



The ROYAL SCOTS CLUB

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO

Book your places now for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo! **Thurs 6 August**

# Write of the Line

www.royalscotsclub.com

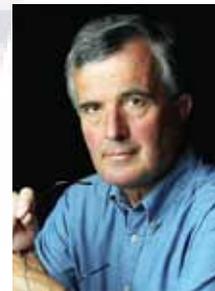
March 2015

## Waterloo 200 Anniversary Dinner

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

*One of the most important battles in our history has its 200th anniversary this year.*

On **Friday 19 June**, the day after the battle's anniversary date, the Club will be alive with colour and history. We will be giving a grand dinner to remember, commemorate (and, might one say?) celebrate this historic event. Many Scots took part in the **Battle of Waterloo** and, indeed, the Royal Scots Regiment has an heroic story to tell. We are hoping that representatives from some of the Scottish regiments that took part, will be able to attend, and our guest speakers will be broadcaster, author and renowned war historian, **Trevor Royle**, and **Consul General of France** in Scotland, **Pierre-Alain Coffinier**. There could be some lively debates!



Trevor Royle



Consul Gen Coffinier

Sit for Supper 7.30pm, £36.00pp (no drinks incl), **BLACK TIE**

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY

### Into battle with Westerlea!

Club member, Duncan Paisley of Westerlea can claim that he was present at the Battle of Waterloo...

As a young man serving with the Gordon Highlanders he took part in the filming of the Italian/Russian epic Waterloo.

As a prelude to our grand dinner marking the 200th anniversary of the battle, Westerlea will introduce a showing of the film, in which - as an 'extra' - he played the part of one of his regimental predecessors.

**Waterloo film night,**  
Thursday 28 May, 7 - c.9.45pm

### Lt Gen Sir Bob Richardson

Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson KCB, CVO, CBE, died suddenly on 21 November 2014.

Since then, there have been many words written about General Bob. How he was a fine soldier, a commander of troops, but most importantly, a soldier's soldier.

He was someone who had little time for political manoeuvrings, and was known on not a few occasions to flout the rules of his superiors, but who excelled when faced with sensitive issues and seemingly impossible situations.

And for those of us who had the pleasure of meeting him only after his military career had ended, he was admired for his good sense, his courtesy, his unstinting good humour and of course, his extremely amusing anecdotes.

As a Trustee of the Royal Scots Club and Chairman of the RSC Management Committee, he was always passionate about the Club and its future, and his vision and foresight will ensure the success of the Club for generations to come.

General Bob was an exceptional soldier and a remarkable man, and he will be greatly missed.

**Our thoughts are with his family.**



### A Night of Commemoration for The Quintinshill Gretna Disaster

On **Thursday 21 May 2015**, the Club will commemorate the 100th anniversary of The Quintinshill Gretna Green Rail Disaster.

On the eve of the anniversary, join us for an evening of remembrance, starting with

- **'The Anatomy of a Railway Disaster'**, a fascinating talk examining the disaster and asking if it could have been avoided
- **Beating the Retreat** in the gardens, with a dedication to the fallen
- **Supper and refreshments** at the Club.



**Thursday 21st May 2015,**  
£35.00pp for full evening & supper

**This is a special evening for The Royal Scots and we do hope that as many members as possible will support this event.**

## From the Chairman **John Lloyd**

New shoots are beginning to appear from the hard winter earth, reminding us that spring is upon us.

The gardens across the road in Abercromby Place are a constant joy to members and guests alike and once again they feature in the Club programme. The ceremony of Beating Retreat, given by the pipe band of the Royal Scots Association, will this year especially be remembering those of the regiment who died in the 1915 Quintinshill rail disaster.

Although now largely a civilian club, many of our events look to our military roots and we can look forward greatly to our grand Waterloo Dinner in June. Two hundred years ago the regiment was there at this most important of battles. A good dinner will be followed by toasts from one of Scotland's most

eminent historians, whose next book will be about the Scottish regiments during the Napoleonic period, and the French Consul General, whose father was a great authority on Napoleon ('that most worthy of foes').

Another soldier who was there (though a few years later) was Club member Duncan Paisley of Westerlea. He was an extra in the 1970 film Waterloo and has agreed to introduce a showing of the epic story a couple of weeks before the anniversary.

An evening of G&S might also have a military aspect as doubtless our very own Model of a Major General, chairman of Trustees Mark Strudwick, is likely to be the butt of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's famous songs.

Such good things are always on offer at your Club and we continue to offer

an interesting and varied programme for your information, delight and entertainment. Do book early for the events and activities that interest you.

In this newsletter you will find a tribute to 'General Bob' a long serving member who did so much for his Club. I also have the sad task of reporting the recent death of one of our committee members, David Salton. Always a quiet and warm presence, he will be greatly missed by his many Club friends. He served us to the end.

New life in spring should hearten us all. It is good to be part of such a thriving Club and I urge you to note the reintroduction of a Club table in the dining room. It is open to all to sit in the next available place and to enjoy a meal with fellow members.

### Club News Club News Club News Club News Club News Club News

#### **AGM Wednesday 15 April 2015, 7pm**

The annual general meeting of the Club gives members the opportunity to receive reports on the year and to elect new members of the committee to serve during the coming year. It is never a very long meeting and to encourage your attendance we are offering - thanks to wine suppliers **Great Grog - a free wine tasting** event immediately following the business.

Do join us at this important annual meeting, which gives an opportunity to air views.

Chairman John Lloyd will be pleased to add items of interest or concern to Any Other Business on the agenda.

#### **Members' committee**

Nominations (signed with a seconder) for members willing to fill vacant spaces on the members' committee should be submitted by Thursday 9 April. An election will take place during the AGM.

There are up to six meetings each year, dealing with the interests of our Club members. Each committee member is expected also to take on a task useful to the Club (currently an audit and care of the silver, the reordering of the library, the gathering of benefits for members, the selling of merchandise and maintenance of membership numbers).

#### **Club Communal Table**

We are re-introducing a communal table at some of our members' events and for a trial run in the dining room.

This table will be available for members, whether alone or with guests, to sit with and enjoy the companionship of others. The Club table is a very sociable way to eat and meet fellow members at the same time.

Initially we will have this table at the Mother's Day Lunch, Easter Sunday Lunch and Regimental Day lunch, and in the dining room from 1st April, for lunch and high tea. Please state when booking any of these lunches, whether you would like to join the communal table. Should you turn up for a meal without booking, do feel free to sit at the next available place on the table.

We are hoping that members will use this table on a regular basis, but do remember it could mean that one member may be leaving as others arrive. No offence must be taken....

Not everyone wants to dine with strangers, but at this table they will not be strangers for long!

#### *Members' Spring Lunches at the Club*

**Mothers' Day Lunch**  
Sunday 15 March, 12.30 - 2.00pm, £17.50pp

**Regimental Day Lunch**  
Saturday 28 March, book from 12 noon  
in the dining room, lunch menu

**Easter Sunday Lunch**  
Sun 5 April, from 12.30pm, £17.50pp

*Remember, you can book a place on the  
Club communal table at these lunches*

## The New Regimental Office

The Royal Scots Regimental Office has now re-located to The Royal Scots Club, ably run by newly appointed Regimental Administrator, Jimmy Springthorpe. Jimmy is no stranger to the Club and we look forward to having him working closely.



Jimmy Springthorpe in the new Regimental Office

### Opening & contact details for the Regimental Office:

**Regimental Administrator: Jimmy Springthorpe**

10am – 3pm, Tuesday – Thursday except Bank Holidays

**NEW telephone number: 0131 557 0405**

*(please remove 0131 310 5016 for RS matters)*

New email: [admin@theroyalscots.co.uk](mailto:admin@theroyalscots.co.uk)

### Opening & contact details for The Association Office

**Association Secretary: Tam Douglas**

7pm – 9pm, Monday and Thursday

**New telephone number: 0131 558 7131**

New email address: [association@theroyalscots.co.uk](mailto:association@theroyalscots.co.uk)

### The Royal Scots Regimental Museum

can still be contacted on 0131 310 5015 and [museum@theroyalscots.co.uk](mailto:museum@theroyalscots.co.uk)

**There will be an answering machine on all telephone numbers outwith opening hours.**

## The Royal Scots Quaich

On St Andrews Day 1939, officers of 1RS whilst with the British Expeditionary Forces, gave a dinner party for French officers in the Café de Paris (Officers Mess) in St Amand les Eaux. Especially for that evening, a little wooden Quaich was designed by Quartermaster, Major George Read, and made by the owner of the Café.

This Quaich stayed with Maj Read through Dunkirk and on to HMS Glengyle, when the Battalion was training for the beach landings.

Following the end of the war it was regularly used at Regimental Association Dinners, in London and

Edinburgh, and now for the last two years a contingent of ex Royal Scots have held a St Andrews Night Dinner at the Café de Paris, along with the Quaich.

And a good time is had by all!



The little wooden Quaich



The visiting group of 2014!

## The RSC Night of Commemoration for The Quintinshill Gretna Railway Disaster

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

**Talk 6pm start, Beating Retreat 7.15pm,**

**Supper 8pm, £35.00pp**

*Please join us on the eve of the 100<sup>th</sup> year commemoration  
of the Quintinshill Disaster.*

### Other Quintinshill Commemorations taking place that weekend

#### Thursday 21 May 2015:

Wreath laying in association with Falkirk District Council, at Larbert Station, from where the train departed.

#### Friday 22 May:

Centenary Commemoration at Gretna and on the site of the old Quintinshill signal box.

#### Saturday 23 May:

Parade and Commemoration Service in Edinburgh, centred on the former Dalmeny Street Drill Hall and Rosebank Cemetery

#### Sunday 24 May:

WW1 Commemoration Service at Canongate Kirk and Regimental Family Gathering, Edinburgh

If anyone is interested in attending, or would like further details of any of these events, please contact the Regimental Office at [admin@theroyalscots.co.uk](mailto:admin@theroyalscots.co.uk)

## A Docudrama on 'Quintinshill'

On **Saturday 23 May**, there will be a showing at the Club of a 1 hour docudrama,

### 'Quintinshill'.

The film has been produced by Fine Stripe Productions and the narrator is broadcaster and historian, **Neil Oliver**.

The film will start at 6.30pm with no charge to attend. Please let Janet know if you would like to attend, and if you would like to book dinner in the dining room after the film.

**Saturday 23 May, 6.30pm,  
free admission**

## Scottish Business Speakers Lunches

There are still two lunches to attend this Spring Season - held on the third Monday of the month. These new lectures have become very popular, so why not treat yourself to a delicious 2 course lunch, good company and an interesting talk – what else would you be doing on a Monday lunchtime?

**Monday 16 March**

### Guy Peploe ... of The Scottish Gallery

Grandson of the famous Scottish Colourist SJ Peploe (and father of Iris, an upcoming young artist), Guy is managing director of Aitken Dott, dealers in Fine Art since 1842. His Scottish Gallery continues to present and sell works made by many of Scotland's finest artists and craftsmen and women. Guy Peploe, himself, is a recognised authority on the works of the Scottish Colourists.



Guy Peploe

**Monday 20 April**

### Deirdre & John Kinloch Anderson ... of Kinloch Anderson

An Edinburgh family company since 1868, Kinloch Anderson are renowned experts in kiltmaking, tartans and all aspects of Highland dress. Proud holders of three Royal Warrants, the company continues to evolve with over 400 shops mainly in the Far East, majoring on the Kinloch Anderson, Scotland lifestyle Brand.

Now senior director, Deirdre's book *A Scottish Tradition* gives a great insight into the company's Scottish heritage. Her son John, representing the sixth generation of family involvement, is currently chief executive.



## Evening Lectures at the RSC

Spring Series 2015 our last lecture of the series is:

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

### 'Not just the Takeaway – Two Centuries of Scottish Chinese Connections'

**Dr Ian Wotherspoon**

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Scots came to trade in China and tried to prise open the doors of the Celestial Empire to foreign influence. This talk will focus on why people from Scotland, one of the smallest countries in Europe, came to have such a significant influence on one of the world's largest nations, China.

*Ian spent nearly 30 years in Asia and the Pacific before returning to his native Scotland, where he teaches English at the University of Edinburgh. He has written extensively about the Scots abroad and the influence overseas of Scottish education.*

### Additional lecture to the Autumn Series

### The KOSB at Gallipoli

**Monday 14 September 2015, 7pm**

There will be several centenary commemorations held this year, one of them being the ill-fated Campaign at Gallipoli, where so many KOSB soldiers lost their lives.

The Hawick Callants Club lays wreaths annually at the War Memorial on 12th July in memory of the 60 or so Hawick men killed on that day in 1915.

Members of this historic club will be giving a talk and presentation on the background to the action, details of the battle on 12 July and their continued remembrance of the fallen up to the present day, including their visit to Gallipoli for 12 July this year.

We do hope our members can attend this lecture.

Lectures start at 7pm and last for approximately one hour. All lectures are free to attend for members and their guests.

*Why not book a table for high tea or dinner and make a night of it?*

### Two well-deserving charity events

#### The Scottish Military Ball

will take place at the Royal Scots Club on Saturday 25 April

In existence since 1956 there has been a yearly ball which raises funds for worthy causes. Previously known as the Tri-Service Volunteer Officers' Ball the events have always been a highlight of the Scottish Reservists social calendar.

Each year the Ball alternates between a military and local organisation to support, this year we are supporting **Families Outside** (see [www.familiesoutside.org.uk](http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk)).

*The Ball allows both current and previously serving Volunteer Officers to enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing in Edinburgh's city centre at the excellent Royal Scots Club.*

Further details can be found at [www.scottishmilitaryball.org](http://www.scottishmilitaryball.org)

#### Medal of Honour Charity Ball

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

This charity dinner is being held at Edinburgh Corn Exchange, and is in aid of Erskine, a charity close to our hearts.

The evening starts at 7.00pm and includes a drink on arrival, dinner, entertainment and superb raffle.

**Tickets are only £50.00**

so book your place at [Medalofhonourforerskine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Medalofhonourforerskine@yahoo.co.uk)



### Staff Profile

#### Alec Lipscombe Maintenance Manager

Alec has been with the Club for 8 years and assures me that not one day has been the same since he started!

From changing light bulbs to installing new phone systems, Alec is the man to ask when things need fixed.

Born and educated in Edinburgh, Alec worked with BT for 33 years, 25 of them as a Sales Manager, and was also in the RN Reserves for 7 years.

Married with two adult children, he spends his free time hill walking, travelling, and doing DIY jobs for everyone else!

Recently, Alec has been heading to Jersey to visit his new granddaughter.

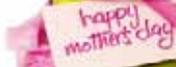


# Forthcoming Events at the Club

Bookings can **ONLY** be taken when payment is made at the same time.

1. sending in the Booking Form with your payment – cheque or credit card
2. phoning in your booking and paying with a credit card
3. printing off the online booking form at [www.royalscotsclub.com](http://www.royalscotsclub.com) and sending/emailing it in
4. booking and paying in person to Janet in the Club office during office hours

**REFUNDS** 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.

Mon 2 Mar		<b>Evening Lecture, Dr Ian Wotherspoon</b> <i>'Not just the Takeaway – Two Centuries of Scottish Chinese Connections'</i>	7pm start, no charge
Sun 15 Mar		<b>Mother's Day Lunch</b> You don't even need to bring along a Mum, just come for a lovely lunch at the Club	Book a table from 12.30pm, £17.50pp
Mon 16 Mar		<b>Speakers Lunch</b> Guy Peplow of The Scottish Gallery	12 for 12.30pm, £15.00pp
Sat 28 Mar		<b>Regimental Day lunch</b> Book a table in the dining room with old friends and comrades for a delicious lunch	Lunch served 12 noon to 2pm,
Sun 5 Apr		<b>Easter Sunday Lunch</b> A lovely way to spend time with family at Easter, book a table on the Booking Form	Bookings taken from 12.30pm, £17.50
Wed 15 Apr		<b>RSC AGM with Wine Tasting</b>	No charge for members
Mon 20 Apr		<b>Speakers Lunch</b> Deirdre & John Kinloch Anderson	12 for 12.30pm, £15.00pp
Wed 22 Apr		<b>Edinburgh Gilbert &amp; Sullivan Society Concert</b> This is going to be a real treat - the society are in great demand and we are delighted to have them back for a repeat visit. Supper served before the concert	Supper 6pm, £22.50 for supper & concert
Thurs 21 May		<b>WW1 SERIES: Quintinshill Commemoration Evening</b> To commemorate this tragic event, we are holding an evening of remembrance with a talk, Beating Retreat and supper. This will be a special evening, so please join us.	Starts 6pm, £35.00pp
Sat 23 May		<b>WW1 SERIES: Docudrama 'Quintinshill'</b>	Free to attend, start 6.30pm
Thurs 28 May		<b>Waterloo film night</b> The epic Italian/Russian film being shown as a prelude to our grand Waterloo Dinner	7.00pm start, No charge
Fri 19 June		<b>A 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Waterloo Dinner</b> What better way to celebrate this momentous victory! This will be a <b>Black Tie</b> dinner with special guest speakers.	7 for 7.30pm, £36.00
Thurs 6 Aug		<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 Booking Form.	£36.00pp for supper and Tattoo ticket
Mon 14 Sept		<b>WW1 SERIES: Evening Lecture, The Hawick Callants Club</b> <i>'The KSOB at Gallipoli'</i>	7.00pm start, no charge

## RECIPROCAL CLUB NEWS

### *Cercul Militar National, Bucharest*

The Royal Scots Club is extremely honoured to have established a reciprocal agreement with this Club, which is an official Military and National institution. Club member Graham Carnie very kindly visited this august establishment when in Bucharest, and was shown round by Director, Colonel Dorca, an introduction made possible by Dr Mihai Delcea, Head of The Rumanian Consulate in Edinburgh.



*the fabulous entrance staircase of Cercul Militar National*

This national club was built in 1912 in French neo-Classical style and has exquisite public rooms. There is an excellent restaurant and accommodation can be arranged about 10 minutes from the main building. However, there are plans

## We have joined with three wonderful new reciprocal Clubs

to re-commission some rooms into bedrooms at the Club. A wonderful addition to our international reciprocal list.

**Cercul Militar National, 1,  
Constantin Mille St, Bucharest, Romania**  
*A website should be available shortly*

### *Real Circulo de la Amistad, Cordoba*

This spectacular Club is in the beautiful old city of Cordoba, with its numerous Roman remains. Located in the heart of the town, the club has a restaurant serving a daily table d'hôte as well as a la carte menu, a beautiful library and and several fabulous



*courtyard of Real Circulo de la Amistad*

function suites. We recommend a visit just to see the exquisite architecture of this Club.

[www.realcirculoamistad.com](http://www.realcirculoamistad.com)  
[realcirculoamistad@gmail.com](mailto:realcirculoamistad@gmail.com)

### *The Stellar Gymkhana Club, Greater Noida, India*

This is a club with more than 60 air-conditioned bedrooms, a restaurant & bar, many sports facilities including swimming pools, tennis courts and a Chip and Put course, a Health Club, and a lake with boating.



*a pool at The Stellar Gymkhana Club*

[www.stellargym.co.uk](http://www.stellargym.co.uk)  
[stellargym@infostellar.com](mailto:stellargym@infostellar.com)

## Events Record Over the past few months we have enjoyed many varied events:

### **The Club Candle-lit Carol Concert, with Christmas Truce readings**

We held a wonderfully uplifting Carol Concert in December, with Rev Neil Gardner from Canongate Kirk officiating, The Edinburgh Military Wives Choir performing, and some beautiful readings describing the Christmas Truce in the Trenches, spoken beautifully by Rachel Osborne & Ian Aldred.



**Left:** The Military Wives Choir, with on the stage, readers Rachel & Ian and Rev Neil Gardner.  
**Right:** The military wives singers having a light refreshment after the concert!

### **Burns ... and more Burns**

Our Annual Burns Supper had an international flavour to it this year. The Toasts to the Lassies and the Laddies were given by Consul General of Sweden, Torvald Colliander, and Consul General of Germany, Verena von Roedern, who both made it sound so easy we are sure they have Scottish blood running through their veins! The Immortal Memory was given by Prof Fred Freeman, whose musical knowledge of Burns is second to none.

Top Table guests including Chairman John Lloyd, Consul Gen Colliander, Consul Gen von Roedern and Prof Fred Freeman.



And of course, our ever popular Burns Lunch was a resounding success, again due to the calibre of the artists:

Fiddler Jim Blaikie, Gaelic singer Linn Phipps, 'Toasters', Don & Rona Arnott & singer/guitarist Jim Herd.

*What a lot of talented members we have!*



### **Regency Rules!**

What a wonderful afternoon we had with Julia Soares-McCormick, who spoke about the exquisite Regency costumes she designs and sews herself. With her beautiful dresses on display and husband Mick modelling a Mr D'Arcy outfit, it was a wonderful event. We had a packed house for this excellent talk, which was followed by a mouth-watering afternoon tea, and then everyone went home to read 'Pride and Prejudice'.



Julia & Mick with her Regency costumes

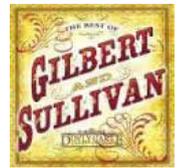
..... and one of our future events

### **A Gilbert & Sullivan Society Concert Wed 22nd April 2015**

The Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society have very kindly agreed to return to the Club to give another excellent concert for our members.

These concerts are much sought after so we are thrilled to have them back following their previous sell-out evening at the Club. The format of the event will be early supper followed by the concert.

Supper 6pm, concert 7.30pm £22.50pp



### **Forward to the Fringe!**

For two weeks in August the Hepburn Suite at the Club will once again be home to Venue 241 at the Edinburgh Fringe. As with last year there is a wide variety of shows being presented.

**Week One, Monday 10th to Saturday 15th August**

**'A Midsummer Night's Dream' for children.** Titania and Bottom tell the whole story of this classic Shakespeare tale whilst interacting with the young people in the audience; great fun for the family brought to you by Michelle Van Rensburg.

Each evening in Week One we shall be hosting the **Edinburgh Graduate Theatre Group** who this year are staging Ariel Dorfman's superb play **'Death and the Maiden'** and also **'The Witch of Edmonton'**.

Full details of all performances will be in the Fringe Programme published in early June and online at [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

**Week Two, Mon 17<sup>th</sup> to Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Each morning **Mrs Mash** will be telling food related stories for youngsters in a fun hour; again a super show for all the family.

The superb **Arkle Theatre Company** presents Shakespeare's **'Much Ado About Nothing'** and Stephen Sachs play **'Bakersfield Mist'** each evening.

**The afternoons of both Week One and Week Two:-**

Douglas Taurel from New York City bring his powerful one man play **'The American Soldier'**.

Telling stories of American soldiers through the years and their struggles to cope with action and the return to their home lives.

### **Would you like free Club membership for a year?**

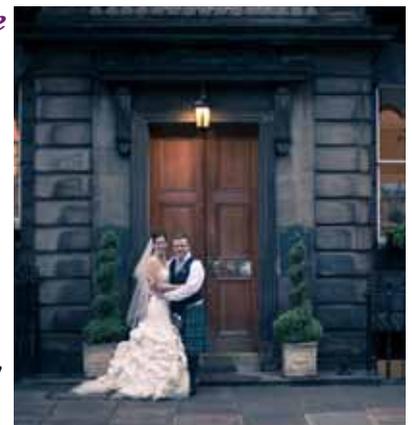
All you have to do is recommend the Club as a wedding venue for a friend or family member, between now and June 2015.

If a booking is then confirmed we will waive your 2015/16 annual membership fee. **Easy!**

The Club understands that each couple is unique, with their own hopes and aspirations for that special day. Our dedicated management team offer the experience and personal attention that can turn those wishes into reality, and any couples' perfect Wedding Day.

**Contact our Wedding Co-ordinator, Ayesha Longley, for full details of what the Club can offer as a wonderful Wedding venue. (Minimum numbers and Terms & Conditions apply)**

**Tel: 0131 525 6156 Email: [events@royalscotclub.com](mailto:events@royalscotclub.com)**



The Royal Scots Club, 29-31 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE.

T: +44 (0)131 556 4270, F: +44 (0)131 558 3769, [membership@royalscotclub.com](mailto:membership@royalscotclub.com)

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

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