

Summer Edition 2014



SCAA NEWS

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance



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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) Newsletter. We hope to have two editions a year where we will keep you up to date with all our news.

You will have the opportunity to meet the team, learn all about our life-saving work, hear traumatic as well as uplifting stories from patients we have treated as well as the families touched by our vital service. We will update you about the fantastic fundraising that goes on all over Scotland which we hope will inspire you to continue your amazing support that keeps us flying and saving lives.



Get in touch

We value your feedback so let us know what you would like to see in future editions of SCAA NEWS.

We are a Scottish charity, supported by the people of Scotland so your opinion counts.

Without your funds fuelling our life-saving service, we would literally never get off the ground.

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Helimed 76, has become a regular and recognised sight in Scotland's skies.

Meet the team

Ten hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, a team of highly trained and motivated paramedics and pilots crew Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, flying straight to time-critical emergencies across Scotland, bringing their skills and dedication to those most in need.

It's a real team effort here at SCAA. Each shift sees two of our five paramedics and one of our two pilots ready to respond when tasked through the 999 emergency system.

Our paramedics are highly trained and have all gone through specialised air ambulance training.

Running this fantastic service requires a team of dedicated staff based at Perth Airport, with your support, they raise the £1.5million needed to run this vital service.

We have grown and developed in our first year and raise income in a variety of ways.

We prepare and submit funding applications, organise fundraising events, build corporate relationships and provide support to the wonderful fundraising that local communities get involved in, through both individuals and groups.

We also have a growing band of volunteers and without their dedication, passion and commitment



we would simply not be able to raise these vital funds.

What have we been doing?



We have touched many peoples' lives in our first year of operation, we have been called to over 300 time-critical emergencies. Having an air ambulance and being able to reach some of Scotland's remotest communities has had a significant effect in preserving lives.

Our air ambulance has become part of the community we serve and provides peace of mind and an emergency resource to people living, working or travelling in rural and remote communities.

From heart attacks in the Western Isles to agricultural accidents in the North East and from serious road collisions on the A9 to equestrian incidents in the Borders, we have been able to respond and help those who required urgent medical intervention within the precious "Golden Hour".

Flying from our centrally located base at Perth Airport, Helimed 76 and the crew can reach approximately 90% of Scotland's population within 30 minutes. We are now completely embedded in Scotland's emergency services system and are a respected member of the 999 team.

Many people and their families who have had their lives saved, touched or changed by our actions have come back to visit us after their recovery. We are delighted to welcome them all and often hear all about their experience over a cup of tea.

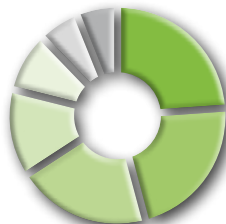


PIP'S STORY



RESCUES

Emergencies attended since our launch in May 2013.



| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ■ RTC 24% | ■ Other 9% |
| ■ Breaks & injuries 22% | ■ Equestrian 6% |
| ■ Cardiac 20% | ■ Cyclist 6% |
| ■ Unwell 13% | |



Have you been airlifted by Helimed 76?
Or perhaps you have a close friend or
family member who has been touched
by the service we provide?

We would love to hear how you are
getting on so please do get in touch.

“ My daughter persuaded me to go on a “gentle” hack with her on the last day of our mini break to Corran. I finally agreed and we headed off to the local riding centre all ready for the hack and to enjoy the beautiful west coast scenery.

We were on the last part of our hack, heading back to the stables when my horse broke into a canter and suddenly decided to behave in a way that threw me summersaulting off, landing on my back on the rough ground.

Initially, I assumed I was simply winded and possibly had a couple of broken ribs but soon realised, after trying to get up, it was maybe a little more serious.

The local ambulance crew attended and quickly realised they would need the help of SCAA to get me to the local hospital in Fort William, due to the location being so remote and the time it would take to transfer me there.

SCAA appeared in, what seemed like, a flash and from the second they arrived they were brilliant. They were extremely professional and had the right amount of humour to ensure I didn't panic or get anxious. My only moment of panic was when they were discussing cutting off my “Dubarry boots”... at that moment my daughter, the other rider and I unanimously

said “NO! They slide off!” Anyone who owns a pair of these boots will understand that moment of panic!

They packaged me up neatly on the stretcher and placed me in the helicopter and delivered me to Fort William hospital within 15 minutes. This journey would have taken approximately an hour by arduous single track road and ferry in a road ambulance. One of the paramedics, John, stayed at the hospital to ensure I was in good hands then quietly left.

The result of this “gentle” hack was a broken back and several broken ribs but I was very lucky and have recovered very well. Due to the fantastic service of the guys at SCAA and my experience of that day, I now work as a volunteer for SCAA and I am passionate about ensuring they are supported.

The service they offer is invaluable and no amount of words can thank them or praise them enough for the help they gave me and have continued to give to others 365 days a year! ”

Fundraising



SCAA out and about in your community

To ensure SCAA is able to respond to every emergency callout, we have to raise about £1.5 million each year. This allows us to help people like Pip get back on their feet after serious incidents. We could not do this without your help.

This year we have had supporters taking part in a huge variety of fundraising activities from coffee mornings and discos to abseils and head shaves!

We are delighted to have been able to name Michelle Murray and her family as our first “Helicopter Heroes”. Michelle lost her father last June after our helicopter lifted him to Ninewells hospital when he suffered a heart attack. Her family have been continuously fundraising for SCAA in memory of her dad and have

gone above and beyond to raise nearly £4,000!

Last summer we attended a variety of community events where we spread the word about our work and fundraised through collections. This summer our events calendar is full to bursting! You can usually spot us flying our corporate colours on our stand. If you see us, pop over, as our volunteers will always be delighted to chat with you.

We have had fantastic support from the corporate sector and in particular Scottish Hydro and Clydesdale Bank. Trusts and foundations have made a significant contribution in our first year and continue to support our work.

We are hugely grateful for each and every donation and please know that your support is saving lives.



Forth Rail Bridge Abseil

One of our most popular participation events is the Forth Rail Bridge Abseil.

This June our team of 20 fundraisers raised over £12,000. We have 20 places in October’s abseil so if you fancy making the drop, get in touch!





Ways to donate

How you can help

We have had an overwhelming response from the public, with people getting in touch on a daily basis to let us know they are fundraising for us. Without your fundraising efforts we would not be able to respond to that emergency call that tells us our help is needed.

How you can help

We have a great range of participation events that you can get involved in throughout the year from running events, abseils, sky dives and all sorts of treks and sporting challenges. If you're interested in doing your bit for SCAA get in touch and we can give you all the details you need to get started and will support your fundraising with tips and ideas.

SCAA lottery

Our life-saving lottery is an easy way to help us raise vital funds. For a minimum of £1 per week you can be in with a chance of winning a weekly jackpot of £1,000. It really is that easy to help keep our helicopter flying. To sign up, go to scaa.org.uk and download the form or contact us to join.

Donate

We are extremely grateful for all donations, no matter how big or small. To make your donation head to scaa.org.uk or call 0300 123 1111.

Direct Debit is a great way to make a regular donation to SCAA. By making a regular committed gift we can plan more long term. It's a great way to see how your donations add up to fund something great, be that a day's fuel costs after a year of giving or a new piece of equipment for the crew. You can donate as little or as much as you like. To set up a direct debit, call us and we will happily do this over the phone with you.



Get involved!

Volunteer... and make a difference

During our first year we have been building a team of dedicated volunteers. They do a wonderful job fundraising and spreading the word about SCAA at community events, presenting to local organisations and groups and by placing collecting cans in their local communities. We have a great volunteer team in place but we still need to expand our team.

We really couldn't sustain our service without our enthusiastic and committed volunteers. A huge thank you to you all.

Elaine is one of our longest serving and most experienced volunteers. She tells us why she supports the charity.

“Knowing that SCAA is out there saving lives every day is why I volunteer. It's so satisfying to know that my efforts are helping to keep Helimed 76 do such a vital job.

Volunteering is fun, friendly and fulfilling. I'm part of a great team along with other volunteers and SCAA staff.”


If you think this sounds like something that could be of interest to you then please get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

Keep in touch

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