

Summer Edition 2018



SCAA NEWS



INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

NEW PARAMEDIC

FUNDRAISING

HELIMED 79

EVENTS

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

It's been a busy six months for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA), including new partnerships, celebrating our 5th birthday and welcoming a new paramedic.

New Paramedic Takes To The Skies

This spring saw new paramedic, Darren O'Brien, join our air crew after 11 years with the Scottish Ambulance Service and a previous five years with the South Central Ambulance Service.

A hugely experienced paramedic, Darren gave up a career in banking and the stock market to join the service. His most recent career has seen him help educate paramedics for their frontline duties throughout Scotland.

"After nearly 10 years helping to train paramedics, I wanted to focus on my own clinical development

and fulfil a career ambition to work with the air ambulance service," said Darren.

"The physical and cognitive challenge of working on an aircraft - coupled with the challenge of delivering pre-hospital emergency medical care - is one I was excited to take on and help make a real difference for our patients.

"The speed of getting critical care to patients can make the difference between life and death - especially in remote locations - and it's a privilege to be part of a team that can deliver that vital lifeline."





Celebrating Our Volunteers

John Swinney, MSP Perthshire North and Deputy First Minister, helped us mark National Volunteers Week by attending a coffee morning at our base. Commenting on the amazing work carried out by SCAA volunteers, Mr Swinney, presented certificates of achievement in recognition of our volunteers' dedication and hard work.

We have over 80 active volunteers whose tireless work continues to help raise our profile and reach fundraising targets – thank you!

TO DATE, OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE:



** Figures correct at time of print*

Volunteer Spotlight

Jilly and Lorna have volunteered since 2013, raising over £11,000 through eBay and car boot sales, with the help of friend David Thom. Jilly has also completed an abseil raising £1,720 and has volunteered at many events. Both are incredibly passionate about SCAA and recently got friend Heather Elworthy involved by selling her 'Eggs for Flights' in aid of SCAA. Great teamwork, thank you!



ABERDEEN BASED ASCO SUPPORT SCAA



ASCO

SCAA has a new partnership with ASCO, a provider of specialist materials and equipment management for the oil and gas industry. Staff have lots planned for the year ahead including a family fun day, fitness challenges and various football and golf tournaments. ASCO kicked off the partnership with a generous donation of £2,500.

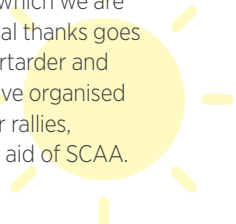
Partnership Golf Day Is A Hit For SCAA

Hadden Construction, who are currently in the middle of a two year charity partnership with SCAA, hosted a hugely successful golf day at Crieff Golf Club in May – 124 golfers took part, raising a fantastic £9,885. To date this partnership has seen a variety of activities take place including walks, abseils, runs and a race night.



Rotary Club Milestone

Support from Rotary Clubs across Scotland has now exceeded £100,000 – a wonderful milestone for which we are extremely grateful. A special thanks goes out to Perth, Forfar, Auchertarder and Aberfeldy Rotaries who have organised multiple silent auctions, car rallies, concerts and marathons in aid of SCAA.



Remember A Charity In Your Will Week: 10-16 September 2018 – Save the date



10-16 September 2018

SCAA is joining forces with Remember a Charity for a second year to raise awareness of legacy giving. We're proud to be part of this initiative, made up of 200 UK charities working together to encourage more people to consider including a gift in their will.

We rely on the generosity of our supporters to continue saving lives and this includes gifts in wills. We appreciate that family and friends come first, but if you would like to find out more about how to include a gift to SCAA in your will, please visit www.scaa.org.uk/support-us/a-gift-in-your-will or contact Katie by email at k.wylie@scaa.org.uk

Keep an eye on our website and social media in the coming months for details about this year's campaign or visit www.rememberacharity.org.uk to find out more.

Charity Partnership Lifts Off

We were thrilled to be unveiled as Edinburgh Airport's 2018 Charity of the Year. It was a great honour to learn that 40 charity applications had been made, with the majority of airport staff voting for SCAA.

The partnership has got off to a terrific start, with bucket collections, raffles and even a 5-hour cyclathon so far. Three members of staff also kindly donated a day's wage – raising £600.



Trio Of Support

It was great to work alongside three of our supporters – Edinburgh Airport, Land Rover and Waterman's – at the Land Rover Show. Thanks to their added support on the day – and the hard work of our mascot Scotty – over £1,250 was raised at the event.



Happy Birthday SCAA!

We celebrated our 5th birthday on 22nd May! It's been a busy 5 years, which have seen us respond to more than 1,800 emergency call outs – saving and improving hundreds of lives. We will be marking this important milestone throughout the year with our Give Us Five campaign which you can read all about on the back cover.



SECOND HELICOPTER PLANS TAKE FLIGHT



This year's most exciting news centres on SCAA's announcement that we plan to launch a second life-saving helicopter, which will use call sign Helimed79.

Our charity, which has operated a helicopter air ambulance out of Perth Airport since 2013, intends to raise £6m - the equivalent of three years' running costs - to fund a second aircraft prior to launch.

This move - which is supported by both the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Scottish Government - will increase the response capability to time-critical medical emergencies, retrievals and urgent transfers across the whole of Scotland.

The charity is currently in talks to determine where a second helicopter could best be located. And the charity is appealing for everyone in Scotland to help it achieve lift-off. Chief Executive David Craig said the £6 million funding appeal for a second helicopter air ambulance was aimed at everyone in Scotland.

"The public - as well as companies, trusts and foundations - have kept SCAA flying for five years and allowed the charity to become a sustainable and vital player in pre-hospital care," he said.

"We now need their support more than ever as we work towards launching a second air ambulance that can aid those seriously ill or injured wherever they are in Scotland.

"SCAA successfully delivers a truly national service and second aircraft will double our operational capacity, saving and improving more lives."

There is no specified timeframe for the launch - the service will become operational as soon as the fundraising target has been secured.

Keep up to date with our Helimed79 campaign at www.scaa.org.uk/helimed79



STAGECOACH DRIVES FORWARD FUNDRAISING APPEAL



Perth-based transport giant Stagecoach Group has already signed up as the first corporate partner to announce dedicated funding towards the new helicopter, with £125,000 pledged for each of the next three years towards the new aircraft appeal.

And a fully SCAA branded Stagecoach bus is helping to promote the fundraising appeal as it operates on routes across Scotland including services to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dunblane, Perth, Dundee and Inverness.

Stagecoach Chairman Sir Brian Souter said he was pleased to be associated with the appeal to fund a second life-saving resource for SCAA.

"We are proud to once again be funding this important, life-saving piece of equipment for Scotland," he said.

"Over the years the helicopter has helped to save many lives and Stagecoach is delighted to be the first corporate partner to announce dedicated funding towards the new helicopter."

SCAA chairman John Bullough believes this funding boost by Stagecoach will prove the perfect springboard for our public appeal.

"Stagecoach Group has been a great supporter of our work since the beginning and their input helped provide Scotland with our first charity-funded air ambulance in 2013," he said.

"This tremendous new commitment of support will help secure a second helicopter to save and improve the lives of those most in need throughout the whole of Scotland."

"We are deeply indebted to Sir Brian and everyone at Stagecoach for their support – something which will be heralded across Scotland thanks to their high-profile SCAA branded bus."

Stagecoach Group has been a key sponsor of SCAA since the air ambulance launched five years ago. Stagecoach Group and the Souter Charitable Trust have donated more than £650,000 to the charity since it began.



COUPLE RESCUED WITHIN WEEKS OF EACH OTHER

Many families have cause to be grateful for SCAA's life-saving service – but few have seen two members of their family benefit from the charity-funded air ambulance within three weeks of each other.

That's what happened when Perthshire gamekeeper Paul injured himself in an all terrain vehicle accident in the remote Loch Garry area and his wife Alison was trampled by her horse on the loch's shores three weeks later.

Both required urgent medical attention and rapid extraction to hospital. And, due to the remote, rural and inaccessible location, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) would prove crucial in each case.



PAUL'S STORY

It was mid-summer when the eight-wheel all-terrain vehicle Paul was in somersaulted several times down a steep slope near Dalnaspidal before coming to rest against a large rock.

"We both thought that was it," said Paul. **"We were going to die – and then the rock arrested our fall, stopping us drop hundreds of feet more."**

While the roll-bars protected Paul and his colleague from upper body injuries, both were trapped in the vehicle with obvious serious leg wounds.

"I managed to crawl clear and then levered the vehicle off my mate with a wooden post," recalled Paul. **"We dragged ourselves clear and phoned our estate manager and then alerted the emergency services."**

With a land ambulance unable to get near the injured men, SCAA was scrambled and soon on the scene, landing within a couple of hundred metres of the accident. Paul was drifting in and out of consciousness and it was decided he should be airlifted while his mate was taken down the hill on an estate off-road vehicle to a waiting land ambulance.

"I remember feeling huge relief when SCAA arrived," said Paul. "I was in a great deal of pain and the crew was just amazing – so efficient and reassuring – and I immediately relaxed knowing I was in expert hands."

"I was aware of being put into the helicopter and feeling embarrassed that people were going to all this trouble to help me. I know now that if ever you're in trouble and pain far from anywhere, it's SCAA you would want to help you."

Paul was kept in Ninewells Hospital overnight and off work for two weeks.

"SCAA brought relief, reassurance, speed and comfort when I was in a very dark place," said Paul, "and I'll forever be grateful for their help."



ALISON'S STORY

The family had even more cause to be grateful to SCAA a couple of weeks later when Alison's horse sank into sand on the banks of Loch Garry, throwing her over the animal's head.

"She panicked because she was up to her belly in this gloopy silty sand and then she seemed to get some purchase and scrambled towards me," recalled Alison.

Knowing what was coming, Alison rolled into a ball as the horse's hooves thundered off her back.

"The pain was horrendous. The whole weight of the horse was crashing into me and I really thought I was going to break."

Alison's father, stepmother and daughter were with her at the time and, as the now-free horse took off for home three-and-a-half miles away, her dad headed for home as no-one's phone was working in the remote spot.

"I said I was fine and could walk home," said Alison, **"but I was dizzy and vomiting. I lay down on the grass at one point and passed out. I couldn't go any further. I was trying to keep calm for my daughter's sake but I was falling apart inside."**

When the ambulance arrived, the crew tended to Alison and reassured her that SCAA was on its way.

"I remember saying 'please don't send the helicopter' as I couldn't believe we were tying up their service yet again. I'm so glad they were there – reassuring, administering pain relief and putting me at ease. They were wonderful and I felt relieved when I heard them coming and landing nearby. Their arrival makes you feel everything will be OK."

Alison was also flown to Ninewells Hospital where she was treated for several broken ribs and bruising to her lungs.

"Our family owes a great deal to SCAA," she said. **"Our accidents have made us very aware of the vital role of an air ambulance when dealing with remote and rural emergencies and the need for fundraising to secure SCAA's future."**

Paul and Alison now fundraise for SCAA and actively spread the word about the charity.

"We never thought our family would need their service – ever – far less twice within three weeks," they agreed. **"People should never take this amazing charity for granted – you never know when you will need them."**

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Without your support we wouldn't be able to keep flying. Every single donation and fundraising activity makes a difference – no matter how big or small. Here are some recent highlights.

St. John's Academy and Glenalmond College each won a fantastic £3,000 grant for SCAA through the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) programme, which is funded and managed by The Wood Foundation. Thank you to both schools for supporting SCAA and delivering such wonderful presentations!



BlueSky Experiences hosted their first major charity event, raising a superb £1,266. The event saw local bands rock the night away in the beautiful setting of Bachilton Barn, Perthshire.

After her brother-in-law was airlifted by an air ambulance, Gemma Teague challenged herself to help SCAA launch a second helicopter. So far, she has signed up to two marathons, four half marathons, a 10k and a 5k – raising £3,355!



The generosity of Royal Dornoch Golf Club members recently provided a tremendous £22,270 boost to SCAA after Club Captains, Elizabeth Henderson and Alan Ramsey, both kindly nominated SCAA as the charity they wished to support during their time in office.

The 5th Biker Bash took place in May, with more than 200 bikers riding out on a glorious Spring day, bringing the total raised by organisers to £10,542.94.



Andy Moir, Head of Scottish Air Ambulance Service; Rob Dalziel, Area Service Manager; and their team of Flying Scotsmen completed the 54-mile Dorset to Somerset Coast 2 Coast cycle, raising over £1,500.

As Gardening Scotland's Charity Partner, we raised £2,540 over the course of the weekend – hosting an information stand, competitions and bucket collections. The helicopter also made a special appearance. Thanks to Gardening Scotland who kindly donated £1 from every ticket sale in March to SCAA.



SIGN UP TO JOIN #TEAMSCAA FOR A 2018 CHALLENGE

Kiltwalk – Dundee 19th August Edinburgh 16th September

Join us for a Kiltwalk in Dundee or Edinburgh to help us keep saving and improving lives in Scotland. You can choose from three distances in either city – 6, 13 or 26 miles. This year, all funds raised will be underwritten by The Hunter Foundation, meaning that SCAA will receive £140 for every £100 that you raise.

Sign up for your Kiltwalk at www.kiltwalk.co.uk/event



SuperNova Run – 9th-11th November

Fun for all the family! A fantastic 5k run with a difference. Immerse yourself in a light journey and explore the home of the Kelpies, the beautiful and iconic 30-metre-high horses near Falkirk.

Each runner will receive a goody bag with an LED head torch, a water bottle, Supernova buff, a great medal and a foil blanket as well as accurate chip timing, a training plan, race recovery pack and a fantastic running experience!

Register now at <https://bit.ly/2HJJAur>

Tandem Skydive – Most Weekends in 2018

Head for heights? We are looking for adventurous supporters to make a fundraising skydive for SCAA. If you raise enough in sponsorship you will get your jump for free!

This is an amazing chance to experience a 120mph free-fall in a 'Tandem Skydive' from 10,000 feet attached to a professional instructor. You can jump from two British Parachute Association approved airfields at St Andrews and Auchterarder. No experience is necessary as all training is given on the day. So get in touch and make the first steps towards your biggest adrenaline rush yet –

0300 123 1111/fundraising@scaa.org.uk



For information on these events or other SCAA events taking place throughout the year, please visit www.scaa.org.uk, call **0300 123 1111** or email fundraising@scaa.org.uk.

Thanks to
Clydesdale Bank
for producing
this newsletter
for us.



GIVE US FIVE To Help Save Lives.

Give Us Five is a celebration of SCAA, which has been saving and improving lives for five years thanks to people like you. To mark our 5th anniversary year we are inviting individuals, companies and groups to Give Us Five to help us raise awareness and funds for our life-saving charity.

There are many ways to get involved, using our five theme – you could walk 5 Munros, run 5k or give up your favourite thing for 5 weeks. Or if fundraising isn't your thing – you could volunteer for 5 hours or donate £5 by **texting SCAA05 £5 to 70070**.

Our crew is there for you 12 hours a day, 365 days a year – be there for them today by committing to Give Us Five!

Find out more at www.scaa.org.uk/support-us/giveusfive



Online scaa.org.uk
by direct debit and debit or credit card



Phone 0300 123 1111
by direct debit and debit or credit card



TEXT SCAA14
and your donation to 70070



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