Our sincere thanks to Clydesdale Bank for supporting the design and printing of our annual report.

REGISTERED OFFICE:
The Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone, PH2 6PL
Registered Company SC 384396 (Scotland)
Registered Charity Number SC041845

TRUSTEES:
John Bullough – Chairman
Mike Beale – Vice Chairman
Paul Bassett
Alan Bell
Benedict Lawson
Joyce Leslie
Andrew Richmond
Martin Togneri

COMPANY SECRETARY:
Thorntons Law LLP, Whitehall House, 33 Yeaman Shore, Dundee, DD1 4BJ

AUDITORS:
Campbell Dallas LLP, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 4 Atholl Crescent, Perth, PH1 5NG

CHIEF EXECUTIVE:
David Craig
I am delighted to provide an update on behalf of the Board of Trustees on the many successes and developments achieved over the last 12 months.

Our thanks must also go to the operational aircrew that serve on Helimed 76. Our dedicated team of pilots and SAS clinicians deploy to incidents, sometimes several times a day – and we all depend on their skill and diligence.

The location of Helimed 79 is still to be determined, but our discussions with the Scottish Ambulance Service continue and I hope our second operational base will be announced in the very near future. Doubling the size of our charity will require some investment, but one of the key objectives of the Board is to continue to ensure public confidence and transparency in how the charity operates and this is constantly reviewed at our quarterly meetings. We are extremely proud of the fact that we are one of Scotland’s leanest charities and we will continue to ensure that the vast majority of funds that are raised go directly to our frontline service.

SCAA has begun an exciting new chapter in the charity’s development. Helimed 76 has been blessed and humbled by the unwavering support from the people of Scotland. Now Helimed 79 needs your continued support.

Thank you all for giving SCAA your time and hard earned income which allows us to make Scotland a safer place.

As I highlighted in my report last year, we increased our operational hours from 10 to 12 at a cost of over £100,000.00. This resulted in a 6% increase in the number of call-outs from 348 to 360 and a 20% increase in our flying hours, ensuring we maximised the capability of the helicopter.

The support we continue to receive across the country is exceptional, none more so than from those people we have attended or airlifted who fundraise for us – some after a very traumatic experience. Those individuals – along with people who participate in our events, companies, trusts, local communities and our lottery players – helped to raise £15 million. You have helped to raise nearly £15 million which has enabled the crew of Helimed 76 to save and improve hundreds of lives.

Towards the end of 2017, some members of our crew; Paramedics, Graeme Hay and Craig MacDonald, and pilot, Captain John Stupart, were shortlisted for the ‘Special Incident’ Award at the Annual Awards of Excellence. All three were nominated after the skill, speed and judgement they delivered helped to save the life of a badly injured forestry worker who was in a remote location, presenting the crew with a very challenging landing.

Thank you to all who have supported Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) over the last 12 months. The last year has been one of further development and progress as we work towards the delivery of the Board of Trustees strategic plan; the introduction of our second air ambulance, Helimed 79.

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SCAA’s fifth year of operations has been punctuated with significant landmarks for the charity – not least of which was the extension of our operational hours and the increase in our paramedic crew numbers.

The year began with the change to our daily operational shift length – from 10 hours to 12 – a move which has seen our availability and response capability extended.

In order to facilitate this move, an additional paramedic has been recruited to the SCAA pool, taking our regular team from five to six.

This first full year of operating 12 hours a day has also seen the number of patients airlifted to hospital increase. Our nationwide footprint has now seen us operate in every local authority area bar Shetland.

The introduction of a Scottish Ambulance Service network Trauma Desk – staffed by HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) paramedics and Adult Retrieval Clinicians 24 hours a day – has seen the “refining” of calls with SCAA being tasked more appropriately to the most serious illness and trauma emergencies.

This high-end trauma and critical illness workload places heavy demands on both paramedics and pilots and SCAA is fortunate to have one of the country’s most experienced and self-motivated crews.

The past year has also seen the “flexible” platform of our aircraft maximised. While Helimed 76 is a dual paramedic team, we have the ability to adapt to operational needs.

This can be to transport critical care teams (e.g. trauma teams or paediatric and adult retrieval teams) to emergency scenes and airlift them with the most serious patients to hospital.

SCAA has also been able to re-position according to operational needs, with Helimed 76 based at various locations across the country as the need arises in order to maximise air cover for the whole of Scotland.

The past year brought particularly severe spells of winter weather – which also brought an increase in emergency call outs for Helimed 76. A fully branded Discovery on loan to SCAA from Land Rover was also made available while “the Beast from the East” struck, ensuring key NHS staff could make it to their place of work to continue providing vital 24/7 care in Tayside.

Ongoing training remains vital to ensure SCAA’s paramedics are up-to-date in all aspects of our profession – both as paramedics and as helicopter technical crew members.

Over the past year I have been proud to witness the further growth and evolution of the crew in terms of experience, maturity, skills, patient contact, refined tasking and mission demands.

We all look forward to being a part of the charity’s exciting future as SCAA looks to launch a second life-saving helicopter.

John Pritchard MBE
Paramedic Team Leader
TWO MORE LIVES SAVED

Jason’s Story

The last thing Jason remembers was turning his motorcycle onto the road outside his Fife home with the intention of heading to Anstruther for a fish supper.

His memory has blocked out the horror of colliding with a car on a bend in the road minutes later, being catapulted over a 12 ft hedge and landing, smashed and bleeding, in a field 25 ft beyond the impact zone.

Seven days later, Jason regained consciousness in Ninewells Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit.

After hearing of his ordeal and the life-threatening injuries he had sustained, Jason determined he would walk into Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance’s airbase, shake the hands of the crew that saved him and say ‘thank you’. A little over three months later – against all the odds – an emotional Jason touched down 15 minutes later.

“Without them I really believe I wouldn’t be here today – I owe them my life.”

I wanted to meet the guys whose speed and professionalism ensured I survived,” explained the 47-year-old operations manager with Wood Group.

“I remember lying staring at the glorious blue skies and thinking that whatever happened next was down to the emergency system kicking in and saving me.”

“SCAA are literally a lifeline – especially to remote and rural locations. It’s a must for Scotland and I’ll be a supporter for life.”

“When I came to, I couldn’t breath very well and I couldn’t feel my right arm and shoulder,” relived John. “I remember lying staring at the glorious blue skies and thinking that whatever happened next was down to the emergency system kicking in and saving me.”

“SCAA’s role in my accident is inestimable,” added John. “It is an outstanding charity and I’m just one of hundreds who owe them so much.”

SCAA Lead Paramedic John Pritchard was one of the crew who flew to Jason’s aid.

“It was a critical accident scene,” he said. “Jason had multiple injuries – several of them life-threatening – and our priority was to work with the two land ambulance crews at the scene to make sure he was stabilised and his most serious injuries managed for the flight to Dundee.”

“We did feel there was a chance he wouldn’t make it – and if he did he would probably be left with complex physical and psychological problems.

“Seven days later, Jason regained consciousness in Ninewells Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit.

“SCAA flew me to vital hospital care in just 10 minutes, giving me the best chance of survival and recovery,” said John. “It really was a race against time and without SCAA who knows what would have happened.”

“Without them I really believe I wouldn’t be here today – I owe them my life.”

JASON'S LIST OF HORDENDOUS INJURIES WHICH KEPT HIM IN HOSPITAL FOR 11 WEEKS – SEVERAL OF THEM LIFE-THREATENING IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

SBOURB

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As his bicycle crested the famous Bo’ness summit near Loughor on the Isle of Arran, retired schoolteacher John was in his element.

Within minutes of starting his decent, however, John was thrown from his bike, tearing and breaking his body against the rough tarmac.

As John was knocked unconscious, the race began to save his life.

“By the time he reached the base, he was conscious enough to say ‘I’m not going to die. I’m going to get better.’”

As John was knocked unconscious, the race began to save his life.

“John, calls were already mobilising emergency services to the scene. One look at John’s extensive injuries by paramedics and a passing doctor prompted an immediate call for air ambulance assistance to the remote island location.

A road ambulance carefully transported John to the foot of the hill where Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) touched down 15 minutes later.

“It is a very emotional moment when you hear the helicopter arriving and you know you will soon be in hospital,” explained John. “It was only later when I discovered the time-critical extent and seriousness of my injuries that I realised the vital role SCAA played in saving my life.”

John’s catalogue of horrendous injuries included: two punctured lungs; six broken ribs; bones smashed above and below the right elbow; elbow flesh torn away to the bone; broken right shoulder blade; lumps of flesh torn from right shoulder and arm; concussion and multiple abrasions the length of his right side and leg.

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SAVING TIME, SAVING LIVES
Gardening Scotland announces that their annual national showcase at Ingliston will support SCAA. As the chosen charity, SCAA will benefit from a range of fundraising and publicity initiatives.

OCTOBER ‘17
SCAA enjoys the ear of MPs at the all party parliamentary group reception for air ambulances at Westminster.

DECEMBER ‘17
The year ends with the news that Edinburgh Airport has chosen SCAA as its Charity Of The Year for 2018. This will go on to raise significant funds for the life-saving service.

JANUARY ‘18
A rescue by SCAA features on prime-time BBC programme “Close Calls On Camera”. A man who was trapped under his overturned digger in a remote part of Scotland tells how SCAA played a key role in his survival.

MARCH ‘18
SCAA’s main sponsor Clydesdale Bank encourage staff to support the charity and Aberdeen employees launch a fundraiser in the city centre branches involving staff and customers.

APRIL ‘17
SCAA increases its operational hours from 10 to 12 each day.

JUNE ‘17
SCAA founding chairman John Bullough and stalwart volunteer Ally Bollingbroke are shortlisted for category distinction at the prestigious annual SCVO awards.

JULY ‘17
The Daily Mirror’s Pride Of Britain tour rolls up to SCAA’s base to highlight the charity, focussing on the saving of a meningitis sufferer’s life when there were just minutes to spare.

AUGUST ‘17
SCAA is the chosen charity for the Blair Castle International Horse Trials, taking the work of the life-saving helicopter to a global audience.

SEPTEMBER ‘17
Watermans solicitors finance the creation of a SCAA mascot and Scotty is duly introduced to the public. He is to prove a huge draw at publicity and fundraising events.

NOVEMBER ‘17
A SCAA pilot and two paramedics are shortlisted in the Air Ambulance Association awards for the challenging rescue of a forestry worker punctured through the chest by a flying link from his chainsaw.

FEBRUARY ‘18
This year’s highlights
It’s been another fantastic year of fundraising with a host of different activities and events taking place – all helping to raise over £3.5 million.

The support throughout Scotland continues to grow and everyone at SCAA is very grateful to the many businesses, grant funders and individuals who help keep us flying every day of the year.

One of the major successes in the last year has been the growth of our life-saving lottery which has increased by 73% to nearly 56,000 weekly plays. Our lottery canvassers are signing up people daily and can be found mostly in stores throughout the country. Thanks to Aldi Scotland who continue to provide access to all their outlets.

Thanks to Watermans Solicitors providing sponsorship, SCAA was able to welcome our first ever mascot, Scotty, who has been warmly received at events and venues the length and breadth of the country.

We were delighted to be chosen as the charity partner for the International Blair Horse Trials which raised £7,000 and helped to increase our awareness amongst the equestrian community. Auchterhouse Country Sports held a ladies day and raised £7,580. The British Association of Ski Patrollers held a ball raising over £6,000 and we also benefitted from the Aberfeldy Highland Ball which raised £3,700.

As a member of the Air Ambulance Association Charity, we benefitted from UK partnerships with companies including Allianz, Roadchef, SHB Hire and Nationwide Accident Repair Centre.

SCAA led events proved popular once again with 50 taking part in the Forth Bridge Abseil raising over £27,000 and the Lanrick Challenge, in partnership with the Sandpiper Trust, had its most successful event to date with 320 participating raising £12,260 for each charity.

Finally, the fantastic group of volunteers at Pitlochry Station Bookshop, who have now raised nearly £30,000 in support of SCAA, were quite rightly recognised for their work at the Institute of Scotland Annual Awards as the Voluntary Fundraising Group of the Year.
Digital communications have become a key element in our strategy over the past year.

Social media has been utilised daily, with the primary objective of raising awareness, educating and signposting audiences, and keeping them up to date with SCAA news and developments. This platform allows us to effectively engage with followers both directly and promptly – answering queries and receiving feedback, which is valued in all areas of the charity.

In November 2017, our new website was launched, which was generously supported by MTC Media. This provides a vital tool for individuals and organisations who are looking for information including lottery results, fundraising events, mission information and news. The website also provides an effective donation platform, which saw £15,000 donated in 17/18. For the first time in the charity’s history, we have introduced an online shop for merchandise sales. This distribution channel has been well received and offers opportunity for growth.

We still actively communicate with supporters using print and traditional media, including general and targeted information leaflets and newsletters. In 17/18 we produced two newsletters, the design and print of which was kindly supported by our corporate partner Clydesdale Bank.

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**FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS**
31,067

**TWITTER FOLLOWERS**
4,314

**INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS**
143

**WEBSITE PAGE VISITS INCREASED BY**
103%
We are indebted to our family of volunteers who generously donate their time to SCAA.

Our volunteers are involved in a range of activities including speaking on our behalf, taking part in fundraising collections, helping with office administration and marshalling at events.

They are passionate about helping to raise awareness of our life-saving charity across Scotland and supporting us in reaching fundraising targets – making a real difference every single day.

We would like to say thank you to all our volunteers, including our trustees who kindly give up their time and share their expertise with SCAA, helping us fly into the future.

**Volunteer Spotlight**

John has been a SCAA volunteer for twelve months after hosting a fundraising event to celebrate his 60th birthday and the 75th anniversary of his family being at their farm – which raised over £1,000.

Since becoming a volunteer, John has helped at many fundraising events, bucket collections and kindly donates a few hours every week to help in the office with a range of tasks.

“I gain great pleasure from volunteering for SCAA and feel lucky being able to give something back to society. SCAA is a very visible charity and I feel proud when I see it passing in the sky, doing their good work. The charity team is very friendly and I enjoy spending my time with them.”

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**Volunteering 2016/17**

- **Total Number of Volunteers**: 80
- **Volunteering Hours in the SCAA Office**: 600
- **Events Attended by Volunteers**: 69
- **Talks Delivered by Volunteers**: 93
- **Amount Raised Through Collecting Cans Placed by Volunteers**: £39,091.61
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO KEEP SAVING LIVES

Without our supporters we would not be able to keep saving lives in Scotland.

Thank you to the individuals, companies, organisations, corporate partners, trusts and foundations who have generously given their money, time and expertise to help keep us flying.

INDIVIDUALS
We are incredibly grateful to the people of Scotland who continue to support us through one-off and regular donations, lottery membership and fundraising activities. Your support and commitment amaze us every single day – thank you!

GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS
We are being supported by a growing number of groups and organisations, in every corner of Scotland. This support includes an increasing selection of offices, shops, pubs, clubs and hotels who kindly place our collecting cans on their premises – raising almost £40,000 over the past year.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS
Over the past year we have worked with a range of corporate partners who have supported us in a variety of ways. Our corporate partners have helped us remain operational 365 days through fundraising, volunteering, donations and offering their goods and services.

TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS
We are enormously appreciative of the support we receive from trusts, foundations and grants. This support has helped us save and improve hundreds of lives over the past year.

A M Pilkington Charitable Trust
Artemis Charitable Foundation
Bank of Scotland Foundation
Barcapel Foundation
Binks Trust
Broughton Charitable Trust
Cadogan Charitable Trust
Callendar Charitable Trust
Cameron Group Charitable Trust
The Caram Trust
The Cecil Howman Charitable Trust
The Charitable Assets Trust
The Cruden Foundation
The Evelyn Drysdale Trust
Friends of Pitlochry Hospital
The Graham Trust
The Harold Merton Adams Trust
Hugh Fraser Foundation
Hugh Stenhouse Foundation
I B B Trust
JTH Trust
James Weir Foundation
Jimmie Cairncross Foundation
The Kylsant Charitable Trust
League of Friends of Aberfeldy
League of Friends of Newton Stewart
The Lendrum Charitable Trust
Lord Leverhulme’s Charitable Trust
The March Brown Charitable Trust
The Martin Connell Charitable Trust
The Mickel Fund
Miss I F Harvey’s Charitable Trust
Miss M B Reekie’s Charitable Trust
The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust
The Misses Robinson Charitable Trust
The Morton Charitable Trust
The Nancie Massey Charitable Trust
Peter Vardy Foundation
The P F Charitable Trust
R J Larg Family Charitable Trust
The Russell Trust
Scottish Police Benevolent Fund
SSE Clyde Borders Community Fund
SSE Griffin & Callachar Community Fund
St Fillans Community Trust
Thornton’s Charitable Trust
The Tillyloss Trust
The Trades House of Glasgow
The W A Cargill Fund
Walter Craig Charitable Trust

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