Soldiers were expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct, appearance, and bearing throughout their duties. The widespread presence of social media added a modern dimension, with thousands of images and videos

shared globally each day, further emphasising the importance of impeccable performance. This appointment offered the detachment rare exposure to historic ceremonial events and duties connected to the Royal Household, deepening their appreciation of tradition and public engagement.

BKA Coy at St James's Palace

One of the unique privileges of The King's Guard is the chance to live within the gates of St James's Palace. Steeped in history, the palace offered a special base from which to carry out duties and welcome guests. The Officers' Mess houses a vast collection of historical artefacts; many linked directly to the antecedent Regiments of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Notably, silverware belonging to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was displayed alongside reminders of Princess Louise's enduring connection to the Regiment. It was she who gifted the very first regimental mascot, Cpl Cruachan, who quickly became a public favourite during the posting.



The historic Mess also hosted a series of formal dinners, welcoming friends, family, and

distinguished guests. Highlights included evenings with representatives from the US Secret Service, the Metropolitan Police, regimental guests, and close friends. Adding to the atmosphere were the Pipes and Drums of 4 SCOTS, who accompanied the posting throughout. Their performances, especially while marching down The Mall during the Changing of the Guard Ceremony, became a personal highlight for many.



Together, these detachments exemplify the dedication and excellence of 5 SCOTS in ceremonial roles. Whether standing guard at the Tower, Buckingham Palace, or St James's Palace, the soldiers uphold the proud heritage of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, representing the Army and the nation with distinction.



BATTLE FOR THE ORYX TROPHY

Last year, Steven Donald of the High Constables and the Merchant Company in Edinburgh initiated efforts to revive the clay-shooting tradition with the Army in Scotland, which had lapsed following the closure of Craigiehall and COVID disruptions. The Oryx Trophy, which had not been contested for some time, was chosen as the prize for a competitive shoot held at Cluny Activities in Fife.

The best six scores counted towards the team total, so self-appointed team captain (Maj Weir) set out to assemble an Army in Scotland all-star cast. This proved more challenging than expected. After drawing heavily from Redford Barracks, particularly the Army Education and Training Centre, where both the OC and 2IC had once done clay shooting as part of a stag weekend, attention turned to 2 SCOTS. There, the Padre, who owned his own shotgun, enlisted Capt Bever, Bolton, and Cpl Dougal, partly as excellent anti-drone training.

The layout was superb: challenging enough to keep experienced shooters honest, yet fair enough that beginners were not entirely overwhelmed.

However, dropping two clays on a stand could significantly impact scores. Between stands, there was plenty of good conversation, and the Merchants and High Constables were exceptionally welcoming. The event had all the ingredients of a proper sporting occasion: competition, camaraderie, and just enough muttering over missed birds to keep everyone grounded.

In the end, the scores were impressively close. The Army team finished on 225, narrowly behind the Constables on 229. While there was no triumphant return with silverware, it was far from a desperate rear-guard action. Novice shooters performed admirably, and even the lowest scorer posted a respectable 23 out of 50.

The competition was marked by friendly rivalry, good camaraderie, and warm hospitality from the Merchants and High Constables. Both organisations are keen to maintain this as an annual event and welcome interest from those wishing to organise future matches.

6 SCOTS

With the training year well underway, we already have several highlights to share from across the Battalion.

EX NORTHERN PISTE 26 began smoothly with the advance party preparing accommodation, equipment hire, and lift passes ahead of the main body's arrival at Alpe d'Huez in March. The weather was mostly excellent throughout the

week, with sunshine and good visibility, except for 11 March when snow, high winds, and low visibility presented a challenging day. Ski groups were split by ability, with SF1 focusing on basic lessons and SF2 groups undertaking advanced instruction and off-piste touring preparation. Despite the difficult conditions on 11 March, SF2 gained valuable experience tackling Europe's longest black run and advancing their ski touring skills.



Fresh snow and improved weather allowed all groups to ski at their levels, with SF2 concentrating on avalanche training and off-piste touring. The final day saw excellent conditions and the opportunity

for all groups to ski together, marking a successful conclusion to the Exercise and timely return of hire equipment.

C Coy kicked off the training year with our ITR weekend in May. This was an opportunity to shake off the cobwebs and build towards the ADE in Denmark in October. As ever, the SPSIs created challenging and engaging scenarios to ensure the troops were tested on basic skills and drills. The weekend's focus was navigation and CPERS handling.

The Battalion sent a team to the 1XX Operational Shooting Competition. Although assembled at short notice, under the tutelage of WO2 Ewart, the team put in a credible effort—earning points for style by having the pipes playing during a shoot.



Congratulations to LCpl Elphick, who not only deployed on EX IRON WOLF but also received a Commanding Officer's coin for stepping up and demonstrating his tactical and technical acumen.

In May, we bid farewell to Maj Phil Ingram, our QM, who departs for ITC Catterick as a Company Commander and is replaced by Maj Kirk Nicholson.



7 SCOTS EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT EVENT

D Coy hosted an Employer Engagement Event for 30 civilian employees at Stirling Army Reserve Centre on 22 April, in conjunction with the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The day began with refreshments and chance to network before CO 7 SCOTS delivered an introductory Battalion Brief and Army Reserve capability overview. Cpl O'Mahoney Magee then gave a centralised fitness brief and demonstration of the current SCA and RFT. The weight of the kit certainly proved to be an eye-opener for all in attendance.

The audience was then split down into groups and conducted a round-robin of stands covering Equipment, Signals, Night Vision Devices, Weapons and Counter-Explosives Ordnance. These stands generated significant interest and led to many engaging questions.

After lunch, the afternoon session consisted of team-building activities designed to test participants' ability to analyse problems, formulate plans and, most importantly, communicate and work as a team. This proved extremely popular and rewarding as teams navigated a darkened room obstacle course using Night Vision Devices, participated in a paintball range, conducted toxic waste removal from a minefield, and moved numbered tyres in a logical sequence. The willingness to participate and get stuck in was refreshing and greatly added to the success of the day.

This was an extremely rewarding event, allowing D Coy to showcase its capabilities as part of the Army Reserves and enabling civilian partners to appreciate the benefits of participation and support the Armed Forces Covenant.

EX MAY CHALLENGE

In the Army Engagement and Recruiting world, May is a significant month, highlighted by a three-day engagement event at Leuchars Station. Approximately 600 pupils from schools across Fife are invited to the base to meet soldiers and recruiters, with the aim of opening their eyes to a career in the Army.

A Company is usually heavily involved in this activity, and with support from HQ Company, this

year was no exception. We deployed a NERF gun range at the event, giving attendees the chance to try out their shooting skills in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Alongside 16 other stands from units across 51 Brigade, the event proved very popular, with visitors appreciating the insights into the varied career opportunities available in the Army.





EX HIGHLAND TARGE

C Coy delivered a Defensive Training Weekend at Kinloss Training Area from the 15-17 May 2026, attended by 357 SCOTS personnel.

The weekend consisted of constructing and manning defensive positions, with the help of 71 RE, supported by plant. Reservists were tested on their reaction to an unknown UAS, IDF on their position, their C-IED drills and multiple enemy

probes and attacks. A different challenge came in the form of a civilian population which they had to interact with. The Exercise ended with 7 SCOTS having to withdraw from their position before counterattacking, defeating the enemy threat.

BGHQ were also able to fully set up BG Main, testing equipment and procedures in a safe environment.



Maj Gilmour and CSgt Taylor were both presented with awards. Maj Gilmour received the Chief of General Staff's Commendation and CSgt Taylor received a clasp to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. These were presented by 7 SCOTS Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Marriott.



ARMY CADET FORCES



Black Watch Bn ACF

Since March, the Battalion has focused on helping Cadets achieve their next star badges, culminating in a successful and enjoyable week-long Spring Camp at Barry Buddon Training Area. Over 200 Cadets qualified, having worked hard to attain their badges.

Following Spring Camp, the Battalion has been active conducting AT from Dunkeld, including, biking and paddleboarding expeditions around

Lochore. Additional low-level training continues at detachment level to ensure cadets progress through the Army Cadets syllabus. Company camps have also taken place at Glenrothes ARC and Dunkeld Cadet Training Centre (CTC).

The Battalion supported the ETAPE Loch Ness Cycling Sportive competition by manning feeding stations for appreciative competitors. Despite the early start, both Cadets and adults enjoyed the day immensely.



Cadet Sergeant Kyle Trenbirth of Rosyth Detachment has been appointed as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Fife, while Cadet Company Sergeant Major Elizabeth Allan of Stanley Detachment has been appointed as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Perth and Kinross.

Looking ahead, the Battalion is preparing for Annual Camp '26, again at Barry Buddon in early August. With Spring Camp complete, the cadets can anticipate an action-packed camp featuring green training, live firing, adventure training and visits to local attractions.

West Lowland Bn ACF

The first weekend in March marked a new chapter for the Battalion with its first Pipes and Drums training and "come and try" weekend at the Cadet Training Centre in Ayr. 28 Cadets from across the Battalion, ranging from complete beginners to experienced players, participated in sessions covering chanter, bagpipes, snare and tenor drums, parade drills, music theory, and reading music. For the more advanced cadets, this provided valuable preparation ahead of the Army Cadet Music Spring Camp.

In April, 23 cadets from West Lowland Battalion travelled to Otterburn Training Camp for the Army Cadet Music Spring Camp. Over the week, they refined their piping and highland drumming skills, music knowledge, and instrument maintenance, while forging friendships with cadets from across the UK. The camp culminated in the Army Cadet

Force Ceremony of Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle, where four West Lowland cadets made their debut on the esplanade, marking a proud moment for the Battalion.





The Battalion is also proud to announce that 2Lt Kimberley McVeigh has been awarded the ACCT Scotland Inspirational Adult Award. Kimberley, a dedicated CFAV and Detachment Commander, is recognised for her expertise in mental health and wellbeing, as well as her leadership in diversity and inclusion. Her calm and effective response to a stabbing incident in Glasgow further exemplifies her commitment and professionalism.

In other news, Cadet Lance Corporal Fleming was commended for his quick thinking and composure during a medical emergency at Kilmarnock Bus Station, where his actions helped save a member of the public's life. Additionally, the Battalion celebrated outstanding performances at the 51x Regional Athletics Competition in Dundee, securing multiple team trophies and strong individual results. Finally, the Commandant announced the Battalion's upcoming move to a new Cadet Training Centre at the former Kirkstyle Primary School in Kilmarnock, promising expanded facilities and training opportunities for the future.

SAVE THE DATES



2026

SCOTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY FOR YOUR DIARY

2026

Thu 18 Jun - SCOTS Assoc 20th Anniversary Golf Championships, Alyth, Blairgowrie

Sat 20 Jun - Bestowed the Freedom of the City of Dundee

Wed 1 Jul

Bestowed the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh

Unveiling of The Royal Regiment of Scotland Statue, Edinburgh

Regimental Dinner Night, The Royal Scots Club

Sat 5 Sep - Bestowed the Freedom of Inverclyde

Sat 12 Sep - SCOTS Assoc 20th Anniversary Race Day,

Musselburgh Race Course, Edinburgh

Sun 11 Oct - Laying up of 1 SCOTS colours, Canongate Kirk

Sun 8 Nov - Remembrance Sunday, London / Edinburgh

Sat 28 Nov - SCOTS Offrs' St Andrew's Ball, Prestonfield House, Edinburgh

Dec - Cocktail Party and Beating Retreat, London (Exact Date TBC)

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