



# The ROYAL SCOTS CLUB

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO

Some Tattoo Tickets still available - book now! Thurs 4 August 2016

# Write of the Line

[www.royalscotsclub.com](http://www.royalscotsclub.com)

June 2016

## NEW CLUB EVENT - a racing themed weekend **Race-night Dinner & Support your Services Race Day**

Dinner with Guest Speaker, "Tommo" on Sat 24 September  
Afternoon Race Meeting on Sunday 25 September

*Musselburgh Racecourse's annual Support Your Services race day is a fantastic event for everyone connected with the military family and a great day for family and friends.*

This year we are planning a special club weekend by hosting a Race Night Dinner the evening before, and inviting Club members for a delicious dinner and most importantly, some inside tips! Top TV racing pundit Derek 'Tommo' Thompson is guest speaker and he will be recounting some of his many hilarious anecdotes from his years as a TV presenter and racing commentator, as well as going over the following day's race card with the benefit of his vast racing form experience. Don't worry if you're a horse

racing novice, this is a night for everyone and you will certainly enjoy this fun evening.

This delicious three course dinner with half a bottle of wine (or two bottles of beer) is great value at £35.

Tickets for the races on Sunday available for £18.50 (includes parking, a burger and a drink)

Tickets for the Lothian Suite in the Queens Stand (even closer to the action and includes parking, a burger, a drink and access to a private bar) £25.

**Buy dinner and a race ticket together and save 10% - see booking form for options.**



## The Battle of the Somme Commemorations *'A Walk through the Somme'*

Talk and Lunch

Thursday 30th June

With the Battle of the Somme Centenary Commemorations being held throughout the UK on Friday 1st July, the Club is also remembering this dreadful battle, one of the bloodiest in history.

Lt Cdr Alex Manning is returning to the Club on the eve of the Battle of the Somme to deliver a lecture combining the "then" and the "now" of the battle and its battlefield.

Using his own camera and other images, he will help to give the audience a real feel for how things were. A battlefield tour, without anyone actually having to leave their seats.

The lecture will include specific reference to The Royal Scots and The Kings Own Scottish Borderers battalions' contributions to the 1st day of the battle and subsequently.

Alex Manning is a retired Lt Cdr of the Royal Navy, who gave an excellent evening lecture at the Club last year.

During his time with the service he achieved a BA in History & Politics and a Masters Degree in Politics and Int. Relations.



Alex Manning

Talk 12noon, Lunch 1.00pm

## BRASS ON THE GRASS!

Members' Summer Barbecue  
Sunday 10 July

Gates open 12.30 pm



What better way to spend a summer's afternoon than at a barbecue in Queen Street's gardens?

The Royal Regiment of Scotland Band are providing musical entertainment and we will be offering a barbecue feast (no burnt sausages), a glass of Pimms and strawberries & cream. A great day out for all the family. All you need is your best travelling rug or folding chairs and any other refreshments. And don't worry, there is a Plan B if the heavens open...

£25 per person

£15 for under 12s

## From the Chairman

And so here we are with the bumper summer newsletter!

You will be aware of the great amount of thought and work that goes into the production of our top rate Club events programme. To get the high calibre of speaker and to put on extra delights we are often working many months – even years – in advance. Occasionally, however, things happen that are outwith our control, and unfortunately we are having to postpone the National Theatre of Scotland Dinner due to the departure of Artistic Director, Laurie Samson. We are hoping, however, to reschedule the dinner for next year.

Past events have been getting rave reviews from those who have attended and we continue to be confident in our offerings. Please do let me, Janet Grant or members of the committee have any suggestions for the future. Much is planned; many emails, letters and phone calls are being made and we are looking forward to sharing future happy events with you.

New this year is our summer picnic and band afternoon and a race-night dinner with greatly enhanced offers for the following day's racing at Musselburgh (Derek Thompson, 'Tommo', is a hugely knowledgeable and entertaining speaker who will talk about racing and may even be persuaded to give us some tips for the following day).

Well over one hundred people attended our annual new members' drinks party and it was a pleasure to welcome them in. Do encourage your friends, acquaintances and associates to join us. Membership of the Club is good value and we do like to be able to share the benefits of belonging. We accept your proposals and recommendations as a member and are pleased to welcome those known to you.

Our young musicians' scheme has now been properly launched, so look out for the youngsters entertaining us at various events and do support them when they take part in the master classes. Some top musical entertainers are giving freely of their time to mentor the young people and the master class sessions should be especially interesting to us all – even if we have to be silent watchers...

We all look forward to seeing you in the Club over the coming months, whether at an event, drinking at the bar, eating in the restaurant or over a coffee and the day's newspaper in the Members' Room or Library.

**John Lloyd**

## RSC Committee News RSC Committee News

Following the AGM, the chairman's report can be found in the members' area of our website. Grateful thanks were offered for the continued service of the committee and a new member welcomed. Please give the committee members your support and do talk to them if you have concerns or comments.

### Newly elected RSC Club Committee Member



#### Colonel Clinton Hicks OBE

Clinton Hicks was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment in 1972 and left the Army in 2005. He saw service at regimental duty and as a staff officer in many different countries culminating with five years spent in Kuwait serving with the Military Mission. On retirement from the Army he ran his own consultancy business until 2013. Much of his spare time is now taken up with running the Parachute 2 Club and he is also the Chairman of the Airborne Alliance. He lives with his wife Naomi, three dogs and a horse near Duns. They have two daughters, a son and two grandchildren.

### RSC members who remain on the committee

#### John Lloyd, Chairman of the Committee

Chairman of the Club for the past year, John is a retired writer and journalist with homes in Edinburgh and Chippenham, Wiltshire (near to where his three sons, their wives and six grandchildren also live). His late wife, Cilla was an artist-printmaker who illustrated two books. Living with leukaemia, he says that he has 'nothing better to do than live' and this he does with gusto!

#### Mr Gair Brisbane

Gair was commissioned into the RAF as an Intelligence Officer and served for six years based in Germany, Northern Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan and the UK. On leaving the RAF he was appointed as the Scotland and Northern Ireland Director for the Royal Air Forces Association, a role which he held for three years before moving into financial services and qualifying as an investment manager. Gair now works for Brown Shipley, and his hobbies include skiing, hillwalking, photography and fly fishing.

#### Ms Aline Ewan

A member of the Club since February 2000, Aline lives in Edinburgh with her partner David Young who is now also a Club Committee member. She is vice-chair of the Development Board of the Women's Fund for Scotland. Most of her working life has been spent within banking (latterly managing a portfolio of private clients) and the third sector. Her last post within banking allowed her to combine both by managing the Charity of the Year Relationship for Scotland.

#### Mrs Anne Ewing

Anne qualified as a nurse at Guy's Hospital, London, where she met her

husband, David, also a Club member and now a retired medical doctor.

They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Having retired from nursing, her last post was as deputy matron at Merchiston Castle School. She maintains her interest and expertise in the nursing field working with students and staff at both Edinburgh and Napier Universities.

#### Maj Ross Brookfield

Major Ross Brookfield was commissioned in to the 1st Battalion the Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in 2001. In 2006 he was appointed an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and Commanded a Company with 4 SCOTS in Afghanistan in 2013.

Ross is currently the Plans officer in Headquarters 51 Infantry Brigade. He became a member of the Club committee in 2014, in order to foster Regimental ties and promote heritage within the Club, specifically with the Club members. He is married to Clair and they have two small children which occupy almost all of their time, even when they should be sleeping!

#### Sqn Ldr Graeme Lyall

Sqn Ldr Graeme Lyall lives in Edinburgh with his wife, Linda and has enjoyed many years of social membership of the Club. Retiring in 2012 as CO of 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron, RAF Reserves, he had previously had a career in Operations and Intelligence, his last active post being with the Joint Harrier Force. In full time employment, he retired last year from Accenture as Senior Health and Safety Consultant. Amongst other charity work, he is the Development Volunteer for the RAF Benevolent Fund in Scotland.

#### Mr Iain McIntyre-Younger of Culmullin

Iain has worked as a director of a number of UK and international companies and has been actively engaged as a non-executive director of such diverse organisations as Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and The Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector.

Married to Caroline with two grown sons, Iain's interests include travel, politics, history, literature and painting.

#### Dr Ian Wotherspoon

Ian has spent most of his life in Asia and the Pacific where he held a number of managerial appointments and travelled widely. Educated at the Universities of Edinburgh (MA, PhD) and Hull (MBA), he writes widely on Asian history, the Scots abroad and current affairs. He currently teaches four courses at Edinburgh University's Office of Lifelong Learning. He has served in a voluntary capacity in many organisations.

#### Mr David Young

David lives in Edinburgh with his partner Aline and has been a member of the Club for 15 years.

He is now retired after a career in banking with Lloyds TSB, managing branches in Dundee. He also served on the Bank's National Negotiating Committee and was a member of the National Job Evaluation Panel. He now chairs Lloyds TSB Retired Staff Association, Tayside and Central Scotland.

He was awarded a Life Membership of the Scottish Football Association for service to youth football.

## RSC News RSC News RSC News RSC News RSC News

### New website

Keep an eye on our website as there are many changes and upgrades on their way. Eventually each member will be able to log in to their own profile to pay for events, update details such as addresses and telephone

numbers, pay subscriptions, order RSC merchandise and request reciprocal introductions.

### 200 Club Draw

The AGM is when the lucky winners of the 200 Draw are announced.

Congratulations to Ian Barclay, Danielle Fayolle, John Cuccio, Fred Lawson, Shields Henderson, Crawford Langley and Geoffrey Goodwin! Members can buy their lots when renewing their membership, or by phoning the Office.

### Club Library Books

We are looking for volunteers! Last year a few of you offered your services and did a fantastic job of cleaning and recording the Club silverware. This year we have noticed the books in the Library could do with a good dusting. If anyone would like to don some gloves and help get the Library books looking pristine again it would be much appreciated! We have two mornings to choose from, Monday 4 July or Monday 11 July 2016. Let us know which you are available for when volunteering!

## Evening Lectures at the RSC Autumn Series 2016, Sept - November

There are again some fascinating lectures this season, so come and spend the first Monday evening of each month with us. There is no December lecture. All lectures are free to attend for members and their guests. Please let the office know if you plan to attend so that we can estimate numbers.

**Lectures start at 7.00pm and last for approximately one hour.**

**Why not book a table for high tea or dinner and make a night of it?  
-high tea is served from 5pm on the Monday lecture evening.**



*Monday 3 October*

### **The Pentland Way: A Walk with History**

*Lt Col Bob Paterson OBE*

Bob, a founder member of the Friends of the Pentlands, will be talking about 'The Way', which runs from Dunsyre to Swanston and will be talking about who has lived, travelled through, or appreciated these hills, and perhaps been inspired by them long before ourselves.

*Monday 7 November*

### **'From Airships to Airshows'**

The Museum of Flight at East Fortune

*Tony Bray*

This talk will show how the National Museum of Flight offers the visitor a superb insight into the development of aircraft and aviation, both commercial and military. Tony Bray is an active club member and will take you on a well-illustrated journey through 100 years of powered flight.

Tony is a Volunteer Aircraft Guide at the National Museum of Flight at East Fortune and has had a life-long interest in aviation. He first flew in an RAF Chipmunk at 15, a year later flew solo after a week's RAF gliding instruction course and later he qualified as a Private Pilot,

He has flown in most types of aircraft – fixed wing, helicopters, hot air balloon, in an airship over the Boden See, and supersonic in Concorde. His latest flying adventure is learning to manoeuvre a DJI Phantom 3 drone around the skies over East Fortune!



## Speakers Lunches September – November 2016

We will be hosting a new season of these popular Speaker Lunches in the Autumn held on the third Monday of the month. These new lectures have become very popular, so why not treat yourself to a delicious two course lunch, good company and an interesting talk – what else would you be doing on a Monday lunchtime?



*Monday 19 September*

### **Mike Robinson – CEO, Royal Scottish Geographical Society**

Mike holds a large number of voluntary roles, with particular expertise in project management, fund-raising, renewable energy and environmental issues. He has delivered around fifteen large capital projects in the past twenty years, most recently the John Hope Gateway at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.



*Monday 17 October*

### **Mr David Windmill, Chairman of the Scottish Seabird Centre at North Berwick**

David has significantly developed the wildlife conservation, education and research work of the Centre. As Honorary Consul General for Norway in Scotland, he hopes to help develop the links between the Scottish Seabird Centre and Norway, as the Centre is currently providing advice for the proposed national Seabird Centre on Norway's north coast.



*Monday 21 November*

### **Simon Milne, Regius Keeper, The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**

Simon Milne is also Chief Executive and Company Secretary of the Scottish Wildlife Trust which has a great reputation for pioneering practical, policy and advocacy work. He previously served with the Royal Marines, from Bosnia and Northern Ireland to the jungle, Arctic and Whitehall. He was appointed MBE in 1996 and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

## Battle of the Somme Centenary Commemorations

There are to be several commemorations held in Edinburgh for this Centenary.



On **30 June** there is to be an over-night public vigil at the Scottish National War Memorial, at the Castle. No further detail are available at present.

**McCrae's Battalion Trust** will be holding a unique Service of Commemoration on **1st July** in St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road at 12.30pm.

This will commemorate the gallant part played by the 16th Royal Scots, the 2nd Edinburgh Battalion, (also known as McCrae's Battalion) as well as all service personnel involved in the battle.

During the service there will be a TV link with a service held in Contalmaison, France, where a Scottish Cairn was erected in memory of McCrae's Battalion.

**Members of the public are very welcome to attend this service.**

## Events Record Events Record Events Record Events Record

### Speaker's Lunches

#### Phil Gormley QPM and David Craig

We were privileged to have as one of our lunch speakers, the newly appointed Chief Constable of Police Scotland, Phil Gormley, who gave an insightful talk on new and past policing in Scotland. He is pictured, top, with Chairman John Lloyd.



David Craig was also part of the series, and as CEO gave a fascinating insight into Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance service. He is pictured, bottom, with John Lloyd and Trustees Chairman Mark Strudwick.



### Incognito

Our musical evening with a capella group Incognito (pictured top left) was enjoyed by all - the requests for an encore were proof! A very enjoyable way to round off a delicious supper. Incognito are all members of the much larger and award-winning Forth Valley Chorus, who we have just heard have won Gold at the Sweet Adelines (UK and Netherlands) Regionals held in Newcastle (pictured bottom left), which means a trip to Las Vegas in 2017 for the International finals – congratulations to all in the chorus! [www.forthvalleychorus.org](http://www.forthvalleychorus.org)



## Forward to the fringe

Mon 8th Aug - Sat 27th Aug, 2016

This year for the first time, the Club will have a very busy programme over the full three weeks of the Festival Fringe. The Hepburn Suite will once again be home to Venue 241 and as with last year there is a wide variety of shows being presented.

### WEEK ONE, Mon 8th to the Sat 13th August

MORNING, Mon 8th – Sat 13th, 11.15am,  
£10/£8/Family £20

**The Little Shakespeare Company**  
**Admirable Fooling**

Forsooth! An interactive playback theatre with admirable clowning and fooling, partying and pranks, masques and revels based on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, or What You Will. Wit and humour for thine family in its entirety.

LUNCHTIME, Mon 8th – Fri 12th August, 2.00 pm.  
£9/£7/Family £26

**Alex Kinnear**  
**Dog, The Musical**

Alex is on at lunchtime every day Monday to Friday for all three weeks of the Fringe with her fun piece about two speaking dogs. Furry angels Trinny and Kato share their insights on the travails and foibles of their humans. The world's first show written and directed by terrier crosses – for all ages of lovers of dogs and of life.

AFTERNOON, **Graham Pountney**

*Graham has two pieces each afternoon this first week*  
**A Memory of Lizzie** Tues 9th, Wed 10th & Thurs  
11th August, 4.00 pm. £10/£8/£26

A documentary musical production, performed by his all-girl teen drama group, of a scene from the childhood of Lizzie Borden, who was notoriously accused of murder. Set in Fall River Massachusetts, USA, 1892.

**Catch My Soul** Fri 12th and Sat 13th August,  
4.00 pm. £10/£8/£26

Shakespeare the enigma – finding clues to sketching out the man behind the prose and the poetry. A delightful, accessible and light-hearted look at the Folio to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

EVENING, Mon 8th – Sat 13th August  
**The Edinburgh Grads present two shows each night**

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**, 6.30pm. £10  
Hermia loves Lysander. Her dad prefers Demetrius. Helena loves Demetrius. Demetrius loves Hermia. Shake and stir in royal nuptials, feisty fairies, a suspect donkey and a live band for Shakespeare's much-loved mischievous magical cocktail.

**In A Forest Dark and Deep**, 8.45pm. £10  
Betty has a secret she's desperate to keep; Bobby, her resentful, blue-collar brother, won't let her forget about her wild past. Neil LaBute's exhilarating and unflinching exploration of the dark lies we tell ourselves.

### WEEK TWO Mon 15th to the Sat 20th August

LUNCHTIME, Mon 15th – Fri 19th August, 2.00 pm.  
£9/£7/Family £26

**Alex Kinnear – on all three weeks, Mon - Fri**  
**Dog, The Musical**

Her two speaking dogs, furry angels Trinny and Kato, share their insights on the travails and foibles of their humans. The world's first show written and directed by terrier crosses – for all ages of lovers of dogs and of life.

AFTERNOON, Mon 15th – Sat 20th August, 4.00 pm.  
£10/£5/Family £20

**St. George's School for Girls**  
**The Lake of Dead Languages**

Murderous intentions corrupt adolescent dreams in the chilling story of six teenagers living 20 years apart in an isolated girls' school. A tense, atmospheric adaptation of Carol Goodman's acclaimed thriller. 'Gripping, suspenseful, excellent'

EVENING, Mon 15th – Sat 20th August, 6.15 pm.  
£12/£10

**Arkle Theatre Company will present two shows each evening**  
**Black Comedy**



A sculptor is awaiting the arrival of an art dealer when the power fails. Will he manage to hide his neighbour's borrowed antiques, impress his fiancée's father and hide his ex-mistress's arrival during the blackout? A comedy farce.

**The Collector**, 8.30pm

Possession. Obsession. Delusion. Based on John Fowles' infamous novel, Frederick Clegg abducts and imprisons a girl long worshipped from afar, hoping she'll learn to love him. Will she? Or are Clegg's dreams, like the butterflies he collects, doomed?

**RSC Members will get a discounted rate of £10 per ticket for both Arkle productions. These tickets ONLY can be booked with the Club.**

### WEEK THREE Mon 22nd to the Sat 27th August

LUNCHTIME, Mon 22nd – Fri 26th August, 2.00pm.  
£9/£7/Family £26

**Alex Kinnear – on all three weeks, Mon - Fri**  
**Dog, The Musical**

Her two speaking dogs, furry angels Trinny and Kato, share their insights on the travails and foibles of their humans. The world's first show written and directed by terrier crosses – for all ages of lovers of dogs and of life.

AFTERNOON, Tues 23rd to Sat 27th 4.00pm. £8

**The Arkle Theatre Company**  
**My Dog's Got No Nose**

Old ones are the best, however life is no joke. Life is knowing who and where you are. Before his first stand-up gig this man is inside his head. And that's no joke.

EVENING, Mon 22nd to Sat 27th

**The Makars have two shows each evening**  
**Collateral Damage** 6.30pm £10

1999 – Daniel prepares to celebrate his 50th birthday while war rages in the Balkans. The collateral damage may be personal as well as political. Thought-provoking and as relevant today as when it was written.

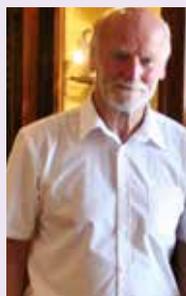
**The Gingerbread Lady** 7.45pm £12

Neil Simon's dark comedy about an alcoholic cabaret singer welcomed home from rehab by friends with their own problems. Her efforts as host crumble when she falls off the wagon and careens toward a tragic end.

**Please check full details of all performances in the Fringe Programme published in early June and online at [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)**

### Staff Profile

**Jack Wilson, Hall Porter**



Many members will know Jack our Hall Porter as he has worked at the Club for over 9 years. Before that, he worked with the Post Office for 32 years. He was a Royal Scot, and is still part of the Royal Scots Association. And not many people know, but having a keen interest in amateur dramatics, Jack has also appeared in a play in the Edinburgh Festival.

In his spare time, he keeps busy outside of work playing golf, gardening, cooking, walking the dog and keeping up with the football scores. And in between all that, there's always time for a trip to the pub!

### Congratulations to Ayesha!

On April 30th our lovely Events Co-ordinator, Ayesha, married fiancé Ben Nickson in Scarborough. Probably the most organised wedding ever! We wish Ayesha and Ben a very happy life together.



## We launch our wonderful Young Musicians!

On 16 March the Club held an extremely successful launch for our Young Musicians scheme.



The four talented youngsters all played beautifully, and their mentors were bowled over by how gifted they were. Principal Mentors Sir James and Lady MacMillan spoke of

how delighted they were to be involved with the Club and how wonderful the scheme was, in promoting and encouraging traditional music in this way. Sir James then presented the musicians with the first of their three annual sponsorship cheques.

The photograph shows the youngsters and mentors on stage after the launch.

### Now on to the Masterclasses

Now that our young musicians have met their mentors, we will be holding masterclasses, where members will be able to see exactly what happens behind the scenes during a teaching session between master and pupil. The dates for these are:

**Tues 14 June**, starting at 6.00pm with Lucy Ruuskanen on fiddle with mentor Paul Anderson, and Ryan Corbett on accordion with mentor Sandy Brechin.

**Tues 6 September**, starting at 6.00pm with Giorstaidh Chaimbeul on clarsach with mentor Alison Kinnaird and Angus McGregor on bagpipes with mentor Pipe Major Martin MacDonald.

There will be two sessions each evening, 6-7pm and 7.15 – 8.15pm, making for unique and utterly compelling evenings.

Entry is £5.00 on the night, and this will go straight into the scheme as a donation. Sponsorship for these musicians is now closed but members are very welcome to make a donation at any time.

### And finally.....The Concert

After all their hard work, the young musicians will hold a concert at the club on **Tuesday 4 October**. Further details to follow, but put the date in your diary.

## *New!* A Fireside Chat with David Lough, Tuesday 11 October, 6.45pm “No more Champagne: Churchill and his Money”

New for the Autumn, we will be holding cosy and informal Fireside Chats on a range of topics, followed by a light supper. For our first chat, we welcome David Lough who will be speaking about his book “No More Champagne: Churchill and His Money.”

Churchill lived for most of his life on a financial cliff edge. The popular image may be of champagne and cigars; however, behind the scenes, his friends and family came to the rescue several times to prevent his financial problems from engulfing his political career.

This is the first narrative of Winston Churchill's

precarious private finances which was shortlisted for the Longman-History Today Book of the Year Prize 2016.

Chairman John Lloyd will be chatting to David, a retired banker and history scholar of Oxford University, in the Club Library about his fascinating book.

The fireside chat will start at 6.30pm, followed by a glass of wine or soft drink, a buffet Winter Warmer hotpot then coffee or hot chocolate and some sweet treats. We are hoping everyone can continue the chat while mingling & munching!



## RSC St Andrew's Night Dinner Friday 25 November 2016, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, £38.00pp

Book your places for this always very popular, annual Black Tie Dinner, as it is on track to be the usual wonderful evening of dinner and entertainment. The guest speaker is still to be confirmed but we are hoping to have this finalised in June. We will be emailing out all further information then.

## RSC Military Tattoo Evening with Supper



There are still some tickets available for our annual Edinburgh Military Tattoo Supper Evening, this year on **Thursday 4th August**. This is a super evening with supper at the Club followed by the Tattoo at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade.

**Tickets and supper are only £36.50pp, book your tickets now.**

## A Father's Memoirs

*Past Club Trustee, Robin Bell, has recently finished writing a book about his father's early life including in particular his service in the 7th Battalion The Royal Scots from 1913 to 1922.*

Robin's book is not for sale as it is primarily for family and friends. However, he very generously is offering 100 free copies to Royal Scots, Royal Scots Club Members and any others interested, if they would consider making a donation to Combat Stress of £15.00. Club members can pick up a free copy along with the donation form from the Club or email the club and we can post a book out to you for a little extra cost.

### *Ian: A Memoir by J.R.S. Bell An Appreciation by Bob Paterson*

Essentially this is a love story, albeit an unusual one, not least because it has been written by the son of the two principal characters in the book. Ian met Cecile in 1911, he was just 17 and she 15. They married in 1922, notwithstanding some opposition

from Ian's family and of course the separation they both endured during Ian's long and distinguished service in the Great War.

Robin Bell, a former officer of the 7th/9th Royal Scots and a former long serving trustee of the Club, has skilfully pulled together material from the extensive correspondence between Ian and Cecile and his family and the various military histories that cover the exploits of the 7th (Leith) Battalion of The Royal Scots. The blend of often enjoying military service, while sometimes loathing it, and the pull of home, especially Ian's separation from Cecile, makes this a gripping human story.

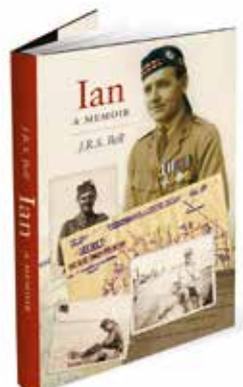
The narrative includes Ian's joining the 7th in 1913, the fateful Gretna train crash and his service in Gallipoli when, aged just 21, he gained command of No. 1 Company which he was destined to lead throughout the battalion's time in the Middle East.

The story covers the 7th's later progress fighting in Egypt, where Ian was wounded at Romani during the defence of the Suez Canal, and Palestine, where he was again wounded at the Second Battle of Gaza. In early 1918 the battalion was sent to the Western

Front where, as Second-in-Command of the battalion, Ian won a Military Cross at the Second Battle of the Somme.

Ian's active service then came to an end but his campaign to win Cecile continued, at times turbulently, but ultimately successfully. They married on 29 June 1922, almost eleven years after they first met, and enjoyed a long and happy life together.

If this were just a story about a young man's service in the Great War it would be interesting. However, laced as it is with Ian's complex and enduring relationship with Cecile, it is simply compelling.



# Future Events at the Club

Bookings can only be confirmed when payment is made at the same time. Send in your booking form with your payment or give the Office a ring to pay over the phone. For fully booked events, refunds will ONLY be made if the places returned can be resold.

**No refunds for any event will be made less than 48 hrs before an event.**

<b>Tues</b> <b>14 June</b>	 <b>Young Musicians Masterclass</b>	6.00pm start, £5.00 towards the YM scheme
<b>Thurs</b> <b>30 June</b>	 <b>Talk on the Somme with lunch</b> Lt Cdr Alex Manning brings the Battle of the Somme to life	12.00pm, £20.00pp
<b>Sun</b> <b>10 July</b>	 <b>Brass On The Grass</b> We will provide best barbecue food and entertainment in Queen Street Gardens	Gates open 12.30pm, £25.00, under 12s £15.00
<b>Fri 22 July</b>	<b>National Theatre of Scotland Dinner - POSTPONED</b>	
<b>Thurs</b> <b>4 Aug</b>	 <b>RSC Supper &amp; Tattoo Evening</b> Join us for our annual outing to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, starting with supper at the Club. Please specify which sitting you would prefer on the booking form	£36.50pp for supper and Tattoo ticket
<b>Tues</b> <b>6 Sept</b>	 <b>Young Musicians Masterclass</b>	6.00pm start, £5.00 towards the YM scheme
<b>Mon</b> <b>19 Sept</b>	 <b>Speaker's Lunch</b> Mike Robinson, CEO Royal Scottish Geographical Society	12.00 for 12.30pm, £15.00pp
<b>Sat</b> <b>24 Sept</b>	 <b>Club Racing Dinner with Derek Thomson</b> A delicious dinner the night before the Support Your Services Raceday, with TV pundit Derek 'Tommo' Thomson.	7.00 for 7.30 pm, £35.00pp
<b>Sun</b> <b>25 Sept</b>	 <b>Musselburgh Racecourse Support Your Services Race Day</b> A great day out with friends and family - why not treat yourself and buy a ticket for the Lothan Suite as well. Afternoon meeting, general entry £18.50, tickets with access to Lothan Suite £25.00	
<b>Mon</b> <b>3 Oct</b>	 <b>Evening Lecture</b> Bob Paterson, The Pentland Way: A Walk with History	7.00pm, No charge
<b>Tues</b> <b>4 Oct</b>	 <b>Young Musician's Concert</b> Further details TBC	
<b>Tues</b> <b>11 Oct</b>	 <b>Fireside Chat</b> David Lough on his book 'No More Champagne', and a delicious supper	6.30 pm, £15.00pp
<b>Mon</b> <b>17 Oct</b>	 <b>Speaker's Lunch</b> David Windmill, Chairman of the Scottish Seabird Centre at North Berwick	12.00 for 12.30pm, £15.00pp
<b>Mon</b> <b>7 Nov</b>	 <b>Evening Lecture</b> Tony Bray, The Museum of Flight at East Fortune	7.00pm, No charge
<b>Sun</b> <b>13 Nov</b>	 <b>Remembrance Day Sunday Lunch</b> Come and join us for lunch, after a short dedication at the Club Memorials	Lunch from 12.45pm, £18.50
<b>Mon</b> <b>16 Nov</b>	 <b>Speaker's Lunch</b> Simon Milne, Regius Keeper at The Royal Botanical Gardens	12 for 12.30pm, £15.00pp
<b>Fri</b> <b>25 Nov</b>	 <b>RSC St Andrew's Night Dinner</b> A wonderful night of delicious dinner and entertainment	Black Tie, 7 for 7.30pm, £38.00
<b>Tues</b> <b>13 Dec</b>	 <b>Members' Christmas Lunch</b> Another fun-filled festive lunch, with turkey, raffle, carols - and mistletoe! Come and jingle your bells with us to start off the season. If you haven't attended before, why not come along for your first turkey of the season!	12.00 for 12.30pm £20.00
<b>Tues</b> <b>20 Dec</b>	 <b>Christmas Carol Concert</b> A lovely candle-lit event with carols and readings	7pm, £12.00

## POSTPONED - National Theatre of Scotland Dinner

Unfortunately due to Laurie Sansom leaving his position at the National Theatre of Scotland, they are postponing this event. Anyone who has booked will receive a refund. We will hopefully be able to re-schedule this dinner in 2017 once a new Artistic Director has been appointed.

## Reciprocal Club News Reciprocal Club News Reciprocal Club News Reciprocal Club News

### Special Offer

The Penn Club of New York are offering a special accommodation rate to their reciprocal members until 30 August 2016. So any RSC member can book a room for the same price as a Penn Club member, which could mean a saving of up to \$100. To take advantage, contact the Penn Club directly (212) 403 6533. [www.pennclub.org](http://www.pennclub.org)



### The West Indies Yacht Club, Jamaica

A rather exotic addition to our list of reciprocal clubs. The West Indies Yacht Club was founded for yachtsmen, marine officers and sailing enthusiasts to promote sailing and yachting, and also to protect maritime heritage. There is a Clubhouse, restaurant, library and of course a bar serving Caribbean cocktails and the local rum! [www.westindiesyachtclub.com](http://www.westindiesyachtclub.com)

