CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last year has seen Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) continue its development and growth as the charity matures and approaches sustainability.

In just three years SCAA has become an integral and indispensable part of our country’s emergency services. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to sincerely thank the thousands of people, as well as the businesses, communities, trusts and foundations, that have generously donated their time and funds to establish this national lifesaving service.

We were delighted to welcome our new Chief Executive, David Craig, who joined us on the 1st September 2015, just prior to the launch of our upgraded EC135 T2i helicopter. The significant milestone of enhancing our service to the gold standard of HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) aircraft was achieved in less than three years from our launch; which far surpassed our ambitious Board of Trustees’ expectations. The income to cover the additional costs for this significant capability enhancement (more information in the CEO’s report) was achieved following an allocation of funding from LIBOR bank fines. Thanks to the hard work of our charity team and operational aircrew, our distinctive new helicopter went operational on 4th November 2015 and has already flown to most parts of Scotland.

SCAA will continue to look to the future to plan the next phase of our development. The Board of Trustees has spent a considerable amount of time planning our strategic three year plan, which will include further investment in our service and our staff. Part of this review also included our governance and to strengthen the Board we appointed Martin Togneri as a Trustee. Martin is a board member of the Scottish Ambulance Service, our closest partner, and his involvement will allow us to enhance this close relationship. It’s vitally important that Trustees contribute to the charity and we have also implemented Terms of Office for all board members which will help to oversee the charity for many years to come.

One of the Board’s key objectives is to reach sustainability in the next couple of years and we have been delighted by the level of engagement and contribution by the people of Scotland. In addition to our growing lottery and community fundraising, we have received some large donations through legacies and gifts that have allowed us to start to invest these funds carefully to provide SCAA with an annual income.

As part of our wider strategy, I am delighted to announce that we intend to increase our operational hours from 10 to 12 hours a day from April 2017 and plans are already underway to ensure we achieve this target date. This increased capability will cost the charity over £100,000 per annum, but we are confident that this service enhancement will save and improve even more lives throughout Scotland.

At the end of March 2016, SCAA reached its 1000th call out which equates to nearly £4,500 for every call out we responded to during the year.

I will report on the developments and milestones over the last year.

It’s vitally important that Trustees contribute to the charity and such a milestone in our journey, less than three years from when we first launched.

The new helicopter, G-SCAA, has enhanced the overall service with its increased capability, endurance, speed and range proving an invaluable resource to emergency air ambulance resilience in Scotland. Even in a short period of operation, we have seen a 20% increase in the number of call outs and a near 80% increase in flying hours over a comparable period the previous year. While this sadly highlights the many accidents and emergencies throughout the country, it is in these remote and rural areas where this service will continue to be in need the most.

During 2015/16 our frontline crew responded to nearly 450 emergencies, preventing potential tragedies and retrieving patients to hospital for further care. Through the continued generosity of the people of Scotland, local and national businesses, community groups and organisations, as well as our volunteers, who have travelled the length and breadth of the country attending events or delivering presentations; you have raised an incredible £2,000,000 to keep us flying, which equates to nearly £4,500 for every call out we responded to during the year.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

From our base at Perth airport, we are ideally located to reach 90% of the population in under 30 minutes and following a specific grant, we developed a piece of land into a new, illuminated, helipad which complements the capability of the aircraft when taking off or landing in the hours of darkness. The creation of the helipad and its proximity to the base provides the crew with closer access to the helicopter and the ability to respond more quickly.

In an ever more challenging environment, we remain focussed on developing existing and new income streams to improve long-term financial sustainability. Our lottery continues to grow and is now one of the fastest growing of all air ambulance charities in the UK.

SCAA continues to develop its corporate partnerships with our existing sponsors Clydesdale Bank plc, SSE plc and Statoil Coach Group plc. Through our membership of the Air Ambulance Association, we have also benefited from national UK partnerships with Roadchef and Allianz.

There are opportunities for us to improve our business; we are a young and dynamic organisation with plenty of enthusiasm and ambitious ideas. We are also wise enough to know that we cannot achieve all that we want to on our own and that partnership with others, particularly the Scottish Ambulance Service and Babcock Mission Critical Services Onshore Limited, is paramount to our success.

It will be an exciting and hopefully fruitful next few years and a time when maintaining a firm focus on our objectives will put the charity on a stronger footing thereafter.

DAVID CRAIG
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Throughout my third year as Paramedic team leader with SCAA, I have been proud to see us deliver unfailing and dedicated care to hundreds of patients across the whole of Scotland and its many islands.

The crew has taken to the air and the road (in our 4 x 4 rapid response vehicle) on 445 occasions to attend seriously ill and injured people. Those desperately in need of our help include many suffering extreme trauma as a result of accidents or falls; cardiac and stroke patients for whom rapid medical treatment is vital; sportsmen, women and children whose exciting day out turns to disaster if they take a tumble; farmers and other rural workers who fall victim to accident or illness; or those caught up in road traffic collisions on our busy major and rural roads network.

This year has also seen the expansion of our workload into the transfer of medical teams to and from incidents and the airlift of desperately ill patients from remote and rural medical hubs to specialist centralised hospital care. To hear from patients we have helped once they are back on the road to recovery is always humbling and their feedback is always consistent - “SCAA provides a vital lifeline to the sick and injured across Scotland.”

The main platform that takes our skills straight to patient as quickly as possible is our aircraft and in November we said a sad farewell to our first operational helicopter – the Bolkow 105, registration G-CDBS – which had become an instantly recognisable symbol of care in the sky for the first two years of SCAA’s service to the people of, and visitors to, Scotland.

It was with a heavy heart that the team said goodbye to the last operational Bolkow 105 Air Ambulance in the UK before turning our attention to its replacement – the EC 135 – and the team’s excitement at being able to operate in a more spacious cabin, with an extra seat for the use of a child’s parent, guardian, relative or more skilled medical staff when transferring more complex or injured patients.

The demand for our service continues to grow year on year with barely an area of Scotland remaining untouched by our service.

SCAA’s crew of two pilots, five permanent and five reserve paramedics deliver the highest standards of pre-hospital ambulance care over a ten hour period, 365 days a year. The vision – with your support – is to extend this to 12 hours of service.

With the EC135 we can now operate in hours of darkness from and to pre-determined landing sites across Scotland by utilising the aircraft’s instrument rating where weather limits allow the transfer of patients. We continue to see the benefit of our new aircraft when landing in remote areas and transferring patients over long distances, negating the long land transfer option with fast air transfers to definitive care.

We as a team are very humbled by the support Scotland gives to the charity and we are proud to be a part of this unique service.

SCAA’s professional and expert crew can provide the frontline time-critical response that will continue to fly the patients to care - but it is the people in every family, every community and every region of this country that will ensure we stay in the air.

YOUR continued invaluable contribution funds this amazing charity and will fuel us into the future so that myself and the crew of Helimed 76 can continue to be there for those most in need.

John Pritchard MBE, SCAA Lead Paramedic
Rescue Stories

No one tells of the impact Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance has made in its first three years of operations better than the people whose lives have been touched by the fast-response emergency service. Here are just two of their stories.

Alan

A leisurely Easter weekend walk on the slopes of Schiehallion in Highland Perthshire turned into a full scale emergency, prompting the landmark 1,000th rapid response from Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

The walk in the hills for Allan Thornhill and his wife Lesley soon became a race against time when the 57-year-old taxi driver doubled up in agony. And recovering at his home in Troon, Allan said he was in no doubt that he owed the driver doubled up in agony. And recovering at his home in Troon, Allan said he was in no doubt that he owed his life.

Lawyer, Gavin Law, from Musselburgh was the first member of the public on the scene as the mountainside drama unfolded.

“I heard a woman shouting for help further up the slope and the public on the scene as the mountainside drama unfolded. Gavin Law. “The car park was some distance away and the helicopter proved vital on the day,” said the 42-year-old landscape gardener from Strathtay. “I was then able to reach my mobile phone and dial 999,” said Allan. “I knew we were miles from anywhere and I was getting worse – the pain was intense across my chest and jaw. I was drifting in and out, but when I heard the helicopter and saw it land further down the hill, I remember a great wave of relief and when the paramedics were at my side, I started to feel new hope.”

Other hillwalkers quickly volunteered their services and six helped the two SCAA paramedics carry the stretcher down the steep rough ground back to the helicopter. SCAA (callsign Helimed 76) then flew Allan to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee – a 20 minute flight that would have taken well over an hour and a half by road.

“The helicopter air ambulance proved vital on the day,” said Gavin Law. “The car park was some distance away and the land ambulance crew faced quite a climb. They would also have had a long journey back over rough ground with the patient to reach the ambulance even before they started the long drive to hospital.”

“SCAA is worth its weight in gold to the people of Scotland,” said Allan. “I was able to see my grandchildren enjoy their Easter eggs thanks to this amazing team – it could so easily have been a totally different outcome without them.”

“They are heroes. I owe them my life.”

Kevin

As the two-and-a-half-ton dumper truck slowly toppled over on the slope, driver Kevin McNab tried to jump clear. Landing on soft ground he looked back to see the vehicle crash down on top of him – the roll bar crushing his chest and the body of the vehicle smashing on to his leg.

Despite agonising pain, Kevin managed to wriggle into the soft ground and pull himself free of the dumper.

“I really thought I was going to die under my own dumper truck,” said the 42-year-old landscape gardener from Strathtay. “I then thought about my kids and that gave me the strength to make a superhuman effort to pull myself free. I think adrenaline took over.”

The severity of Kevin’s injuries meant he was only able to drag himself into a sitting position against the still-running vehicle, miles from anywhere on the south shore of Loch Tay.

“I was then able to reach my mobile phone and dial 999,” he explained. “My workmate was breaking rocks at the other side of the property and couldn’t hear my shouts above the engine, but luckily I had the phone and the ambulance controller kept me on the line talking and reassuring me that help was on the way.”

“My friend eventually realised something was wrong and came to find me and did what he could to make me comfortable. The pain across my chest and in my leg was horrendous and I prayed for help to come quickly.”

That help, in the form of local farmers, First Responders, an ambulance crew and Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA), all arrived within seconds of each other and paramedics quickly assessed the situation and started pain relief for Kevin.

He was then stretchered to the nearby helicopter and airlifted to Ninewells Hospital where he spent nearly two weeks undergoing operations, skin grafts and treatment for a badly smashed shin and ankle and several broken ribs.

“I was signed off work for four months and spent a lot of time unable to walk or on crutches,” he said. “But I know it could have been a lot worse.”

“SCAA is an absolutely tremendous service. They got me out of a remote area and into hospital within 18 minutes – the same journey would have taken at least 90 minutes by road.”

“The care, professionalism and speed they bring is second-to-none and I’m so glad they were there when things went horribly wrong for me,” he added. “Scotland’s lucky to have such a dedicated service and, although you never think you will need them, we should all be grateful they’re there.”
SCAA flies into a new era as the EC 135 escorts the Bolkow 105 into the history books.
OUR THIRD YEAR

SCAA appoints new Chief Executive, David Craig. David, who has been involved in the not-for-profit sector for over 15 years, brings a wealth of experience to SCAA. One of his first jobs will be to oversee the transition from the old helicopter to the new aircraft.

SCAA flies into a new era as our new larger, faster and more powerful aircraft launches on operations. The EC135 T2i will continue to build on the life-saving workload handled by the Bolkow 105 during the charity’s first two years in service.

SCAA welcomes our first female paramedic on board as Julia Barnes joins the airborne crew. Julia, who has 20 years experience in the Scottish Ambulance Service, notches up a busy baptism with 10 emergency call outs in her first few days at SCAA.

Scotland’s Health Minister Shona Robison MSP visits SCAA to add her support to the charity as it launches into a new era with a larger, faster, more powerful aircraft.

A new state-of-the-art rapid response vehicle takes to the road for SCAA offering emergency paramedic cover for the local area and a platform for emergency responses when the aircraft is offline for any reason. The Sikorsky Octavia 4 x 4 replaces the previous RRV which has been a part of SCAA’s life-saving options since the charity first launched.

St Johnstone FC kicks off the 2015/16 season with a unique new look in support of SCAA. The Premiership high-fliers – for the first time in their 131 year history – sport a logo on their shorts. And it’s the famous SCAA roundel!

Scottish Lands & Estates launch a new support partnership with the charity which it will promote throughout Scotland to support SCAA’s ongoing commitment to rural communities.

A landmark 1,000th emergency call out takes SCAA to the remote hillside where it airlifts a walker suffering a heart attack on the slopes of Schiehallion to accident and emergency.

Scotland’s biker community turns out in force to ride out in support of SCAA as they stage what will become their annual Biker Bash in aid of the charity. This year’s event raises £24,000 for the air ambulance charity.

SCAA earns itself recognition for our work with our “army” of volunteers. The charity has received a Volunteer Friendly Award from Voluntary Action Perthshire following scrutiny of the work they do with volunteers since launching in 2013. To gain the award, we had to present a portfolio of evidence that detailed how we involve volunteers, how they were recruited and how SCAA valued and celebrated our volunteers’ achievements.

Inveralmond Brewery, one of Scotland’s leading independent craft beer breweries, raises a high flying toast to a brand new brew to help raise funds for SCAA with 5p from every pint sold in participating pubs across Scotland being donated to the charity.

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It’s been another year of growth in fundraising.

Through the hard work of the team at SCAA and the tremendous support we have received from every corner of Scotland, we raised nearly £2,000,000 – thank you very much!

We are indebted to you all. Without YOUR help, we simply couldn’t have achieved this tremendous amount which keeps us flying and saving and improving lives. You have organised quizzes, ran marathons, baked cakes, cycled hundreds of miles and abseiled the engineering wonder that is the Forth Rail Bridge. SCAA also relies on the generosity of groups and organisations, businesses, trusts and foundations; but above all, we rely on individual members of the public and the thousands of people who play our weekly lottery.

Our major corporate partnership with the Clydesdale Bank continues with their branding taking prime position on our upgraded EC135 T2i helicopter and rapid response vehicle. The Clydesdale Bank kindly feature SCAA on their ATMs and their involvement also includes the design and print of the majority of our publications – including this one you are reading – completely free of charge. This saves the charity thousands of pounds in printing costs. We also extended our relationship with SSE plc for a further two years and with Stagecoach Group.

SCAA also benefitted from Charity of the Year relationships with Bell Ingram and Scottish Land & Estates. We were delighted to be chosen by the staff of Davisons Chemists who raised over £12,000 from a variety of initiatives and Aviva staff in Perth raised a similar amount throughout the year as well.

In January 2016, and through our membership of the Air Ambulance Association, we were delighted to be chosen by Roadchef for the next two years and already staff and customers at their service stations in Bothwell, Hamilton and Annandale have been great supporters. The following month, Allianz, one of the largest financial services companies in the UK, launched a three-year partnership with employees setting themselves a £1,000,000 target to be shared amongst all UK Air Ambulance charities. This is another superb opportunity to further increase the awareness of SCAA through their 5,000 employees and many customers.

One of the biggest fundraising successes of the year was the Festival of Youth event we were involved in with the Order of St John in Scotland. This was a unique opportunity to partner with this well-established organisation – culminating in a fantastic concert to showcase young talent – and raised £20,000 which was matched and donated by St John Scotland.

Everyone at SCAA – from the Trustees, the charity staff, the volunteers, the paramedics and the pilots, and especially the patients we have airlifted – would like to express our sincerest thanks to everyone who has donated and made that vital difference.
THANK YOU – WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

We are hugely indebted to all of you who have contributed to the charity. Your generosity has directly saved and improved the lives of hundreds of people, and on their behalf, we thank you enormously for your support. Thank you!

INDIVIDUALS

We are unable to name all the individuals who have donated over the past year, but your support has been amazing! You have inspired us by raising money from making jam to abseiling, playing our weekly lottery, donating by direct debit and so much more.

Your commitment helps us to ensure that this service is available 365 days a year.

GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Thank you to the many groups who raise a fantastic sum for SCAA. From Rotary to Motorcycle Clubs and Women’s Institutes to Clay Shooting Clubs, they have all been working hard to raise funds. We now have so many groups supporting our work that we are unable to name them all here.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all our volunteers. Their fantastic support through undertaking collections, speaking engagements, helping out with admin and so much more – is hugely appreciated. Thank you also to our Trustees who give their time so generously.

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

A M Pilkington Charitable Trust
B J Trust
Cameron Group Charitable Trust
The County Air Ambulance Trust
The Co-Operative Bank
Eastfield Car Sales
Enquist
ExxonMobil Chemical Limited
Fletcher Jones
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George Stables Group
The Glen Bar
Glencoe GP
Highland Spring Group
Highland Safaris
Highland Spring Group
The House of Bruar Ltd
Crystal Rig – Cockburnspath
Crystal Rig – East Lammermuir
Crystal Rig – Abbey St Bathans
Crystal Rig – Cockburnspath
Crystal Rig – East Lammermuir
Crystal Rig – Abbey St Bathans

We would also like to thank the many offices, shops, pubs, clubs and hotels that continue to support SCAA by allowing us to place collecting cans in their premises.

GRANTS

A & J Stephen (Builders) Ltd
A J Morton Timber Merchants
Abbeyferry Scottish Wool Centre
Air Service Training
All The Best
Aney Group Services Limited
Anderson Beaton Lawyers
Asda Perth
Aviva
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Craigieburn School
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Dhaygo
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ExxonMobil Chemical Limited
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George Stables Group
The Glen Bar
Gleneagles Ski and Snowboard Limited
Greenside AP
Haldane UK Ltd
Henbury Limited
The Highland Chocolatier
Highland Safaris
Highland Spring Group
The House of Bruar Ltd
Initiate Business Development Ltd
Inveralmond Brewery
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James Barclay Ltd
Jeremy Law of Scotland
Kirkcaldy Bar
Knoydart Racing Circuit
Lamb & Gardner Ltd
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The MacDonald Arms
Marchetti
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McEwans of Perth
McIntosh Donald
McKie’s
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Moo Music
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Peri Ltd
Perth Scaffolding LLP
Perthshire Aerial Images

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Abbeyferry Scottish Wool Centre
Air Service Training
All The Best
Aney Group Services Limited
Anderson Beaton Lawyers
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Aviva
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Camcross of Perth
Camarque Group
Castlecroft Securities Ltd
CJD Food Group
Clarkson Charitable Trust
Craigieburn School
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McIntosh Donald
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Mishnish Hotel
Moffat Woolen Mill
Moo Music
Morris & Young
Morris Leslie Ltd
Nationalise Building Society
Ogilvie Group Limited
Peri Ltd
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Perthshire Aerial Images

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Registered Charity Number SC 041845

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