

EDINBURGH BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE 2012

This year's Christmas Dance turned out to be an excellent evening and a terrific way to kick off the Christmas Festivities - the band was brilliant, the food was plentiful and up to its usual high standard, and most notably, the 90 members and their guests were in a great mood to party the night away.

The Chairman [George Givens] was away at his work's Christmas Night Out - the last one prior to his imminent retirement so we will forgive him for being AWOL, however Jean and his two daughters, Emma and Lynn, came prepared to enjoy themselves and did a terrific job of selling the Raffle tickets - a big thank you to them.

To compensate for the absence of George, Tam (Ma Ba`) Balloch took over the role of MC, very ably assisted by Eddie [the Padre] Maley. As well as providing the great banter they also ran the raffle in their own inimitable style.

A big thank you must go to everyone who donated Raffle prizes. The generosity was overwhelming and was really appreciated.

As well as our usual gang, it was also tremendous to see some old faces turning up and coming along to our Christmas Dance - namely Hank Espin, Geordie Bremner, Tam Stephen, Tam Ward, John Westwood, Dick Barker, Eric McDonald (together with their respective partners). We were also graced with some of the ladies who were married to Queens Own Highlanders now sadly passed on to the 2nd Battalion - namely Annemarie Cumming, Doris Anderson, Lillian Duffus, and Barbara McGraw - and for the first time it was a real pleasure to welcome Mattie Glasgow's better half - Muriel, along with her daughter Amanda - we are sure that the stories Muriel and Amanda heard on Saturday night would have left them in no doubt as to how well liked and respected the big guy was!

We should also note at this stage that the night was so good that Kenny Reid went away at the end of the night with Tam Ward's coat (along with Tam's specs inside the coat!). Tam is now up north using a white stick and a guide dog to get around and Kenny is dotting around Livingston in a coat two sizes too small for him looking like an advert for a Norman Wisdom movie!

Finally we must say thank you to Jim [the lens] Elliot for being our unofficial photographer for the night and judging by the number of out-of-focus photos now found on the website, we know he must also have really been enjoying himself (or he's needing some work done on his cataracts)!