

# SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE



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# WELCOME

A very warm welcome to the latest newsletter of 2020 which I hope you enjoy reading.

A year which offered us so much as we progressed plans to launch our second air ambulance in Aberdeen presented us with an unprecedented challenge when a global virus pandemic provided us all with the biggest health crisis of a generation. I do hope you and your family are safe and well.

Throughout this period, SCAA has remained fully operational with the priority being to keep the charity team, paramedics and pilots safe, while maintaining our resources so we could keep flying and saving lives in Scotland.



Despite these challenges, and with an incredible amount of team work from staff and our partners, we launched Helimed 79 in Aberdeen on the 3rd April as planned and responded to our first 999 call the same day. Like their colleagues on Helimed 79's sister aircraft, Helimed 76 in Perth, the paramedics have faced challenges above and beyond their usual calling. The pilots have continued to deliver their expertise in time-critical situations and engineers have ensured the helicopters are fully maintained.

With our calendar of fundraising events and community events cancelled this year, our ability to raise funds will be greatly impacted. However, the continued support of the people of Scotland, even through this most difficult of times, remains strong and we've been overwhelmed by your messages and the donations we've received.

I'd like to thank everyone connected with SCAA for meeting - and in many cases overcoming - the challenges of the last few months. SCAA recently celebrated its 7th birthday and I can confidently say that, because of you and all the people that support us, we've never been stronger as a charity. Please keep supporting us and together we can keep flying and saving lives in Scotland.

Thank you,  
**David Craig**

# COVID-19: We keep going – with your support



As we face the greatest medical crisis of our generation, the government and healthcare providers have issued important guidance to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. It's difficult to know how long these measures will be in place, but one thing that remains constant is the daily provision of our critical care service across Scotland. Lives depend on our ability to respond when called upon.

As a charity that relies entirely on funding donated by the public, SCAA's current challenge for our charity team is to sustain the level of donations required to maintain our service when the vast majority of our fundraising activity has been suspended.

We have rightly cancelled upcoming engagement opportunities, such as talks with organisations and community groups. Many participation and fundraising events have been postponed or cancelled giving our fantastic fundraisers fewer opportunities to get out there and do something amazing for SCAA. Our hard-working volunteers, who help gather support and spread the word about our mission to every corner of Scotland, are now, due to social isolation, no longer able to assist.

The cancellation of all these activities represents a massive loss to our charity and our staff, who work hard every day with our

volunteers and the public to raise the funds we need to keep flying. We are working hard to develop and promote other ways that the people of Scotland can support us, including our Life-Saving Lottery, Amazon Smile and Regular Giving.

With the recent launch of our second air ambulance, we require £4 million a year to maintain our aircraft and the provision of our critical care services.

During this difficult time, we understand that many families face their own challenges. Money is limited and the priority will always be taking care of your loved ones. We simply ask that if you do value our work, and you have the means to support us, please consider donating to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. It's your support that will keep us flying and saving lives in Scotland.

**The easiest way to donate is online by clicking the 'DONATE NOW' button below. Alternatively, you can click 'DONATE' on our Facebook page, text 'SCAA' and your donation amount to 70085, or call us on 0300 123 1111. - Thank you.**

**DONATE NOW**

# HELIMED 79 LAUNCH



## **On April 3rd 2020, SCAA was immensely proud to launch our second charity air ambulance - Helimed 79.**

Based at Aberdeen Airport, Helimed 79 doubles our capacity and allows SCAA to deliver more care, more quickly to more people across Scotland. And none of this would have been possible without the support of the people of Scotland.

Along with Helimed 76, our two air ambulances will cover the whole of Scotland, working alongside two Government-funded helicopters and two fixed-wing aircraft - all tasked through the country's 999 emergency response service.

John Bullough, founding Chairman of SCAA, described Helimed 79's launch as a "major milestone" for the charity.

"There's never been a more crucial time for additional emergency pre-hospital care resources in Scotland and SCAA is proud to be able to strengthen the country's air ambulance fleet. Within seven years, this relatively young charity has been able to sustain one helicopter and then fund a

second which is a remarkable achievement for everyone involved - not least the public, whose generous support funds our entire life-saving service.

"During these difficult times, the demands on frontline emergency services has never been greater and we hope the public will continue to support us - ensuring that, with the launch of Helimed 79, we can fly more care, more quickly, to more people wherever the need arises in Scotland. We wish Helimed 79, her long-serving stablemate Helimed 76 and their experienced and professional crews safe flying in the years to come."

Tom Steele, Chair of the Scottish Ambulance Service, welcomed the arrival of the country's latest air ambulance.

"Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance has proved a vital component in the 999 emergency response network, responding to nearly 2,500 emergencies since the charity launched," he said. "Working very closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service, SCAA has saved many lives - especially in the more remote and rural areas of Scotland - and a second helicopter will add very significant capability to the entire Scottish air ambulance fleet, bringing fast medical care to

# HELIMED 79 LAUNCH

sick and injured patients as well as quick life-saving transport to hospital if required.

“Everyone in the country should be very grateful to SCAA for their massive fundraising effort and to the Scottish public for their generous ongoing support,” he added. “We all wish them well in their crucial role.”

SCAA Chief Executive David Craig said the charity’s new air ambulance asset was launching in “unprecedented and challenging times”.

“The need for air ambulance resources in Scotland is proven,” he said, “and we stand ready to deploy Helimed 79 and 76 as and when they are required by the Scottish Ambulance Service. Our new air response asset in Aberdeen will serve not only the north east but the whole of Scotland as and when required during these difficult times and into the future.

“We hope the people of Scotland will continue to support this life-saving charity in the way they have for the past seven years, ensuring that SCAA is available to fly to those most in need.”

Director of Babcock’s Onshore business, Hayley Belmore, said: “It’s a real honour to be working with our partner SCAA to bring this brand new air ambulance service, Helimed

79, to Scotland. We are looking forward to helping SCAA deliver a truly lifesaving service to people and communities across Scotland.”

In its first few months of service, Helimed 79 has already proven a valuable addition to Scotland’s 999 emergency network, responding to call outs all over Scotland, including recently to the Orkney Islands. Helimed 79 Lead Paramedic Ewan Littlejohn expressed his gratitude to everyone that had helped make this new air ambulance a reality.

“It’s the people’s helicopter,” he said, “It was funded by everyone in Scotland. And with everything that’s going on at the moment, our team has worked extremely hard to make this happen.”



Ewan Littlejohn – Helimed 79 Lead Paramedic

**DONATE NOW**

# PATIENT STORY

## **A young baby whose life hung in the balance after being attacked by a dog was reunited with the air ambulance crew that helped save his life in a desperate race against time.**

Four-month-old James and his parents Morven and Derek Davidson from remote Glen Esk in Angus travelled to Perth Airport to say “thank you” in an emotional reunion with the crew of Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance that flew to the rescue.

“We can’t thank them enough,” said the couple. “Their expertise and fast actions saved our little boy. We owe them his life.”

James was attacked by one of the family’s dogs as he lay in his pram while his mother kennelled them following a walk.

**“I just looked away for a minute and when I heard him cry out I turned to see our little terrier on the pram,” said Morven. “The dog jumped down as soon as I shouted but one look at James told me he was badly injured.”**

SCAA was quickly on scene, landing right beside the family’s countryside home. And a quick assessment of the injured infant told SCAA paramedic Darren O’Brien all he needed to know.

“Baby James suffered extensive injuries to his head and neck in the attack, including a punctured windpipe,” he explained.

**“Getting him quickly to theatre was crucial and we alerted the surgical team at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to the infant’s injuries, ensuring they were ready to act as soon as we got there.”**

That speed in airlifting James to expert surgeons proved a lifesaver, with pilot Captain Shaun Rose wasting no time in getting their valuable passenger to expert care.

“I saw the look in the paramedics’ eyes and knew we were on the clock,” said Shaun. “This little chap needed us to move fast so we did - getting him to hospital in about 15 minutes.”

“I never took my eyes off him throughout the entire flight,” said Darren. “We couldn’t let him drift off to sleep and I was monitoring him every second in case he deteriorated and we had to intervene. It really was a race against time.



“As paramedics, you try not to invest emotionally in your patients but it’s extremely difficult when a wee one’s involved,” said Darren. “And James was touch and go.”

“To see him alert and healthy and happy is what makes this job worthwhile and we’re so touched that the family has come to visit. We’re really humbled and it means a huge amount to us all.”

“It’s a very special day - getting a cuddle from a real wee fighter. It’s awesome.”

Following three days in the High Dependency Unit and a series of operations, James has now made a full recovery following the attack. But the family is in no doubt that things could have proved tragically different without SCAA’s fast actions.

**“This service is a lifeline to rural communities,” said Derek. “They literally make the difference between life and death and our family will be forever grateful for what they did that day.”**



# OPERATIONS REPORT

The operational team is constantly working and engaging with other emergency and voluntary services such as Scottish Fire and Rescue, South East Critical Care Practitioners and Scottish Ambulance Service staff.

The paramedic team is delighted to see the arrival of a bespoke clinical training unit which has been installed in the hangar. This equipment is vital for our teams to train and improve their skills when time allows, keeping clinical skills up-to-date and providing the opportunity to evaluate and reconstruct some incidents.

SCAA's Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) BMW X5 is proving to be a good resource for responding to incidents within a short distance of the base or when our helicopter is unable to fly due to extreme weather or unscheduled maintenance. The vehicle comes with the latest Scottish Ambulance Service telehealth system which allows all ambulance service calls to be securely transmitted to the device and provides route mapping to the incident.

The Helimed 76 team welcomed the new Helimed 79 crew to Perth in March whilst they completed their HEMS course and operational shadowing shifts. Congratulations to the Helimed 79 project team for the hard work that went on behind the scenes, leading to the successful launch of the Aberdeen base and the first of many more life-saving missions by both aircraft.

Both Helimed 76 and Helimed 79 aircraft have now been fitted with the latest Ortus Corpuls3 defibrillators with both teams enjoying this upgrade of the new patient monitoring device which the Scottish Ambulance Service is using across its fleet. The new device is able to be broken down into three parts for patient monitoring of blood pressure, oxygen saturations, end tidal CO2, temperature, arterial pressure, external defibrillation and ECG diagnosis.

Thankfully, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance operations have been able to maintain their ability to respond to call outs throughout this uncertain time during the Covid-19 outbreak. We are so thankful to all our supporters who continue to donate to SCAA, which in turn keeps our operational teams responding to all who need this vital lifeline.

**John Pritchard**  
Helimed 76 Lead Paramedic





# CALL OUT STATS

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance responded to more emergencies and an increasing number of time-critical serious trauma incidents during 2019.

Our highly skilled paramedics were deployed to

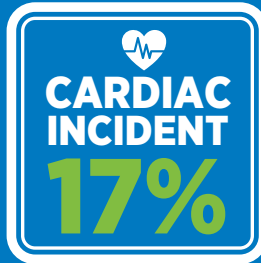
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life-threatening emergencies  
an **8% increase on the previous year's workload.**

Last year also recorded a

# 47% increase

in the number of serious trauma cases attended by SCAA - from 105 to 154 - with nearly a third (64) being to road traffic collisions.



**DONATE NOW**

# CHARITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## Phoenix rises to the fundraising challenge

In addition to individual public donations and fundraising, SCAA relies heavily on the generosity of corporate partners - both large and small.

Currently, SCAA is enjoying the support of Europe's largest life and pensions consolidator Phoenix Group - incorporating Standard Life - which has kindly extended its corporate partnership with us from one year to two.

This vital, active and rewarding partnership has seen the company's Scottish staff embrace the challenge of raising funds for our life-saving charity throughout 2019 and 2020 in a variety of exciting and innovative activities combining fundraising with fun. The partnership continues to be an outstanding example of staff engagement and support.

Keen to encourage the wholehearted efforts of the staff, Phoenix Group offered a Raise and Match scheme which sees each employee earn match funding from the company for every pound they raise individually - up to a total of £10,000.

This tremendous incentive has spurred staff on to achieve great things with fundraising initiatives ranging from sales and cycles to raffles and Christmas Fairs.

Lockdown called a halt to exciting plans for a "Superheroes" abseil at BT Murrayfield, but with so many daredevils signed up to take part, the event has been postponed rather than cancelled. Phoenix Group employees and dozens of others will get their chance to "fly" from the stands at our national rugby stadium at a new date tbc.

Phoenix Group has also made separate grant support donations to SCAA, further boosting the successful corporate/charity partnership.

Other ground-breaking support from the company included the three-month secondment of Phoenix Group Customer Operations officer Rosie Darnelle to SCAA - a placement she thoroughly enjoyed.

"It was an incredible experience - a real eye opener and very rewarding," she said. "I was responsible for a variety of tasks ranging from gathering and acting on data on prospective SCAA supporters to attending promotional photoshoots in costume and helping set up and run first aid classes.

"The secondment was a fantastic opportunity and I highly recommend this rare chance to gain unique experience to anyone looking to try their hand at something new while helping others in the process!"



# WAYS TO SUPPORT SCAA

Even in these unprecedented times, there are plenty of ways you can support Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. Even in these difficult circumstances, your paramedics and pilots are still online 7 days a week to respond to time-critical emergencies wherever they occur in Scotland.

## REGULAR GIVING

Becoming a SCAA regular donor means supporting our mission to deliver more care, more quickly to more people across Scotland. Regular donations allow us to manage our resources better and deliver critical care more effectively.

*To become a SCAA Regular Donor, [click here](#).*

## LEGACIES

Every year, approximately 50 of our life-saving missions are made possible through gifts in wills. After you've provided for your loved ones, we'd be very grateful if you'd consider supporting our mission to deliver more care, more quickly to more people across Scotland by including a gift in your Will to SCAA.

*For more information on Legacies, [click here](#).*

## VOLUNTEER

Do you have any spare time that you could donate to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance? Then why not consider becoming part of our invaluable volunteer team? Volunteers are an integral part of our charity and support our charity in many ways. The dedication and passion of our volunteers helps SCAA to save lives in Scotland.

We are always looking for reliable, enthusiastic people to join our family of volunteers by donating their time and skills. You could help us events, give presentations about SCAA around Scotland or help out at one of our offices.

*For more information on becoming a SCAA Volunteer, [click here](#).*



**DONATE NOW**

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for continuing to support Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. Whether you donate, volunteer or play our lottery – we couldn't keep flying without you.

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

- Enter a fundraising event or organise your own
- Become a SCAA Volunteer
- Make a one-off or regular donation
- Play our weekly lottery
- Leave a gift to SCAA in your will



**DONATE**



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

by Direct Debit and Credit or Debit Card



**Phone 0300 123 1111**

by Direct Debit and Credit or Debit Card



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